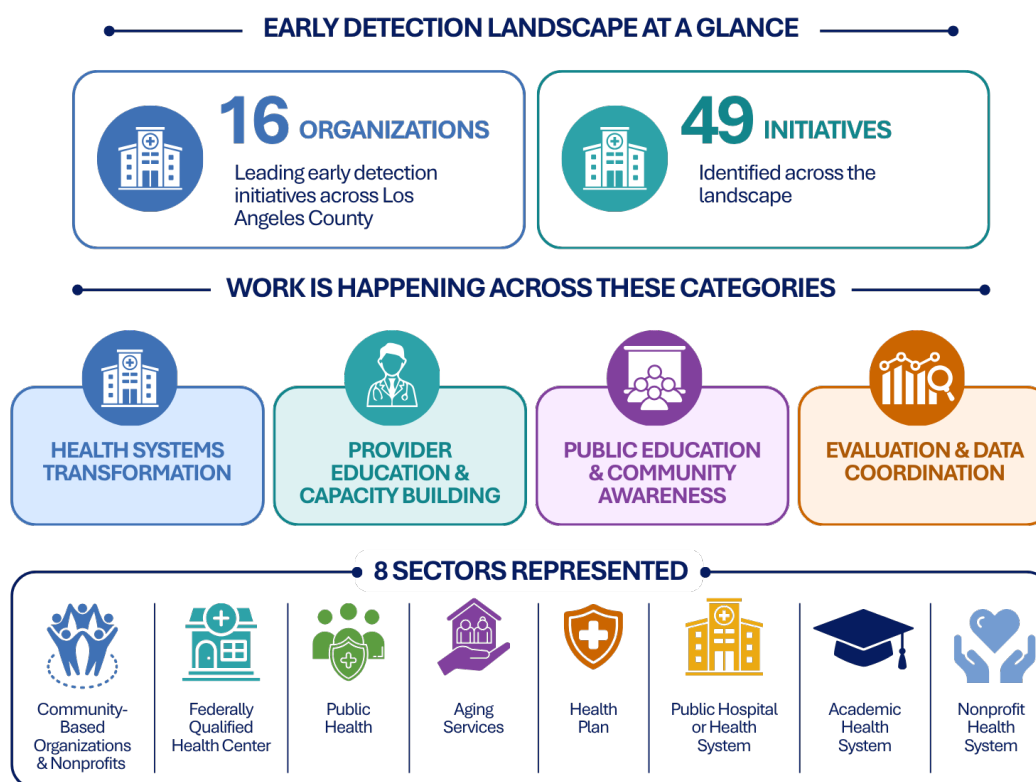


Early Detection Efforts in Los Angeles County

Dementia is a growing public health challenge in Los Angeles County (LAC), with an increasing number of older adults at risk for cognitive decline and a corresponding need for earlier detection, timely diagnosis, and coordinated care. In response, health systems, community-based organizations, and other partners across LAC are working to improve how dementia is identified and addressed across the continuum of care. As part of these efforts, members of the Healthy Brain LA Early Detection Workgroup compiled information on key early detection initiatives in the region. This document summarizes those findings, offering a snapshot of activities, approaches, and opportunities for continued collaboration and improvement of dementia detection efforts in LAC.



Approaches to Early Detection Across Los Angeles County

Initiatives identified through the assessment were grouped into four categories including health systems transformation, provider education and workforce capacity, public education and community awareness, and evaluation and data coordination. The following sections provide a summary of initiatives within each category, with a more detailed description of the assessment findings available in the appendix, *Early Detection Landscape Assessment*.

Health Systems Transformation

Health systems across LAC are working to integrate cognitive screening into routine care through a range of strategies, including quality improvement initiatives, standardization of clinical workflows, integration of screening tools in electronic health record (EHR) systems, and engagement of multidisciplinary care teams. Several organizations have leveraged California's Dementia Care Aware initiative—a statewide program offering tools, training, and resources to integrate cognitive screening into primary care—to accelerate progress. For example, **the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services** partnered with Dementia Care Aware to train health care professionals across their medical centers, ambulatory care network, and partnering federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) to embed tools like the Cognitive Health Assessment (CHA) as a standard annual screening for patients aged 65 and older. L.A. Care Health Plan is also supporting the implementation of Dementia Care Aware by promoting use of the annual CHA benefit for eligible Medi-Cal members, offering provider guidance and billing resources, and monitoring compliance and utilization of the cognitive assessment benefit. Additional local partners involved in Dementia Care Aware include **Kedren Community Health Center, Alzheimer's Association, and Alzheimer's Los Angeles.**

FQHCs including **Altamed, Eisner Health, and Chinatown Service Center** have also integrated robust cognitive assessments into their Medicare Annual Wellness Visit and other clinical workflows. Several of these organizations have also expanded dementia support, referral, and care coordination services, including partnerships with community-based organizations such as **Alzheimer's Los Angeles** to help connect patients and families to additional resources and support following the detection of cognitive impairment.

