

# Women, African-Americans, and Alzheimer's Disease

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# Objectives

- What is dementia?
- How does it happen?
- How do we recognize it?
- Barriers to medical care.
- Call to action!

# What is Dementia?



- Dementia?
  - Impaired intellectual skills: Memory, Judgement, others.
  - Gradual onset: Causes many family problems
  - Multiple causes:
    - Alzheimer's Disease
    - Stroke
    - Drug / Alcohol Abuse
    - Unknown factors

# Who is at risk?



- Anyone with a brain!
  - Family History
  - Current High Blood Pressure
  - Diabetes
  - History of Head Injury

# How do we recognize it others?



- Accept that it is possible!
- Increased problems with daily management.
- Physician tests - Clock drawing, MMSE.

# Clock Drawing: Loss of Cognition over Time

1994

MoVIES ID# 245  
Date 02/02/94  
Age 81  
MMSE 23/30



## Instructions to Set Hands at '10 after 11'

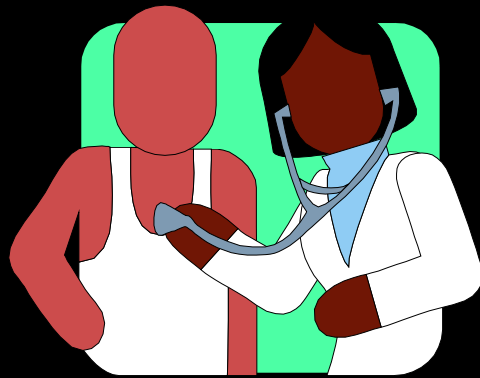
MoVIES ID# 245  
Date 10/20/98  
Age 86  
MMSE 8/30

Clock



1998

# Barriers to Care



Have you experienced change in physician  
due to:

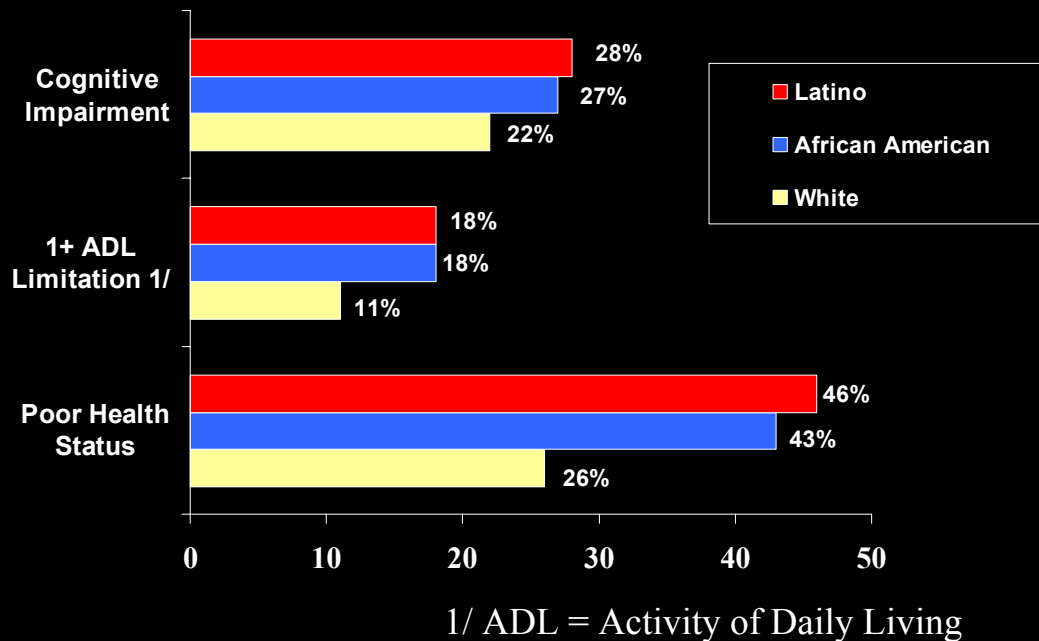
- Retirement before age 65
- Insurance policy changes
- Clinic closes or changes ownership

Issues common to *all* geriatric practice!

These create barriers to care and cause  
provider burden.

