2015 Alzheimer’s Disease Facts and Figures

The number of Americans living with Alzheimer’s disease is growing – and growing fast.

- Today, 5.3 million Americans are living with Alzheimer’s disease, including an estimated 200,000 under the age of 65. By 2050, up to 16 million will have the disease.

- Nearly two-thirds of those with Alzheimer’s disease – 3.2 million – are women.

- Within the next 10 years, 19 states will see a 40 percent or greater growth in the number of people with Alzheimer’s.

- Someone in the United States develops Alzheimer’s every 67 seconds. In 2050, someone in the United States will develop the disease every 33 seconds.

Most people living with Alzheimer’s are not aware of their diagnosis – or have not been diagnosed at all.

- Less than half (45 percent) of seniors diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease or their caregivers are aware of the diagnosis, compared with 90 percent or more of those diagnosed with cancer and cardiovascular disease.

- Among individuals diagnosed with the disease, only 33 percent are aware they have it.

- Among all people living with Alzheimer’s disease, only about half have ever been diagnosed.

Percentage of Seniors Diagnosed with Specified Condition or Their Caregivers Who Are Aware of the Diagnosis

- Alzheimer’s Disease: 45%
- Four Most Common Cancers*: 93%
- Cardiovascular Disease: 90%
- High Blood Pressure: 83%

Facts in Your State

The 2015 Alzheimer’s Disease Facts and Figures report also contains data on the impact of the disease in every state across the nation. Find the full report and information on your state at www.alz.org/facts.
The growing Alzheimer’s crisis is helping to bankrupt Medicare.

- In 2015, the direct costs to American society of caring for those with Alzheimer’s will total an estimated $226 billion, with half of the costs borne by Medicare.

- Nearly one in every five Medicare dollars is spent on people with Alzheimer’s and other dementias. In 2050, it will be one in every three dollars.

- Average per-person Medicare spending for those with Alzheimer’s and other dementias is three times higher than average per-person spending across all other seniors. Medicaid payments are 19 times higher.

- Unless something is done, in 2050, Alzheimer’s will cost over $1.1 trillion (in 2015 dollars). Costs to Medicare will increase over 400 percent to $589 billion.

Alzheimer’s is not just memory loss – Alzheimer’s kills.

- Alzheimer’s disease is the 6th leading cause of death in the United States and the 5th leading cause of death for those aged 65 and older.

- In 2013, over 84,000 Americans officially died from Alzheimer’s; in 2015, an estimated 700,000 people will die with Alzheimer’s – meaning they will die after having developed the disease.

- Deaths from Alzheimer’s increased 71 percent from 2000 to 2013, while deaths from other major diseases (including heart disease, stroke, breast and prostate cancer, and HIV/AIDS) decreased.

- Alzheimer’s is the only cause of death among the top 10 in America that cannot be prevented, cured, or even slowed.

Alzheimer’s takes a devastating toll, not just on those with the disease but also on their caregivers.

- In 2014, 15.7 million family and friends provided 17.9 billion hours of unpaid care to those with Alzheimer’s and other dementias – care valued at $217.7 billion.

- Nearly 60 percent of Alzheimer’s and dementia caregivers rate the emotional stress of caregiving as high or very high; about 40 percent suffer from depression.

- Three-quarters of Alzheimer’s and dementia caregivers report they are “somewhat” to “very” concerned about maintaining their own health since becoming a caregiver – and they are more likely than caregivers of other older people to say that caregiving made their health worse.

- In fact, due to the physical and emotional toll of caregiving, Alzheimer’s and dementia caregivers had $9.7 billion in additional health care costs of their own in 2014.