

# State Response to Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Follow-up

Report highlights

October 2023

## The state's new dementia program and alliance have improved coordination among dementia service providers, but much work remains.

Our recommendations for a dementia coordinator and system-wide oversight entity are complete.



### Recommendations

The Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias program and alliance have improved collaboration among dementia partners and created a state plan. The Legislature ensured ongoing accountability for outcomes by statutorily requiring regular updates from the dementia program.

Government entities provide, regulate, and fund many dementia services in Idaho. We found that they made progress on our policy considerations for improving the state's dementia response.

**27,000** Idahoans over the age of 65 had Alzheimer's disease in 2020. If Alzheimer's disease was grouped with other types of dementia, they would have been the 4th leading cause of death in 2021.



### HEALTHY BODY. HEALTHY BRAIN.

Example of dementia program resource

The dementia program could consider working with

- (1) the Legislature to determine which agency should be responsible to develop and implement a caregiver misconduct registry,
- (2) dispatch agencies to develop protocols for dementia specific emergencies, and
- (3) other divisions in the Department of Health and Welfare to develop mechanisms to measure access to residential care.

Prevention and early detection

The dementia program increased public education on prevention and early detection, such as modifiable risk factors and interventions.

Family caregivers

The Commission on Aging, Idaho Caregiver Alliance, and dementia program have provided resources and information to unpaid caregivers. However, the state is still struggling to keep up with the growing need for caregivers.

Crisis management

Idaho still does not have the training or infrastructure to meet the needs of Idahoans with behavioral symptoms of dementia.

Residential care

Idaho is required to ensure access and quality of care when it designs Medicaid payment methods, but the state still does not collect sufficient data to measure residential care placement issues.

View the report at [www.legislature.idaho.gov/ope/](http://www.legislature.idaho.gov/ope/)

