

# factsheet

AUGUST 2012

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## Alzheimer's Breakthrough Act

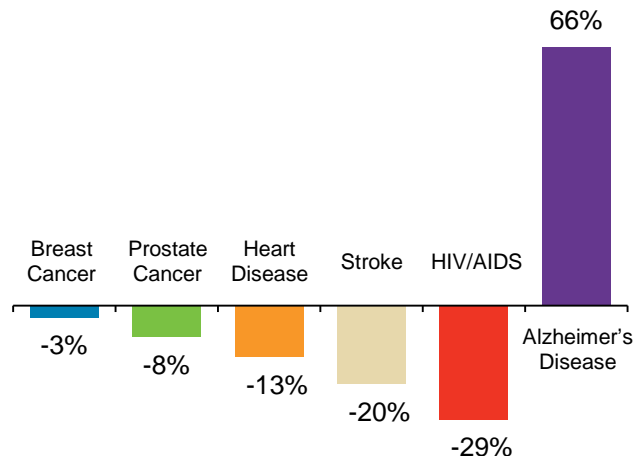
**Between 2010 and 2050, caring for individuals with Alzheimer's will cost American society \$20 trillion – including \$15 trillion to Medicare and Medicaid.**

- The Medicare and Medicaid costs of caring for people with Alzheimer's – currently an estimated \$140 billion – are expected to top \$800 billion (in today's dollars) by mid-century.
- If there were a treatment that delayed onset of the disease by five years (a treatment similar to the effect of anti-cholesterol drugs on preventing heart disease), it would cut government spending on Alzheimer's care by nearly half in 2050.

**Scientists believe 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.**

- The federal government has made significant commitments to combat diseases such as heart disease, HIV/AIDS and breast cancer. As a result, death rates from these diseases have declined.
- Meanwhile, no similar commitment has been made with respect to Alzheimer's disease. In fact, Alzheimer's is the only one of the top 10 causes of death in America without a way to prevent, cure or even slow its progression.

**Change in Number of Deaths  
Between 2000 and 2008**



**The Alzheimer's Breakthrough Act (H.R. 1897) would ensure an appropriate commitment to Alzheimer's research. Specifically, the bill would:**

- Make Alzheimer's research a priority at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) by:
  - pursuing emerging scientific and research opportunities; and
  - adopting the research recommendations from the forthcoming National Alzheimer's Plan.
- Create public-private partnerships to develop treatments and a cure.
- Require the leadership at NIH to request the funding necessary to get the job done – or explain to Congress why they are not.