THE PUBLIC HEALTH CENTER OF EXCELLENCE ON DEMENTIA RISK REDUCTION

Matthew Baumgart
Vice President, Health Policy
Alzheimer’s Association

We Are a Resource for Public Health

Centers of Excellence are designed to give public health agencies the tools and resources necessary to act in the community

- Source of information on state of the science on risk factors for cognitive decline and dementia
- Resource Center on ideas for community-based action to address dementia risk factors

Partnerships
- Collaborate with faith-based groups on community education efforts to promote risk reduction among higher risk populations
- Collaborate with local Alzheimer’s organizations to develop PSAs about ways to reduce risk of Alzheimer’s

Education
- Send information to, and otherwise educate, health care providers on the importance of addressing dementia risk reduction with their patients
- Develop brain health awareness campaigns and community education events

Messaging
- Incorporate brain health messaging into existing health campaigns focused on smoking cessation, diabetes, and cardiovascular health
We Are a Resource for Public Health

- Source of information on state of the science on risk factors for cognitive decline and dementia
- Resource Center on ideas for community-based action to address dementia risk factors
- Help in implementing activities by public health agencies
  - Incorporating risk reduction information and messages in other chronic disease efforts
  - Including risk reduction information in a dementia curriculum and/or on public health agency website
  - Disseminating information on addressing risk factors, such as through exercise and nutrition

Risk Reduction Center of Excellence

Step 1
Understanding the Science
Research Roundtable

Step 2
Identifying What Can Be Done
Public Health Roundtable

Step 3
Building the Tools for Public Health
Innovation Lab

Step 4
Driving Action by Public Health
Online Clearinghouse

Step 5
Dissemination

Step 6
Evaluation/Feedback
Activities to Date

Our academic and scientific partner (Wake Forest School of Medicine) led a review and synthesis of the state of the evidence on modifiable risk factors for cognitive decline and dementia.

alz.org/publichealth

Activities to Date

- Last August, first Public Health Roundtable with public health academics and officials began identifying and prioritizing public health actions to address risk factors.
- To assist public health agencies, we are:
  - Preparing tool kits and other resources on how public health can address risk factors at the community level
  - Analyzing state/local level data on various risk factors

State Fact Sheets

Local Heat Maps
Activities to Date

- Published suggestions on risk reduction research that could be included in state and Alzheimer’s plans

- Held first (now in middle of second) in a series of Community Convenings to mobilize wider community in areas where public health agencies have more limited capacity

- Undertaking a review and synthesis of the evidence on social determinants of health (SDOH):
  - As risk factors for dementia
  - As barriers to addressing dementia risk factors

Activities in the Pipeline

- Workshop at AAIC on SDOH, bringing together dementia researchers and public health community (July 29, San Diego – all are welcome)

- Second annual Public Health Roundtable to begin identifying/prioritizing public health actions on SDOH

- Development of tools and activities to work with public health in addressing SDOH

- Dementia Risk Reduction Summit to increase understanding and promote translation of science into public health action (date TBD 2023, Atlanta)
Down the Road

Regional Learning Collaboratives for public health officials to increase understanding about risk factors and develop work plans for their communities

Expanding partnerships with organizations involved in the risk factors

Development of tools for public health agencies to work with local health systems to address risk factors

Creation of Project ECHO series for public health

Development and testing of risk reduction messaging

CONTACT US:

CenterOfExcellence@alz.org

alz.org/publichealth