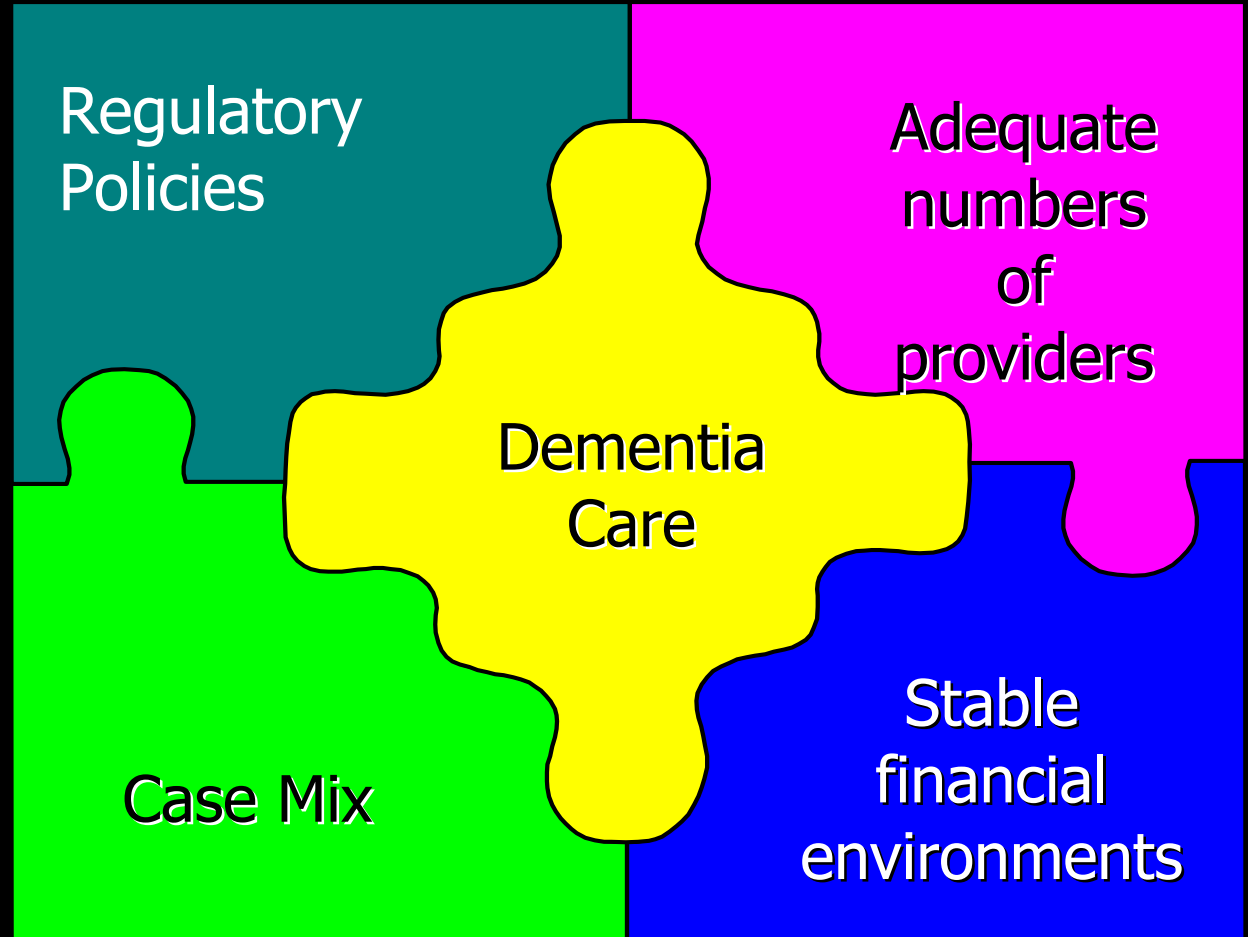
# Health disparities add to the issue of provider burden.

