

# Wisconsin's Dementia Care Specialist Program

A Statewide Effort to Support People Living with Dementia, Their Family  
Caregivers, and Their Communities

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Part of the National Alzheimer's and Dementia Resource Center webinar series sponsored  
by the Administration for Community Living.

# Overview of Presentation

- Fertile Ground
- Pilot Opportunity
- Expansion Funding
- Three Pillars
- Program in Action
- Lessons Learned
- Impact

# Wisconsin Dementia Care Specialists

How did the  
dementia care  
specialist (DCS)  
program get  
started?



# Federal Funding Disclaimer

These projects were supported, in part by grant numbers 90ADPI0038, 90AL0006, 90DS2007, 90DS2020 from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, and grant numbers 90AI0027, 90AE0347, 90AE0346, from the Administration on Aging, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201. Grantees undertaking projects under government sponsorship are encouraged to express freely their findings and conclusions. Points of view or opinions do not, therefore, necessarily represent official Administration for Community Living policy.

# AoA and ACL Grant Projects

- 2009: ASSIST Project to pilot Memory Screening in the Community
- 2010: New York University Caregiver Intervention
- 2010: Language Enriched Exercise Plus Socialization

# AoA and ACL Grant Projects

- 2014: Alzheimer's Disease Initiative: Specialized Supportive Services Projects
- 2014: Alzheimer's Disease Supportive Services Program
- 2016: Alzheimer's Disease Supportive Services Program Supplement
- 2019: Alzheimer's Disease Program Initiative  
DCS Replication

# Pilot Project Opportunity

Potential for fiscal support



# WI Dementia Care Specialists



How was funding determined for the program?



# Timeline

2013

Dementia Care Specialist (DCS) pilot project initiated in five aging and disability resource centers (ADRCs).

2014

Pilot expanded to 11 additional ADRCs, totaling 16 ADRCs.

2015

Additional DCS pilot project funded in three Wisconsin tribes to serve Native American communities.

2017

2017–19 state budget included ongoing funding for 19 DCS positions; expanded program to 24 DCS positions.

2018

Five additional ADRCs were awarded DCS funding.

2019

2019–21 state budget included eight new positions for counties and one new position for tribes.

2021

2021–2023 state budget included funding for the program to expand statewide.

# DCS Program Pillars



Three pillars  
create a web of  
support

# Dementia Capability



# Dementia-Friendly Communities



# Individuals and Families



# Dementia Support Across the Lifespan



# County-Based Program



Wisconsin  
Department of  
Health Services'  
relationship with  
the program staff

