

# FACTSHEET

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## Medicaid and Seniors with Alzheimer's

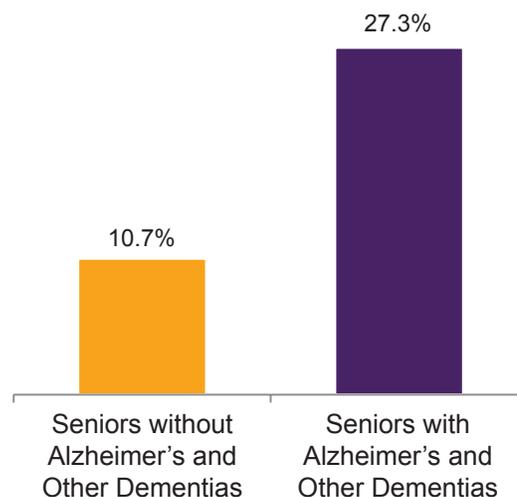
**Alzheimer's is a degenerative disease for which there is no treatment or cure. Most people with the disease will eventually be admitted to a nursing home.**

- Of the total number of years that an individual lives with Alzheimer's, 40 percent 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, 75 percent 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 percent have moderate or severe cognitive impairment, and approximately 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 percent have both Medicare and Medicaid ("dual-eligible seniors"), compared with just 11 percent of seniors without Alzheimer's.
- Of all dual-eligible seniors, 23 percent have been diagnosed with dementia—and 58 percent have some cognitive or mental impairment.

### Seniors on Both Medicare and Medicaid



**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 2019, Medicaid will spend an estimated \$49 billion caring for people with Alzheimer's and other dementias.
- By 2025, 25 states will see Medicaid spending on people with Alzheimer's increase at least 25 percent, before inflation. And by 2050, Medicaid spending on those with Alzheimer's will total an estimated \$192 billion (in today's dollars).