## Health Status of the Medicare Population by Race/Ethnicity



Source: National Center for Health Workforce Analysis

# Dementia Care Requires Integration of Multiple Components



## Other Sources of Provider Burden and Barriers to Care

Large  
number of  
frail patients  
- Case Mix

Declining  
numbers  
of  
providers

Unstable  
financial  
environments

Regulatory  
Policies  
that work  
against  
care

Dementia  
Care

# Average Age of Health Care Professionals

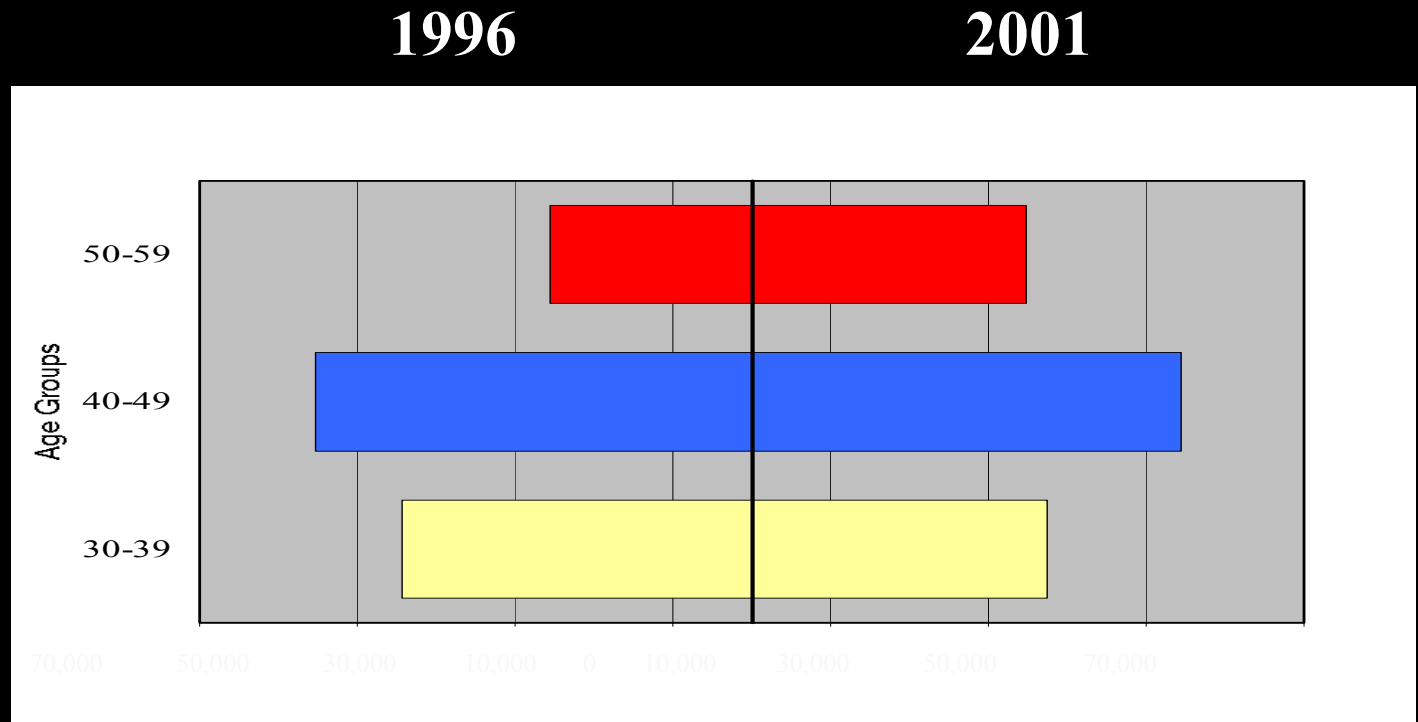
*(Preliminary Data - Texas)*

	<i><b>1996</b></i>	<i><b>2001</b></i>
<b>Physicians</b>	<b>47.8</b>	<b>48.4</b>
<b>Primary Care Physicians</b>	<b>47.6</b>	<b>47.5</b>
<b>Physician Assistants</b>	<b>41.3 (1997)</b>	<b>41.7</b>
<b>Registered Nurses</b>	<b>42.5</b>	<b>44.3</b>
<b>Advanced Practice Nurses</b>	<b>45.9</b>	<b>47.4</b>
<b>Dentists</b>	<b>46.4</b>	<b>47.4</b>
	<b>45.0</b>	