At the same time, several health systems across LAC are implementing more technology-enabled and team-based approaches to strengthen dementia detection, diagnostic evaluation, and follow-up care. While each model differs in design and approach, these initiatives share a common focus on embedding cognitive assessment and care coordination into existing healthcare systems to support earlier identification of cognitive impairment. For example, **Keck Medicine of USC's** Brain Health Navigator program integrates navigators into primary and specialty care workflows to help coordinate assessment, referrals, and post-diagnostic support. In addition, **Kaiser Permanente Southern California Permanente Medical Group** is implementing the tablet-based TabCAT Brain Health Assessment (TabCAT-BHA), administered by trained clinical staff with automated results available in the patient's electronic medical record to support clinical decision-making and diagnostic follow-up. Finally, **Cedars-Sinai Medical Center** is

integrating an EHR dementia diagnosis algorithm with nurse-administered brief cognitive assessments (4AT and AD8) among adults aged 65 and older.

Provider Education and Workforce Capacity

Across LAC, provider education and workforce capacity are key components to strengthening early detection of dementia. Community-based organizations and nonprofits including **Alzheimer's Los Angeles** and the **Alzheimer's Association** play a significant role in these efforts, offering dementia care navigation trainings, provider summits, and a range of educational and workforce development programs focused on screening, diagnosis, care coordination, and management. For example, **Alzheimer's Los Angeles** offers dementia care specialist trainings for professionals working with Medi-Cal members enrolled through Health Net or L.A. Care who may qualify for Enhanced Care Management services under California's CalAIM initiative. **Alzheimer's Los Angeles** also operates a referral and care navigation program, Alz Direct Connect, that helps connect individuals living with dementia and their caregivers to resources, education, and support. The **Alzheimer's Association** has an active partnership with Dementia Care Aware to deliver cognitive health assessment trainings. **Alzheimer's Association** also offers programs such as Project ECHO, which provides case-based learning and mentorship opportunities for healthcare professionals, essentialALZ, a dementia care training program for long-term care staff, and ALZPro, an online education platform designed to support primary care teams in improving dementia care knowledge and practice.

Health systems and public health are also implementing provider education initiatives to strengthen dementia screening and diagnosis within clinical settings. **Kaiser Permanente Southern California Permanente Medical Group** incorporated Dementia Care Aware resources into its internal physician training platform and implemented mandatory trainings on dementia diagnosis and coding for primary care and specialty physicians. **The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health - Healthy Brain LA Team** has also supported workforce education through multiple medical training initiatives including medical education didactics on dementia screening and diagnosis for resident physicians at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, continuing medical education lectures for community providers at the AHMC Garfield Medical Center Geriatrics Symposium, and trainings focused on dementia management for primary care teams at organizations such as the Chinatown Service Center.

Public Education and Community Awareness

Expanding public awareness of brain health and early signs of cognitive decline is a central component for advancing early detection. Initiatives across LAC are focused on outreach

and education in community settings and strengthening connections to services and support for individuals and caregivers. Community-based organizations, health systems, and academic institutions are implementing culturally and linguistically tailored outreach and education initiatives designed to reach diverse communities across the county.

Alzheimer's Los Angeles has developed a wide range of public-facing education and support programs, including telenovela-style educational media for Latino communities focused on recognizing early signs of dementia and reducing stigma, multilingual Memory Matters workshops, Healthy Brain Habits education campaigns, caregiver educational materials for diverse communities, and early-stage support programs such as Memory Club. **UCLA Health's Equity for Latinx-Hispanic Healthy Aging Lab** has also developed educational toolkits aimed at reducing stigma and increasing awareness related to dementia and cognitive health. **The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health - Healthy Brain LA Team** has also developed public-facing educational materials focused on brain health, risk reduction strategies, and Alzheimer's disease and related awareness.

