

# FACTSHEET

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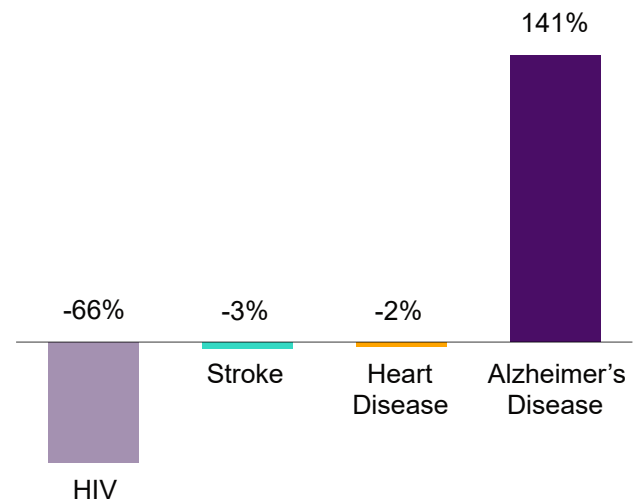
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## State Dementia Services Coordinator

### Alzheimer's is a large and growing epidemic that has a huge impact on states.

- Nearly 7 million Americans are currently living with Alzheimer's — a figure expected to reach 12.7 million in 2050.
- In 2021, Alzheimer's was the seventh leading cause of death in America, with deaths from the disease having risen 141% between 2000-2021.
- In 2023, nearly 11.5 million family members and friends of individuals living with Alzheimer's and other dementias provided more than 18 billion hours of unpaid care, an estimated value of \$346.6 billion.
- More than 40% of seniors in residential care facilities have Alzheimer's or other dementia. About one-third of recipients of home health care, and one-fourth of individuals using adult day care services, have Alzheimer's.
- Average per-person Medicaid spending for seniors with Alzheimer's and other dementias is 22 times greater than average per-person Medicaid spending across all seniors without dementia.
- In total, caring for people with Alzheimer's is projected to cost Medicaid \$68 billion in 2024.
- Between 2020 and 2025, 30 states will see Medicaid spending on people with Alzheimer's increase at least 20%, before inflation. By 2050, Medicaid spending on those with Alzheimer's will be 173% higher than today.

### Percentage Change in Selected Causes of Death (2000-2021)



### To address the Alzheimer's epidemic, 49 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico have published State Alzheimer's Disease Plans.

- State plans assess a state's current needs, identify gaps in services, and recommend strategies and policies to better serve individuals living with dementia and their families.
- Once a state plan is developed and published, the next step is translating the vision of the state plan into implemented public policy.

### **The implementation of state plans is hindered by the multitude of state agencies involved.**

- Numerous state agencies administer a variety of programs critical to people with dementia, such as Medicaid, respite care, public health, and Silver Alert.
- Additional critical state efforts include licensure of care facilities, enforcement of training requirements, elder abuse protections, and public health promotion of brain health and early detection.
- But, these efforts are often siloed, with multiple state agencies working separately from each other, leading to inaction and inertia.
- The lack of coordination also hinders the ability of a state to evaluate the effectiveness of policy efforts across the spectrum of programs serving those with dementia and their families. This in turn makes it more difficult for a state to keep its Alzheimer's plan updated and relevant to the changing health care landscape.

### **The key to translating the state plan into action — and to ensure effective programs for people with dementia and their caregivers — is better coordination across state agencies.**

- Active coordination between all state agencies, the governor, the legislature, and community stakeholders can improve effective implementation of Alzheimer's plans.
- Effective implementation can reduce the long-term impact of the disease on state budgets and improve the lives of people with dementia and their caregivers.

### **What Can States Do?**

- Fund a full-time state agency position to coordinate the state's response to dementia.
- Outline position specifications that focus on consensus recommendations in the State Alzheimer's Disease Plan and on emerging issues related to dementia in the state.

### **Establishing a Dementia Services Coordinator position can accelerate a state's ability to address Alzheimer's.**

- A State Dementia Services Coordinator is an individual (or team of individuals) within the state government whose job is to ensure coordination of Alzheimer's programs and policies across state agencies.
- Specifically, a State Dementia Services Coordinator would:
  - Oversee the implementation and updating of the State Alzheimer's Disease Plan;
  - Coordinate Alzheimer's and dementia work groups and task forces;
  - Establish and maintain relationships with all relevant state agencies and community organizations in order to meet community needs and prevent duplication of services;
  - Evaluate existing Alzheimer's and dementia programs and services;
  - Identify service gaps within the state government;
  - Increase awareness of and facilitate access to quality, coordinated care for people with dementia.