

# **Alzheimer's Association**

**Edie Yau, Director of DEI Engagement**

“Many members of our community still describe Alzheimer’s and dementia as something that happens to an elder when ‘**their mind gets a fever,**’” says Violet, who was largely unaware of the disease when she assumed the role of full-time caregiver.

As she witnessed her mother’s slow, ongoing decline, she started to search for resources.



# 2023 ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE FACTS & FIGURES



More than  
**6 million Americans**  
are living with Alzheimer's

Over 11 million  
Americans  
provide unpaid care for  
people with Alzheimer's  
or other dementias

These caregivers  
provided more  
than 18 billion  
hours valued  
at nearly

**\$340**  
billion

**1** in **3**  
seniors dies with  
Alzheimer's or another  
dementia

It kills more than  
**breast cancer**  
+  
**prostate cancer**  
combined

The  
lifetime  
risk for  
Alzheimer's  
at age  
45 is

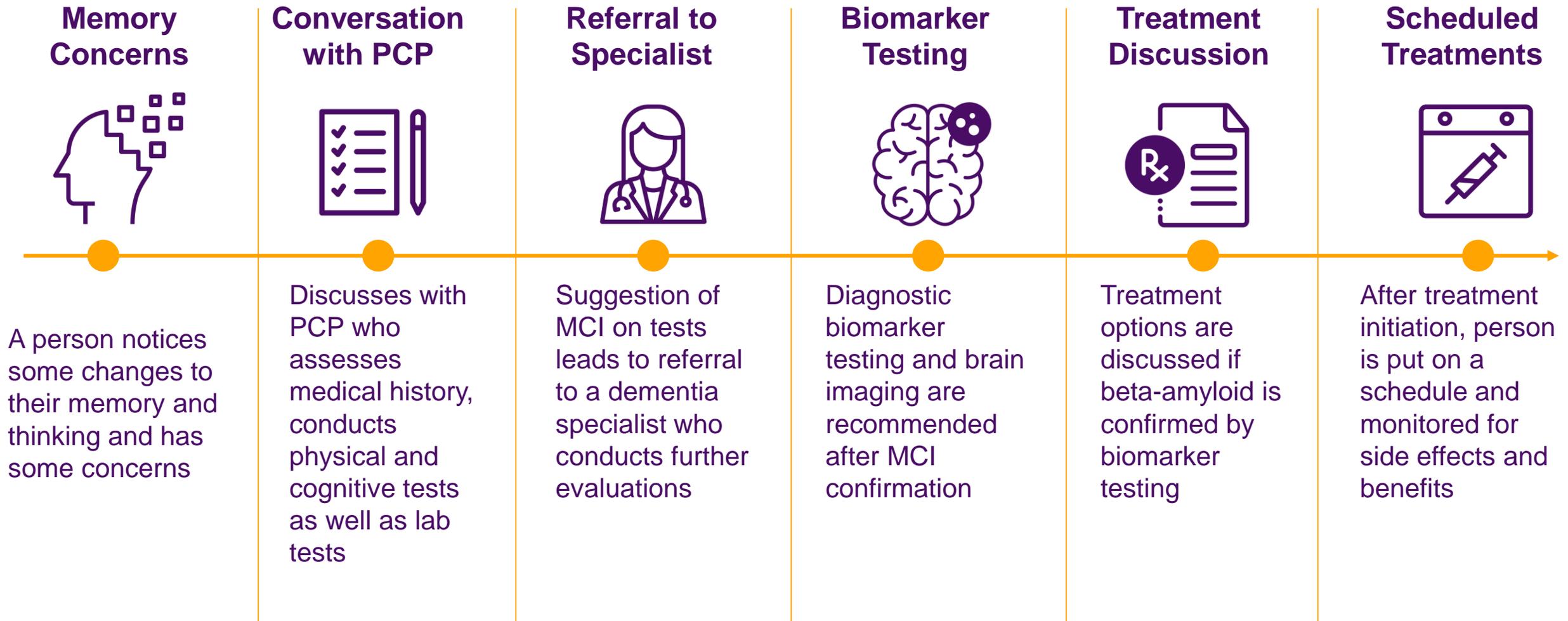
**1**  
in  
**5** for women  
+  
**1**  
in  
**10** for men

*2023 Special Report*

*The Patient Journey in the  
Era of New Treatments*



# Ideal Patient Journey from Awareness of Cognitive Issues to Treatment





# Patient Focus Groups Findings

- Individuals with memory and thinking concerns remain hesitant to raise the issue with their physicians.
- Patient reticence is driven by many factors, including:
  - Emotional reactions and limited vocabulary impede discussions
  - Perceived risks seem to outweigh benefits
  - Assumptions about what doctors will say and do
  - Individuals want discussions that emphasize options for care
  - Individuals prefer to discuss cognitive issues with friends vs. medical professionals or family



# PCP Focus Groups Findings

**PCPs are not proactively asking their patients about cognitive issues either.**

- **PCPs hesitate to initiate conversations** about cognitive decline and often wait until family members bring it to their attention.
- **PCPs express concern about follow-up care** given shortage of specialists and referral options.
- Importantly, **PCPs view family members as influential** and critical partners in care, often relying on them to initiate conversations about memory and thinking problems.

# Improving Patient/Physician Communication

- Begin clinical visits with an informal conversation to help inform a formal cognitive assessment
- Implement consistent, standardized process to begin visits would help overcome barriers to initiating conversations independently
- Include family members in facilitating conversations and follow-up care
- Develop outreach and educational messages as well as community-based, participatory educational campaigns to empower individuals to seek help when they become concerned about cognitive issues.

