

August 15, 2024

## AFPHS News



### News:

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#### **Tennessee Local Health Departments Advance Healthy Aging**

Nineteen county health departments in the western region of Tennessee have achieved recognition through the AFPHS Recognition Program. These counties are Benton, Carroll, Chester, Crockett, Decatur, Dyer, Fayette, Gibson, Hardeman, Hardin, Haywood, Henderson, Henry, Lake, Lauderdale, McNairy, Obion, Tipton, and Weakley. They are working to improve the health of older Tennesseans through collaboration, planning, and program expansion.

#### **Public Health Institutes Building AFPHS Capacity**

**Two public health institutes (PHIs)** – Kansas Health Institute (KHI) and the Catherine Cutler Institute at the University of Southern Maine – have also achieved recognition through the AFPHS Recognition Program. These PHIs are two of the ten that were selected in 2023 to work with TFAH and NNPHI to build their knowledge and expertise in healthy aging. Both organizations are leading the way in their states to build awareness and expertise in age-friendly public health.

#### **Did You Know...?**

There are tools designed for health departments and their partners to address healthy aging and brain health through their community health improvement (CHI) processes. The **Indicators of Healthy Aging: A Guide to Explore Healthy Aging Data through Community Health Improvement** developed by TFAH and the **Healthy Brain Initiative Road Map Strategists Guide** developed by Alzheimer's Association provide healthy aging indicators to help identify older adult health priorities and interventions in communities.

### Events and Opportunities:

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#### **National Healthy Aging Symposium: Innovation Across the Age-Friendly Ecosystem**

This no-cost virtual event will take place on September 26, 2024, during Healthy Aging Month. The Symposium will explore successful innovations being implemented across the country that are designed to improve older adult health and well-being. Policymakers, researchers, and professionals from across sectors will share their perspectives on important topics related to healthy aging through a series of panels covering topics like caregiving, social engagement, housing, transportation, brain health, and workforce.

**[Check out the agenda and register.](#)**

## **Age-Friendly Public Health Systems (AFPHS) Monthly Trainings**

Ensuring all older adults have an equitable opportunity to live healthy lives is foundational to age-friendly public health. The 2024 AFPHS trainings are focused on various topics related to equity.

The September training will feature TFAH's [\*\*\*Pain in the Nation\*\*\*](#) report series which tracks levels of alcohol, drug, and suicide deaths nationally. The 2024 edition, reporting on 2022 data, found that a decrease in the alcohol-induced mortality rate led to a slightly lower combined rate of all U.S. deaths due to substance misuse and suicide, but the long-term trend of such fatalities is still alarmingly high. The session will focus on mental health and substance use among older adults, with key findings and policy recommendations. Equitable approaches to support older adults will also be shared.

Speakers for this training are:

- Brandon Reavis, Senior Government Relations Manager, Trust for America's Health
- Molly Warren, Senior Health Policy Research and Analyst, Trust for America's Health

You can register for one or all the trainings in this series [here](#).

Build your expertise and healthy aging knowledge! Individuals who attend 6 or more AFPHS monthly trainings will be designated as AFPHS Champions. Over 100 people in 24 states across the country have been recognized as Champions to date. Visit the [AFPHS Recognition Program page](#) for more information.

**ACL and CDC Webinar: Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Guidance for Older Adults and People with Disabilities** – *Friday, August 23, 2024, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm.* The Administration for Community Living is hosting a webinar on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention fall 2024-winter 2025 guidance on COVID-19, flu, and RSV for older adults and people with disabilities. This webinar is for aging and disability network stakeholders who are providing services to support vaccinations for older adults and people with disabilities in their local communities. Register [here](#).

### **A Whole Person Approach to Mental Health Support**

Sessions for the Link Center's upcoming Shared Learning Group will focus on how people with co-occurring conditions require person-centered, whole person care that requires physical, behavioral, emotional, mental health, and social supports, services, and resources. These sessions will explore personal experiences, models, strategies, practices, and resources that embrace a whole person approach. The following four sessions will take place over two days:

- Direct Support Professionals: *Tuesday, August 27, 2024, 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm ET*
- Clinical Professionals: *Tuesday, August 27, 2024, 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm ET*
- Families of People with Lived Experience: *Wednesday, August 28, 2024, 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm ET*
- People With Lived Experience: *Wednesday, August 28, 2024, 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm ET*

Register [here](#).

