Diseases like arthritis, Alzheimer’s, and epilepsy affect large populations of Americans.

Arthritis affects 54.4 million US adults and is a major cause of work disability in the United States. Alzheimer’s disease is the 6th leading cause of death in the United States, and nearly 6 million US adults are living with Alzheimer’s dementia. Excessive alcohol use costs the nation $249 billion annually and is responsible for 1 in 10 deaths among working-age adults aged 20-64 years. About 3.4 million Americans have epilepsy nationwide, including 470,000 children. Each day, 132,000 schools provide a setting for 55 million students to learn about health and healthy behaviors. American Indians and Alaska Natives experience many health disparities, and today have a life expectancy that is 4.4 years less than all US races.

**CDC’s Response**

CDC’s Division of Population Health provides scientific leadership and expertise to prevent costly chronic diseases and improve health across the lifespan. Our division oversees a wide range of cutting-edge and crosscutting programs on topics such as arthritis, Alzheimer’s disease and healthy aging, excessive alcohol use, epilepsy, and lupus. We support populations across multiple settings, including schools, workplaces, and tribal communities. Our Prevention Research Centers develop and test innovative programs and move ones that work into public health practice. We provide local, state, and national health data through programs such as the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System and PLACES.

From 2000 to 2014, 30% more schools offered at least 2 vegetables at lunch.