



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

What people in WISCONSIN are saying...

Impact of Alzheimer's in Wisconsin:

110,000 people 65 years and older with Alzheimer's in 2010

188,140 caregivers provided unpaid care valued at over **\$2.5 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 Wisconsin. 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

*"It's hard enough to help a loved one who is confused **when you are confused yourself** about how best to help them." – Green Bay, WI*

*"There were countless medications to treat Mom's cancer. There were also many treatment options to deal with any side effects caused by the medications. **My dad had Alzheimer's for 16 years. During that entire time, there were only two medications he could try.** In both cases, it was questionable if they did any good at all. There were no other options." – Sheboygan, WI*

*"Please (not just for us but for everybody that has to deal with this horrible disease), please **keep research advancing to end this nightmare** that so many people have to live with every day." – Beloit, WI*

*"**Managing care across different doctors and care settings is very difficult.** I don't know how a person could do it successfully without a constant advocate like I am for my mom." – Madison, WI*

*"**We need to provide support for the in-home caregivers.** The family members caring for loved ones with this disease do not get any respite from the caregiving. We need to provide these families with assistance to bring in outside help in order [so] they can get a well deserved break." – Rhinelander, WI*

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