

FACTSHEET

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BOLD Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act

Alzheimer's and other dementias are an urgent public health issue.

- More than 6 million Americans have Alzheimer's.
- It is one of the most expensive diseases in America; costs will total \$345 billion in 2023.
- And the burden is growing larger. The number of people living with Alzheimer's is projected to double to 12.8 million in 2050, and the costs are expected to rise to nearly \$1 trillion.

There are several ways the public health community can address the crisis.

- **Primary Prevention:** A growing scientific consensus has concluded that healthy living can reduce the risk of cognitive decline and may reduce the risk of Alzheimer's. Public health can integrate brain health messages into existing, relevant public health campaigns.
- **Early Detection and Diagnosis:** As many as half of people living with Alzheimer's have not been diagnosed. Public health can undertake public awareness campaigns to promote early detection and diagnosis and can educate medical professionals about assessment tools.
- **Data Collection:** States can collect data on cognitive decline and Alzheimer's caregiving using tools such as the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS).
- **Access to Care and Services:** Public health can encourage health professionals to follow evidence-based clinical care guidelines, create tools to aid in the delivery of care, and report on quality care dementia practices.

The BOLD Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act (P.L. 115-406) establishes a public health infrastructure to address dementia.

- In 2018, the bipartisan BOLD Act was unanimously approved by the Senate and passed in the House of Representatives by a vote of 361-3.
- With congressional funding, the CDC is:
 - Funding three Alzheimer's Centers of Excellence to expand and promote innovative and effective Alzheimer's interventions.
 - Providing grants to 23 state, local, and tribal public health departments to implement interventions, including those in the *Public Health Road Map*.
 - Increasing the analysis and timely reporting of data on cognitive decline and caregiving to inform future public health actions.

Congress must continue its commitment to addressing this public health crisis by fully funding the BOLD Act.

- For fiscal year 2023, Congress provided \$30 million to implement the BOLD Act. To continue the momentum on implementation, Congress should appropriate \$35 million in fiscal year 2024.
- Funding the BOLD Act at \$35 million will enable CDC to award additional Centers of Excellence, focus on important priorities such as Tribal health, and expand the number of state, local, and tribal public health departments that receive grants.