

# Federal Efforts to Address Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementias



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OFFICE OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH,  
DISABILITY, AND AGING POLICY

## Directive

National Alzheimer’s Project Act (NAPA) requires:

“the inclusion of ethnic and racial populations at higher risk for ADRD or least likely to receive care, in clinical, research, and service efforts with the purpose of decreasing health disparities in ADRD.”



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3

## Background

- Black older adults are **2x** as likely to have AD
  - Hispanic older adults are **1.5x** as likely to have AD
- (compared to White older adults)
- 
- Native American and Asian adults have lower rates of AD diagnosis – potentially due to underdiagnosis



# Reasons for Disparities

Bias and discrimination within health care

Measurement bias in diagnostic tools

Lack of culturally competent care

Underrepresentation of racial and ethnic minorities in clinical trials

# Federal Efforts



# Research

- Intramural research identifying disparities within the populations they serve
- Work to improve recruitment of racial and ethnic minorities in research
- Funding of external research on disparities in ADRD



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# Clinical Care and Long-Term Services and Supports

- Training providers and caregivers
- Improved collection of patient data



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## Public Education and Risk Reduction

- Public education and awareness campaigns
- Individual actions to reduce risk for ADRD
- Community and system-level investments



# Thank you!

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