

# FACTSHEET

AUGUST 2019

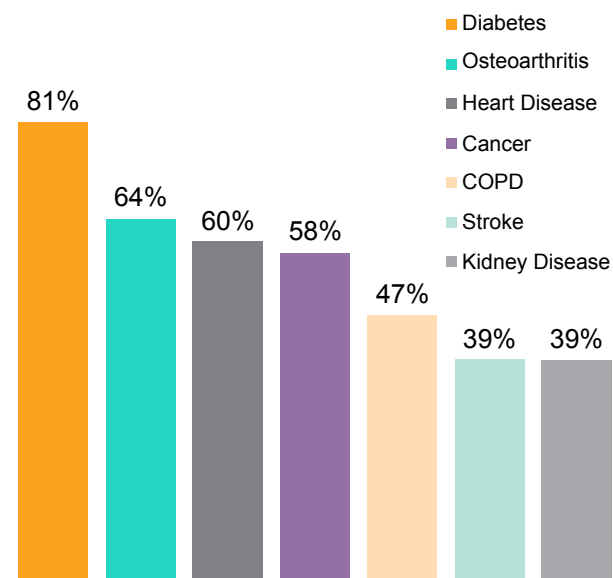
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## Independence at Home Act

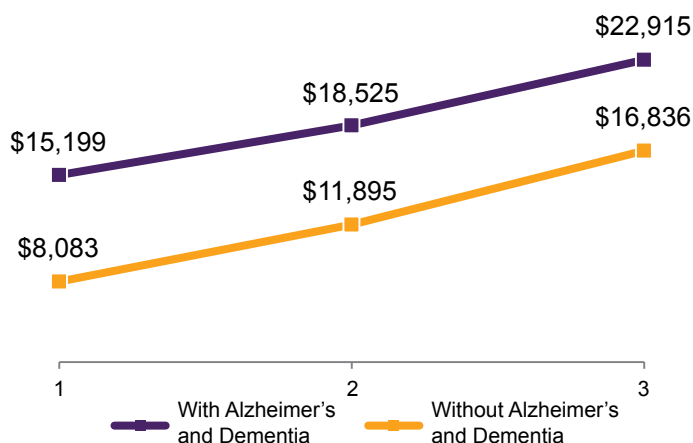
**Most seniors with Alzheimer's have multiple chronic conditions. Alzheimer's complicates the management of these other conditions—and as a consequence, increases costs.**

- More than 95 percent of people with Alzheimer's and other dementias have one or more other chronic conditions.
- Cardiovascular diseases are common chronic conditions among people with Alzheimer's:
  - 73 percent of people with Alzheimer's and other dementias have hypertension
  - 38 percent have heart disease
  - 37 percent have diabetes
  - 22 percent have had a stroke.
- For seniors with two chronic conditions, their costs to Medicare are, on average, 56 percent higher if they also have Alzheimer's.
- Medicare costs can also be higher for seniors with Alzheimer's who have specific chronic conditions:
  - A senior with diabetes and Alzheimer's costs Medicare 81 percent more than a senior who has diabetes but not Alzheimer's.
  - A senior who has heart disease and Alzheimer's costs Medicare 60 percent more than a senior with only heart disease.

### Higher Medicare Costs Due to Alzheimer's



### Average Annual Per-Person Medicare Spending By Number of Other Chronic Conditions



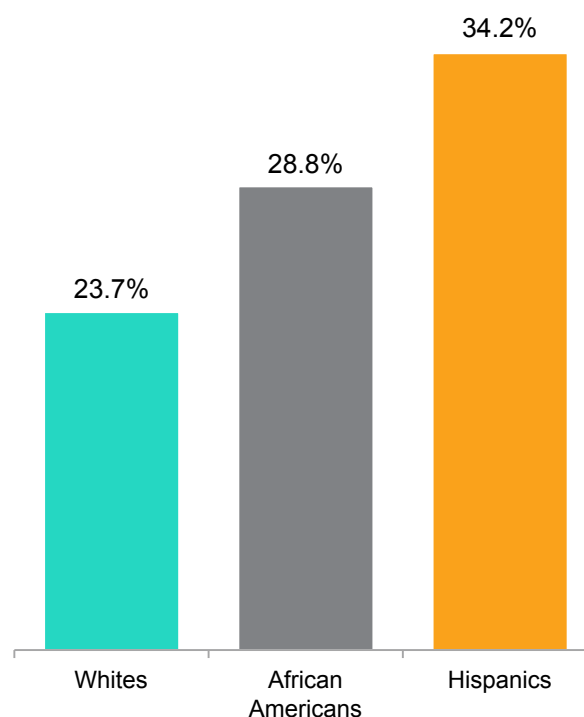
**Seniors with Alzheimer's and other dementias are more likely to be hospitalized than other seniors. A large percentage of these hospitalizations are preventable, which is one measure of health care quality.**

- Seniors with Alzheimer's and other dementias have twice as many hospital stays each year as those without Alzheimer's and other dementias.
- More than one-quarter of these hospitalizations are preventable. For Hispanics with dementia, more than one-third of all hospitalizations are preventable.
- In 2013, preventable hospitalizations among people with dementia cost Medicare nearly \$2.6 billion.

**Care coordination can improve quality of care and reduce costs.**

- An evaluation of the Home Based Primary Care program of the Veterans Administration found it reduced costs by 11.7 percent and decreased hospitalizations by 25.5 percent.
- The Independence at Home pilot program funded by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), which provided seniors with home-based coordinated care, saved \$35 million over two years. In the second year, the average savings per senior participating in the program was over \$1,000.
- Care coordination that recognizes an individual's cognitive impairment can improve the management of the individual's other chronic conditions, which in turn can reduce unnecessary hospitalizations.

**Percentage of Preventable Hospitalizations Among Those with Dementia, By Race**



**To expand the benefits of the CMS pilot program and to help meet the goals of the *National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease*, the Independence at Home Act (S. 1202) would:**

- Provide Medicare coverage of comprehensive and coordinated care in the home to Medicare beneficiaries with two or more chronic conditions.
- Ensure care is coordinated across all treatment settings.
- Require the creation of an individual care plan tailored to the person's specific chronic conditions.