

Addressing Alzheimer's Disease & Related Dementias in Iowa

The Facts

More than 66,000 Iowans aged 65 and older have Alzheimer's disease. It is the sixth-leading cause of death in the US, affecting nearly 6 million Americans. In addition, **approximately 73,000 Iowans provide unpaid care for people with Alzheimer's or dementia.**

In 2020, the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) was awarded a three-year capacity-building cooperative agreement from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to inform and develop public health infrastructure to improve and expand efforts that address challenges presented by Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (ADRD).

The Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Program puts focus on issues such as increasing early detection, diagnosis and risk reduction for ADRD, prevention of avoidable hospitalizations related to these diseases and conditions, and providing support for dementia-related caregiving.

IDPH will facilitate the development of a state plan specific to Alzheimer's disease and dementias with the help of various partners and the CDC Healthy Brain Initiative State Road Map recommendations. The program's staff with the assistance of an advisory committee will engage a coalition of members who will represent an array of experiences, programming and services, geographic areas and levels of care/interaction with persons who experience dementia. The coalition will help to further refine the state plan, and give priority to strategies that will help improve Iowa's response to the needs of Iowans, their caregivers, and the workforce that serves them during the next few years. The coalition will also serve as a connecting point for organizations and individuals to inform ongoing activities and help implement the plan's strategies.

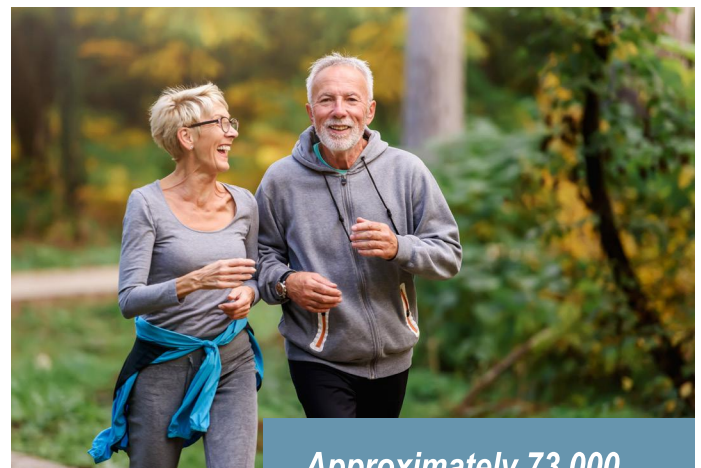
One in 10 Iowans aged 45 years and older are experiencing subjective cognitive decline.

The Long-term Goals

- Increase the proportion of adults aged 65 and older with diagnosed ADRD, or their caregiver, who are aware of the diagnosis;
- Increase the proportion of older adults who talk to their health care provider about changes in their memory;
- Reduce the proportion of preventable hospitalizations in adults aged 65 and older with diagnosed ADRD; and
- Increase the proportion of older adults who use the *Welcome to Medicare* benefit.

The ADRD Program has many resources available on Alzheimer's disease, dementia and caregiving.

<https://idph.iowa.gov/chronic-disease-prevention/alzheimers-and-related-dementias>



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More Information

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