—*HINET Special Tabulation*—

# RNs Aged 30-59 Years, 1996 and 2001

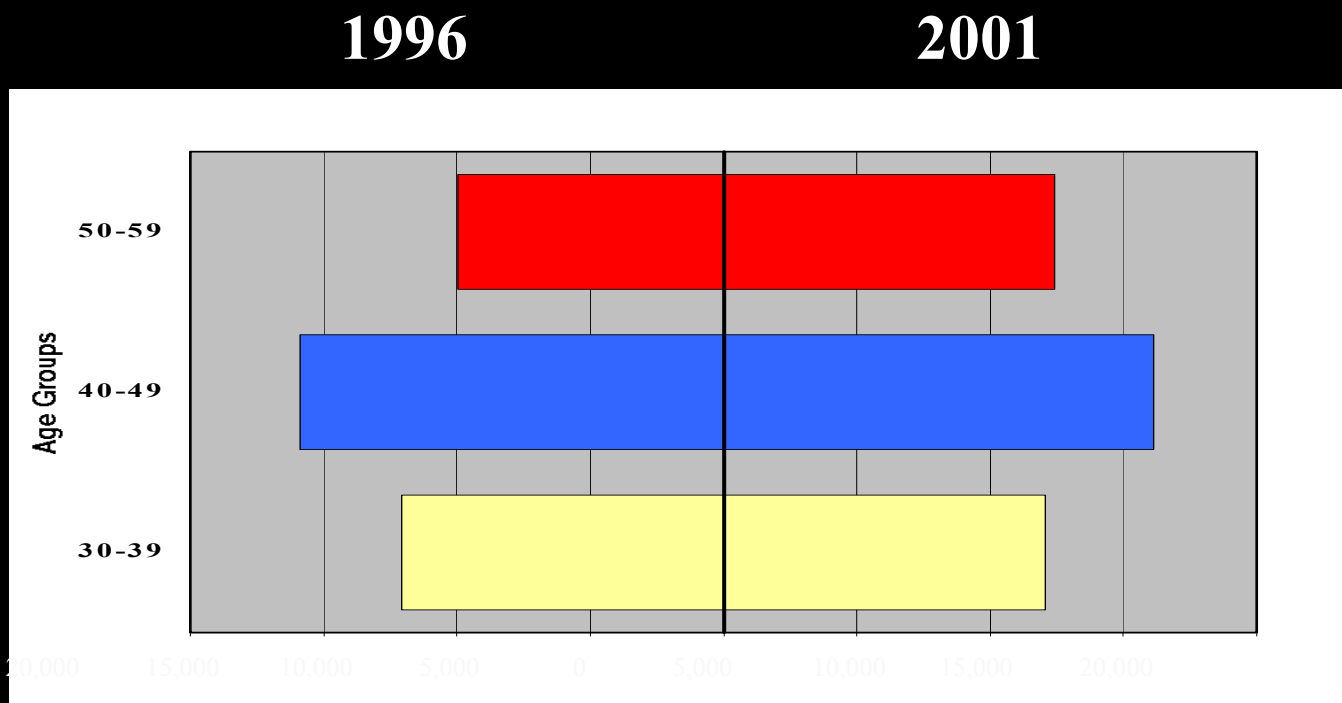
*(Preliminary Data - Texas)*



—*HINET Special Tabulation*—

# Physicians Aged 30-59 Years, 1996 and 2001

*(Preliminary Data - Texas)*



—HINET Special Tabulation—

# Call to Action!



# Decline in Medicare Providers:

17% of Physicians *refusing* to see Medicare Patients\*

"I have a hard and fast rule. I don't take any new Medicare patients. In fact, I don't take any new patients over the age of 60 because they will be on Medicare in the next five years."

**Dr. Robert L. Hogue, 51, President- Elect  
Texas Academy of Family Physicians  
\* 3/17/2002, NY Times**

# Immediate actions - Federal

Improve timeliness of reimbursement  
and reverse pattern of Medicare cuts

Result: Immediate increase in numbers of  
physicians accepting Patients who have  
Medicare as their *only* insurance.

# Immediate actions - State level

Required CME's offered by State Licensing Agencies for all licensing renewals  
'Everyone is a Geriatrician !'

Result: Improved health of  
older adults and  
early recognition of dementia.

# Immediate actions - Local Level

Targeted community awareness campaign  
by all local and state level agencies

Result: Improved health of older adults  
and early recognition of emerging  
dementia.