Additional organizations are supporting community education and engagement through public talks, support services, caregiver resources, and brain health promotion initiatives.

Cedars-Sinai Medical Center partnered with Torrance Memorial to host a brain health event focused on the Asian American community, while the **Alzheimer's Association** offers community education programs, support groups, a 24/7 helpline, and digital tools such as the My ALZ Journey app to support individuals living with dementia and their caregivers.

Evaluation and Data Coordination

Evaluation and data coordination activities across LAC include tracking and evaluating early detection efforts to better understand implementation and outcomes. Initiatives focus on monitoring key metrics, supporting quality improvement across partners, and sharing findings to guide future implementation. These efforts include surveillance activities, data analysis, and cross sector partnership, such as **the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health - Healthy Brain LA Team's partnership** with various entities including the Berkeley IGS Poll to develop data briefs on voters' opinions on brain health, dementia, and cognitive screening and the USC Schaeffer Institute to provide estimates of prevalence and the cost of dementia in LAC and project the number of residents living with these conditions. The **Los Angeles County Department of Public Health – Healthy Brain LA Team** has also used Healthcare Access and Information data to better understand dementia-related hospitalizations in LAC. Additional countywide coordination efforts include the **Los Angeles Regional Coordinating Council on Aging & Disability -**

Resources and Data Sharing Workgroup's efforts to improve coordination of data related to older adults across the county.

Research and evaluation initiatives are also helping expand understanding of dementia risk reduction, screening, diagnosis, and care. For example, the **Alzheimer's Association** is involved in U.S. POINTER, a national study focused on lifestyle-based approaches to reducing risk for cognitive decline and dementia. In addition, the **Rancho Research Institute** is leading an extension project of the Dementia Care Aware program called the Cognitive Health Assessment Metrics Post Positive Screen (CHAMPPS). The project aims to evaluate how screening approaches have influenced dementia diagnosis rates, the quality and content of diagnostic evaluations and care plans, and whether disparities exist in dementia diagnosis and care.

Interactive Early Detection Landscape Map

An interactive map was created to provide a visual overview of the early detection landscape across LAC. The map highlights participating organizations and the initiative categories identified through the assessment, with layers corresponding to the four categories: health systems transformation, provider education and workforce capacity, public education and community awareness, and evaluation and data coordination. Each category is represented by a distinct color, with organizations involved in multiple categories displayed with multiple color-coded pins.



Questions? Contact us at healthybrainla@ph.lacounty.gov

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Appendix: Early Detection Landscape

Health Systems Transformation		
Organization	Target Population	Initiative Description
AltaMed	Adults 65+ primary care patients at AltaMed	• Alta Med Viva Gold and Dementia Care Support Services - Integrates Mini-Cog screening during Medicare Annual Wellness Visits and annual preventive care visits, with abnormal screening results triggering an automatic referral to the Dementia Support Services program for follow-up by a Dementia Support Coordinator who works closely with primary care providers.
Alzheimer's Association	Eligible Medicare beneficiaries enrolled in the CMS GUIDE model	• Dementia Care Navigation Services - Provides coordinated dementia care navigation, personalized care planning, caregiver support and respite services, and connections to clinical and community-based resources.
Alzheimer's LA	Adults 65+ enrolled in CalAIM	• Advocacy Efforts - Encourages CalAIM-participating managed care organizations (MCOs) to adopt the American Academy of Neurology's dementia quality measures.
	Adults 65+ enrolled in CalAIM	• Enhance Care Management Program – Offers dementia-focused care coordination, caregiver, support, resource navigation, and connections to medical and community-based services to help individuals with memory loss remain safely at home.
	Residents in catchment areas	• Hospital Engagement Efforts - Initiates conversations with hospitals to leverage CMS Age-friendly requirements and assess community health needs assessments (CHNAs) to determine opportunities to strengthen focus on dementia detection and care.