**Understanding Social Determinants of Health to Reduce Dementia Risk** – *Wednesday, August 28, 2024, 3:00-4:00p ET.* The BOLD Public Health Center of Excellence on Dementia Risk Reduction is hosting a series focused on social determinants of health and dementia risk. The third webinar in the series is Breaking Barriers: Combating Dementia Through Social Engagement. The topic for the last session in the series is:

- September 25, 2024 - Creating Healthier Environments: Harnessing Social Determinants for Dementia Risk Reduction

Register [here](#).

### **Public Health and Dementia — Part 1: Understanding the Public Health Impact of Dementia** – *September 5, 2024, 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm ET.*

The Alzheimer's Association is hosting a webinar to launch a new, free, interactive public health learning module as part of its Healthy Brain Initiative, Understanding the Public Health Impact of Dementia. This webinar will help participants understand dementia as a public health issue.. Register [here](#).

### **Brain Health Academy Webinars**

The Brain Health Academy, facilitated by UsAgainstAlzheimer's, is offering free, evidence-based courses in 2024. These sessions are designed to equip health and community providers with the knowledge and resources to reduce the risk of dementia and Alzheimer's disease. The webinars will be recorded and available for viewing for up to 60 days after the live presentations.

- Brain Injury and Dementia – *Thursday, September 12, 2024, 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm ET*. Register [here](#).
- Physical Activity and Dementia – *Thursday, October 10, 2024, 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm ET*. Register [here](#).
- Risk Reduction and Dementia – *Thursday, November 14, 2024, 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm ET*. Register [here](#).

### **2024 Age-Friendly Ecosystem Summit**

The 2024 Age-Friendly Ecosystem Summit hosted by the George Washington Center for Aging, Health and Humanities will take place on October 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, & 16<sup>th</sup>. Each date of the summit has a focus:

- Shaping Tomorrow: Unlocking the Potential of Longevity, Age-Friendly, and Multisector Planning – *Tuesday, October 8, 2024, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm ET*
- Inclusive by Design: Strategies for Age-Friendly and Dementia-Friendly Businesses – *Wednesday, October 9, 2024, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm ET*
- Unlocking Potential: Lifelong Learning for a Thriving Society – *Tuesday, October 15, 2024, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm ET*
- Healthy Communities and Healthier Aging: Collaborative Solutions – *Wednesday, October 16, 2024, 10:00 AM – 12:00 pm ET*

Register [here](#).

### **Healthy People 2030 Champion**

Improving health, eliminating health disparities, and advancing health equity requires coordination and collaboration with organizations nationwide. That's why the [Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion \(ODPHP\)](#) within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is excited to **invite you to become a [Healthy People 2030 Champion!](#)**

Healthy People 2030 Champions are public and private organizations that support the [Healthy People 2030 vision](#), work toward Healthy People's overarching goals and [objectives](#), and improve health and well-being at the local, state, territorial, and tribal level. Champions receive information, resources, and recognition from ODPHP to help them promote the Healthy People 2030 initiative among their networks.

If your organization is interested in becoming a Healthy People 2030 Champion, apply today using the [online application form!](#) ODPHP reviews applications on a rolling basis. To become a Champion, an organization must have a demonstrated interest in or understanding of disease prevention, health promotion, [social determinants of health](#), [health disparities](#), health equity, or well-being.

## **Resources:**

### **[Aging and Disability Data](#)**

#### **Reported Disability in U.S. Adults on the Rise**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has recently released an update to the [Disability and Health Data System \(DHDS\)](#), which provides access to state-level health data on adults with disabilities. Data from the 2022 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System was compiled into the DHDS. This data has revealed that over 25% of adults in the U.S. reported having a disability in 2022. Some additional insight from this data include:

- The highest prevalence of reported disability was seen in cognitive function (13.9%). This was an increase in the prevalence of cognitive disability compared to 2021 (12.8%).
- Older adults reported a higher disability prevalence (43.9% of people aged 65 years and older) compared to other age groups.
- When examining disability status by race/ethnicity, the groups with the highest prevalence (both 38.7%) identified as American Indian or Alaska Native and Other/Multirace.

