

By 2050, as many as  
**11–16 million Americans**  
could have Alzheimer's.

Alzheimer's disease is the  
**sixth leading cause of death**  
and the only one of the top ten  
that cannot be prevented,  
cured or even slowed.

## IACP's Alzheimer's INITIATIVES

*SAFEGUARDING THE MATURING POPULATION*



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*Statistics courtesy of the Alzheimer's Association—www.alz.org.*



**5.4 million Americans**  
of all ages  
currently have  
**Alzheimer's disease.**

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# about

## IACP's Alzheimer's INITIATIVES

Alzheimer's disease is a community problem, especially when a person with Alzheimer's is missing. Searches are exhaustive, expensive, and often have tragic endings. As the number of persons with Alzheimer's increases, the need for law enforcement intervention to assist this vulnerable population and their caregivers will also increase.

The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), in partnership with the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, launched its Alzheimer's Initiatives program in 2009. The goal of the initiative is to enhance the capacity of law enforcement to handle calls involving persons with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (AD/D), thereby strengthening police-community relations and providing improved services to this growing segment of our communities.

IACP's Alzheimer's Initiatives program provides education, resources, and training to help law enforcement better recognize those with AD/D or who may be at-risk; improve interactions with persons with AD/D to facilitate positive outcomes; and develop policies related to search-and-rescue operations, specific to those with AD/D.

# why

## Why is this important to law enforcement?

Because of the myriad of issues and problems that law enforcement agencies deal with on a daily basis, it is often easy to overlook the implications of a particular incident until it happens in your own community. While law enforcement agencies are designed and staffed to act on the needs of their communities, responding to reports of a missing person with AD/D can have a serious impact on department resources. By establishing policies and protocols related to the handling of such calls, agencies will be able to respond efficiently, search effectively, and potentially save lives.

More than seven out of ten people with Alzheimer's disease live at home.

Over 60% of people with Alzheimer's disease will wander or become lost.

# resource

## Resource Center

IACP's Alzheimer's Initiatives program offers a host of resources, information, and training regarding law enforcement's response to persons with AD/D. The following resources can be accessed or requested by visiting IACP's web site at [www.theiacp.org/alzheimers](http://www.theiacp.org/alzheimers):

- A Model Policy and Issues and Concepts Paper on Missing Persons with Alzheimer's disease. (These documents are available in a downloadable format on the web page or can be requested on a thumb drive, that will be mailed)
- A state-by-state guide to Silver Alert programs
- A podcast on IACP's Alzheimer's Initiatives
- A Resource Toolkit (available Spring 2012)
- A resource guide, *Effectively Responding to Missing Persons with Alzheimer's Disease: Promising Practices of Law Enforcement and First Responders*.
- No-cost training and educational seminars for law enforcement (available Spring 2012)
- Roll-call training video (available Spring 2012)
- A guide to locative technologies for missing persons with Alzheimer's disease.

Alzheimer's is not just memory loss. Alzheimer's kills.

# Quick Response Tips

Evaluative questions for older adults who may be on their way to being lost, or already are and don't realize it:

- Where are you coming from and where are you going to?
- What route are you taking to get there?
- Who are you meeting?
- What is your full name, full address, and phone number?
- Can you tell me what city and state we are in?
- What time is it right now? (Answer should be correct within one hour.)

## Interaction Tips—“Do’s”

- Use a friendly facial expression and a low, calm, slow voice.
- Face directly and establish eye contact. If approaching from behind, announce yourself.
- Always tell the person what you will be doing and explain it again while you are doing it. Keep it simple—be patient and ask easy questions.
- Make a visual check for a medical necklace, bracelet, ankle bracelet, or tracking device to indicate Project Lifesaver or MedicAlert + Safe Return.
- If it is necessary to touch the person, be sure to tell them in advance and explain why.

## Interaction Tips—“Don’ts”

- Don't take comments personally.
- Don't correct the person.
- Don't approach from behind without warning.
- Don't touch without asking/explaining.
- Don't repeat a question too many times as it may provoke agitation—come back to it.
- Change the topic to something pleasant if the person becomes agitated—ask about a favorite place to go, a favorite restaurant, etc. This may help elicit answers if you are trying to return a lost person.

IACP's Alzheimer's INITIATIVES

