SECTION ONE

Brain Health, Cognitive Impairment, and Alzheimer’s Disease

The Tennessee Department of Health received funding in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), the Alzheimer’s Association, and the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO). Tennessee was tasked to:

• educate our public health professionals about cognitive health, health indicators, diagnosis, and community resources via an issue brief developed from original data analyses
• Conduct a live training webinar to enhance our staff and the public’s awareness of brain health
• Provide our staff with tools to integrate brain health messages into existing public health programming on physical activity, tobacco use, obesity, and substance abuse.

This section features the Healthy Brain Brief and the Brain Health, Cognition, and Alzheimer’s Disease (PowerPoint) which shares the results of research demonstrating the “Big 4” leading causes of death in Tennessee may also contribute to cognitive decline. You will also learn more about the results of two Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System modules (Cognitive Module and the Caregiver Module) used in Tennessee to help understand Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias.

The materials in this section provide an opportunity for public health professionals to increase their awareness of brain health, cognitive impairment, and Alzheimer’s disease and to better understand the role of public health in raising awareness and taking action around dementia and Alzheimer’s risk reduction.