Cedars Sinai Medical Center	Adults 65+ receiving inpatient care at Cedars Sinai and Cedars Sinai Medical Group patients	• Hospital-wide Multicomponent Inpatient Cognitive Screening Program – Integrates inpatient cognitive screening through an electronic health record (EHR) algorithm and validated cognitive screening tools (4AT/AD8) for patients aged 65 or older. Patients with undiagnosed dementia/cognitive impairment receive an outreach call from Geriatrics to schedule a memory evaluation. In ambulatory patients aged 65 and older, a Mini-Cog screening is conducted during the Annual Wellness Visit. Patients with abnormal screening results receive further evaluation by a primary care physician or referral to Geriatrics or Neurology.
Chinatown Service Center	Adults 65+	• Dementia Care Optimization Project – Supports early identification of cognitive impairment, standardize functional assessment and advance care planning documentation, strengthen referral pathways to community-based dementia resources, and integrate sustainable EHR-based workflows that support consistent, trackable dementia care for adults 65 years and older.
Eisner Health	Adults 65+ primary care patients at Eisner Health	• Dementia Care Program – Integrates Mini-Cog screening during Medicare Annual Wellness Visits conducted by a trained Nurse Practitioner, with patients who have abnormal screening results referred to a Nurse Practitioner -led memory evaluation clinic for further workup.
Kaiser Permanente Southern California Permanente Medical Group	Adults 65+ across 26 Kaiser Permanente Southern California primary care clinics	• TabCAT Brain Health Assessment Project – NINDS-funded pragmatic trial of RN-facilitated tablet-based cognitive assessments in primary care. Supports primary care providers to evaluate cognitive concerns by referring individuals for a brief 10-minute tablet-based assessment integrated into the electronic medical record, with automated guidance on diagnostic work-up, diagnosis disclosure, and post-diagnostic support.
Keck Medicine of USC	Adults 65+ receiving care through USC primary care	• Brain Health Navigator Program – Integrates brain health navigators into primary and specialty care workflows to improve timely dementia assessment, referrals, and post-diagnostic care, while strengthening collaboration across primary and specialty care teams and expanding use of CPT code 99483, which reimburses physicians and other eligible billing practitioners for cognitive assessment and care planning services for patients with cognitive impairment.

Kedren Community Health Center	At-Risk Seniors at the intersection of Dementia, Mental Illness, Substance Use, TBI, Developmental Disorders, Incarceration, Organic Causes, Homelessness	• Dementia Care Aware – Supports implementation of this statewide initiative through in-person trainings for FQHC prescribers and staff on the use of Cognitive Health Assessments (CHAs), workflow integration into the EHR, patient identification and screening processes, and training support for additional FQHC and street medicine teams.
L.A. Care Health Plan	Adults 65+ enrolled in LA Care Medi-Cal HMO	• Implementation of Annual Cognitive Health Assessment for Eligible Medi-Cal Members 65+ - Monitors compliance and conducts audit processes to ensure older Medi-Cal patients are receiving annual cognitive health screening benefit, including the Cognitive Health Assessments aligned with the Dementia Care Aware protocol.
Los Angeles County Department of Health Services	Adults 65+	• Dementia Care Aware – Supports implementation of this statewide initiative in Los Angeles County to provide trainings and tools to help primary care teams conduct Cognitive Health Assessment and guide next steps for patients 65 years and older with dementia.
UCLA Health - Equity for Latinx-Hispanic Healthy Aging (ELHA) Lab	Community Members, 50-90 (Senior Centers, LA Care Patients); UCLA Primary Care Patients; Dementia/ADRD Workforce	• Implementation of an English/Spanish Dementia Screening Toolkit in Primary Care – Integrated bilingual Dementia Screening Tool into the electronic health record (EHR) within a diverse UCLA primary care clinic.
		• CAMINO Community-Based Research Study – Focuses on improving early identification of memory changes and pathways to care among Latino older adults and their families through community engagement and health equity frameworks. CAMINO centers the lived experiences, beliefs, and priorities of Latino communities as essential knowledge for dementia detection and care.

