Alzheimer’s is a degenerative disease for which there is no treatment or cure. Most people with the disease will eventually be admitted to a nursing home.

- Of the total number of years that an individual lives with Alzheimer’s, 40% of that time, on average, will be spent in the most severe stage — often making it difficult or impossible for family and friends to continue to provide care at home.

- By the age of 80, three-fourths of people with Alzheimer’s and other dementias will be admitted to a nursing home, compared with just four percent of the general population.

- Among all residents of nursing homes, 61% have moderate or severe cognitive impairment, and nearly half of seniors in nursing homes have been diagnosed with some form of dementia.

It is not uncommon for a person to live for 20 years with Alzheimer’s. This, combined with the high cost of nursing home care, means most people with Alzheimer’s will ultimately need help from Medicaid.

- Among seniors with Alzheimer’s and other dementias, 27% have both Medicare and Medicaid (“dual-eligible seniors”), compared with just 11% of seniors without Alzheimer’s.

- Of all dual-eligible seniors, 23% have been diagnosed with dementia — and 58% have some cognitive or mental impairment.

Dual-eligible seniors with Alzheimer’s are a huge cost to Medicaid and place a huge strain on state and federal budgets.

- Average per-person Medicaid spending for seniors with Alzheimer’s and other dementias is 23 times greater than average per-person Medicaid spending across all seniors without dementia.

- In 2020, Medicaid will spend an estimated $51 billion caring for people with Alzheimer’s and other dementias.

- By 2025, 30 states will see Medicaid spending on people with Alzheimer’s increase at least 20%, before inflation. And by 2050, Medicaid spending on those with Alzheimer’s will total an estimated $194 billion (in today’s dollars).