

Alzheimer's Disease: Statistics

Alzheimer's Disease in the United States

- An estimated 4.5 million Americans have Alzheimer's disease. The number of Americans with Alzheimer's has more than doubled since 1980.ⁱ
- The number of Americans with Alzheimer's disease will continue to grow – by 2050 the number of individuals with Alzheimer's could range from 11.3 million to 16 million.ⁱ
- Finding a treatment that could delay the onset of Alzheimer's disease by five years could reduce the number of individuals with the disease by nearly 50 percent after 50 years.ⁱⁱ
- A Gallup poll commissioned by the Alzheimer's Association found that 1 in 10 Americans said that they had a family member with Alzheimer's and 1 in 3 knew someone with the disease.ⁱⁱⁱ
- Increasing age is the greatest risk factor for Alzheimer's. One in 10 individuals over 65 and nearly half over 85 are affected.^{iv} Rare, inherited forms of Alzheimer's disease can strike individuals as early as their 30s and 40s.^v

The Cost of Care to Families

- A person with Alzheimer's disease will live an average of eight years and up to as many as 20 years from the onset of symptoms.^{vi}
- The average lifetime cost of care for an individual with Alzheimer's disease is \$170,000.^{vii}
- More than 7 out of 10 people with Alzheimer's disease live at home, where family and friends provide almost 75 percent of their care.^{vi} The remainder is "paid care" costing an average of \$12,500 per year. Almost all families pay this out of pocket.^{viii}

- National direct and indirect costs of caring for individuals with Alzheimer's disease are at least \$100 billion, according to estimates used by the Alzheimer's Association and the National Institute of Aging.^{vii}

The Cost of Care to Government, Long-Term Care and Business

- By 2010, Medicare costs for beneficiaries with Alzheimer's are expected to increase 54.5 percent, from \$31.9 billion in 2000 to \$49.3 billion, and Medicaid expenditures on residential dementia care will increase 80 percent, from \$18.2 billion to \$33 billion in 2010, according to a report commissioned by the Alzheimer's Association.^{ix}
- Half of all nursing home residents have Alzheimer's disease or a related disorder.^x The average cost for nursing home care is \$42,000 per year,^{viii} but can exceed \$70,000 per year in some areas of the country.^{xi}
- Alzheimer's disease costs American businesses \$61 billion a year, according to a report commissioned by the Alzheimer's Association. Of that figure, \$24.6 billion covers Alzheimer health care and \$36.5 billion covers costs related to caregivers of individuals with Alzheimer's, including lost productivity, absenteeism and worker replacement.^{xii}

America's Increasing Commitment to Research

- In 1980, the budget for the National Institute on Aging was \$20 million. In fiscal year 2003, the federal government estimates spending approximately \$640 million for Alzheimer's disease research.^{xiii}
- In 1988, 300 researchers attended the first International Research Conference on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders in Las Vegas, NV. This summer, 5,000 researchers are expected to attend the ninth gathering of the international research community in Philadelphia, PA.
- In 1982, the Alzheimer's Association awarded its first round of research grants, totaling just under \$80,000. Today, the Association is the largest private funder of Alzheimer's disease research, having awarded nearly \$150 million in research grants since 1982, according to our audited annual financial statements.

For questions or further information on statistics, please contact the **Alzheimer's Association Library and Resource Center** by calling 800.272.3900 or 312.335.9602 or by e-mailing greenfield@alz.org.

ⁱ Hebert, LE; Scherr, PA; Bienias, JL; Bennett, DA; Evans, DA. "Alzheimer Disease in the U.S. Population: Prevalence Estimates Using the 2000 Census." *Archives of Neurology*, August 2003; 60 (8): 1119 – 1122.

ⁱⁱ Brookmeyer, R; Gray, S; Kawas, C. "Projections of Alzheimer's Disease in the United States and the Public Health Impact of Delaying Disease Onset." *American Journal of Public Health*, 1998; 88(9): 1337 – 1342.

ⁱⁱⁱ 1992 Gallup survey of 1,015 individuals. For more information, please contact our Green-Field Library.

^{iv} Evans, DA; Funkenstein, HH; Albert, MS; et al. "Prevalence of Alzheimer's Disease in a Community Population of Older Persons: Higher than Previously Reported." *JAMA*, 1989; 262(18): 2552 – 2556.

^v Bird, TD; Sumi, SM; Nemens, EJ; Nochlin, D; Schellenberg, G; et al. "Phenotypic Heterogeneity in Familial Alzheimer's Disease: A Study of 24 Kindreds." *Annals of Neurology*, 1989; 25(1): 12 – 25.

^{vi} Losing a Million Minds: Confronting the Tragedy of Alzheimer's Disease and Other Dementias. U.S. Congress Office of Technology Assessment; U.S. Government Printing Office, 1987; p. 14.

^{vii} Ernst, RL; Hay, JW. "The U.S. Economic and Social Costs of Alzheimer's Disease Revisited." *American Journal of Public Health*, 1994; 84(8): 1261 – 1264. This study cites figures based on 1991 data, which were updated in the journal's press release to 1994 figures. Cited in 2001 – 2002 Alzheimer's Disease Progress Report. National Institutes of Health publication number 03-5333, July 2003; p. 2.

^{viii} Rice, DP; et al. "The Economic Burden of Alzheimer's Disease." *Health Affairs*, Summer 1993; 12(2): 164 – 176.

^{ix} Medicare and Medicaid Costs for People with Alzheimer's Disease. Washington, D.C.: April 2001: The Lewin Group; p. 1.

^x *National Nursing Home Survey*. National Center for Health Statistics, 1985; p.49.

^{xi} Unpublished data reported by Alzheimer's Association chapters in some regions.

^{xii} Koppel, R. *Alzheimer's Disease: The Costs to U.S. Businesses in 2002*. Washington, D.C.: Alzheimer's Association; 2002.

^{xiii} Unpublished analysis of federal budget documents by Alzheimer's Association senior public policy staff.