



Alzheimer's Public Health News

March Special Edition: Release of Alzheimer's Association 2023 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures

2023 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures Special Report "The Patient Journey in an Era of New Treatments" Reveals Communication Challenges between Patients and Health Care Providers on Memory and Thinking Issues

Barriers that impede physician-patient discussions about cognitive concerns and the specialist physician workforce shortage for Alzheimer's care in the United States are the special focus of the [2023 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures](#) report by the Alzheimer's Association. The annual report provides the latest statistics on Alzheimer's prevalence, incidence, mortality, costs of care, and caregiving at the national and state levels. The report, includes findings from focus groups conducted by L&M Policy Research as part of the Alzheimer's Association's Healthy Brain Initiative grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Among the key takeaways:

- Many individuals with early memory and thinking concerns remain hesitant to raise the issue with their physicians due to emotional reactions and limited vocabulary to describe their experience.
- Patients also perceive the risks associated with a diagnosis as outweighing potential benefits, and assumptions about what doctors will say and do often hinder open communication.
- Primary care physicians (PCPs) are not proactively asking their patients about cognitive issues, instead relying on patients or family members to raise them first.
- Half of the PCPs report a specialist shortage in their area, particularly in rural regions, hindering access to care.

Efforts to combat shortages of dementia care specialists include expanding the workforce through multidisciplinary programs, strengthening training and specialization in dementia care, and increasing awareness of Medicare reimbursement for health care visits that result in a comprehensive dementia care plan.



6 MILLION AMERICANS
are living with Alzheimer's.

SHARE THE FACTS AND JOIN THE FIGHT.
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Other Highlights from 2023 Alzheimer's Facts and Figures

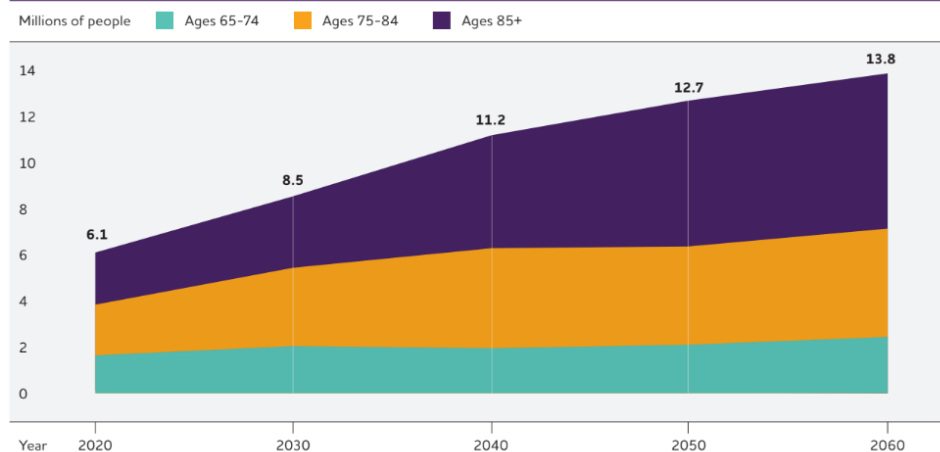


Rising Prevalence

6.7 million Americans over the age of 65 are living with Alzheimer's disease, with the number expected to more than double by 2060 to approximately 13.8 million Americans. These projections indicate the

importance of public health planning now to ensure that health, long-term care, and community support systems are capable of meeting the need.

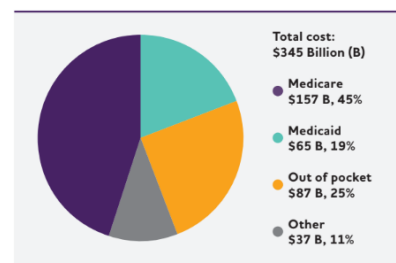
Projected Number of People Age 65 and Older (Total and by Age) in the U.S. Population with Alzheimer's Dementia, 2020 to 2060



\$ Growing Cost

Total payments for health care, long-term care, and hospice care for individuals living with Alzheimer's and other dementias are projected to surpass \$345 billion in 2023 and reach nearly \$1 trillion in 2050. Additionally, the report finds that in 2022, more than 11 million unpaid caregivers of individuals with Alzheimer's or other dementias provided an estimated 18 billion hours of unpaid care, valued at nearly \$340 billion. The growing costs of Alzheimer's and other dementias, and the significant burden on unpaid caregivers, emphasize the critical need for increased investment in public health initiatives aimed at prevention, treatment, and caregiver support.

Distribution of Aggregate Costs of Care by Payment Source for Americans Age 65 and Older with Alzheimer's or Other Dementias, 2023*



*Data are in 2023 dollars.

Created from data from the Lewin Model.⁴¹² "Other" payment sources include private insurance, health maintenance organizations, other managed care organizations and uncompensated care.

The sum of individual dollar amounts do not equal the total cost due to rounding.



Increasing Shortages

Twenty U.S. states have been designated as "dementia neurology deserts," meaning they are projected to have fewer than 10 neurologists per 10,000 people with dementia in 2025. This shortage could have major consequences for individuals living with dementia and their families, especially those in rural areas where access to specialized care is already limited — and especially as treatments become available. The impact of this issue could be far-reaching, as proper diagnosis and care can make a significant difference in the quality of life of those living with dementia.



Escalating Complexity

Nearly 90% of Medicare beneficiaries with Alzheimer's disease or other dementias have at least one other chronic condition and are more likely than those without dementia to have multiple chronic conditions. In 2019, almost half of Medicare beneficiaries with dementia had coronary artery disease or chronic kidney disease, and more than a third had diabetes or congestive heart failure. These findings emphasize the importance of coordinated care for individuals with dementia.

Percentage of Medicare Beneficiaries Age 65 and Older with Alzheimer's or Other Dementias Who Have Specified Coexisting Conditions

Coexisting Condition	Percentage
Coronary artery disease	46
Chronic kidney disease	46
Diabetes	37
Congestive heart failure	34
Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	20
Stroke	13
Cancer	10

Created from unpublished data from the National 100% Sample Medicare Fee-for-Service Beneficiaries for 2019.³⁸²

New Individual State Data Available

The latest statistics from the Alzheimer's Association [2023 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures](#) on Alzheimer's prevalence, incidence, mortality, costs of care, and caregiving at the national and state levels are now available at [alz.org/facts](#). Additional state data are available at [alz.org/facts-states](#).

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The Alzheimer's Association is the leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer's care, support and research. Our mission is to lead the way to end Alzheimer's and all other dementia -- by accelerating global research, driving risk reduction and early detection, and maximizing quality care and support. Our vision is a world without Alzheimer's and all other dementia®.

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