2019 Alzheimer’s Disease Facts and Figures

The number of Americans living with Alzheimer’s is growing—and growing fast.

• Today, 5.8 million Americans are living with Alzheimer’s, including an estimated 200,000 under the age of 65.

• Nearly two-thirds (3.5 million) of seniors with Alzheimer’s are women. African Americans are twice as likely and Hispanics are about 1.5 times as likely as whites to develop Alzheimer’s.

• The number of people living with Alzheimer’s is expected to reach nearly 14 million by mid-century.

A large number of those living with Alzheimer’s are not diagnosed—and most seniors are not even being assessed.

• Less than half (47 percent) of seniors have ever discussed their thinking or memory abilities with a health care provider.

• Only 28 percent report ever having received an assessment for cognitive problems. And even less—16 percent—receive regular cognitive assessments during routine health checkups.

• Almost all seniors (93 percent) say they trust their doctor to recommend testing if needed. But less than half of primary care physicians say it is their standard protocol to assess seniors for cognitive impairment, many indicating they wait for patients or their family members to bring it up first.
The growing number of people living with Alzheimer’s is placing a huge burden on the health care system.

- In 2019, the direct costs to American society of caring for those with Alzheimer’s will total an estimated $290 billion, with $195 billion of it paid by Medicare and Medicaid.

- Average per-person Medicare spending for those with Alzheimer’s and other dementias is more than three times higher than average per-person spending across all other seniors. Medicaid payments are 23 times higher.

- Unless something is done, in 2050, Alzheimer’s will cost more than $1.1 trillion (in 2019 dollars).

Alzheimer’s also places a huge burden on families.

- In 2018, 16 million family members and friends provided 18.5 billion hours of unpaid care to people with Alzheimer’s and other dementias, at an economic value of $234 billion.

- Of the total lifetime cost of caring for someone with dementia, 70 percent is borne by families—either through out-of-pocket health and long-term care expenses or from the value of unpaid care.

- The annual out-of-pocket spending incurred by dementia caregivers—including on household and personal care expenses—is nearly twice as high as that incurred by caregivers of people with other conditions.

- The physical and emotional impact of caregiving on Alzheimer’s and other dementia caregivers resulted in an estimated $11.7 billion in increased caregiver health costs in 2018.

2019 Costs of Alzheimer’s = $290 Billion

- Medicare
  - $146B
- Medicaid
  - $49B
- Out-of-Pocket
  - $63B
- Other
  - $32B

Alzheimer’s is not just memory loss. Alzheimer’s kills.

- In 2017, 121,404 people in the United States died from Alzheimer’s disease, making it the sixth leading cause of death in the United States and the fifth leading cause of death for those aged 65 and older.

- Deaths from Alzheimer’s increased 145 percent from 2000 to 2017, while deaths from other major diseases (including heart disease, stroke, and HIV/AIDS) decreased.

- This year, about 1 in every 3 seniors who dies—an estimated 700,000 people—will have Alzheimer’s.

Facts in Your State

The 2019 Alzheimer’s Disease Facts and Figures report also contains state-by-state data on the impact of the disease. Find the full report and information on your state at alz.org/facts.