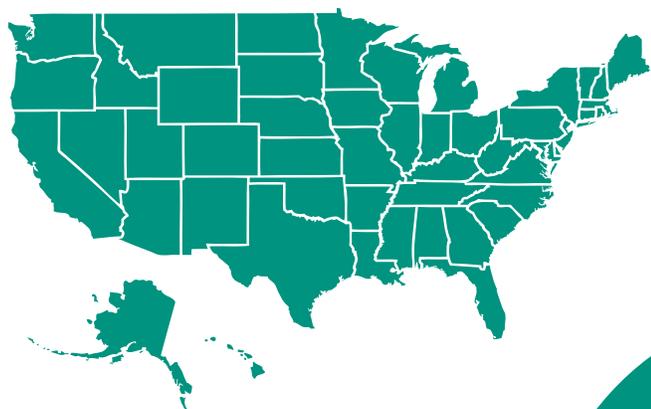


# ADDRESSING THE ALZHEIMER'S CRISIS

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alzheimer's  association®

THE BRAINS BEHIND SAVING YOURS.®

# ADDRESSING THE ALZHEIMER'S CRISIS

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An estimated 5.3 million Americans have Alzheimer's disease, the sixth-leading cause of death in the United States and the fifth-leading cause of death for those age 65 and older. It's the only cause of death among the top 10 that cannot be prevented, cured or even slowed.

The number of Americans with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias will grow each year as the size and proportion of the U.S. population age 65 and older continue to increase. By 2050, the number of people with Alzheimer's may reach as many as 16 million.

Alzheimer's is a triple threat, with soaring prevalence, lack of treatment and enormous costs that no one can afford. If we're going to address this triple threat, action must be taken by all levels of the government.

## ALZHEIMER'S IS A **TRIPLE THREAT**,



WITH SOARING  
PREVALENCE



LACK OF  
TREATMENT



AND ENORMOUS  
COSTS THAT NO  
ONE CAN AFFORD

IF WE'RE GOING TO CHANGE THE  
CURRENT TRAJECTORY OF THE DISEASE,

THERE MUST BE  
**CONSISTENT**  
AND MEANINGFUL  
**INVESTMENT**

IN RESEARCH  
**FROM THE**  
**FEDERAL**  
**GOVERNMENT.**



AS MANY AS HALF  
OF THOSE WITH  
**ALZHEIMER'S**  
HAVE NOT BEEN DIAGNOSED.



**YOUR BRAIN  
CONTAINS ABOUT**

**100  
BILLION**

**NERVE CELLS.**

**EACH ONE IS WORTH  
KEEPING AROUND.**



**ONE IN NINE**  
OLDER AMERICANS HAS  
ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE.



**ONE IN THREE**  
SENIORS DIE WITH A  
DIAGNOSIS OF ALZHEIMER'S  
OR ANOTHER DEMENTIA

ALZHEIMER'S IS THE  
**6** LEADING  
CAUSE OF DEATH  
IN THE UNITED STATES

AN ESTIMATED  
**5.3** MILLION AMERICANS HAVE  
ALZHEIMER'S  
DISEASE

**& THE  
5** LEADING  
CAUSE OF DEATH  
FOR THOSE **65** OR OLDER

AMERICANS PROVIDE NEARLY  
**18 BILLION HOURS**  
OF UNPAID CARE  
TO PEOPLE WITH ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE  
AND OTHER DEMENTIAS.



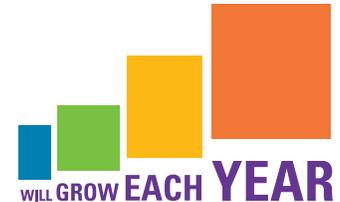
IT'S THE ONLY  
CAUSE OF DEATH  
AMONG THE

**TOP  
10**

THAT CANNOT BE  
PREVENTED,  
CURED,  
OR EVEN  
SLOWED



THE NUMBER OF  
AMERICANS WITH **ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE  
& OTHER DEMENTIAS**



AS THE SIZE AND PROPORTION  
OF THE U.S. POPULATION

65 AND OLDER  
CONTINUE TO  
**INCREASE**

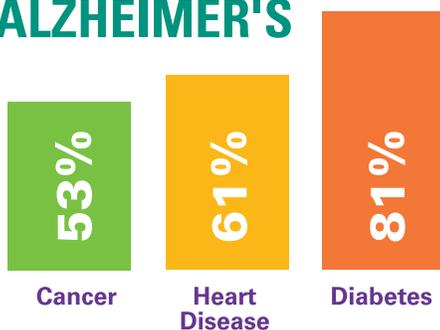
THE NUMBER OF  
PEOPLE WITH ALZHEIMER'S  
MAY RISE AS HIGH AS

**16**  
MILLION



**ONE**       
**IN EVERY FIVE MEDICARE DOLLARS IS  
SPENT ON SOMEONE WITH ALZHEIMER'S**

**HIGHER MEDICARE COSTS  
DUE TO ALZHEIMER'S**



**ALZHEIMER'S** WILL COST  
THE NATION  
**\$1.1 TRILLION** IN **2050**



**BUT...**

If we achieve the National Alzheimer's Plan 2025 goal, there will be a **total savings of \$220 billion** over the first five years.



# FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

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## INCREASE RESEARCH FUNDING

While Congress has recently provided additional funding for Alzheimer's research, the chronic underinvestment persists – and it continues to fall far short of what researchers say is needed to reach the goal of preventing and effectively treating Alzheimer's by 2025. Due to medical breakthroughs, millions of people are surviving diseases that were once death sentences. Now it's time for our first Alzheimer's survivor.

## ENSURE CARE PLANNING

Care planning immediately following an Alzheimer's diagnosis can improve the quality of care, increase access to needed community services, ensure better care coordination and improve the long-term health of caregivers. Medicare must provide a care planning benefit for newly diagnosed individuals.



# STATE GOVERNMENT

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## TRAIN CARE PROVIDERS

Those with Alzheimer's deserve to receive care from knowledgeable professionals. States must have adequate dementia-training laws that ensure all individuals employed in the delivery of care – across the care and support continuum – achieve and demonstrate competency.

## STRENGTHEN MEDICAID

Almost all people with Alzheimer's will eventually need long-term care services and support, making Medicaid indispensable to individuals and families. Home- and community-based services must be expanded, and states must ensure Medicaid's functional eligibility rules include cognitive disability.



# PUBLIC HEALTH

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## ENCOURAGE EARLY DIAGNOSIS

Early detection and diagnosis are key to planning for the future, accessing available treatments and support, and participating in clinical trials. Both the public and health care providers need to understand the benefits of an early Alzheimer's diagnosis and the importance of discussing memory issues.

## PROMOTE BRAIN HEALTH

Certain aspects of healthy living such as physical activity and management of cardiovascular risk factors have been shown to reduce the risk of cognitive decline. To increase public awareness about these modifiable risk factors, brain health messages must be incorporated into public health programs and campaigns.



THE BRAINS BEHIND SAVING YOURS.®

The Alzheimer's Association® is the leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer's care, support and research. Our mission is to eliminate Alzheimer's disease through the advancement of research; to provide and enhance care and support for all affected; and to reduce the risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health.

**Our vision is a world without Alzheimer's®.**

**800.272.3900 | alz.org®**

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