



alzheimer's from the frontlines: challenges a national alzheimer's plan must address

What people in ARIZONA are saying...

Impact of Alzheimer's in Arizona:

97,000 people 65 years and
older with Alzheimer's in 2010

298,050 caregivers provided unpaid care
valued at over
\$4.1 billion

Source: 2012 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures

The *National Alzheimer's Project Act (NAPA)*, Public Law 111-375, requires creation of a national strategic plan to address the rapidly mounting Alzheimer's crisis and will coordinate Alzheimer's disease efforts across the federal government.

In response to this, the Alzheimer's Association gathered input from Americans across the country. More than 43,000 people participated, including residents of Arizona. Ten key challenges emerged that participants believe the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services must address in the National Alzheimer's Plan now being created through the implementation of NAPA:

1. A lack of public awareness
2. Insufficient research funding
3. Difficulties with diagnosis
4. Poor dementia care
5. Inadequate treatments
6. Specific challenges facing diverse communities
7. Specific challenges facing those with younger-onset Alzheimer's
8. Unprepared caregivers
9. Ill-equipped communities
10. Mounting costs

"In small cities like ours, there is no place for Alzheimer's patients to meet together as a group and receive attention from people who know how to socialize with Alzheimer's patients."
– Pinetop, AZ

"RESEARCH! We need to find effective ways to diagnose the disease earlier and methods to eradicate the illness." – Phoenix, AZ

*"I, personally find it terrifying; and not so much for myself but for those who love me and will probably have to take care of me. **This disease is heartbreaking for the loved ones of those afflicted.** Please, let us devote some of our precious resources so that we have a nation of productive people rather than one of needy people who are drastically incapacitated."*
– Tucson, AZ

*"Also **relied on the local adult daycare program**; once she got started she **LOVED** it! That helped me take breaks during the day to recoup and prepare for her return for the afternoon and evening."* – Apache Junction, AZ

*"It took well over a year before my mother-in-law was started on medication which 'might' have arrested the progress of Alzheimer's earlier. **The doctors insisted on test after test, only to start her on Aricept at last.**"* – Sun City West, AZ

For more information, visit the Alzheimer's Association's *From Act to Action* web site at alz.org/napa.