

2009 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures

Prevalence

- In 2009, it is estimated that there are as many as 5.3 million people living with Alzheimer's disease in the United States. This includes 5.1 million people age 65 and over and 200,000 people under age 65 with younger onset Alzheimer's disease.
- Every 70 seconds, someone in America develops Alzheimer's disease and by mid-century someone will develop Alzheimer's every 33 seconds.
- Age is the greatest risk factor for Alzheimer's. A small percentage of Alzheimer cases is caused by rare, genetic variations found in a few hundred families worldwide.
- By 2010, there will be nearly a half million new cases of Alzheimer's each year and by 2050, there will be nearly a million new cases annually.
- The 85 years and older population currently comprises nearly 50 percent of the individuals with Alzheimer's disease, or about 2.7 million people. By the time the first wave of baby boomers reaches age 85 years old (2031), there will be an estimated 3.5 million people age 85 and older with Alzheimer's.

Mortality

- Alzheimer's disease is the sixth leading cause of death for people in the United States; and the fifth leading cause of death for those over the age of 65.
- From 2000 to 2006, deaths from Alzheimer's disease increased by 47.1 percent. Deaths from heart disease decreased by 11.5 percent, breast cancer deaths decreased by .6 percent, prostate cancer deaths decreased by 14.3 percent, and stroke deaths decreased by 18.1 percent.
 - In fact, many studies have shown that deaths caused by Alzheimer's are under-reported, so the true number of deaths caused by Alzheimer's is probably even higher.
- A 2001 study of national death certificates found that 66.9 percent of people aged 65 and older who died of dementia did so in nursing homes; among those dying of other conditions, only 28 percent died in nursing homes.

Cost of Alzheimer's Disease

- In 2004, Medicare, Medicaid and all other payment sources except HMO's, paid more per person for people age 65 and older with Alzheimer's and other dementias than for other older people.
- Average per person Medicaid payments were 9 times higher; Medicare payments were 3 times higher, and private insurance payments were 26 percent higher for those with Alzheimer's compared to those without Alzheimer's.
- Direct and indirect costs of Alzheimer's and other dementias amount to more than \$148 billion annually.
- Most people with Alzheimer's also have one or more serious medical conditions. Their Alzheimer's complicates the management of these other conditions, resulting in more hospitalizations and longer hospital stays than for those with the same conditions but no Alzheimer's disease.
- In 2008, there were nearly 10 million caregivers in the U.S. providing 8.5 billion hours of unpaid care valued at \$94 billion, a \$5 billion increase since last year's *Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures*.
- Residents in more than half of the states in America provide more than a billion dollars in unpaid care each year. The leading states are: California (\$10.6 billion), Texas (\$7.2 billion), New York (\$6.2 billion), Florida (\$5.4 billion), and Pennsylvania (\$4.1 billion).

View the entire *2009 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures* report at www.alz.org.

The Alzheimer's Association is the leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer care, support and research.

Created March 2009