



Survey of Participants as “Early Adopters” – May, 2014

Executive Summary

ACT on Alzheimer's is a volunteer-driven, statewide collaboration focusing on five goals: (1) sustain caregivers, (2) raise awareness and reduce stigma, (3) invest in promising approaches, (4) increase detection and improve care, and (5) equip communities. The initiative launched in June 2011.

A survey of collaborative participants was conducted between February and May, 2014. The survey's purpose was to capture information on how the ACT on Alzheimer's initiative impacted individuals who have been active in it—as participants in the Leadership Groups, Leadership Council/Executive Committee, Management Steering Committee, and other sub-Committees or working groups. It is assumed that these participants are “early adopters” who are using the ACT-developed tools and resources personally, professionally, or both.

The survey was mailed to 159 people and 92 responded (58% response rate). Results showed that most respondents had been involved for two years or more and 91% were still involved as of the survey. Most had served on Leadership Groups or Committees (84%) and participated in various other initiative activities.

Many were using the ACT tools and resources both personally and professionally. The website was used most frequently (by 74% of respondents). Most respondents indicated strong commitment to the initiative and were clear about its purpose.

Overall, responses around impact to date were largely positive. The respondents indicated strong support (66%) for the statement that this initiative had *raised awareness of the issues and needs of persons with Alzheimer's disease (AD) and their care partners in MN*. There was also strong support (62%) for the statement that ACT had *assisted communities to build capacity and increase their support of persons with AD and caregivers*. However, a sizeable minority (38%) of the respondents said they did not know whether ACT had *enhanced skills of clinical professionals practicing in the field for detection and management of Alzheimer's disease*, or if ACT had *enhanced coordination and continuity of care for persons with AD* (35%). The latter two statements focus on disease detection and management and the follow-up from the clinic setting to other settings and to community resources.

Respondents were asked to write in comments as to what they thought was the most valuable aspect of the ACT on Alzheimer's work. Most frequent responses were about building awareness and the collaborative nature of the work itself. Many also said the tools were very important and had been valuable, particularly in moving toward a standard or consistent approach.

This report provides information from the survey findings that yields a solid picture of engaged individuals committed to the *ACT on Alzheimer's* initiative and who have provided time, content expertise, and energy toward developing and using the resources generated by the initiative, as well as bringing others into the work and making the work known.