EMERGENCY 911… OR NOT?…..

- Alzheimer's and Dementia basics
- Common Crises in Dementia-land
- Challenges non-emergency calls create for Police and Fire Fighters
- Existing resources
- Alternatives and 'better ways' to handle challenges

ALZHEIMER'S® ASSOCIATION

Amy French – Alzheimer's Association Community Education Manager, East TN

Chief (Ret.) Tim Christol – Alzheimer's Association (Vol) Certified Community Educator

Our Work is About People and Science

Our work is about people and science

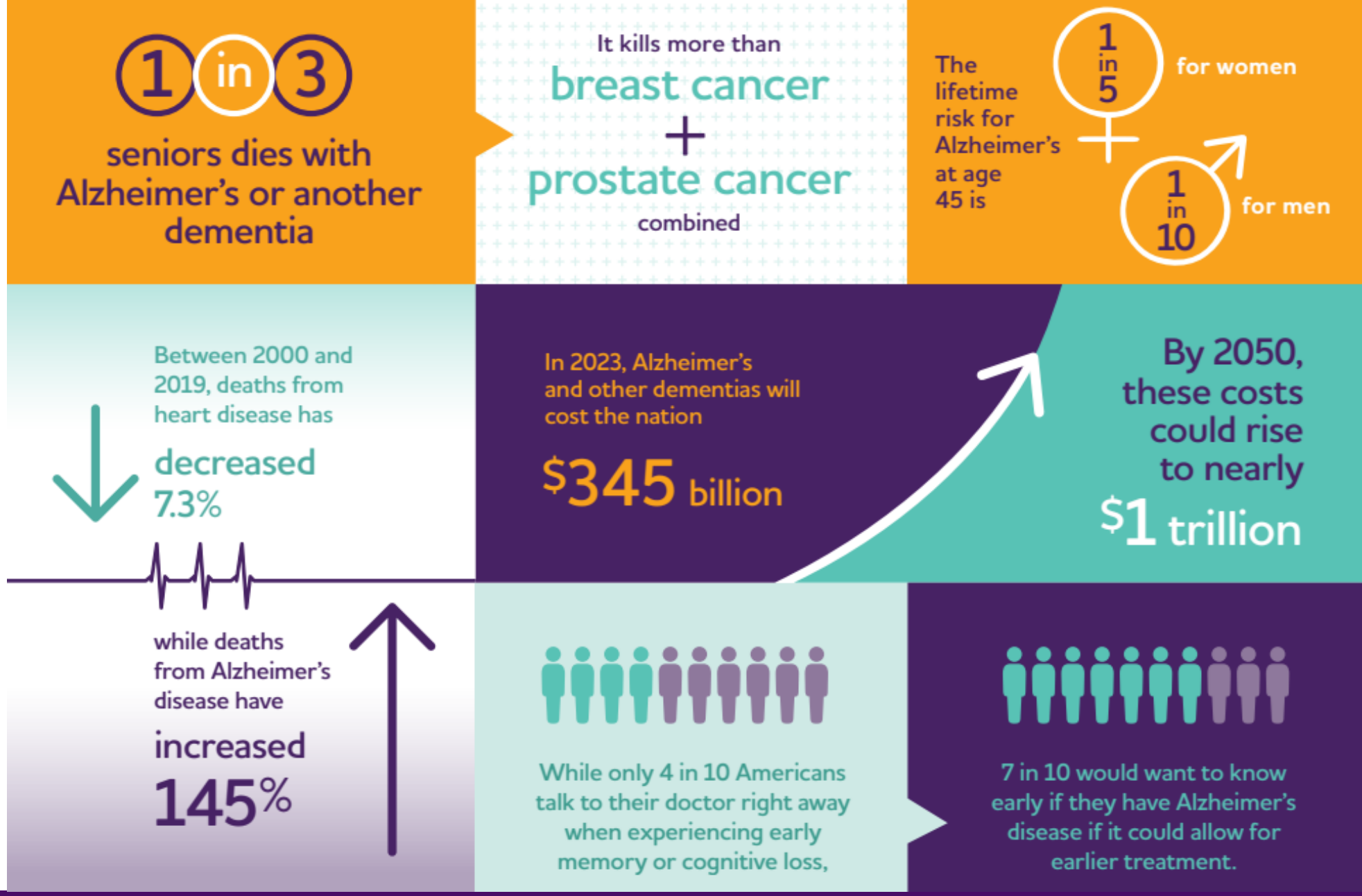
People + Science

- Education
- Care services
- Policy changes
- Research funding

The Alzheimer's Association is a worldwide voluntary health organization dedicated to Alzheimer's care, support and research.

