2011 Alzheimer’s Disease Facts and Figures

With Alzheimer’s, it is not just those with the disease who suffer. It’s also their caregivers.

- In 2010, 14.9 million family and friends provided 17 billion hours of unpaid care to those with Alzheimer’s and other dementias.
- The economic value of the unpaid care provided to those with Alzheimer’s and other dementias totaled $202.6 billion in 2010.
- More than 60 percent of Alzheimer’s and dementia caregivers rate the emotional stress of caregiving as high or very high; one-third report symptoms of depression.

Alzheimer’s is not just memory loss.
Alzheimer’s kills.

- Alzheimer’s disease is the 6th leading cause of death in the United States and the 5th leading cause of death for those aged 65 and older.
- Alzheimer’s is the only cause of death among the top 10 in America without a way to prevent, cure, or even slow its progression.
- Deaths from Alzheimer’s increased 66 percent between 2000 and 2008, while deaths from other major diseases, including the number one cause of death (heart disease), decreased.

Change in Number of Deaths Between 2000 and 2008

- Breast Cancer
- Prostate Cancer
- Heart Disease
- Stroke
- HIV
- Alzheimer's Disease

Based on preliminary 2008 mortality data
The number of Americans with this devastating and heartbreaking disease is growing – and fast.

- Today, 5.4 million Americans are living with Alzheimer’s disease – 5.2 million aged 65 and over; 200,000 with younger-onset Alzheimer’s. By 2050, as many as 16 million Americans will have the disease.
- Two-thirds of those with the disease – 3.4 million – are women.
- Of Americans aged 65 and over, 1 in 8 has Alzheimer’s, and nearly half of people aged 85 and older have the disease.
- Another American develops Alzheimer’s disease every 69 seconds. In 2050, an American will develop the disease every 33 seconds.
- Most people survive an average of four to eight years after an Alzheimer’s diagnosis, but some live as long as 20 years with the disease.
- On average, 40 percent of a person’s years with Alzheimer’s are spent in the most severe stage of the disease – longer than any other stage.
- Four percent of the general population will be admitted to a nursing home by age 80. But, for people with Alzheimer’s, 75 percent will be admitted to a nursing home by age 80.

Alzheimer’s disease has profound implications for government budgets.

- In 2011, the cost of caring for those with Alzheimer’s to American society will total an estimated $183 billion. This is an $11 billion increase over last year – a rate of increase more than four times inflation.
- Average per person Medicare payments for those with Alzheimer’s and other dementias are three times higher than for those without these conditions. Medicaid spending on seniors with Alzheimer’s and other dementias is nine times higher.
- Unless something is done, the costs of Alzheimer’s to Americans in 2050 will total $1.1 trillion (in today’s dollars).
- Between now and 2050, Medicare spending on those with Alzheimer’s will increase nearly 600 percent, and Medicaid spending will increase nearly 400 percent.

### Facts in Your State

The 2011 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures report also contains data on the impact of the disease in every state across the nation.

Find the full report and information on your state at [www.alz.org/facts](http://www.alz.org/facts)