



Alzheimer's Disease

Facts and Figures

Alzheimer's is a devastating, debilitating and incurable disease of the brain. Its symptoms develop slowly, although researchers now believe that the actual neurological damage begins years or even decades before the first problems with memory or confusion surface. Those symptoms are progressive and ultimately rob the individual of mental and physical function.

As our country ages, the number of people touched by Alzheimer's only continues to increase. Already, more than a third of the U.S. adult population has some personal connection to the disease, through a spouse, family member or other blood relative.

Additionally:

- One in 10 adults is responsible for providing or arranging care for a relative or friend with the disease.
- More than half of U.S. adults believe that not enough is being done to fight Alzheimer's disease.
- More than four in 10 U.S. adults are very concerned about Alzheimer's for either themselves or a loved one.
- Three-quarters of U.S. adults believe Alzheimer's will become a very significant health problem in this country over the next 10 years.
- Nearly six in 10 U.S. adults consider the development of treatments and ultimately a cure for Alzheimer's is among the nation's most important health issues.

More About the Disease

- Alzheimer's is the most common form of dementia. It is not a normal part of aging, although the greatest known risk factor is increasing age.
- Approximately 5.2 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's today, with one new case diagnosed every 68 seconds.
- One in nine Americans over age 65—and nearly one in three Americans over age 85—is currently diagnosed with Alzheimer's.

Early-onset Alzheimer's, which involves about 3 percent of all Alzheimer's diagnoses, is identified by symptoms that begin before age 65.

- The prevalence of Alzheimer's is projected to increase sharply in coming decades because of the nation's aging population. By 2050, that number could nearly triple to a projected 13.8 million.
- Early-onset Alzheimer's, which involves about 3 percent of all Alzheimer's diagnoses, is identified by symptoms that begin before age 65.
- Alzheimer's is the sixth-leading cause of death in the United States and the only cause of death among the top 10 that cannot be prevented, slowed or cured.
- Three-quarters of U.S. adults are interested in participating in general medical research studies, while more than half are interested in taking part in clinical trials.

Minority populations in the United States suffer a disproportionate burden of Alzheimer's disease.

Alzheimer's in the Minority Community

Minority populations in the United States suffer a disproportionate burden of Alzheimer's disease. It is projected that minorities who experience Alzheimer's will more than double from 2.7 million to 6.9 million by 2030.

African Americans

- African Americans are two to three times more likely to develop Alzheimer's disease than white Americans. This higher incidence is attributed to other health conditions such as high blood pressure, diabetes and stroke, which are more prevalent among African Americans.
- While Alzheimer's disease is the 6th leading cause of death for all Americans, it is the 4th leading cause of death for older African Americans. Do you have a definition of "older?" Over 65 or 70 or 80?
- Despite having a higher rate of incidence, African Americans tend to be diagnosed in later stages of Alzheimer's, limiting the effectiveness of therapies that depend on early intervention.
- African Americans who must leave the workforce to care for an afflicted family member lose, on average, more than \$300,000 in earnings, pensions and Social Security benefits and are more than three times as likely to live in poverty than similarly situated white Americans.
- The economic, health, social and psychological costs of Alzheimer's disease to African Americans, already severe, are growing rapidly as the proportion of older Americans in minority groups doubles between 2012 and 2050.
- African Americans are seriously underrepresented in clinical trials of potential treatments for Alzheimer's disease.

Hispanics

- Hispanics are one-and-a-half times more likely than whites to have Alzheimer's but are less likely than whites to receive a diagnosis. The average

age when initial symptoms appear in Hispanics is 6.8 years earlier than in whites.

- The number of Hispanics with Alzheimer's and related dementias in the United States could increase more than six-fold by 2050, to as many as 1.3 million cases from fewer than 200,000 today.
- Age is a major risk factor associated with Alzheimer's, and life expectancy for Hispanics will increase to age 87 by 2050—surpassing that of all other racial and ethnic groups in the nation.

The Cost of Care

- In 2013, the direct costs of caring for Americans with Alzheimer's disease or other dementias are expected to be \$203 billion, including \$142 billion in costs to Medicare and Medicaid.
- Unless effective treatments are found, these costs are projected to soar to \$1.2 trillion (in today's dollars) by 2050. This dramatic rise includes a six-fold increase in government spending under Medicare and Medicaid and a five-fold increase in out-of-pocket spending.

Sources: Details on attitudes about Alzheimer's and connections to the disease are from a 2012 national survey for Banner Alzheimer's Institute by Edge Research. Prevalence and cost data are courtesy of the Alzheimer's Association.

As our country ages, the number of people touched by Alzheimer's only continues to increase. Already, more than a third of the U.S. adult population has some personal connection to the disease, through a spouse, family member or other blood relative.