Our mission is to lead the way to end Alzheimer's and all other dementia — by accelerating global research, driving risk reduction and early detection, and maximizing quality care and support.

2023 Alzheimer's Disease Facts & Figures



ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION®

Impact of Alzheimer's on Families

Caring for someone living with Alzheimer's can take a **physical, emotional, social and financial toll** on families.

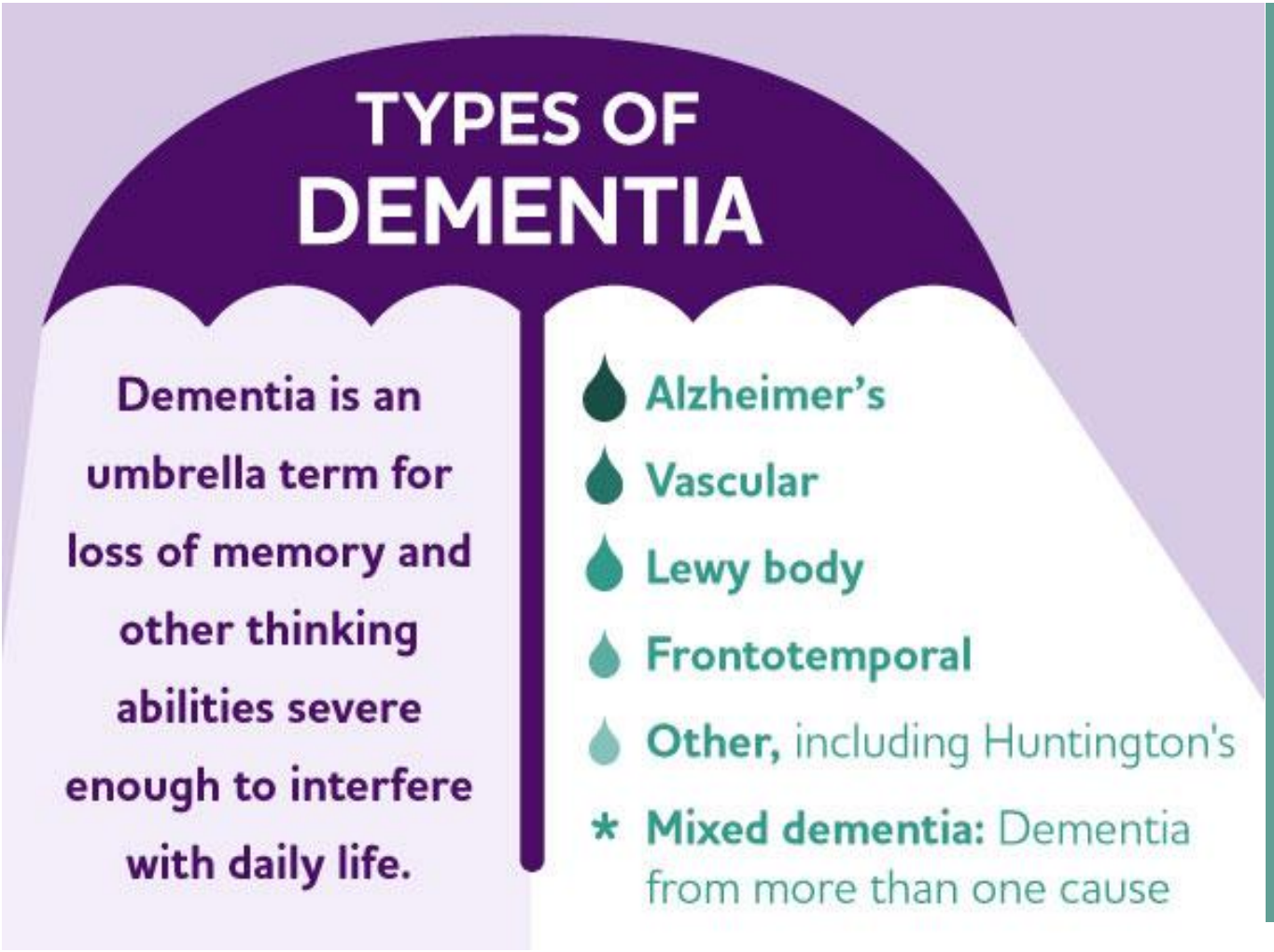
Approximately two-thirds of caregivers are women; more specifically, **over one-third of dementia caregivers are daughters.**

