

Media Fact Sheet – Western & Central Washington State

Western & Central Washington State

Mission

To eliminate Alzheimer's disease through the advancement of research; to provide and enhance care and support for all affected; and to reduce the risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health.

Vision

A world without Alzheimer's.

Public Contact Helpline (24/7): 800-848-7097, or
<http://www.alzwa.org> (with Online Helpline)

Funding

The non-profit Alzheimer's Association is funded through individual contributions, foundation grants, corporate contributions and planned gifts.

Media Contacts

Keri Pollock, Communications Director, 206.363.5500, x. 246
or keri.pollock@alz.org

Nancy Dapper, Executive Director, 206.363.5500 x. 232 or
nancy.dapper@alz.org

Approximately 110,000 Washingtonians are afflicted with Alzheimer's or a related disorder. This estimate represents people with dementia, the most common being Alzheimer's.

The Alzheimer's Association estimates that 5.3 million Americans have Alzheimer's disease in 2008. This number includes 5 million people age 65 and older. It also includes at least 200,000 individuals younger than 65 with early-onset (or younger onset) Alzheimer's. The Alzheimer's Association estimates there could be up to 500,000 Americans younger

than 65 with Alzheimer's or another dementia.

Alzheimer's is the most frequent cause of dementia and as a proportion of dementia, Alzheimer's increases with age: 70 percent of dementia cases for those age 71 and older, and 80 percent of all dementia cases for those age 90 and over. Other causes of dementia include Parkinson's disease, Lewy body disease, frontotemporal dementia and normal pressure hydrocephalus.

- 13 percent, or one in eight, persons age 65 and over have Alzheimer's disease.
- Nearly half of persons over age 85 have Alzheimer's disease.
- Every 70 seconds, someone in America develops Alzheimer's disease; by mid-century, someone will develop Alzheimer's every 33 seconds.
- Ten million American baby boomers will develop Alzheimer's
- Alzheimer's disease is now the seventh leading cause of death in the U.S. across all ages
- Alzheimer's disease is now the fifth leading cause of death in the U.S. for ages 65 and older

By 2050, when 78 million baby boomers will be at greatest risk, there will be a 300% increase in new cases – up to 16 million Americans will likely have Alzheimer's, unless a cure is found. According to research, the Alzheimer's disease process may start 10 to 20 years before symptoms emerge.

Source: *2009 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures*

http://www.alz.org/national/documents/report_alzfactsfigures2009.pdf

The Alzheimer's Association is the national movement to defeat Alzheimer's and related dementias, and is the largest private funder of Alzheimer's research, including for important work in the 23 counties of Western and Central Washington State. Last year (2008) we funded over half a million in peer-

reviewed Alzheimer's research.

Locally, the Alzheimer's Association provides information, support, referrals, education and training, advocacy and research. Most services are free, including a 24/7 **HELPLINE (800-848-7097)**, Web site with an Online Helpline (<http://www.alzwa.org>), a newsletter (circ: +14,000) and e-Newsletter, support groups, educational programs, and Connections Program. Through our collaborative multicultural program in partnership with SeaMar Community Health Centers and Aging and Disability Services of Seattle/King County, we have added El Portal Northwest to reach the Latino Community of King County.

Memory Walk 2009

Saturday, August 29 – South Sound Memory Walk – Annie Wright School, Tacoma

Saturday, Sept 12 – Pacific Northwest (Seattle) Memory Walk – Seattle Center, Seattle

Saturday, Sept 19 – Olympic Peninsula Memory Walk – Waterfront Park, Silverdale

Saturday, Sept 26 – North Sound Memory Walk – Skagit Transit Station, Mt. Vernon

For more information about Memory Walk, visit:
http://preview.alz.org/alzwa/in_my_community_13867.asp