

factsheet

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Fiscal Year 2015 Alzheimer's Research Funding

The escalating Alzheimer's epidemic has profound implications for government budgets – in addition to its devastating impact on families.

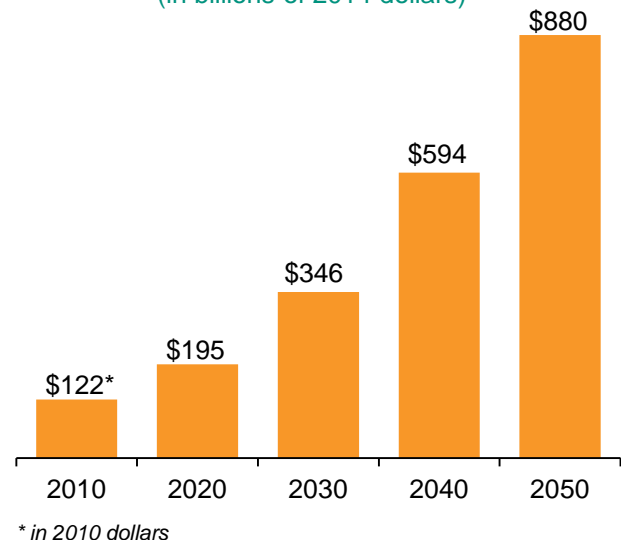
- Alzheimer's is the most expensive disease in America, costing more than heart disease and cancer.
- In 2014, caring for people with Alzheimer's and other dementias will cost the United States an estimated \$214 billion. Cumulatively over the next 40 years, it will cost \$20 trillion, with nearly 60 percent of the cost being borne by Medicare.
- Nearly one in every five dollars of Medicare spending is spent on people with Alzheimer's and other dementias.

Despite the growing burden of the disease, the chronic underinvestment in Alzheimer's research persists.

- For fiscal year 2014, Congress provided an additional \$100 million for Alzheimer's research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH).
- Even with this increase, the NIH is expected to spend only \$566 million on Alzheimer's research in 2014.
- This means that for every \$26,500 Medicare and Medicaid spend caring for people with Alzheimer's, the NIH spends only \$100 on Alzheimer's research.

Alzheimer's Costs to Medicare and Medicaid

(in billions of 2014 dollars)



Congressional action is needed to stay on the path to discovering scientific breakthroughs.

- In 2012, an expert panel of scientists concluded that a ramp up to \$2 billion in annual Alzheimer's research funding is necessary to achieve breakthroughs in developing preventions and effective treatments for Alzheimer's by 2025 – the goal established in the National Alzheimer's Plan.
- To achieve this, the next step is for Congress to provide an additional \$200 million in Alzheimer's research funding as part of the fiscal year 2015 appropriations process.