

# FACTSHEET

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## Alzheimer's: America's Sixth Leading Cause of Death

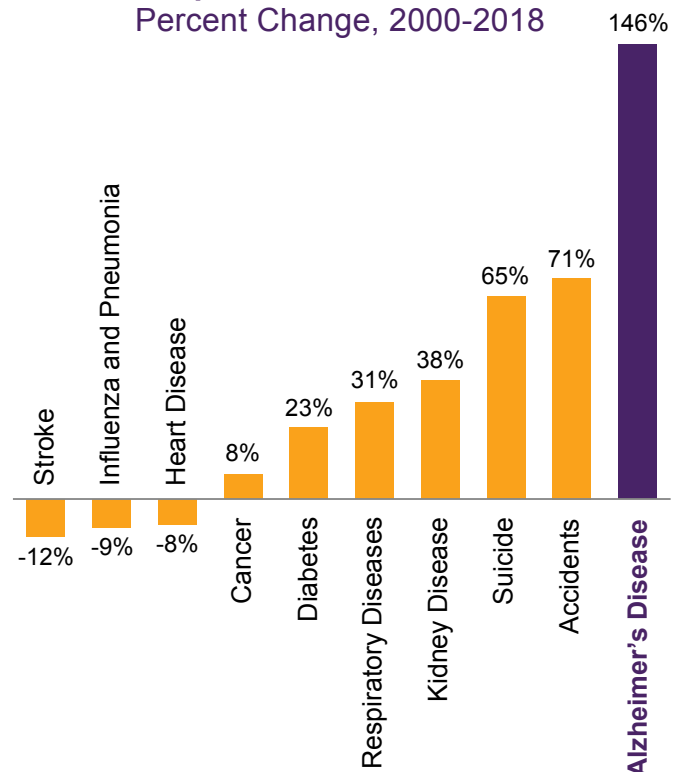
**Alzheimer's disease is the sixth leading cause of death in the United States and the fifth leading cause among the elderly.**

- In 1998, Alzheimer's was the 12th leading cause of death. By 2007, it was the sixth.
- In 2018, 122,019 Americans died of the disease.
- Among 70 year olds with Alzheimer's, 61% are expected to die within a decade. Among 70 year olds without Alzheimer's, only 30% will die within a decade.

**The official death statistics understate the extent of the problem.**

- Two studies published in 2014 found Alzheimer's disease as an underlying cause of death is underreported.
- In 2010, Alzheimer's played some role in the deaths of 500,000 Americans aged 75 and older. And one study concluded that Alzheimer's was the second largest contributor to elderly deaths, behind only heart disease.
- Even when individuals with Alzheimer's do not die *from* the disease, they will die *with* it.
  - Nearly 1 in every 3 seniors in America who dies in a given year has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's or another dementia.
  - An estimated 700,000 Americans will die in 2020 *with* Alzheimer's.

**Top 10 Causes of Death**  
Percent Change, 2000-2018



**Alzheimer's is the only cause of death among the top 10 that cannot be prevented, cured, or even slowed.**

- Between 2000 and 2018, annual deaths from Alzheimer's increased 146%, while the overall number of deaths in America increased 18%.
- From 2000 to 2018, deaths from 3 of the 10 leading causes of death decreased. Among those that increased, Alzheimer's experienced by far the greatest increase.