

# Alzheimer's Disease & Related Dementias (ADRD)



## Program Update: January 2022

### Background

Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (ADRD) are debilitating conditions that slowly destroy brain function, resulting in memory loss, behavioral disorders, and decline in functional ability. The effects of these diseases can be devastating to both the individual and the family members who provide their financial, physical, and emotional care.

Alzheimer's Disease, a common cause of dementia, is the sixth leading cause of death in the United States and the seventh leading cause of death in Idaho. An estimated 6.2 million Americans over age 65 are currently living with the disease. (1, 2)

*In 2020, there were 27,000 Idahoans over age 65 living with Alzheimer's. By 2025, that number is projected to increase to 33,000. (2)*

The increase in ADRD will increase the cost of community and residential care, overall healthcare, and the demand for formal and informal caregiver services. (2) People with ADRD have twice as many hospital stays per year, more skilled nursing stays and home healthcare visits, and utilize a large portion of nursing home care. (2)

The Office of Performance Evaluations evaluated Idaho's response to ADRD and issued a report in 2020 with two primary recommendations:

- The Legislature should consider establishing a system-wide oversight entity to improve collaboration and to ensure ongoing accountability for outcomes.
- The state should establish an ongoing position in the Division of Public Health to develop prevention efforts, help drive the dementia task force, and improve service coordination. (3)

### Progress

- June 2021 – The ADRD State Coordinator/Health Program Manager was filled.
- July 2021 – DHW received a notice of award for two years of funding under the federal Building Our Largest Dementia (BOLD) Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act. The goal of this funding is to enhance existing state investments used to develop an ADRD Public Health Program in Idaho and will provide the additional capacity to create a strong foundation. As was mentioned in the OPE report

(cont'd) and in the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee meeting minutes, DHW had previously applied for (but was not awarded) federal dollars to fund the development of the ADRD Public Health Program.

- August 2021 - DHW formed the ADRD Steering Committee to convene subject matter experts to provide advice, support, and guidance to the ADRD Program. The current ADRD Steering Committee members include representatives from: Idaho Commission on Aging (ICOA), a geriatrician/subject matter expert in North Idaho, Alzheimer's Association of Greater Idaho, American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) Idaho, Idaho Caregiver Alliance, and BSU's Center for the Study of Aging.
- September 2021 – The ADRD Program partnered with the ICOA to present at the State Adult Protective Service (APS) Conference.

- September 2021 – Year one of BOLD funding began.
- November 2021 - The ADRD Program hosted the first virtual Statewide ADRD Alliance meeting attended by 57 participants representing rural, frontier, and urban areas.

## Moving Forward

The next steps for the ADRD Program include:

- Develop ADRD information and ADRD Alliance webpages.
- Conduct a statewide landscape analysis and needs-based assessment.
- Begin development of the ADRD State Plan.
- Sponsor the annual Idaho Family Caregiver Conference.

## References

1. Idaho Resident-Mortality 2020, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, Division of Public Health, Bureau of Vital Records and Health Statistics, January 2022.
2. Alzheimer's Association, 2021 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures.
3. Office of Performance Evaluations, Idaho Legislature, State Response to Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias.

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