Of the total lifetime cost of caring for someone with dementia, **70% is borne by families** — either through out-of-pocket health and long-term care expenses or from the value of unpaid care.

Eighty-three percent of the help provided to older adults in the United States comes from family members, friends or other unpaid caregivers. **This care is valued at over $271 billion.**

Compared with caregivers of people without dementia, **twice as many caregivers of those with dementia indicate substantial emotional, financial and physical difficulties.**

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ALZHEIMER'S AND DEMENTIA?



ALZHEIMER'S:

- Most Common: 60- 80%
- 6th leading cause of death
- Brain disease
- Not a normal part of aging
- Progressive: worsens over time
- Fatal

Who is at risk?

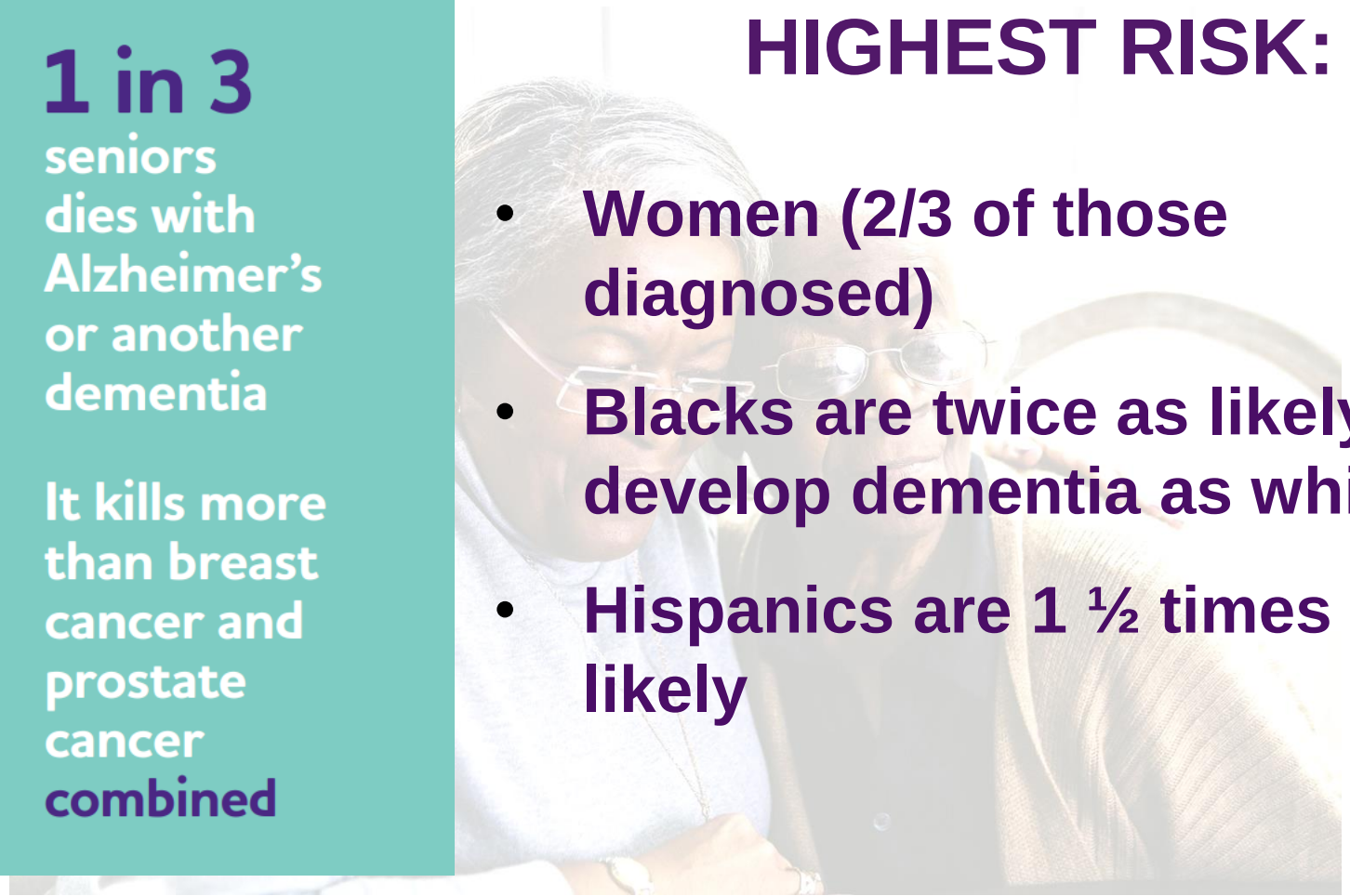
EVERYONE:

