

# Alzheimer's is a Public Health Crisis Devastating **Minnesota**

Medicaid costs of caring  
for people with Alzheimer's  
in 2020

**\$905 million**

Medicaid costs are  
expected to increase

**20.1%**

by 2025.



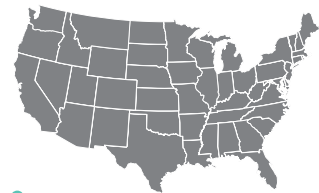
Alzheimer's  
disease is  
one of the

**most  
expensive**

diseases in the U.S.

costing

**\$360 billion**



In 2023

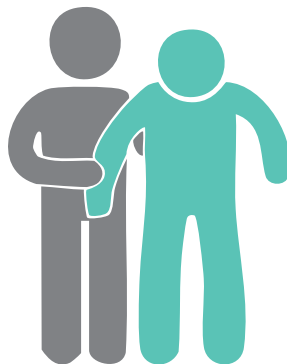
**164,000**

family caregivers provided

**225 million**

hours of unpaid care valued at

**\$5.3 billion**



In 2020

**102,000**

**Minnesotans**

were living with Alzheimer's.

**10.7%**

of **Minnesotans**

over 65 were living with Alzheimer's.



**Robert Freeman**  
VP Public Policy  
rafreeman@alz.org  
612.710.9943

**Margaret Rog**  
Advocacy Manager  
marog@alz.org  
612.590.1806

**alzimpact.org/Minnesota | 800.272.3900**



# What **Minnesota** Officials Can Do to Address the Crisis



## **Alzheimer's Disease is a Public Health Crisis**

Minnesota is experiencing an aging population, and an increasing number of individuals are living with Alzheimer's disease or other forms of dementia. Dementia affects all communities in Minnesota, but the impact is not experienced equally across them. Rural communities, in particular, encounter significant challenges in accessing services and obtaining timely diagnosis. Additionally, caregivers for those with dementia face unique obstacles. Please support our 2025 legislative agenda to provide better assistance for people living with dementia and their caregivers.

## **Ensure Equitable Access to Treatments | HF 1269 (Reyer) / SF 1998 (Boldon)**

By supporting a legislative proposal to require insurance coverage for FDA-approved dementia drugs statewide, we can improve the lives of Minnesotans facing this devastating disease. Early intervention with effective treatments can reduce caregiver stress, lower long-term care costs, and enhance the dignity and well-being of those living with Alzheimer's and other dementias. Let's ensure that every Minnesotan has access to the care they deserve.

## **Expand Access to Respite Care for Dementia Caregivers | HF 1678 (Virnig) / SF 1925 (Maye Quade)**

Over 164,000 Minnesotans provided unpaid care to a loved one with dementia in 2023, averaging 24 hours of care per week. The value of this contribution is estimated at \$5.3 billion for the year 2023 alone. Caregiving can take a significant toll on individuals, leading to high rates of hypertension, depression, and other chronic health conditions. To mitigate burnout—which can often result in family members needing to move into more expensive and intensive residential care—we support investing in our long-term care workforce. Respite care is crucial as it allows caregivers to recharge and attend to essential tasks outside of caregiving. We urge the legislature to allocate \$4 million this biennium in base funding for grants to respite care providers and to help defray individuals' caregiving costs.

## **Establish a Dementia Programs Manager Position | HF 794 (Nadeau) / SF 1030 (Mann)**

Minnesota spends almost a billion dollars a year supporting people with Alzheimer's disease or another form of dementia in Minnesota. Yet, there is no one agency or person responsible for coordinating these efforts and tracking outcomes. Minnesota should follow 29 other states, like Wisconsin, and establish a permanent, full-time Dementia Programs Manager to work across state agencies to coordinate efforts and reduce duplication, identify service gaps, analyze and collect data and track progress toward the State Plan on Alzheimer's.

---

**Robert Freeman**  
VP Public Policy  
rafreeman@alz.org  
612.710.9943

**Margaret Rog**  
Advocacy Manager  
marog@alz.org  
612.590.1806

**alzimpact.org/Minnesota | 800.272.3900**

