



SAFEGUARDING THE MATURING POPULATION

Did you know?

More than 6 million Americans of all ages currently have Alzheimer's disease. That could be as many as 13 million by 2050.*

It's not a question of *if* law enforcement will interact with persons with Alzheimer's disease or dementia, but rather *when* and *how* to respond.

*From the Alzheimer's Association 2022 Facts & Figures report.

This project is supported by Cooperative Agreement Nos. 2019 NT BX K002 and 15PBJA 22-GK 03582-MAPX, awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions contained herein are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice. References to specific agencies, companies, products, or services should not be considered an endorsement by the author(s) or the U.S. Department of Justice. Rather, the references are illustrations to supplement discussion of the issues

First responders should become skilled at effective interactions with people with Alzheimer’s disease or dementia.

“DO’S”

- Introduce yourself and explain that you are there to help.
- Speak in a calm, friendly tone.
- Speak slowly. Ask one simple question at a time and allow extra response time.
- Check for locative technology or MedicAlert ID.
- Change the topic to something pleasant if the person becomes agitated.
- Provide security and comfort (i.e., blanket, water, or someplace to sit).

The IACP is committed to helping first responders enhance their knowledge and skills to interact effectively with persons with Alzheimer’s disease or dementia, and their families and caregivers.

“DON’TS”

- Don’t take comments personally.
- Don’t correct the person.
- Don’t approach from behind without warning.
- Don’t argue.
- Don’t touch without asking or explaining.
- Don’t repeat a question too many times, as it may increase agitation.



For more information, please visit: www.theiacp.org/projects/home-safe