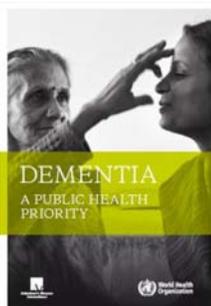


Subject: Public Health E-News: WHO Calls Alzheimer's a Top Public Health Priority

HTML



WHO Report - Dementia: A Public Health Priority



In a [report](#) released in April, the World Health Organization (WHO) calls dementia a worldwide public health priority and calls on governments, policymakers, and public health officials to address the impact of dementia.

The report reveals that more than 35 million people worldwide have Alzheimer's and dementia today, and that someone in the world develops dementia every 4 seconds. By the middle of the century, more than 115 million people will be affected by the disease.

The new report urges countries to take a public health approach to addressing the Alzheimer's and dementia crisis while developing and strengthening policies that improve the quality of life for those living with the disease. Other recommendations include strong surveillance systems that allow for earlier detection of dementia and a stronger commitment to scientific research that could one day lead to effective treatments.

The comprehensive report can help garner much-needed attention to the public health threat that Alzheimer's and dementia pose to the global

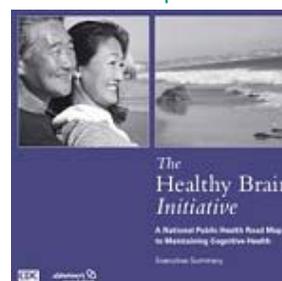
Public Health Agenda



The Alzheimer's Association has identified three key elements of an Alzheimer's public health agenda: surveillance, early

detection, and promotion of brain health.

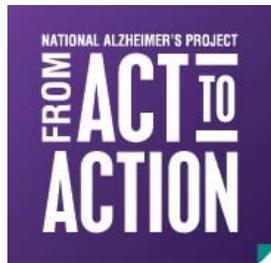
The Road Map



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Alzheimer's Association formed a partnership to examine how best to bring a public health perspective to the promotion of cognitive health. The resulting publication, *The Healthy Brain Initiative: A National Public Health Road Map to Maintaining Cognitive Health* outlines 44 priority actions to guide the public health

community – whether on the other side of the world or in your local community. In particular, public health practitioners in the United States can encourage the use of the [Cognitive Impairment](#) and Caregiver Modules in the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) to obtain a more definitive picture of Alzheimer's.

NAPA Update: Addressing the Crisis in the United States



The WHO report strongly urges countries to develop national plans and strategies to address the Alzheimer's crisis and discusses efforts in several countries throughout the world to do that, including

highlighting the steps that were taken to mobilize advocates to enact the [National Alzheimer's Project Act \(NAPA\)](#) in the United States. This legislation required the federal government to create a national Alzheimer's plan, which is expected to be released this month. Check for the latest updates [here](#).

The Second Draft of the National Plan, released in April, describes Alzheimer's disease as a "major public health issue." It proposes to strengthen the public health workforce, focus attention on individuals with Alzheimer's who have multiple chronic conditions, and improve data collection and monitoring. It also recognizes the importance of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the public health network in disseminating information on Alzheimer's disease, caregiver support, and the latest research findings.

Some of these provisions came in response to a letter sent to U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius on April 6 by nine public health organizations – including the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors, the National Association of County and City Health Officials, the Society for Public Health Education, and the National Association of Local Boards of Health. The letter urged that public health be a key feature of the National Plan's structure and implementation.

community in surveillance, prevention research, communication, and policy.

The 10 Warning Signs



The Know the 10 Signs campaign is a national education effort to increase awareness of the warning signs of Alzheimer's disease and the benefits of early detection and diagnosis.

Contact

For more information on the Healthy Brain Initiative, the public health agenda, or Alzheimer's disease in general, contact [Catherine Morrison](#).

For additional information or questions, please contact catherine.morrison@alz.org. [Manage](#) your personal email settings.

Plain Text

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http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2012/9789241564458_eng.pdf

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<http://www.cdc.gov/aging/healthybrain/surveillance.htm>

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