#### **Recorded Webinar: New Aging and Disabilities Report**

The latest [National Core Indicators – Aging and Disabilities \(NCI-AD™\) report](#) has recently been released. NCI-AD™ is a collaboration among participating states as well as with ADvancing States and the Human Services Research Institute. The indicators are standard measures used across states to assess the outcomes of services provided to individuals and families. This report includes information from direct conversations with older adults and people with physical disabilities receiving long-term services and supports. [A recording of a webinar](#) on the report, presented by Rosa Plasencia, Director of NCI-AD at ADvancing States, and Stephanie Giordano, Co-Director of the National Core Indicators Project at the Human Services Research Institute, describes outcomes from the study and is available for viewing.

## [Additional Resources](#)

### **First Medicaid State Plan Amendment (SPA) for Community Palliative Care**

The U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has approved [Hawaii for a Medicaid SPA to establish palliative care services](#) provided in non-hospital settings as a Medicaid-covered service. Hawaii will now be able to cover these palliative care services for its Medicaid beneficiaries by adding community palliative care as a preventive service in its Medicaid state plan.

### **Advocating for Housing Options for Older Adults**

A coalition of housing providers and lenders sent [a letter to President Biden to advocate for more federal resources to address the lack of affordable housing for older adults](#). In the letter, the group suggests that the federal government leverage resources to build affordable housing for low- and moderate-income housing and increase subsidies for renters. American Seniors Housing Association President and CEO David Schless commented that “What is needed are policies that stimulate the production of additional housing, including housing for older adults with limited resources.”

### **Permanent Telehealth Coverage Can Prevent Missed Appointments in Extreme Weather**

Results from a recent [study published in the American Journal of Preventative Medicine](#) indicate that [people are missing primary care appointments due to extreme weather, especially older adults](#). Researchers tracked over 1 million appointments for 91,580 adult patients at 13 university outpatient clinics in Philadelphia between 2009 and 2019. The number of missed appointments increases 0.64% for every 1-degree increase in temperatures 90 degrees or hotter. For colder days, the rate of missed appointments increases by 0.72% for every 1-degree decrease in temperatures below 39 degrees. The senior researcher for the study Dr. Nathalie May, a professor with the Drexel College of Medicine, commented that “With worsening climate change, this study supports advocating for permanent telemedicine coverage as an option to ensure patients can get the care they need.”

### **Impact of Summer COVID-19 Surge Among Older Adults**

#### **[COVID-19 is spreading this summer due to highly contagious variants](#).**

Hospitalization rates in June for adults age 65 and older, according to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, are approximately 14 times higher than for adults under age 50. Dr. William Schaffner, professor of preventive medicine and infectious diseases at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, recommends preventative practices to avoid illness, include getting vaccinated, wearing a mask, and self-testing.

### **New Podcast Series on Aging with HIV**

Gilead Sciences and the American Society on Aging have a new podcast about caring for older adults with HIV. [“Aging with HIV: Understanding the Journey”](#) currently has five episodes on topics ranging from challenges and approaches to providing care to how the Hispanic/Latinx communities aging with HIV have been overlooked. The next episode will be available on August 23<sup>rd</sup> and will focus on what social workers need to serve older adults living with HIV/AIDS.

### **Caregiving as a Federal Benefit**

[A new report from the National Poll on Healthy Aging](#) found that 45% of people providing care for someone 65 or older believe the federal government should pay for it. In the past year, 27% of adults age 50 and older provided care to a family member or friend with a health issue or disability. The most common health issues or disabilities that caregivers noted as conditions their family member or friend had were 1) physical disability or mobility challenge, 2) a memory or thinking issue, 3) vision or hearing impairment, and 4) mental health concerns. Results also indicate that many older adults think the government should have a leading role in covering the cost of caregiving for people over age 65. Specifically, 45% feel the government should take the lead in this endeavor.

### **Helping Older Adults Enroll in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program**

The National Council on Aging (NCOA) received two million dollars from the Walmart Foundation to help enroll 20,000 eligible older adults in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. The [SNAP Enrollment Initiative](#) is part of a 14-year effort from the Walmart Foundation to combat food insecurity. NCOA will work to expand their network of community-based organizations and focus on widespread digital outreach to make enrollment easier and more accessible.

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