- Age
- Family history
- Heredity

- Head injury
- Lifestyle

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

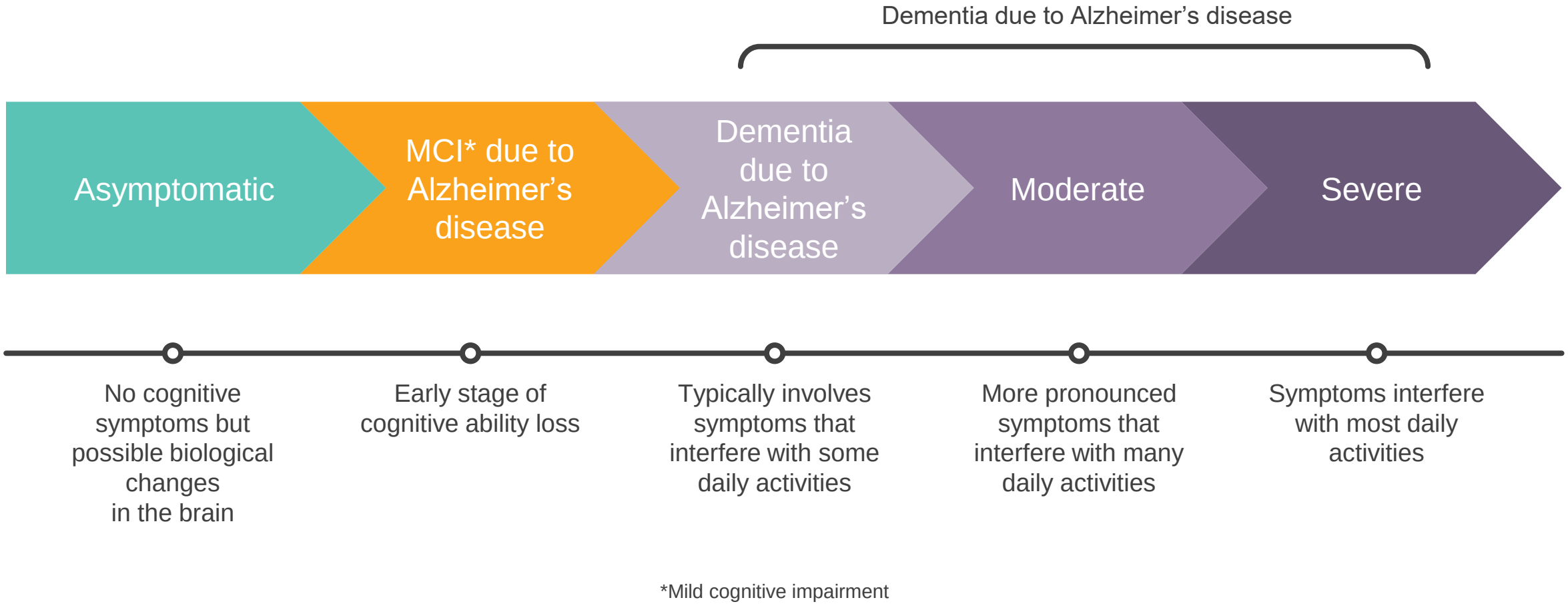
It kills more than breast cancer and prostate cancer combined



