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Number of Californians Living with Alzheimer's Projected to Double by 2040

*- Hispanic and Black Californians will be disproportionately impacted and see greater increases -
- Deaths attributable to Alzheimer's nearly quadruple -*

SANTA BARBARA, October 12, 2021 – The number of Californians 65 and older living with Alzheimer's disease is projected to more than double by the year 2040, according to new data released by the California Department of Public Health in conjunction with the Alzheimer's Association.

Prevalence

The newly-released update to the *Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Facts and Figures in California: Current Status and Future Projections* report showed the number of people living with Alzheimer's will more than double from 660,000 estimated in 2019 to nearly 1.5 million in 2040. One in six Californians over the age of 65 will develop Alzheimer's, and one in five will develop dementia.

Of note, while California's population is projected to grow by 16% by 2040, the number of people living with Alzheimer's will grow by 127%.

“As the most racially, ethnically, and linguistically diverse state in the nation, California can lead on equitable care, support and treatments for all affected by Alzheimer's and dementia, including family caregivers,” said Edie Yau, director of diversity, equity & inclusion engagement for the Alzheimer's Association.

The report showed Hispanic and Black communities will shoulder a disproportionate share of the increase in prevalence. The number of Hispanic Californians living with Alzheimer's will more than triple, while the number of Black Californians living with Alzheimer's will nearly triple by 2040.

The number of Californians living with Alzheimer's who identify as Asian and Pacific Islander will more than double, growing to 241,106 people.

Californians who identify as lesbian, gay, or bisexual living with Alzheimer's will more than double, growing to 74,522 people.

Of California's largest counties with a population of 700,000 or more, Contra Costa and Alameda counties are both expected to see the largest increases at 147%, followed by Riverside County with a 142% increase, and San Joaquin and San Bernardino counties at 141%.

Death Rates

Meanwhile, deaths attributable to Alzheimer's showed the largest increase of any of the leading causes of death, almost quadrupling between 2000 and 2018. Between 2014 and 2018, deaths attributed to Alzheimer's increased over 20% from 12,644 to 16,627, moving Alzheimer's up to the third leading cause of death in California in 2018. As Californians are living longer, deaths due to Alzheimer's may continue to increase.

The Asian American and Pacific Islander population saw the greatest increase in the number of Alzheimer's deaths between 2000 and 2018, increasing 746%, followed by Hispanics with a 600% increase and Blacks showing a 321% increase. White Californians saw an increase of 214%.

Alzheimer's death rates for California residents over the past eighteen years have increased from 13 deaths per 100,000 in 2000 to 42 deaths in 2018, an increase of 223%.

Between 2015 and 2017, Kern County had the highest Alzheimer's death rate (53.4 per 100,000), followed by San Joaquin County (51.6 per 100,000) and San Bernardino County (43.3 per 100,000). Los Angeles, Orange and San Diego counties had the highest number of deaths overall.

Caregiving and Costs

The report also detailed the costs associated with Alzheimer's in relation to caregiving and lost productivity at work.

More than 1.6 million Californians provided unpaid care for a person living with Alzheimer's in 2020, amounting to 1,849 million hours of care valued at over \$24 billion.

Most unpaid caregivers, 60% of whom are female, provide 20 or more hours of care per week to a friend or family member living with Alzheimer's. Roughly 67% of California family caregivers pay out of pocket to care for a loved one with costs averaging well over \$10,000 per year. Black and Hispanic caregivers are also shown to spend a higher proportion of their income on out-of-pocket costs compared with their White, non-Hispanic and Asian American/Pacific Islander counterparts.

Total unpaid care costs were estimated at \$47 billion in 2008 and are projected to exceed \$103.8 billion by 2040.

The estimated cost to California employers in lost productivity annually from full time and part-time employed caregivers is \$8.3 billion. The majority of these costs, estimated in excess of \$5.3 billion annually, are attributable to attempting to replace caregivers who leave the workforce.

The report also found that caregivers and recipients of care who identify as LGBTQ have unique experiences to consider. The findings show they are significantly less likely to access medical and social services than their peers who do not identify as LGBTQ, and also become caregivers at a slightly higher rate – one in five people who identify as LGBTQ provide care for another adult, compared to one in six people who do not identify as LGBTQ.

