

Health Disparities & Inequalities in Alzheimer's and Dementia:

Presented by
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Disclosures:

- I have no conflicts of interests to disclose.

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Objectives

- Understand how social determinants can affect a wide range of health functioning particularly in Alzheimer's and dementia.
- Discuss how racism and systemic inequities are drivers of health disparities.
- Explore best practices to reach underserved and underrepresented communities in light of historic and current systemic racism.

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Alzheimer's and Dementia

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DEMENTIA

Umbrella term for loss of memory and other thinking abilities severe enough to interfere with daily life

- Alzheimer's 60-80%
- Lewy Body Dementia 5-10%
- Vascular Dementia 5-10%
- Frontotemporal Dementia 5-10%
- Others: Parkinson's, Huntington's

Mixed Dementia: Dementia from more than one cause



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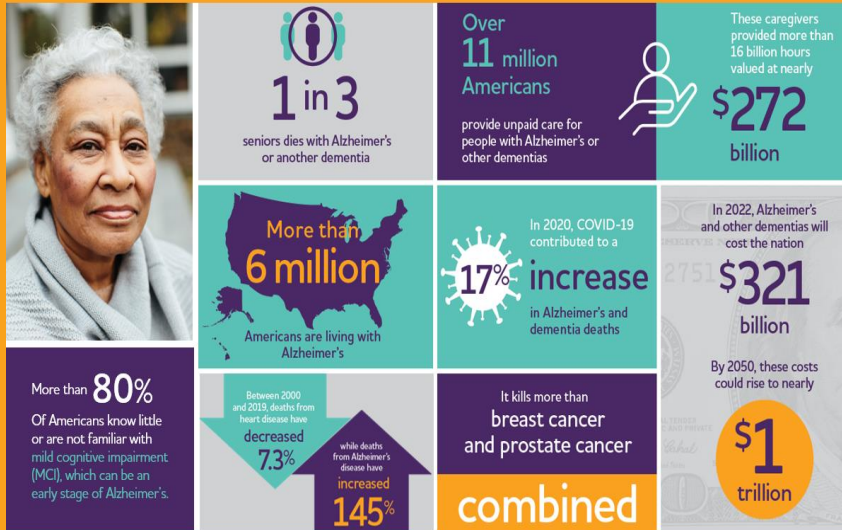
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The Current State of Alzheimer's and Dementia

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Alzheimer's Association 2022 Facts & Figures Report



To learn more visit alz.org/facts

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Populations at higher risk

Black Americans are about twice as likely as White Americans to have Alzheimer's or another dementia.

Hispanic Americans are one and a half times as likely to have the disease as White Americans.

Almost two-thirds of Americans living with Alzheimer's are women.

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Social Determinants of Health

Social determinants of health are the conditions in the environments where people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks.

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Health Disparities

- Health disparities are **differences** in the burden of disease, injury, violence, or **opportunities** to achieve **optimal health** that are experienced by **socially disadvantaged populations**.
- Populations can be defined by factors such as **race** or **ethnicity**, **gender**, **education** or **income**, **disability**, **geographic location** (e.g., rural or urban), or **sexual orientation**.
- Health disparities are **inequitable** and are directly related to the **historical** and **current unequal distribution** of social, political, economic, and environmental **resources**.

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Experiences of Racism Associated with Increased Cognitive Decline

Key Areas of Focus

- Multilevel racism associated with lower memory scores
- Poorer cognition among oldest old is linked to experiences of discrimination



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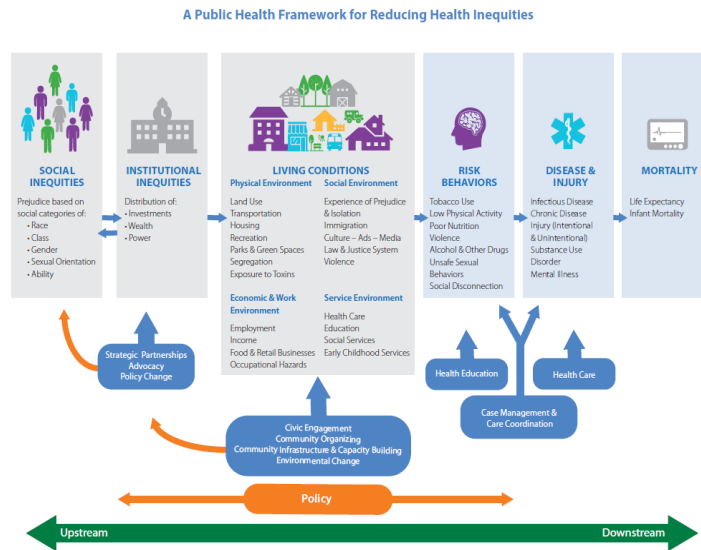
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Bridging the Gap in Alzheimer's Disparities and Health Inequities

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THE BRAINS BEHIND SAVING YOURS™

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Our Approach

- **Community Partnerships** – trusted sustained collaboration, benefits and results beyond what any single organization could realize alone
- **Health Equity** – early detection, diagnosis, and access to treatment
- **Stigma** – grassroots partnerships and education
- **Caregiver Support** – emotional, financial and training

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The Importance of Partnerships in Achieving Health Equity

- Utilization of trusted messengers
- Culturally competent:
 - community outreach efforts;
 - awareness of support services for families affected by Alzheimer’s and other dementias;
 - opportunities to promote and influence dementia related public policy;
 - awareness and/or increased knowledge of Alzheimer’s risks and symptoms; and
- While expanding support for Alzheimer’s programming and research.
 - Inclusion in clinical trials

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Our Commitment to Diversity Inclusion & Health Equity

- Fair and just opportunity for an early diagnosis and access to Alzheimer’s and dementia care.
- The Association is committed to providing all communities with resources and education until we reach our vision of a world without Alzheimer’s and all other dementia.



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Alzheimer's Association National Partnerships



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OUR MISSION



The Alzheimer's Association is a worldwide voluntary health organization dedicated to Alzheimer's care, support and research.

Our mission is to lead the way to end Alzheimer's and all other dementia — by accelerating global research, driving risk reduction and early detection, and maximizing quality care and support.

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**Vision: A world without
Alzheimer's disease
and all other dementia.™**

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