

### **FACTSHEET**

MARCH 2018 alzimpact.org

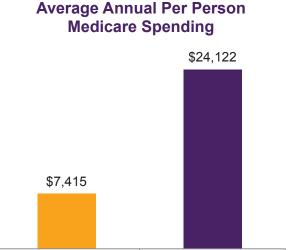
#### Costs of Alzheimer's to Medicare and Medicaid

## Alzheimer's is the most expensive disease in America, costing more than cancer and heart disease.

- In 2018, the direct costs to American society of caring for those with Alzheimer's and other dementias will total an estimated \$277 billion.
- A study found that in the last five years of life, the costs of a person with dementia, on average, total more than \$287,000 (in 2010 dollars). This is compared with \$175,000 for a person with heart disease, and \$173,000 for someone with cancer.

### Most of these costs are borne by Medicare and Medicaid.

- In 2018, Medicare and Medicaid will spend an estimated \$186 billion caring for those with Alzheimer's and other dementias—67 percent of total costs.
  - An estimated \$140 billion will be spent by the federal government under Medicare.
  - This means that 1 in every 5 Medicare dollars will be spent on someone with the disease.
  - Federal and state governments combined will spend an estimated \$47 billion under the Medicaid program caring for those with Alzheimer's and other dementias.
- Average per-person Medicare spending for seniors with Alzheimer's is more than three times higher than average per-person spending for all other seniors. Under Medicaid, spending is, on average, 23 times higher.



Seniors with

Alzheimer's Disease

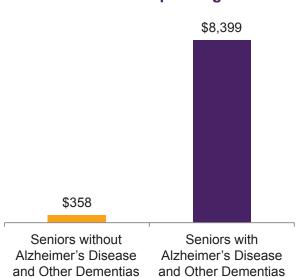
and Other Dementias



Seniors without

Alzheimer's Disease

and Other Dementias



# With the aging of the baby boomers, the number of Americans aged 65 and older with Alzheimer's is expected to dramatically escalate.

- Today, an estimated 5.5 million Americans aged 65 and older are living with Alzheimer's disease.
- By 2050, there are projected to be nearly a million new cases every year, with another American developing Alzheimer's every 33 seconds.
- The number of Americans living with Alzheimer's will nearly triple by 2050 to 13.8 million—and could be as high as 16 million.

## Costs will also expand in lockstep. By 2050, combined Medicare and Medicaid spending on people with Alzheimer's will quadruple to \$750 billion (in 2018 dollars)

- In 2050, Medicare spending on people with Alzheimer's will total \$559 billion—an increase of 300 percent from today's spending levels. This will represent an estimated 1 in every 3 dollars of total Medicare spending.
- Medicaid spending on people with Alzheimer's will increase 310 percent between now and 2050, as costs will reach \$191 billion in 2050.

#### **Alzheimer's Prevalence and Costs to Medicare and Medicaid**

