

TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION

Presented By:
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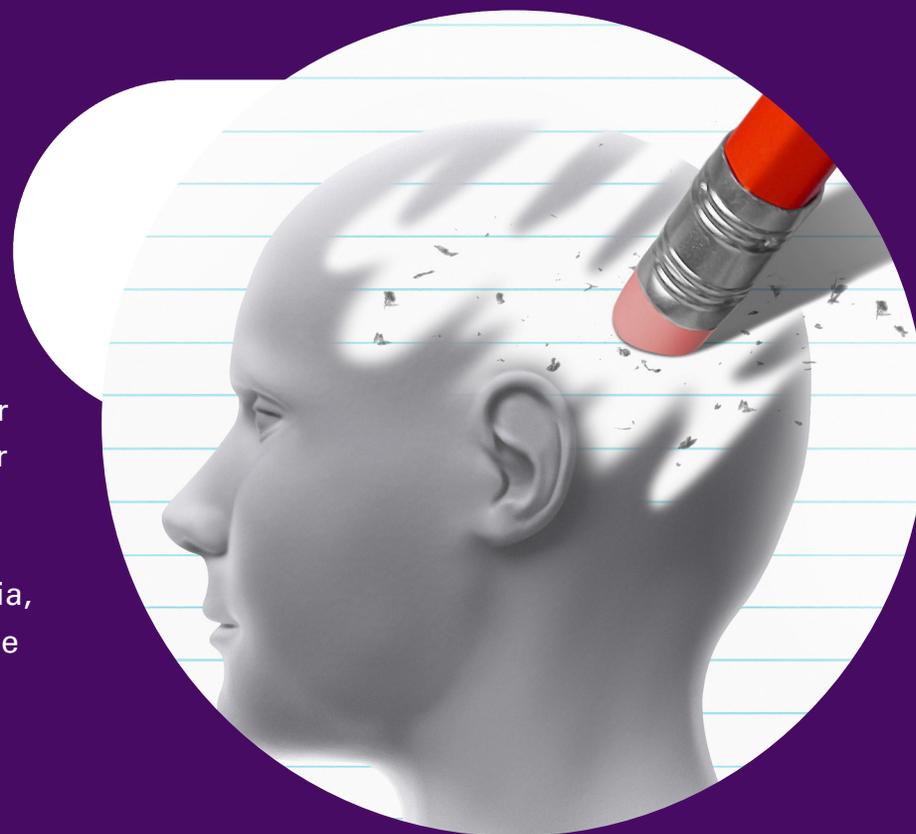
Alzheimer's & Dementia Program



Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is an equal opportunity employer and program provider.

What is Alzheimer's Disease?

- Alzheimer's disease is a progressive brain disorder that gradually impairs memory, thinking, and, over time, the ability to perform everyday tasks (NIH, n.d.)
- Alzheimer's is the most common cause of dementia, a general term for memory loss and other cognitive abilities serious enough to interfere with daily life (Alzheimer's Association, n.d.).

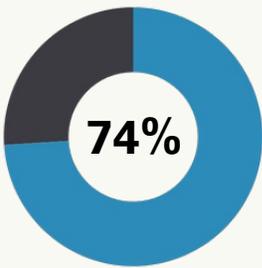


Key Statistics



7.2 million

Americans aged 65 and older are living with Alzheimer's dementia.



% of these individuals, are 75 or older.



Women account for nearly **two-thirds** of those affected.



Black Americans nearly **2x** more likely to develop Alzheimer's.



Hispanic Americans about **1.5x** more likely compared to White Americans

(Alzheimer's Association, 2025)

Texas Spotlight

459,300

Adults 65 and older with Alzheimer's

10,467

Number of deaths from Alzheimer's

3rd

Largest state in # of cases.

6th

Leading cause of death in state

1.09 million

Number of unpaid caregivers

1.9 billion hours

Unpaid care provided, valued at...

\$33.1 billion annually



(Alzheimer's Association, 2025)

Project Background

- The **Building Our Largest Dementia Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act (BOLD)** directs the CDC to strengthen:
 - Dementia risk reduction
 - Early detection
 - Timely diagnosis
- Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) developed a four-year state plan to improve dementia awareness and education.



06.



Texas DSHS Approach

GOAL:

Leverage existing and new partnerships to provide education to the public and healthcare professionals through community events and awareness campaigns.

The Partnership

In 2024, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service partnered with:

- Texas DSHS
- Alzheimer's Association Chapters across Texas

Objective

Deliver educational programs aimed at:

- Improving dementia literacy
- Reducing controllable risk factors
- Increasing awareness within communities



Ongoing Exploratory Study

Evaluate the effectiveness of educational programming and explore differences in outcomes.

Methodology

- Pre-/post-evaluation surveys collected from participants.
- Analyzed responses from attendees of three core programs.
- Focused on:
 - Change in dementia literacy
 - Awareness of controllable risk factors
 - Demographic variations in results



Preliminary Findings

Overall Learning Gains

- Everyone improved after attending the sessions.
- *Post-test scores were higher across all participants.*

Differences by Race

- White participants showed slightly greater gains.
- Non-white participants improved but at a slower rate.
- *Suggests a need for more inclusive, culturally relevant materials.*

Rural & Underserved Communities

- Participants in rural and medically underserved areas saw greater improvements.
- *Highlights the importance of offering programs in these communities.*

Age & Learning Outcomes

- Older participants learned less and reported lower satisfaction.
- *Programs may need to adapt content to better meet their needs.*



Thank you!

Contact me to learn more...

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