

factsheet

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Alzheimer's Accountability Act

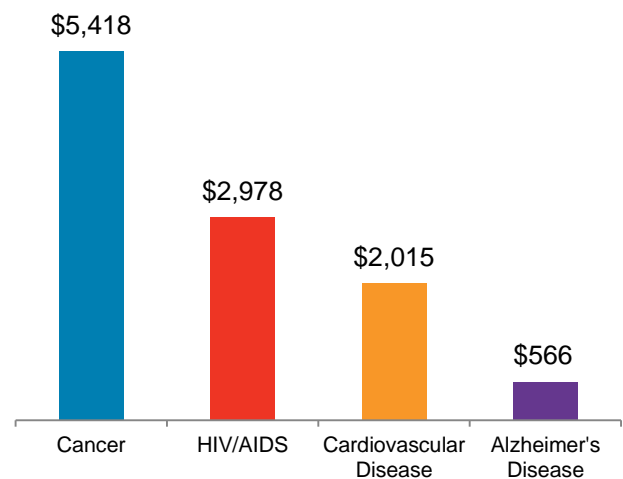
Alzheimer's is the most expensive disease in America, costing more than heart disease and cancer.

- Nearly one in every five dollars of Medicare spending is spent on people with Alzheimer's and other dementias.
- Medicare and Medicaid will spend \$150 billion in 2014 caring for people with Alzheimer's, and that is expected to reach nearly \$900 billion (in today's dollars) in 2050.
- Between 2010 and 2050, caring for those with Alzheimer's will cost American society \$20 trillion.

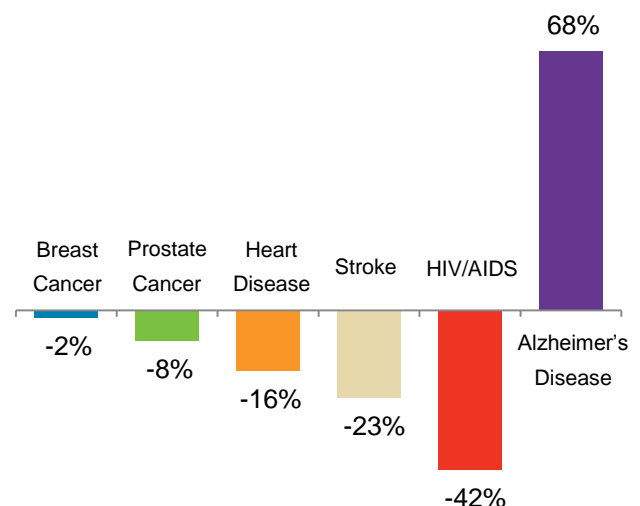
Smart investments have shown that research works.

- The federal government has made significant commitments to combat diseases such as heart disease, HIV/AIDS and breast cancer – and deaths from these diseases have declined.
- Meanwhile, no similar commitment has been made with respect to Alzheimer's disease. Consequently, deaths from Alzheimer's increased 68 percent between 2000 and 2010.
- Alzheimer's is the only one of the top 10 causes of death in America that cannot be prevented, cured or even slowed.
- If there were a treatment that delayed onset of Alzheimer's by five years, government spending on people with the disease would be cut by nearly half in 2050.

National Institutes of Health (NIH) Research Funding, 2014 In millions of dollars



Change in Number of Deaths Between 2000 and 2010



Scientists say we are at a tipping point on Alzheimer's research. We have the ideas, the technology and the will. But we do not have a commitment from the federal government.

- For every \$26,500 that Medicare and Medicaid spend caring for people with Alzheimer's disease, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) spends only \$100 on Alzheimer's research.
- The National Alzheimer's Plan, released in May 2012, sets a goal of preventing and effectively treating Alzheimer's disease by 2025. To reach that goal, the NIH has established research milestones and timelines.
- However, the NIH has not established the level of funding necessary to reach those milestones and the eventual goal.

The *Alzheimer's Accountability Act* (S. 2192 / H.R. 4351) would ensure that Congress will know what the scientists need to find an effective Alzheimer's treatment.

- The bill would require the scientists at the NIH to submit an annual Alzheimer's research budget proposal directly to Congress, thus avoiding bureaucratic budget procedures.
- This budget – similar to what is done for cancer research – would specify the resources that scientists need to reach the National Alzheimer's Plan's 2025 goal.
- Given the financial burden Alzheimer's puts on Medicare and Medicaid – and the growing burden the disease will place on the federal budget in the future – a commitment to research today will yield savings tomorrow.

2014 Spending on Alzheimer's Research and Care

