Currently, all states are underfunded to address the public health needs of adults in the United States given the rapid growth of our aging population. The scientific community, Congress, and the Administration have identified Alzheimer’s disease (the most common form of dementia) as a priority area, resulting in the first National Plan to Address Alzheimer’s Disease. The suggested increase will enable some states to expand their efforts and allow CDC to fund activities that support state-based programs to address this looming public health crisis, as outlined in The Healthy Brain Initiative’s State and Local Public Health Partnerships to Address Dementia: The 2018-2023 Road Map.

**Basic Facts**

- An estimated 6.2 million Americans ages 65 and older had Alzheimer’s disease in 2021. The number of new cases of Alzheimer’s and other dementias is projected to triple by 2060.
- According to CDC, Alzheimer’s disease is the sixth leading cause of death in the US. It is the fifth leading cause of death for those ages 65 and older. Recent studies indicate that the actual ranking is the third leading cause of death. Alzheimer’s and dementia deaths have increased by 16% during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Total payments for healthcare, long-term care and hospice were estimated to be $355 billion in 2021 for people with Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias.
- Living with Alzheimer’s disease compounds medical costs and the burden of disease, since 83% of adults 85 and older and 75% of adults 65 and older have two or more concurrent chronic conditions.

**Use of Evidence-Based Strategies**

- Prevention and health promotion strategies exist to reduce many of the risk factors for unnecessary disability and death. Older adults often benefit the most from public health interventions.
- Medical care, alone, will not meet the needs of older adults. Advanced planning, clinical-community linkages and social supports, and interventions outside of the aging services network are crucial to respond to older adults’ needs.
- State public health agencies have an integral role to play in supporting the evidence, coordinating programs across state government, educating providers and the public, and employing a population-based approach that will complement the individual and small-group approaches of medical care and social care.
- Every state should have a comprehensive plan to address Alzheimer’s disease.

**CDC’s Alzheimer’s Disease and Healthy Aging Program**

Consistent with the BOLD Act, CDC will fund pilot programs in state and local health agencies and Public Health Centers of Excellence that will promote widespread implementation of the Public Health Roadmap. This will allow state and local activities to scale up as well as partner with groups like NACDD to ensure education of public health professionals and the integration of risk reduction messages for Alzheimer’s disease into existing chronic disease messages and programs. The public health agencies will develop comprehensive plans to support the implementation, availability, and dissemination of effective strategies, consistent with the Healthy Brain Initiative Road Map.

*For more information visit [www.cdc.gov/aging](http://www.cdc.gov/aging)*

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