In 2018, the Alzheimer's Association successfully advocated for legislation calling for the update of data last reported in 2009. This report was created as a result of those efforts to produce more timely information.

Jared Giarrusso, California government affairs director for the Alzheimer's Association, pointed to Governor Newsom and the state legislature as key partners.

“We know this data will be put to immediate use by policy makers to accelerate Alzheimer's, caregiving and equity initiatives already well underway as a result of the recent Master Plan for Aging and Alzheimer's Prevention and Preparedness Task Force recommendations,” said Giarrusso.

To view the complete report with more detailed information on prevalence, death rates, caregiving and cost, [click here](#).

ESTIMATED NUMBER AND PERCENT CHANGE IN PEOPLE AGE 55+ WITH ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE: 2019, 2025, AND 2040 – CALIFORNIA AND COUNTIES

COUNTY	2019	2025	2040	% CHANGE 2019-2025	% CHANGE 2025-2040	% CHANGE 2019-2040
San Luis Obispo	6,885	9,029	14,968	32	64	117
Santa Barbara	8,505	10,256	16,758	22	62	97
Ventura	15,807	20,425	36,445	30	77	131
CALIFORNIA	702,556	907,080	1,594,262	30	74	127

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE AGE 55+ WITH ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE BY RACE/ETHNICITY AND BY COUNTY – 2019

COUNTY	White/Caucasian American, Non-Latino/a/x	Latino/a/x American	Black/African American	Asian American/Pacific Islander	Native American	Multirace
San Luis Obispo	5,968	609	44	169	32	63
Santa Barbara	6,240	1,644	136	378	41	65
Ventura	10,197	3,069	200	1,204	46	126

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE AGE 55+ WITH ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE BY RACE/ETHNICITY AND BY COUNTY – 2025

COUNTY	White/Caucasian American, Non-Latino/a/x	Latino/a/x American	Black/African American	Asian American/Pacific Islander	Native American	Multirace
San Luis Obispo	7,715	905	55	220	5	85
Santa Barbara	7,286	2,189	166	469	15	93
Ventura	13,723	4,501	306	1,627	35	199

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE AGE 55+ WITH ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE BY RACE/ETHNICITY AND BY COUNTY – 2040

COUNTY	White/Caucasian American, Non-Latino/a/x	Latino/a/x American	Black/African American	Asian American/Pacific Islander	Native American	Multirace
San Luis Obispo	12,117	2,077	104	408	92	171

Santa Barbara	10,229	5,084	289	848	95	212
Ventura	22,109	10,224	634	2,857	133	487

LIFETIME RISK FOR BABY BOOMERS BORN BETWEEN 1946 THROUGH 1964 TO DEVELOP DEMENTIA AND ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE BY GENDER: CALIFORNIA AND COUNTIES

COUNTY	Dementia Females	Alzheimer's Disease Females	Dementia Males	Alzheimer's Disease Males	Dementia Total	Alzheimer's Disease Total
San Luis Obispo	9,122	7,829	5,212	3,896	14,334	11,725
Santa Barbara	11,038	9,474	6,348	4,745	17,386	14,219
Ventura	23,830	20,454	13,747	10,275	37,577	30,729
CALIFORNIA	1,022,313	877,476	581,569	434,690	1,603,882	1,312,166

ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE DEATHS IN CALIFORNIA BY COUNTY OF RESIDENCE, 2015-2017

COUNTY	2015-2017 Deaths (Average)	%	2016 Population	Age-Adjusted Death Rate	95% Confidence Limit - Lower	95% Confidence Limit - Upper
San Luis Obispo	178	1.1	278,080	41.1	35	47.2
Santa Barbara	226	1.4	447,309	38.5	33.4	43.7
Ventura	419	2.7	853,673	42.6	38.5	46.7
CALIFORNIA	15,603	100.0	39,312,207	35.7	35.2	36.3

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About the Alzheimer's Association

The Alzheimer's Association is a worldwide voluntary health organization dedicated to 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®. Visit alz.org or call 800.272.3900.