HIGHEST RISK:

- Women (2/3 of those diagnosed)
- Blacks are twice as likely to develop dementia as whites
- Hispanics are 1 ½ times more likely

Alzheimer’s Disease is a Continuum



*Mild cognitive impairment

Across the board, if you goggle 'When to call 911' and this is what you get:

911 IS TO BE USED FOR EMERGECY ONLY.

An emergency is any serious medical problem (chest pain, seizure, bleeding), any type of fire (business, car, building), any life-threatening situation (fights, person with weapons, etc.) or to report crimes in progress.

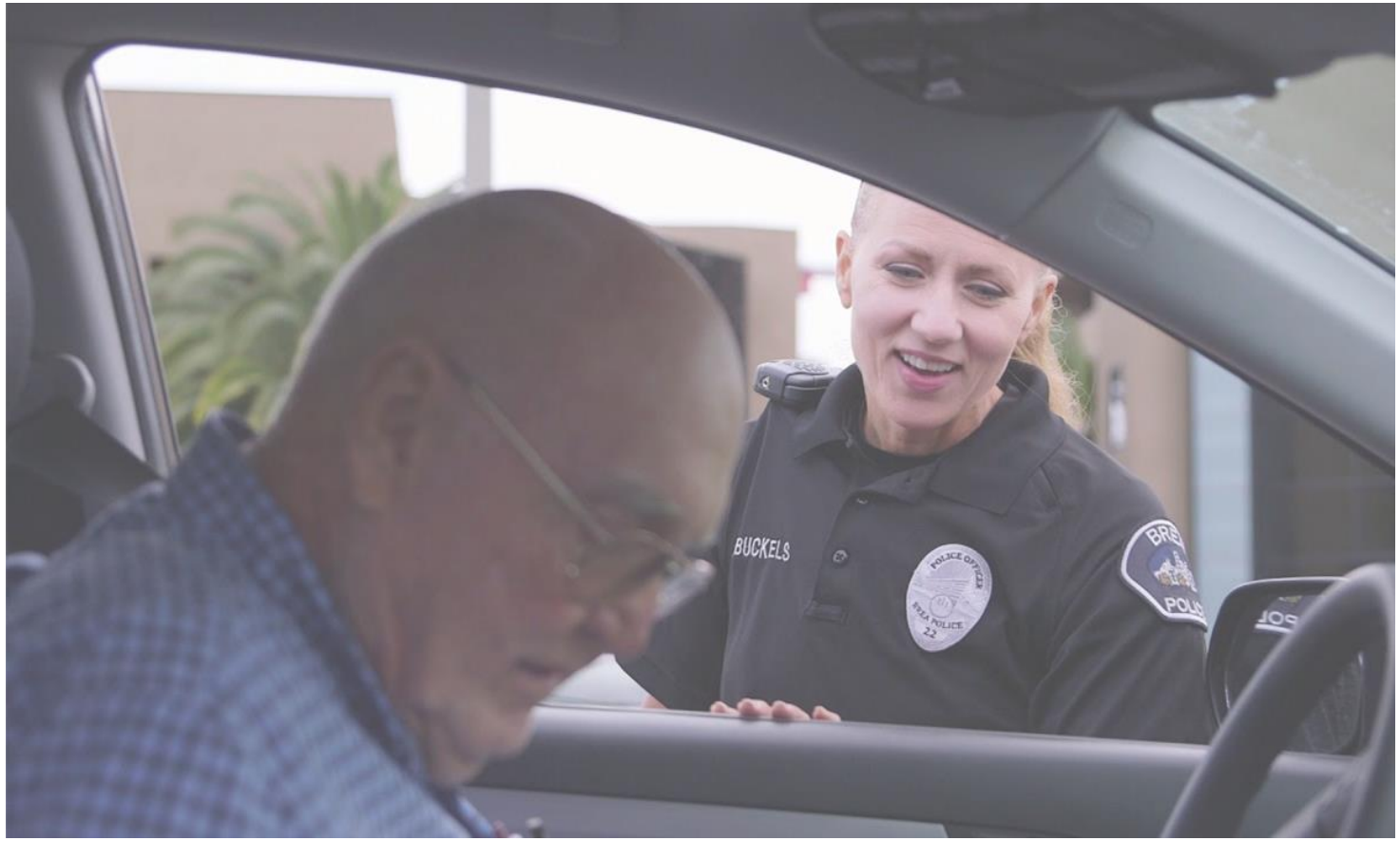
Do not dial 911 for a non-emergency.