		• CLARO Research Study - Focuses on Alzheimer’s research literacy and communication, with the goal of increasing informed, empowered participation of Latino older adults and caregivers in Alzheimer’s research, including biomarker studies and pharmaceutical clinical trials.
Provider Education & Capacity Building		
Organizations	Target Population	Initiative Description
Alzheimer’s Association	Providers	• Dementia Awareness Champion Summit – Hosted on June 2, 2025, this interactive event focused on individual and organizational benefits of early detection of dementia, workflows for operationalizing early detection in academic and public sector health systems, available treatment options that slow dementia progression, and how to effectively administer and interpret cognitive screening tools.
	Primary Care Teams	• Dementia Care Navigator Training - Provides a comprehensive online training and certification series for care navigators and interdisciplinary teams focused on person-centered dementia care, care coordination, caregiver support, and implementation of dementia care navigation models aligned with CMS GUIDE requirements. Training and certification fees apply.
	Primary Care Teams	• Dementia Care Aware 2.0 – Support implementation of this statewide initiative by delivering trainings on the Cognitive Health Assessments.
	Students (2025)	• Peer Support Specialist WERC Program – Partnered with Dementia Care Aware, California State University, Dominguez Hills, and the Worker Education & Resource Center Peer Support Specialist Program to support cognitive health assessments and dementia-related care navigation.
	Primary Care Teams	• Alzheimer’s and Dementia Care ECHO Program - Aims to improve health outcomes while reducing geographic barriers and the cost of care through a team-based approach by offering a free continuing education series of interactive, case-based video conferencing sessions. There is an ECHO program with the UCLA Alzheimer’s and Dementia Program.

	Long Term Care Teams	• EssentiALZ – Offers a 3-hour long training program and certification on current person-centered practices to care for individuals living with dementia. Training and certification fees apply.
	Primary Care Teams	• ALZPro - Serves as the Alzheimer’s Association’s centralized professional hub offering evidence-based dementia care resources, clinical guidelines, education and training materials, research updates, and practical tools for healthcare providers, researchers, and public health professionals.
Alzheimer’s LA	Dementia Care Specialists, Nurses, Social Workers, and Other Professionals	• Dementia Care Specialist Training - Provides training on dementia-capable care, cognitive screening, caregiver support, behavior management strategies, and community-based referral coordination to better support individuals living with Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias and their caregivers.
Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles County	Primary Care Providers	• Workforce Convenings and Trainings - Offers convenings and trainings for Chief Medical Officers and Providers who are caring for patient populations and Behavioral Health Care Providers who might work with patients and caregivers.
Kaiser Permanente Southern California Permanente Medical Group	Medical Group Physicians	• Dementia Care Aware Resource Dissemination: Supports dissemination of Dementia Care Aware training through Kaiser Permanente’s internal training site for all physicians.
	Primary Care Physicians, Specialist Physicians including Surgery	• Workforce Education: Supported mandatory training for dementia diagnosis and coding (2023-24).
L.A. Care Health Plan	LA Care contracted providers	• Dementia Care Aware Resource Dissemination: Publicizes Dementia Care Aware training resources to contracted providers.
Los Angeles County Department of	Resident Physicians	• Harbor-UCLA Medical Center Medical Education Didactics – Provides medical education didactics on dementia screening and diagnosis.

Public Health - Healthy Brain LA Team	Primary Care Physicians	• Annual AHMC Garfield Medical Center Geriatrics Symposium – Provided CME Lectures to San Gabriel Valley community providers
	Primary care teams	• Technical Assistance for Chinatown Service Center – Supports the Chinatown Service Center through dementia screening and management trainings, and technical assistance on EHR workflow optimization.
Public Education & Community Awareness		
Organization	Target Population	Initiative Description
Alzheimer's Association	General Public	• Community-Based Education Programs – Provides free community education programs focused on recognizing warning signs of Alzheimer's disease, understanding dementia and caregiving, planning for future care needs, and supporting caregivers through disease progression. Programs include culturally and linguistically accessible educational offerings on dementia awareness, communication strategies, financial planning, and caregiver skill-building.
	General Public	• Support Groups and 24/7 Helpline Services – Offers virtual and in-person support groups for individuals living with dementia, caregivers, families, and community members, along with a 24/7 multilingual helpline providing information, emotional support, crisis assistance, care planning guidance, and connections to local dementia-related services and resources.
	General Public	• My ALZ Journey Mobile App – Provides a free mobile application designed to support individuals newly diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, dementia, or mild cognitive impairment and their care partners through personalized education, planning tools, local resource navigation, and step-by-step guidance for navigating the early stages of diagnosis and care.
	General Public	• U.S. POINTER Brain Health and Risk Reduction Initiative – Leads a large-scale lifestyle intervention initiative focused on increasing public awareness of dementia risk reduction strategies, including physical activity, nutrition, cardiovascular health, cognitive stimulation, and social engagement. The