# Wisconsin Aging and Disability Resource Centers





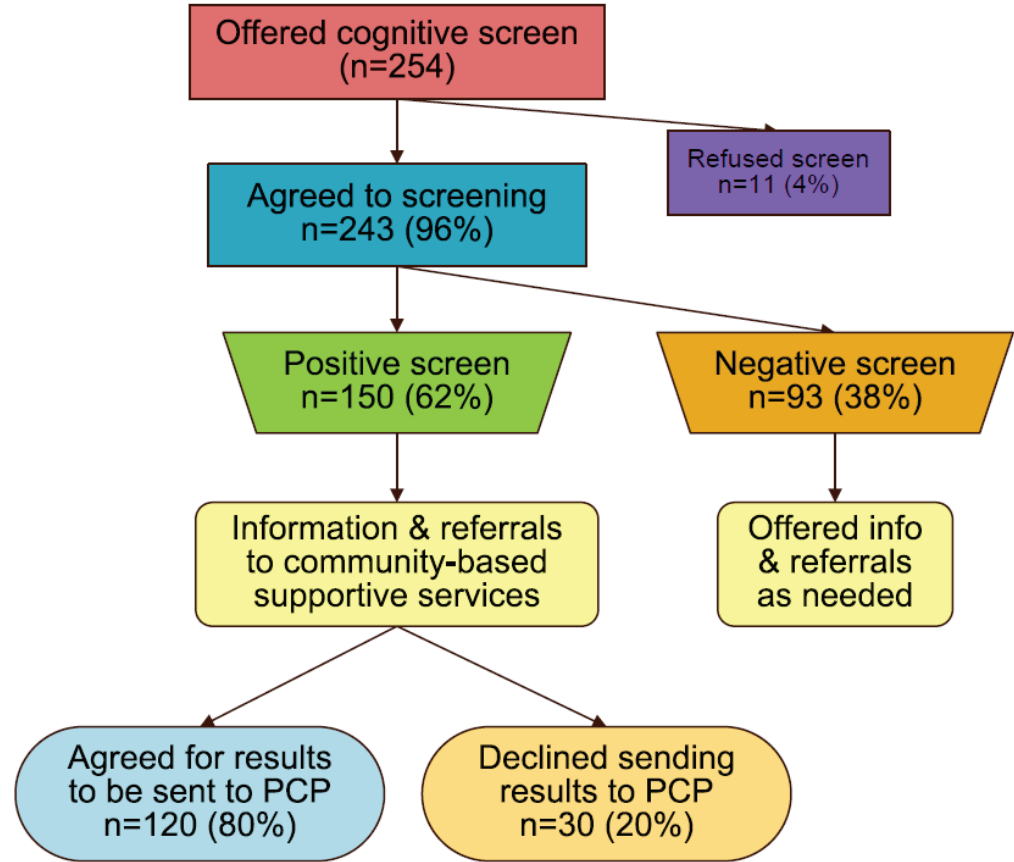
# DCS in Action



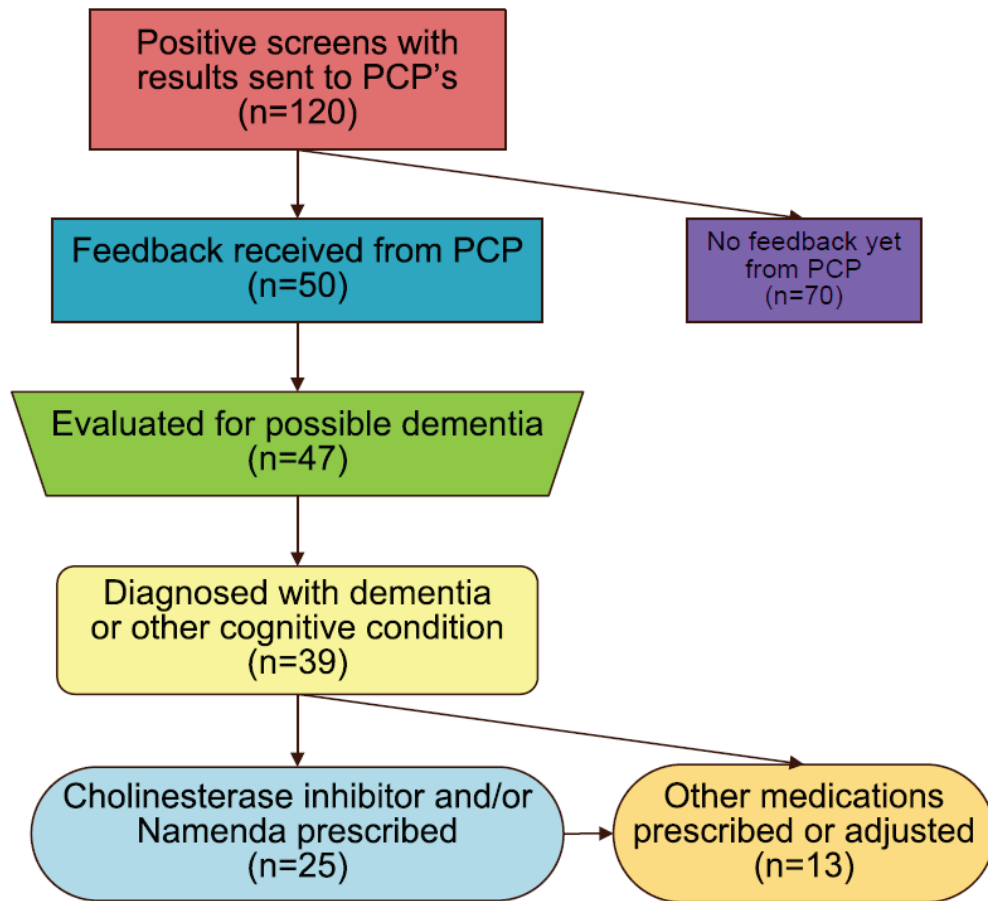
# Memory Screening Evaluation

- Funded by an Administration on Aging grant, 2009–2011
- Implemented by the Portage County ADRC
- Utilized the Animal Naming and Mini-Cog screens
- Collected data from 243 screens

# Pilot Results



# Pilot Results



# Lessons Learned

- Framework must be flexible.
- Three pillars work together.
- People want memory screening.
- Volunteer coalitions extend reach.
- Tribal programs are the same, and different.
- Plain language and names are important.
- Family caregivers use the program the most.

# Impact

- Program is still evolving.
- Evaluation is needed.
- Program is the backbone that sustains many activities.

# Questions?

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Thank you for your attendance today.

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