

factsheet

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State Government Alzheimer's Disease Plans

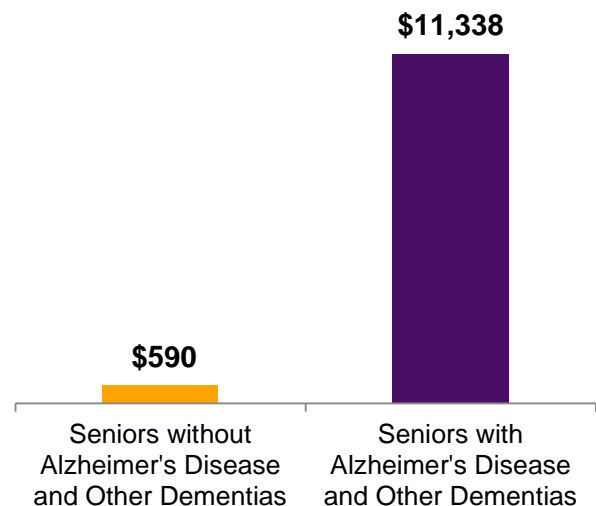
Alzheimer's disease is a pivotal public health issue that state policymakers cannot ignore.

- Today, an estimated 5.4 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's disease, and that number is projected to rise to as many as 16 million by 2050.
- Average per-person Medicaid spending on seniors with Alzheimer's and other dementias is 19 times higher than the per-person average across all seniors without these conditions.
- In 2016, Medicaid costs to care for people with Alzheimer's and other dementias will total an estimated \$43 billion – and will rise nearly 350 percent (before inflation) by 2050.

To address and prepare for the Alzheimer's epidemic, more than 40 states have published a comprehensive State Alzheimer's Disease Plan since 2007.

- A State Alzheimer's Disease Plan is a written report drafted by a group of interested parties, sanctioned by the state government, that explores the current impact of Alzheimer's disease in the state and outlines what steps the state must take over the next 5 to 10 years to improve its services for and support to people with Alzheimer's and their families.
- State Alzheimer's Disease Plans create the infrastructure and accountability necessary to confront the sweeping economic and social impact of this devastating disease.

Average Annual Per-Person Medicaid Payments



While each state plan is tailored to the needs of the people of each state, there are several common themes among all state plans.

- Almost all state plans include recommendations on dementia training, to better equip health care and support workers to care for people with dementia. Most state plans also have provisions on improving the health care received by those with the disease and assisting unpaid caregivers.
- Other subjects in common among state plans include improving and expanding home and community-based services, increasing public awareness, and improving the safety-related needs of those with Alzheimer's.

Once a state has published a State Alzheimer's Disease Plan, it must then work to translate the vision of the Plan into actual public policy.

- States must enact legislation and implement regulations to carry out the recommendations of the plan in order to ensure that it is more than just a document – that it becomes a description of the reality of the state's public policies.
- With a state plan, implementation of Alzheimer's policies is easier because the state plan process itself helps build consensus among essential stakeholders about what actions are needed.

States must ensure their State Alzheimer's Disease Plans are periodically reviewed and updated.

- With the rapidly growing and changing extent of the Alzheimer's crisis, It is essential that state plans become living documents that states and stakeholders regularly consult and re-evaluate.
- States should annually review their plans and update them every 3 to 5 years. Two states – New York and Illinois – have already done so.

To read any of the published state plans or for a comparison of the recommendations in the published plans, visit alz.org/stateplans.

States with State Alzheimer's Disease Plans

As of March 2016

