

Contact: Bonnie Hackbarth
502-584-0371 (office)
502-552-3770 (mobile)
Teri Shirk
502-451-4266 (office)

**NEW REPORT SAYS
 ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AND DEMENTIA TRIPLE HEALTHCARE COSTS
 FOR AMERICANS OVER AGE 65
 Projects 30 Percent More Alzheimer's Patients in Kentucky/S. Indiana by 2025**

LOUISVILLE, Ky., March 24, 2009 – Total healthcare costs are more than three times higher for people with Alzheimer's and other dementias than for other people age 65 and over, according to the Alzheimer's Association's *2009 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures*, released today.

As many as 80,000 Kentuckians will be living with Alzheimer's by 2010, according to the report, which also projects that 97,000 people in Kentucky will have Alzheimer's by 2025—a 31 percent jump from the year 2000. In Indiana, the projections are 120,000 individuals by 2010 and 130,000 by 2025; the latter is a 30 percent increase over 2000 numbers.

In the 2009 report, total healthcare costs are calculated as per person payments from all sources. Medicare payments alone are almost three times higher for people with Alzheimer's and dementia than for others over age 65; Medicaid payments alone are more than nine times higher.

“The dramatic projected increase in Alzheimer's underscores our emphasis on early diagnosis and treatment, which can help stave off symptoms for years,” said Teri Shirk, president and CEO of the Alzheimer's Association's Greater Kentucky and Southern Indiana Chapter. “In communities all over Kentucky and Southern Indiana, our Chapter offers information about early warning signs, as well as a number of workshops and other resources, and we encourage patients, caregivers and their families to visit www.alz.org/kyin or call 800-272-3900 to learn about these offerings.”

Average Per Person Payments by Source for Health and Long-term Care Services for Persons, Aged 65 Years and Older, With and Without Alzheimer's Disease and Other Dementias, 2004

Average Per Person Payments	Beneficiaries with no Alzheimer's or Other Dementias	Beneficiaries with Alzheimer's or Other Dementias
Total payments*	\$10,603	\$33,007
Medicare payments	5,272	15,145
Medicaid payments	718	6,605
Private insurance payments	1,466	1,847
Other sources payments	211	519
HMO payments	704	410
Out-of-pocket payments	1,916	2,464
Uncompensated care	201	261

* Payments by source do not exactly equal total payments due to the effect of population weighting.

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

According to the report, there are 5.3 million Americans living with Alzheimer's disease. Every 70 seconds someone in America develops the disease and by mid-century someone will develop Alzheimer's every 33 seconds.

People with Alzheimer's are high consumers of hospital, nursing home and other health and long-term care services, which translates into high costs for Medicare, Medicaid and millions of families. As families struggle to survive in a deepening recession and states grapple with budget shortfalls, Alzheimer's disease threatens to overwhelm them both.

With family members providing care at home for about 70 percent of people with Alzheimer's disease, the ripple effects of Alzheimer's disease can be felt throughout the entire family unit. According to *Facts and Figures*, in 2008, nearly 10 million Alzheimer caregivers in the U.S. provided 8.5 billion hours of unpaid care valued at \$94 billion. In Kentucky alone, there were 153,210 caregivers, providing more than 132 million hours of unpaid care for a loved one with Alzheimer's or another dementia. That care is valued at nearly \$1.5 billion dollars. In Indiana, 211,236 caregivers are providing 182.4 million hours of unpaid care annually at a value of more than \$2.024 billion.

"This year's *Facts and Figures* report, which details the significant costs of Alzheimer's and its growing prevalence, underscores the need for the Alzheimer's State Plan that we are advocating in Kentucky and Indiana," said Shirk.

Implications for States

Alzheimer's is now the sixth leading cause of death in the United States, surpassing diabetes. The latest available data show that there were 1,147 deaths from Alzheimer's in Kentucky and 1,651 in Indiana in 2005, the latest year for which these numbers are available. As deaths from other chronic conditions like heart disease and stroke continue to fall, more of the region's residents will live long enough to develop Alzheimer's disease with profound effects on families and state budgets. To plan for this rapidly growing problem, states need accurate and reliable information about the characteristics and needs of residents coping with Alzheimer's and other dementia. An existing survey process is the most efficient way to obtain this information. The Behavioral Risk Factors Surveillance System (BRFSS) is an annual state public health survey done in conjunction with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Since 2003, some states have added questions about caregiving for people with Alzheimer's and other dementias in their BRFSS surveys. The new *Facts and Figures* report, for example, highlights the BRFSS survey findings from the states of Washington and North Carolina.

Beginning this year, an approved set of family caregiving questions is available for all states to add to their BRFSS survey, and another set of questions on cognitive impairment is being developed for 2010. States that include these questions in the BRFSS surveys will have the information they need to develop and deliver essential services to the growing number of families coping with Alzheimer's and other dementias.

The full text of the Alzheimer's Association's *2009 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures* can be viewed at www.alz.org.

The Alzheimer's Association

The Alzheimer's Association is the leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer care, support and research. Our mission is 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. Our vision is a world without Alzheimer's.