

FACTSHEET

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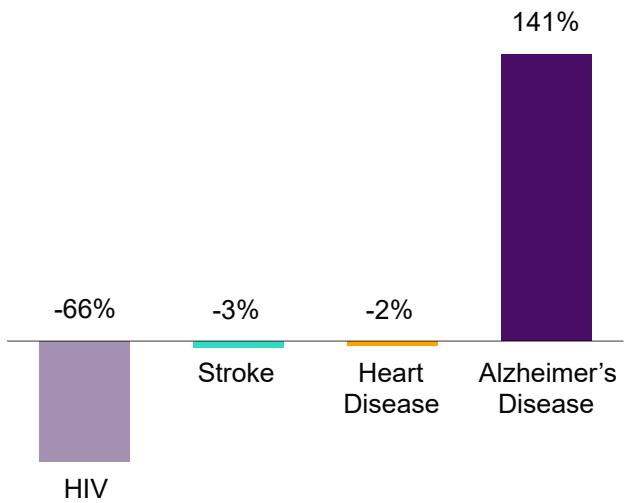
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State Dementia Services Coordinator

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.