		initiative supports community education and dissemination of evidence-based approaches to promoting brain health and reducing dementia risk.
Alzheimer's LA	General; Latino	• “Lost Memories” (“Recuerdos Perdidos”) Bilingual Telenovela Series – Developed a bilingual telenovela-style web series designed to increase awareness of Alzheimer’s disease within Latino communities by reducing stigma, highlighting early warning signs of dementia, and encouraging families to seek evaluation and support services. The series follows a multigenerational family navigating a loved one’s progression through dementia and caregiving challenges.
	General Public	• Culturally Tailored Caregiver Education and Storytelling Campaigns – Developed multilingual and culturally tailored video, audio, and storytelling initiatives focused on dementia awareness, caregiver support, stigma reduction, and early recognition of memory concerns among African American, Chinese, Japanese, and Asian American/Pacific Islander communities. Programs include caregiver storytelling campaigns, educational web series, facilitator guides, and self-care resources designed to support families navigating dementia caregiving.
	General Public	• Healthy Brain Habits Workshops – Provides culturally tailored community education workshops focused on brain health promotion, dementia risk reduction, and healthy aging strategies, including physical activity, nutrition, social engagement, and cognitive wellness. Workshops are offered in multiple languages, including English, Spanish, and Mandarin, to improve accessibility and reach across diverse communities.
	General Public	• Advances in Alzheimer’s Research Community Conferences – Hosts free community-facing educational conferences in English, Spanish, and African American communities focused on dementia detection, diagnostic advances, treatment options, clinical research participation, and caregiver support. Conferences include expert-led presentations, culturally tailored sessions, resource fairs, and support services such as translation, respite care, and transportation assistance.

	General Public	• Memory Club® and Early-Stage Support Programs – Offers peer-based education, support groups, and social engagement programs for individuals experiencing mild cognitive impairment or early-stage dementia and their care partners. Programs focus on coping strategies, disease education, future planning, caregiver support, and maintaining social connection and quality of life following early diagnosis.
	General Public	• Memory Matters Workshops – Provides community-based educational workshops in English, Spanish, and Mandarin focused on recognizing memory concerns, understanding cognitive impairment, communicating with healthcare providers about memory changes, and increasing awareness of the benefits of early detection and diagnosis.
Cedars Sinai Medical Center	General public	• Community Brain Health Education Events – Partners with community organizations, including Torrance Memorial, to provide public educational lectures focused on brain health, dementia risk reduction, cognitive decline, and prevention strategies for Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias through expert-led community presentations and outreach events.
Los Angeles County Department of Public Health - Healthy Brain LA Team	General Public	• Brain health and Healthy Aging Educational Materials - Develops public-facing educational materials including social media and one-pagers focused on brain health, risk reduction strategies, and Alzheimer’s disease and related awareness.
UCLA Health (Equity for Latinx-Hispanic Healthy Aging (ELHA) Lab)	General Public	• Educational and Engagement Materials - Develops brochures, checklists, flyers, caregiver resources, educational games, and community engagement materials designed to support brain health and increase awareness of Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias.
Evaluation and Data Coordination		
Los Angeles County Aging and	Policymakers, Leadership	• Los Angeles County Regional Coordinating Council on Aging & Disability: Resources & Data Sharing Workgroup – Aims to improve coordination of data related to older adults across the county.

Disabilities Department		
Los Angeles County Department of Health Services	Adults 65+	• Dementia Care Aware Cognitive Health Assessment Post Positive Screen (CHAMPPS) Project: Aims to track follow-up and outcomes for patients who screened positive during Dementia Care Aware pilot (2022-2024).
Los Angeles County Department of Public Health - Healthy Brain LA Team	Policymakers, Leadership, Grant applicants	• Los Angeles County Dementia-Related Hospitalization and Emergency Department Visit Dashboard – A publicly accessible data dashboard utilizing California Department of Health Care Access and Information Patient Discharge and Emergency Department datasets (2019–2023) which provides surveillance data on dementia-related hospitalizations and emergency department visits among Los Angeles County residents aged 50 years and older. The dashboard aims to support local planning, policy development, grant writing, and community needs assessment activities.
	General Public	• Local Dementia Surveillance Data Briefs – A range of local data briefs and surveillance reports focused on dementia prevalence, caregiving, public perceptions related to brain health and cognitive screening.
USC Schaeffer Institute	Policymakers, Leadership, General Public	• Economic Impact of Dementia in Los Angeles County – Developed new estimates of current and future prevalence of dementia, informal care needs, and costs of dementia in Los Angeles County.