

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

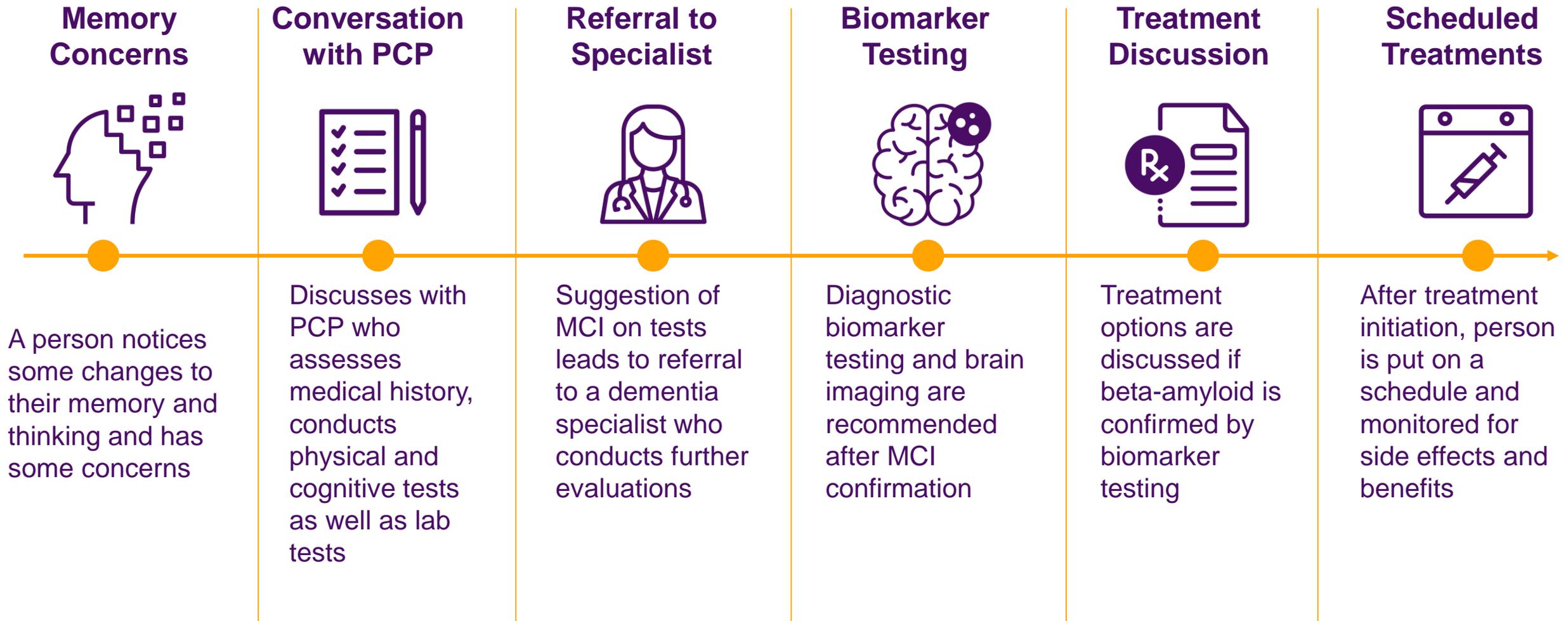
1 in 5 for women
+
1 in 10 for men

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

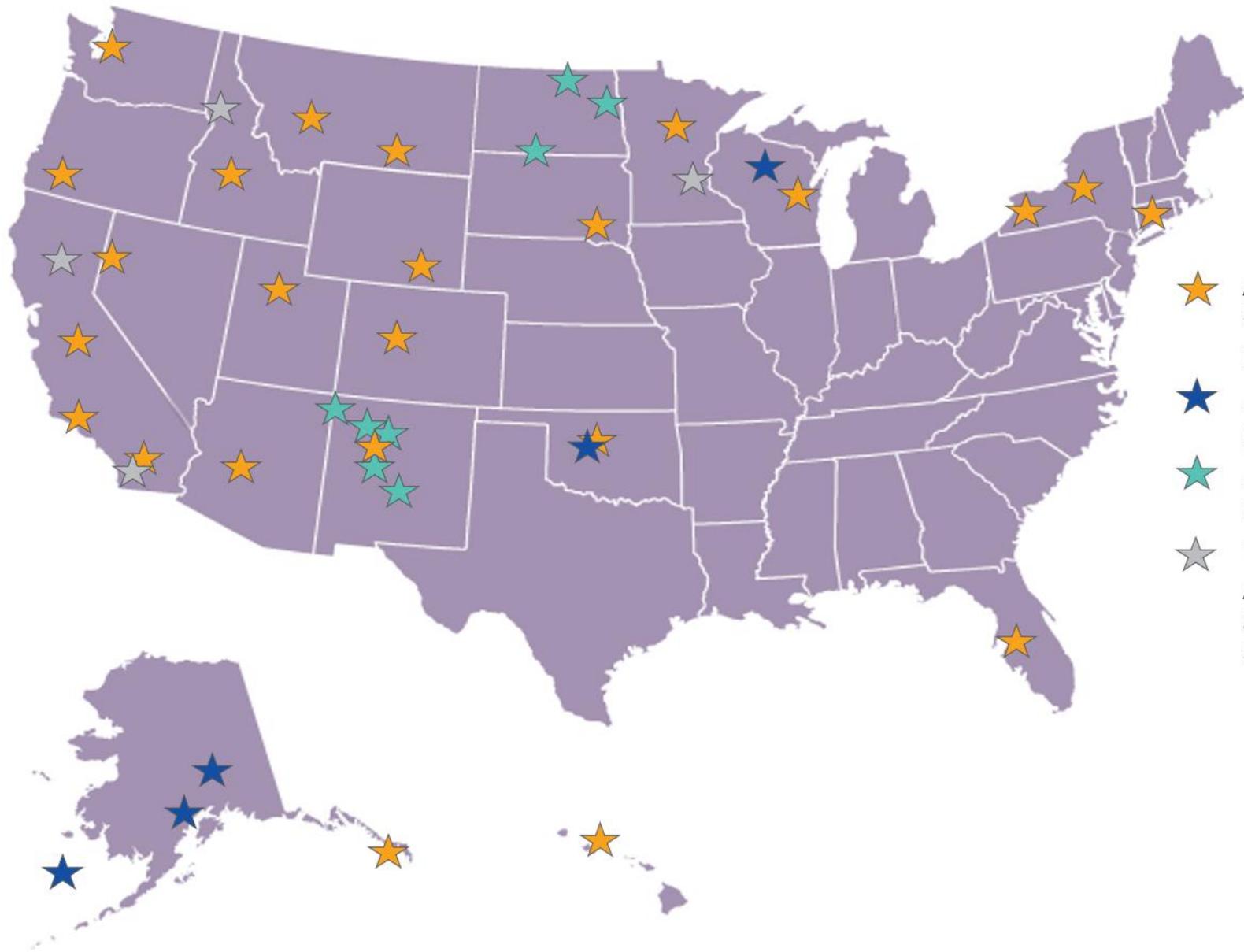
Listening Sessions and send Leadership Committee invitations

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](#)
- ▶ [Native Americans at risk](#)
- ▶ [Perceptions of Alzheimer's and dementia](#)
- ▶ [Association partnerships](#)
- ▶ [Perceptions of clinical trials](#)
- ▶ [Participate in the Alzheimer's Association TrialMatch](#)
- ▶ [Volunteer opportunities](#)
- ▶ [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://www.alz.org)

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