What happens when you call 911?

Fall-out / consequences when a 911 call is not an emergency

- Cost
- 1st responders are tied up if there IS a true emergency
- First responder's response (adrenaline rush!)
- 1st responders are not:
  - Social workers
  - Counselors
  - Medical professionals (except EMTs)
  - THE PERSON IN NEED DOES NOT GET WHAT HE / SHE NEEDS

Some of the most common scenarios in which a person with Dementia/ALZ crosses paths with first responders:



- Wandering
- Driving
- “insignificant crimes”
- Unusual “suspicious” behaviors
- Abuse / Neglect

Emergency or not?

WANDERING

Poor recent memory

Inability to judge time

Loss of visual-spatial skills

Landmarks

Estimate distances

Sense of direction

If you do not recognize where you are, can't remember where you came from and don't know how to turn around, you get lost.

6 of 10 will wander

Can occur at ANY stage

If not found within 24 hours HALF of those who wander experience injury or death

WANDERING

Search Tips

- Immediate area: Do not ignore locked doors, wooded areas, barricaded areas, tight spots, etc. Look under brush if outside.
- Prior residences, workplaces, family/friends' homes, churches
- Short distances from the roadside
- Search smart, not loud; the person will not likely call out for help.
- Pinball Effect: People will walk in a straight line until they run into something that stops them. They will then change directions and continue until they hit something else.
- Dominant hand theory: People will gravitate toward their dominant hand.

Driving

Of the 5.3 million people with Alzheimer's living in the United States, a large percentage of them still drive. Taking away the keys or giving up that independence can be difficult. As the disease progresses, it becomes necessary to arrange for other means of transportation.

Vehicle Stops

- **Identify yourself** and explain why the person is being pulled over. If you need to repeat a question, make sure to use the same simple words.
- **Do not argue with or correct the person.** Arguing may cause increased agitation, aggression and distrust.
- **Look** for Medic Alert jewelry, TDOT yellow stickers or any type of emergency identifiers.
- **Issue a Citation** to ensure a paper trail in case it becomes necessary to revoke a license.
- **Do not let the person drive**. Offer to contact family or give the person a ride home.

SHOPLIFTING

What happens when sweet Grandma walks out of a store with goodies?

- People with dementia may not remember to pay for items in a store and will be unaware of the consequences.
- Accusations and pressing charges is not recommended.
- Try to resolve the situation with the store owner/manager and the caregiver.

UNUSUAL BEHAVIORS

- Repetitive behavior.
- Hiding, hoarding and losing things.
- Losing inhibitions.
- Accusing.
- Agitation including restlessness.
- Aggressive behavior.
- Sundowning.

ABUSE AND NEGLECT

TENNESSEE IS A MANDATORY REPORTING STATE

If you see OR suspect abuse it must be reported

Four basic categories of Abuse:

Physical (most obvious) - Emotional

Financial - Self Neglect

When in doubt call Adult Protective Services

888-277-8366

OR, **online** at secure site: https://reportadultabuse.dhs.tn.gov/

EXAMPLES OF SUCCESSFUL DEMENTIA FRIENDLY PROGRAMS AND PARTNERSHIPS

- **TAKE ME HOME**
- **CIT** (Crisis Intervention Team training) N.A.M.I.
- **Wellness Checks:** Knox County Senior Citizens Awareness Network. Collaborative effort between United Way 211, Knox Co Sheriff's Office and volunteer community
- **Informed Dispatchers**
- **CFD CONNECT**: Partnership between UTC Social Work Intern Program and Chattanooga Fire Dept.
- ***What programs are available in YOUR community?***

