

# FACTSHEET

MARCH 2019

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## Costs of Alzheimer's to Medicare and Medicaid

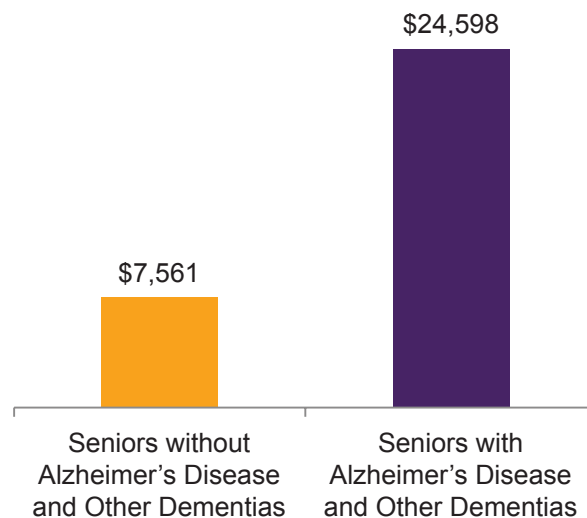
### Alzheimer's is the most expensive disease in America, costing more than cancer and heart disease.

- In 2019, the direct costs to American society of caring for those with Alzheimer's and other dementias will total an estimated \$290 billion.
- A study found that in the last five years of life, the costs of a person with dementia, on average, total more than \$287,000 (in 2010 dollars). This is compared with \$175,000 for a person with heart disease, and \$173,000 for someone with cancer.

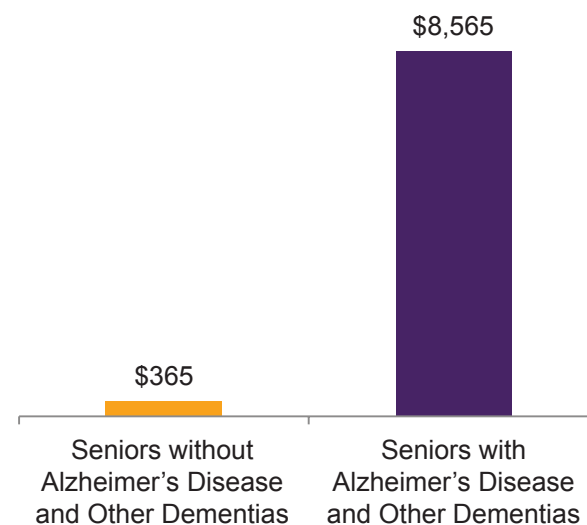
### Most of these costs are borne by Medicare and Medicaid.

- In 2019, Medicare and Medicaid will spend an estimated \$195 billion caring for those with Alzheimer's and other dementias—67 percent of total costs.
  - An estimated \$146 billion will be spent by the federal government under Medicare.
  - This means that 1 in every 5 Medicare dollars will be spent on someone with the disease.
  - Federal and state governments combined will spend an estimated \$49 billion under the Medicaid program caring for those with Alzheimer's and other dementias.
- Average per-person Medicare spending for seniors with Alzheimer's is more than three times higher than average per-person spending for all other seniors. Under Medicaid, spending is, on average, more than 23 times higher.

### Average Annual Per Person Medicare Spending



### Average Annual Per Person Medicaid Spending



**With the aging of the baby boomers, the number of Americans aged 65 and older with Alzheimer’s is expected to dramatically escalate.**

- Today, an estimated 5.6 million Americans aged 65 and older are living with Alzheimer’s disease.
- By 2050, there are projected to be nearly a million new cases every year, with another American developing Alzheimer’s every 33 seconds.
- The number of Americans living with Alzheimer’s will nearly triple by 2050 to 13.8 million—and could be as high as 16 million.

**Costs will also expand in lockstep. By 2050, combined Medicare and Medicaid spending on people with Alzheimer’s will nearly quadruple to \$770 billion (in 2019 dollars)**

- In 2050, Medicare spending on people with Alzheimer’s will total \$578 billion—an increase of 296 percent from today’s spending levels. This will represent an estimated 1 in every 3 dollars of total Medicare spending.
- Medicaid spending on people with Alzheimer’s will increase 292 percent between now and 2050, as costs will reach \$192 billion in 2050.

**Alzheimer’s Prevalence and Costs to Medicare and Medicaid**

