

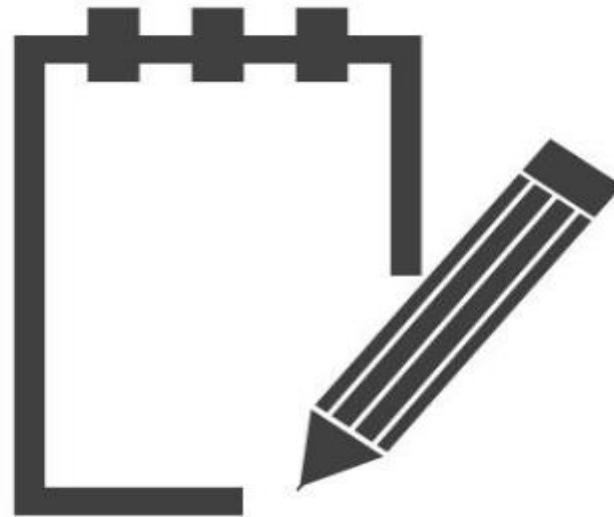


# Neurocognitive Disorders

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Law Enforcement and  
Community: Crisis Intervention  
Team Training

# Module Overview



## Neurocognitive Disorders

- What are neurocognitive disorders?
- Dementia
  - Alzheimer's
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Delirium
- Tips for Responding

# Neurocognitive Disorders



**Neurocognitive disorders (NCDs or "Dementia")** is a cognitive decline in one or more cognitive domains.

# Neurocognitive Disorders

- Affect mental functions such as memory, thinking, and the ability to reason
- Loss of ability to:
  - understand or express speech.
  - execute or carry out learned purposeful movements.
  - recognize or comprehend the meaning of objects.
- May also experience changes in mood or personality



# Dementia

- Dementia is not a specific disease.
- A group of symptoms associated with a severe decline in memory or other thinking skills
- Dementia is caused by damage to brain cells.



# Symptoms and Behaviors

- Needs more time and energy to complete routine tasks
- Difficulty keeping track of things
- May get lost or turned around easily
- Experiences subtle changes in mood and attitude
- Has difficulties reading social cues and facial expressions

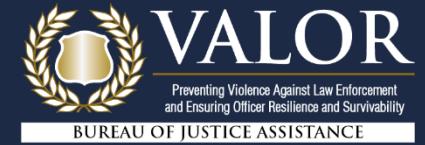


# Symptoms and Behaviors



- Has difficulty remembering new information and may not be able to repeat what was just said
- Struggles to remember past information
- Difficulty with multi-tasking; needs simple directions, and information
- Is easily distracted and struggles to stay focused
- Has difficulties with speech and expressions
- Has difficulty with daily living activities
- Demonstrates unusual behavior in social settings
- Makes decisions without the regard for others or safety

# Alzheimer's Disease



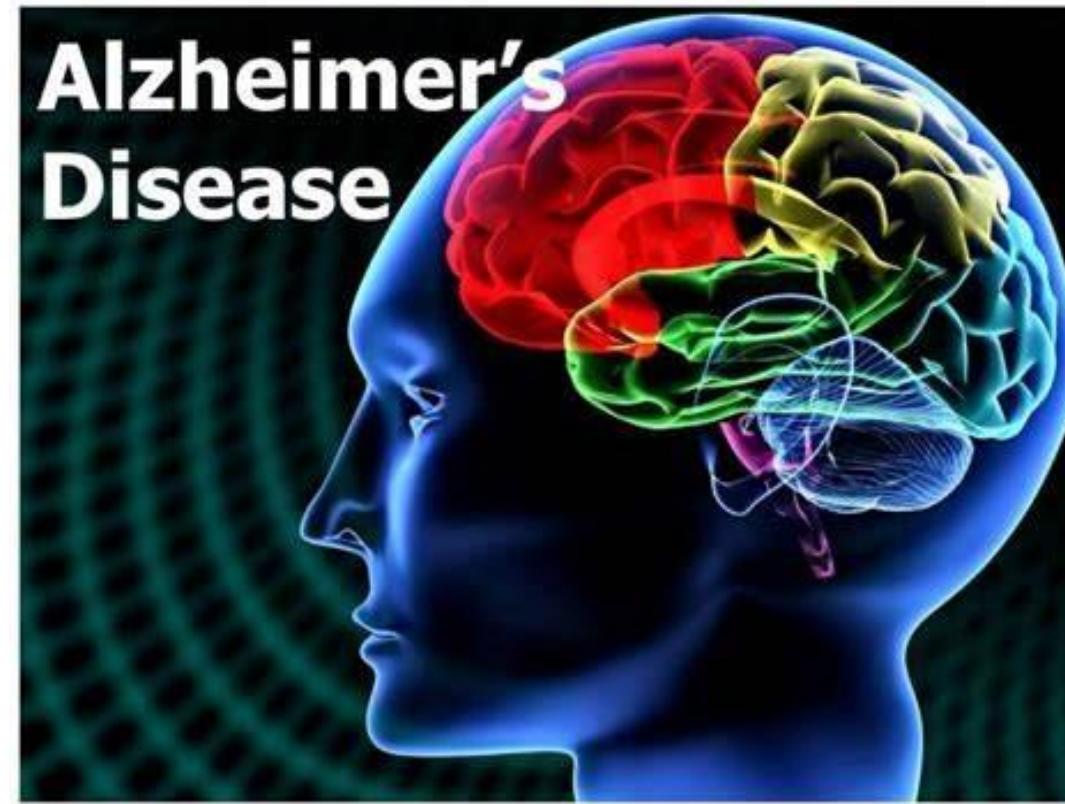
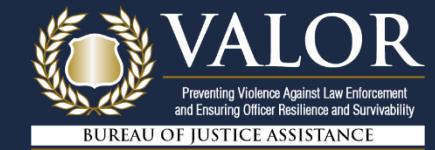
## What is Alzheimer's?