ONLY ON 3

CPD DRONE RESCUE

- Take Me Home is a free program provided by the Chattanooga Police Department.
- Take Me Home allows family members and legal guardians to register emergency contact information for individuals with cognitive and developmental disabilities.
- If an individual is found alone or reported missing, law enforcement and emergency services personnel can search for emergency contact information, detailed physical description, and a photo of the individual, saving valuable time.

WHAT IS CIT?

CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAMS are community-based programs that bring together first responders, mental health professionals, mental health advocates, people living with mental illness and their families, and other partners to improve community responses to mental health crises, helping to:

- Create safer communities
- Increase law enforcement & first responder access to resources
- Save taxpayer dollars
- Connect more mental health patients with treatment
- Reduce trauma among mental health patients and their families

CIT improves public safety, allowing police officers to spend more time addressing crime and less time on mental health crises that are better handled by mental health professionals.

CIT helps people in crisis by keeping them out of jail, providing more effective treatment, and reducing trauma for patients and families.

CIT also raises community awareness about mental illness and provides opportunities to advocate for needed mental health services and support.

CRISIS INTERVENTIONS TEAMS WORK FOR: – LAW ENFORCEMENT – FIRST RESPONDERS – COMMUNITIES

Thanks to funding provided by the state of Tennessee, FREE Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) assistance is available for Tennessee law enforcement and communities.

For more information, contact:

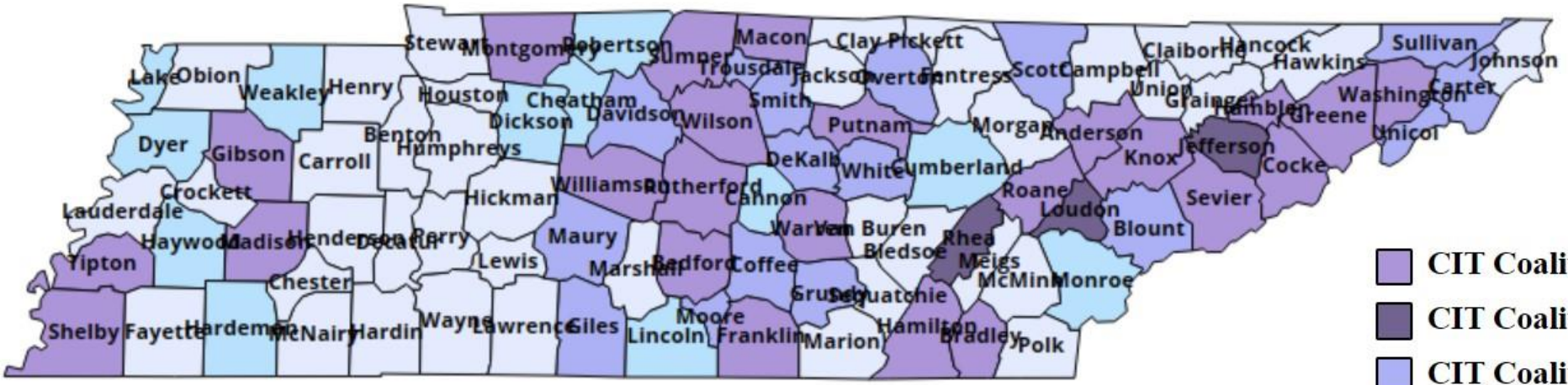
Kim Rush King

Statewide CIT Director

NAMI-TN

615-415-9411

krushking@namitn.org



Select County

(All)

- CIT Coalition established; Training Status: Active
- CIT Coalition established; Training Status: Not …
- CIT Coalition not yet established; Training Stat…
- Outreach/Contemplating
- no CIT at this time

TCA § 38-6-121. Care Alert Program

(1) A person whose age at the time the person is first reported missing is sixty (60) years of age or older, whose whereabouts are unknown, and who is believed to be in danger because of age, health, mental health conditions, or physical disability, in combination with environmental or weather conditions, or is believed to be unable to return to safety without assistance;

(2) (2) A person of any age who suffers from a documented case of dementia, whose whereabouts are unknown, who is believed to be in danger because of the dementia or a physical impairment and is believed to be unable to return to safety without assistance.

