WHAT IS PUBLIC HEALTH?

PUBLIC HEALTH

Public health works on a population level to protect and improve the health and safety of an entire community or group of people. Public health promotes healthy lifestyles, prevents illnesses and injuries, and detects and controls diseases. By working with diverse communities, public health expands the reach and impact of health care efforts.

THROUGH PUBLIC HEALTH WE CAN:

- ☑ Promote and encourage healthy behaviors
- ☑ Improve management of health conditions to avert complications
- ☑ Prevent injuries
- ☑ Prevent epidemics and spread of disease
- ☑ Protect against environmental hazards

PUBLIC HEALTH AT WORK:

Vaccinations to prevent disease

Quit smoking campaigns

Emergency preparedness

Safe drinking water

What makes a **HEALTH PROBLEM** a **PUBLIC HEALTH** issue?

The burden is **LARGE**

There are ways to **INTERVENE**

The impact is **MAJOR**

WHY ALZHEIMER'S IS A PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE

"**Alzheimer's is the most under-recognized threat to public health in the 21st century.**"

Dr. David Satcher, former U.S. Surgeon General and former CDC Director

While Alzheimer's has traditionally been seen as an aging issue, **ALZHEIMER'S** is a **PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE** because:

The BURDEN is LARGE and growing larger

5 million

More than five million people are living with Alzheimer's, two-thirds of whom are women; the number of people with the disease is projected to triple to as many as 16 million in 2050

$259 billion ↑

Annual costs exceed quarter of a trillion dollars ($259 billion in 2017) and costs are expected to rise to $1.1 trillion in 2050

The IMPACT is MAJOR

Among people with dementia, one in every four hospitalizations is preventable

More than **15 MILLION** caregivers have over

$10 BILLION

in additional health care costs each year due to caregiver burden

2/3

Impacts governments – Medicare and Medicaid bear two-thirds of the health and long term care costs of those with Alzheimer's
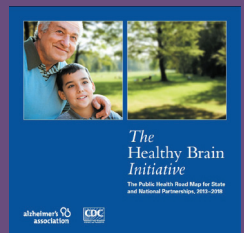
There are WAYS to INTERVENE

Promoting prevention – regular physical activity, attention to heart health can reduce the risk of cognitive decline and may reduce risk of Alzheimer's

Promoting early detection and diagnosis – as many as half of people with Alzheimer's are not diagnosed, and less than half of the diagnosed are not aware of the diagnosis

Data collection – Collecting data on subjective cognitive decline and Alzheimer's caregivers can help identify the burden and impact in each state

The
Healthy Brain
Initiative
The Public Health Road Map for State
and National Partnerships, 2013–2018

alzheimer's association   CDC

Public Health Road Map

alzheimer's association®