# Road Map For Indian Country

- Conversation starter
- Prompt local planning
- Public health strategies



Road Map for Indian Country



# Road Map in Practice

How tribes can utilize the *HBI Road Map for Indian Country* to improve health outcomes



# HBI Road Map for Indian Country Development Process

**Spring/Summer 2023**

**Fall 2023**

**Winter/Spring 2024**

**Fall 2024**

**Request for input and interest**

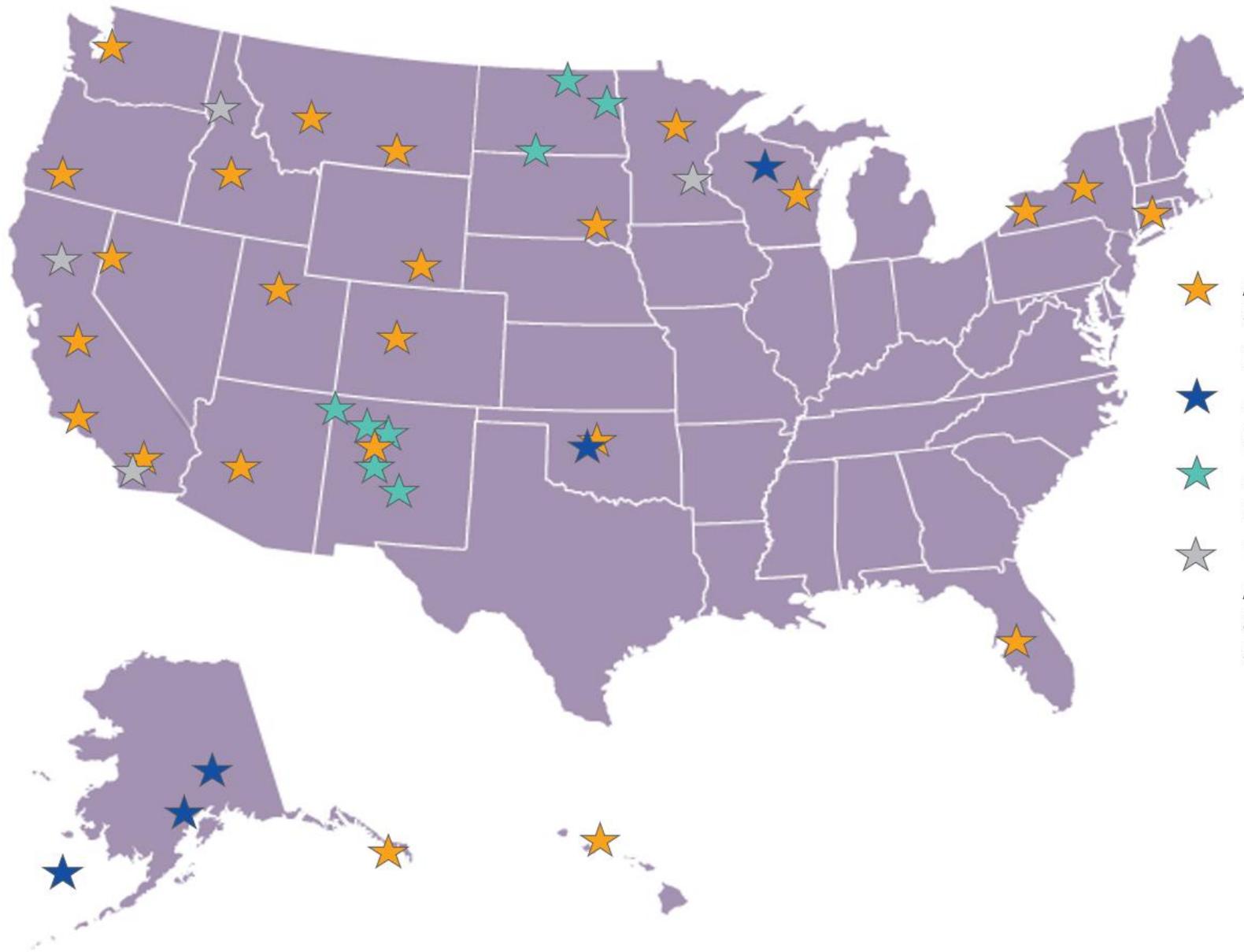
**Listening Sessions and send Leadership Committee invitations**

**Convene Leadership committee and begin updating text**

**Release and Promotion!**

*State and Local Road Map 4 published in summer 2023!*





- ★ Alzheimer's Association Chapters with tribal relationships
- ★ Healthy Brain Initiative tribal grant recipients
- ★ Health Systems tribal connections
- ★ Indian Health Service Alzheimer's Grant Program & Alzheimer's Association Chapter connections

*map with chapter locations*

# Resources and Support

- Helpline, available around the clock, 365 days a year
- Education Programs
- Support Groups
- Care Consultations
- Early Stage Programs



24/7 Helpline  
**800.272.3900**

alzheimer's  association®



Live Chat

## Native Americans and Alzheimer's

One in 5 Native American adults aged 45 and older reports experiencing memory or thinking problems that might be a sign of dementia. Learn what the Alzheimer's Association is doing to address health disparities and provide support for American Indians living with Alzheimer's or other dementias.

- ▶ [Quick facts](#)
- ▶ [Perceptions of Alzheimer's and dementia](#)
- ▶ [Perceptions of clinical trials](#)
- ▶ [Volunteer opportunities](#)
- ▶ [Native Americans at risk](#)
- ▶ [Association partnerships](#)
- ▶ [Participate in the Alzheimer's Association TrialMatch](#)
- ▶ [Resources](#)

# Resources

[Native Americans and Alzheimer's](#) resource page

Healthy Brain Initiative [Road Map for Indian Country](#)

[Health Systems and Medical Professionals](#)

[Alz.org/facts](#)

<https://www.alz.org/professionals/public-health>

# Thank you

[alz.org](https://alz.org)

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