- A type of Dementia
- A progressive condition
- A clear decline in memory and learning
- Earliest symptoms are typically changes to mood or personality, such as passivity

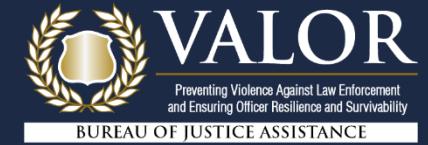
## Warning Signs of Alzheimer's

1. Memory loss
2. Difficulty performing familiar tasks
3. Problems with language
4. Disorientation to time and place
5. Poor or decreased judgment
6. Problems with abstract thinking
7. Misplacing things
8. Changes in mood or behavior
9. Changes in personality
10. Loss of initiative

# Video – Understand Alzheimer's Disease in 3 Minutes



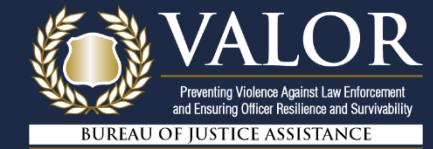
# Older Adults with Dementia: Agitation



- Many older adults with dementia demonstrate agitation
- Signs: physical or verbal aggression, hyperactivity, disinhibition, paranoia, refusal to accept assistance, disturbed sleep
- Agitation may increase risk of violent behavior



# Older Adults with Dementia: Altered Perceptions



- Hallucinations
- Delusions
- Misidentification



# Law Enforcement Encounters With the Elderly



- Elder abuse and financial crimes
- Wandering
- Indecent exposure
- Shoplifting

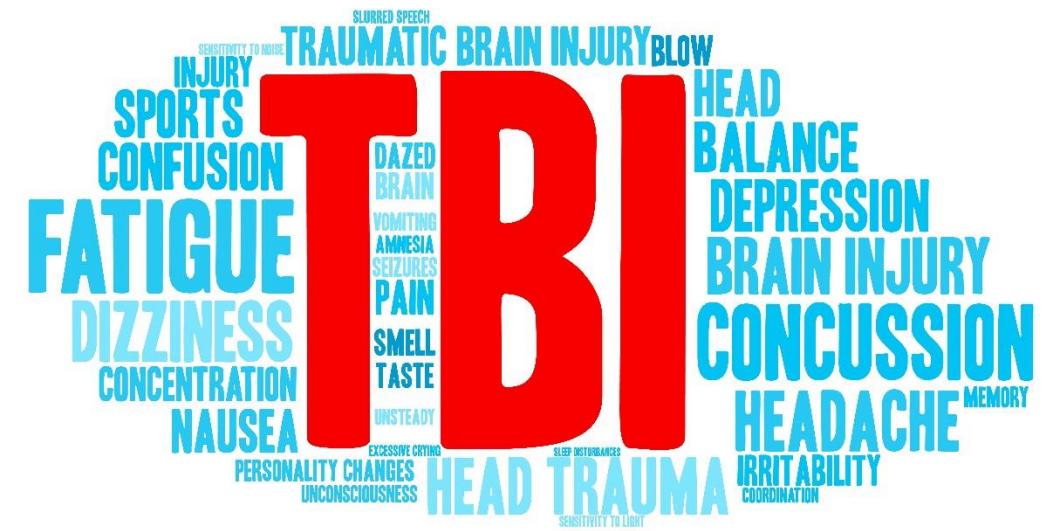
# Law Enforcement Encounters With the Elderly



- Self Neglect or Neglect by others
- Erratic behavior
- Catastrophic reactions

# Traumatic Brain Injury

- Usually results from a violent blow or jolt to the head or body.
- Mild traumatic brain injury may affect your brain cells temporarily.
- More serious traumatic brain injury can result in long-term complications or death.



# Symptoms of Traumatic Brain Injury



- **Physical Symptoms** – dazed or confused, nausea or vomiting, fatigue or drowsiness, dizziness or loss of balance
- **Sensory Symptoms** – blurred vision, changes in taste and smell, sensitivity to light or sound
- **Cognitive or Mental Symptoms** – Memory problems, confusion, agitation, combative behavior, difficulty concentrating, depression, anxiety
- **Long term effects** - Seizures, cognitive deficits, depression, aggression, Alzheimer's, psychosis, decline in cognitive function

# Delirium



An acute mental disturbance characterized by confused thinking and disrupted attention usually accompanied by disordered speech and hallucinations

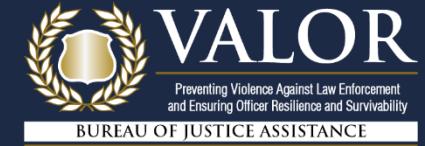
# Delirium

## Signs and Symptoms

- Serious change in mental abilities
- Reduced ability to focus and/or shift attention; difficulties orienting to one's environment
- Symptoms develop over a short period of time, from hours to a few days
- Symptoms can fluctuate in severity throughout the day
- Often can be traced to one or more contributing factors



# Tips for Responding



- Identify yourself as law enforcement and explain why you have approached them.
- Speak slowly in a non-threatening, low-pitched voice.
- Don't assume hearing impairment.
- Maintain a calm environment and lessen stimuli.
- Avoid restraints. Confinement may trigger agitation, exacerbating confusion and disorientation.

# Tips for Responding



- Look for medical alert bracelets.
- Be patient.
- Repeat with same wording if needed.
- Talk directly to the older adult as much as possible.
- Acknowledge their frustration.



# Module Wrap-Up

## Questions?