



## National Conference of State Legislatures

**Improving Women's Health:  
Research, Innovation and  
Leadership**

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### **Alzheimer's Disease: Women's Perspective on a Health Crisis**

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## What is Alzheimer's?



Alzheimer's is a progressive disease of the brain that destroys brain cells, causing problems with memory, thinking and behavior.



Dementia is a general term used to describe a decline in cognitive functioning and Alzheimer's disease is the most common form of dementia.



Though some treatments are available to help with symptoms, Alzheimer's is a disease that is eventually fatal.

## Alzheimer's is More Than a "Little Memory Loss" – Alzheimer's Kills.

Alzheimer's is the **6th** leading cause of death in the United States.

**5% to 15%** of all deaths in older people are a result of Alzheimer's.



Alzheimer's is the **only one** of the top 10 causes of death without a way to prevent, cure, or even slow its progression.

Without treatment, prevention or cure, by 2050 the number of seniors with Alzheimer's may triple up to 16 million

## Alzheimer's doesn't just happen to individuals – it happens to families.



In 2011, **15.2** million family members and friends provided **17.4** billion hours of unpaid care to those with Alzheimer's and other dementias – care valued at more than **\$210** billion dollars.

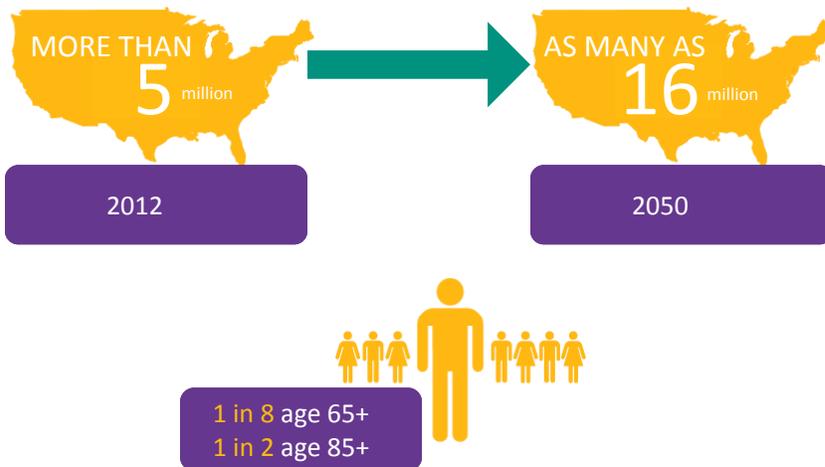


**65%** of family caregivers reduced hours at work; **61%** of family caregivers experience high or very high levels of emotional stress



Caregivers take on a tremendous physical and emotional burden to care for a loved one with Alzheimer's. As a result, Alzheimer's and dementia caregivers had **\$8.7** billion in higher health care costs of their own as a result of caregiving.

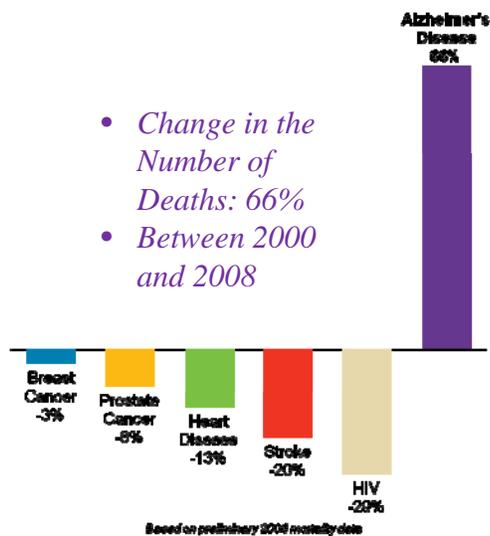
## Alzheimer's Disease is the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Healthcare Epidemic



## Alzheimer's and Mortality

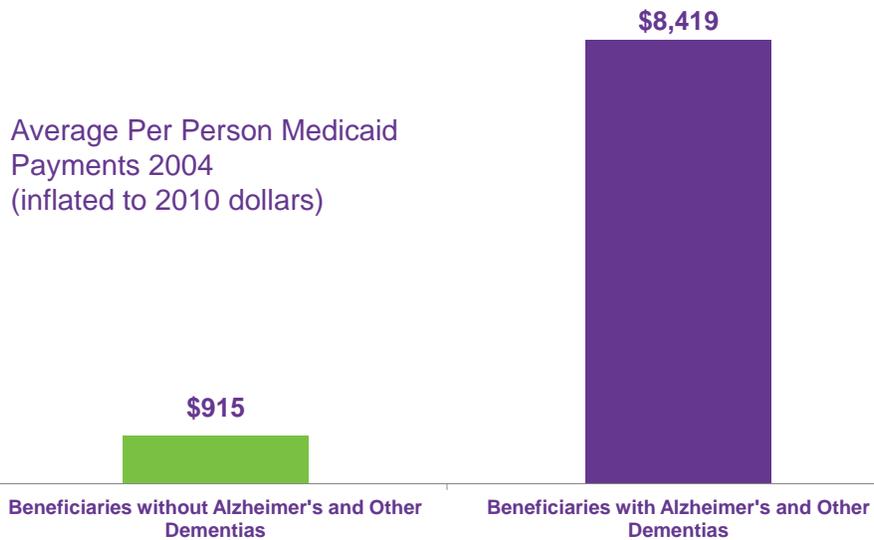
- 6<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death across all ages
- 5<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death for those aged 65 and older
- Only cause of death among the top 10 in America without a way to prevent, cure or even slow its progression.

- *Change in the Number of Deaths: 66%*
- *Between 2000 and 2008*



## Costs to Medicaid

Average Per Person Medicaid Payments 2004  
(inflated to 2010 dollars)



## Why is Alzheimer's such a cost driver?



Nearly **30%** of people with Alzheimer's or another dementia are on both Medicare and Medicaid.



Most people with Alzheimer's have **1 or more** other serious chronic conditions, and dementia complicates the management of other conditions.



A senior with diabetes and Alzheimer's costs Medicare **81%** more than one with diabetes and no Alzheimer's, and an older person with cancer and Alzheimer's costs Medicare **53%** more than one with cancer but no Alzheimer's.

## Women and Alzheimer's Disease



**60%**



**3.4 million**

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## Women as Caregivers



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## Alzheimer's and Long-Term Care Costs



Adult Day Care: \$70/day



Assisted Living: \$41,724 annually



Nursing Home: \$78,110-\$87,235 annually



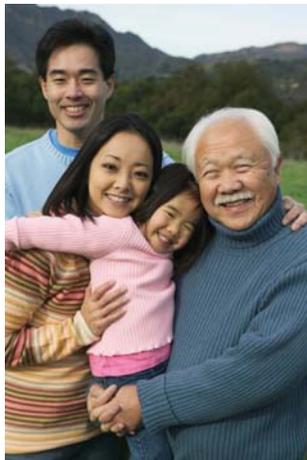
Daily rate for nursing home bed and adult day care up 4% between 2010-2011



Costs to families \$5000-\$34,080 annually

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## Impact on Families



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## National Priorities for Alzheimer's State Policy

- Comprehensive State Government Alzheimer's Disease Plans ("State Plan")
- Uniform Adult Guardianship and Protective Proceedings Act ("UAGPPJA")
- Medicaid
- Dementia Training
- Surveillance/Public Health

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THE END OF  
ALZHEIMER'S  
**STARTS**  
WITH YOU

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[alz.org](http://alz.org)

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