

# FACTSHEET

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## Early Detection and Diagnosis of Alzheimer's

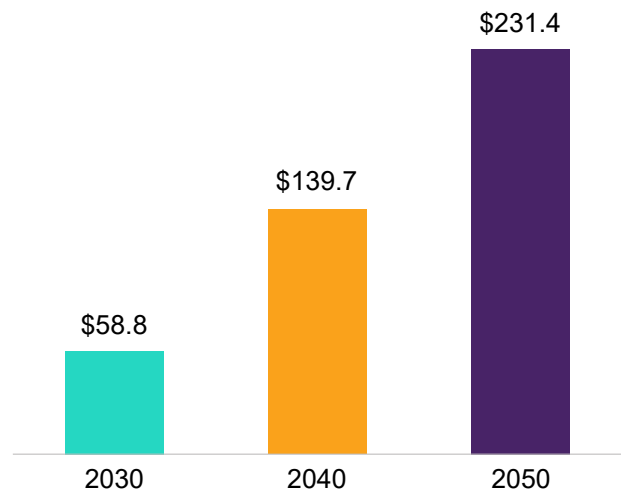
### A large number of those living with Alzheimer's are not diagnosed — and many are unaware of their diagnosis.

- Research suggests that as many as half of people living with dementia have never been diagnosed.
- In addition, Healthy People data show that only 59.7% of those diagnosed with Alzheimer's or their caregivers have been told of their diagnosis. Other data suggest that the percentage could be less than half.
- There is evidence that African Americans and Hispanics with dementia are less likely to have a diagnosis than whites, even though they are more likely to have the disease.

### An early diagnosis can improve the quality of care and life as well as reduce the financial impact of the disease.

- Early diagnosis allows individuals with the disease and their caregivers to better manage medications, build a care team, manage comorbidities, receive counseling and other support services, create advance directives, enroll in clinical trials, and address driving and safety concerns.
- Health and long-term care costs are lower in people with diagnosed and managed mild cognitive impairment (MCI) and dementia. In fact, if most people with Alzheimer's disease were diagnosed in the MCI stage, in the year 2050 alone, costs would be more than \$231 billion lower than they would otherwise be.

### Annual Savings with Early Diagnosis of Those Alive in 2018 (in billions of 2017 dollars)



### What Can Public Health Do?

- Educate the public about the benefits of early detection and diagnosis.
- Educate public health professionals about the best available evidence on detection of dementia and foster continuing education to support early diagnosis and disclosure of dementia.
- Improve the inclusion of health care quality measures that address cognitive assessments.
- Promote the use of effective interventions and best practices to protect brain health, address cognitive impairment, and help meet the needs of caregivers for people with dementia.

For more information, visit: [alz.org/publichealth](https://www.alz.org/publichealth).