

alzheimer's  association®

alzheimer public health news

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## Welcome

*This is the debut of a new monthly e-bulletin featuring the latest information on Alzheimer's disease and brain health from a public health perspective. Alzheimer's disease and other dementias are not typically thought of in public health terms, but through the work of the Healthy Brain Initiative (HBI) – a cooperative agreement between the Alzheimer's Association ([www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org)) and the Healthy Aging Program at the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) [www.cdc.gov/aging/](http://www.cdc.gov/aging/) – a new body of work of interest to public health professionals is now coming available. Each month, we hope to provide you with the latest information, news, and tools regarding Alzheimer's disease and public health.*

**Alzheimer's disease is the sixth leading cause of death in the United States, and more than 5 million Americans are living with the disease.**

From 2000 to 2007, the number of Alzheimer deaths increased by more than 50 percent, while the number of deaths due to stroke, heart disease, HIV/AIDS, and breast cancer decreased. Without a significant medical breakthrough, Alzheimer's is likely to remain a leading cause of death for an aging baby boom generation, placing an enormous strain on families and government budgets.

The problem is not only here in the United States. The just released [World Alzheimer Report 2010](#) from Alzheimer's Disease International showed **that total estimated worldwide costs of dementia are \$604 billion** – bigger than every company in the world and equivalent to the world's 18th largest national economy.

### Public Health Agenda

[Combating Alzheimer's Disease: A Public Health Agenda](#) defines actions that can be taken now in the public health sector to increase surveillance, promote brain health and increase the early detection of Alzheimer's Disease.

### Multiple Chronic Conditions (MCCs)

In response to the U.S. Health and Human Services Interagency Workgroup on Multiple Chronic Conditions, the Alzheimer's Association recently [submitted comments](#) on the draft HHS Strategic Framework on

### The Road Map

In June 2007 the Alzheimer's Association and the Centers for Disease Control jointly published [A National Public Health Road Map to Maintaining Cognitive Health](#), which identified priority activities to advance knowledge and practice in the area for public health professionals.

### Contact

For more information about the Healthy Brain Initiative, the public health agenda, or Alzheimer's disease in general, contact [Mike.Splaine@alz.org](mailto:Mike.Splaine@alz.org).

Multiple Chronic Conditions. The Association noted that most people with Alzheimer's and other dementias have one or more other serious, chronic medical conditions and that cognitive impairment undermines efforts to manage MCCs unless the issue is specifically addressed. **The Association recommended that the complications of managing MCCs presented by various stages of cognitive impairment be addressed directly and boldly in the Framework, and not to do so would be a serious omission.**