TN CAREKIT

DIRECTIONS: Save a copy of this document on your computer or phone, and print multiple copies and keep in a safe location.

DATE COMPLETED:

Full Name:

Nickname(s):

Birthdate:

Height: 5 ft. 6 in.

Weight:

Race: White

Eye Color: Brown

Hair Color: Brown

Unique Features/Physical Characteristics:
(Glasses, Birthmarks, Scars, Tattoos, Piercings, Braces, Etc.)

Current Address:

Any Recent Address(es):

Cellphone Number:

Cellphone Carrier:

Family Pet(s):

Unique Information: (Please enter any information that is unique about this person that could help investigators or searchers.)

FOR MORE RESOURCES AND INFORMATION, VISIT TNKIDKIT.COM.

STRATEGIES FOR ENGAGING FIRST RESPONDERS IN COMMUNITY ACTION

SEEK BUY-IN FROM LEADERSHIP

- Focus on Education: CIT. Alzheimer's Association, Alzheimer's TN (ALL FREE!)
- Buy-in from Mayor, City Council member, community leader

ASK FIRST RESPONDERS TO PARTICIPATE IN COMMUNTY EVENTS

- Health fairs, Conferences, Fundraisers like Walk to End Alzheimer's

IDENTIFY AND CONNECT WITH EXISTING CHAMPIONS

- Elder Abuse Units
- CIT or Take Me Home coordinator on you Police force
- Persons who already have a connections with dementia

BUILD ON EXISTING RELATIONSHIPS

- Meetings you already attend, like VA Council, Health Council, Homeless Coalition

WHAT'S IN IT FOR THEM?

- Why is it important to their organization?
- Reduce Cost
- Improve Moral
- Improve Community relations

Tennessee Dementia Friendly First Responders

Engaging First Responders in Community

TN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
TN.GOV
OFFICE OF PATIENT ADVOCACY

Alzheimer's Association First Responder Training (in person)

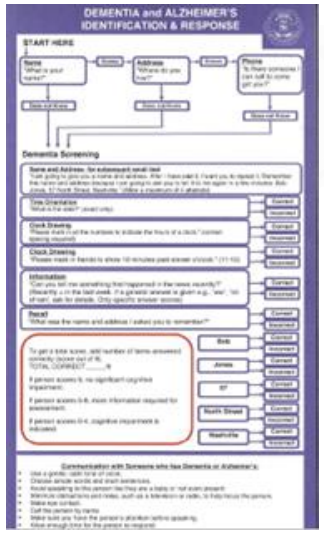
APPROACHING ALZHEIMER'S
First Responder Training

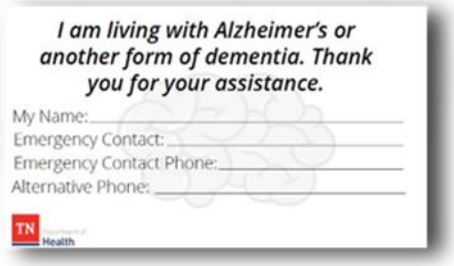
Alzheimer's Tennessee First Responder Training

www.alzTennessee.org

TN Dementia Friendly First Responders

This section provides communities with suggestions to engage first reponders, tools to offer first responders, and references training resources and opportunities for first responders in Tennessee.





FIND YOUR CHAMPION!

All police and sheriff's offices have a community liaison / community relations designee.

ENGAGE WITH YOUR FIRST RESPONDERS!

EDUCATION: CIT, Dementia-specific training

Does your community have a CIT?

If not, who's your champion that can help make this happen? It's FREE, and 1st responders are eager to learn.

LEVERAGE *YOUR* COMMUNITY POSITION!

YOU are a community leader!

QUESTIONS?

ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION®

800.272.3900 | alz.org®

Amy French

afrench@alz.org

- Education Programs
- Support Group
- Care Consultations