

The Growing Worldwide Impact of Alzheimer's Disease

Alzheimer's Disease - Unmet Need. No Cure or Treatment.

- Alzheimer's disease is a degenerative brain disease. In fact, it is the most common form of dementia, possibly contributing to as many as 60 to 80 percent of all dementia cases.^{i, ii, xx}
- Currently there is neither a cure nor a treatment that addresses the underlying cause of Alzheimer's disease, which gradually destroys a person's memory and ability to learn, reason, use sound judgment, communicate and independently carry out daily activities like bathing and eating.^{i, ii, iii, iv}
- As Alzheimer's disease progresses, individuals may also experience changes in personality and behavior, such as anxiety, suspiciousness or agitation, delusions or hallucinations.^{iv}
- Alzheimer's patients in the severe stage of the disease are often completely dependent on others for care.^{iv}
- Worldwide research suggests that as many as 50 percent of people living with dementia in high-income countries such as the United States have not received a formal diagnosis. Low and middle-income countries have a much higher percentage of those who have not received a formal diagnosis, with one study suggesting that up to 90 percent of cases remain unidentified. People with unidentified cases do not have access to the treatment, care and support that a diagnosis can provide.^{v, vi}

Global Prevalence and Cost of Alzheimer's Disease

- Lack of awareness is a global problem, leading to misunderstandings of Alzheimer's disease.^{vii} Some people may not realize that Alzheimer's disease is not a normal part of aging.^{vii}
- As our population ages, the prevalence of Alzheimer's increases.^{vii} According to the World Health Organization and Alzheimer's Disease International 2012 Dementia Report, it is estimated that there were 35.6 million people with dementia, including Alzheimer's disease, worldwide in 2010. This number is projected to nearly double every 20 years, increasing to 65.7 million in 2030, and 115.4 million in 2050.^{xx}
- It is estimated that there are nearly 7.7 million new cases of dementia each year worldwide, which is equivalent to approximately one new case every four seconds.^{xx}
- A number of countries have instituted policies, plans or strategic approaches to address the growing prevalence of dementia. These plans seek to improve the quality of life of people living with dementia and their caregivers. Several countries, including France, Australia and England, have specific plans in place to address dementia, including Alzheimer's disease, while a number of other countries, such as the United States, China and India, are currently developing national approaches.^{xx}

- While most cases of Alzheimer’s disease are diagnosed in individuals more than age 60, symptoms may appear in people younger than 60 years old.^{viii}
- The worldwide direct and indirect costs of dementia, including Alzheimer’s disease, are estimated to exceed one percent of global gross domestic product (GDP) in 2010, at more than US\$600 billion.^{vii}
- An aging global population will result in an increased number of people living with Alzheimer’s disease, and an increased burden on caregivers and public health systems worldwide.^{i, vii}
- Alzheimer’s is the 6th leading cause of death in the United States. In fact, it is estimated that more than 5 million people in the United States have Alzheimer’s.^{vi, ix}
- In the United States, the costs of providing care for people with Alzheimer’s disease are estimated to increase from US\$200 billion in 2012 to more than US\$1.1 trillion in 2050.^x It has been estimated that if current Alzheimer’s disease trends continue in the United States, total Federal Medicare spending to treat beneficiaries with the disease will increase from US\$62 billion in 2000 to US \$189 billion in 2015.^{xi}

Far-Reaching Effects: Burden of Alzheimer’s Disease on Caregivers, Families, and Society.

- One of the greatest challenges of Alzheimer’s disease is the burden it places on families, caregivers and friends.ⁱⁱⁱ There remains a significant need to advance treatment options that change the course of Alzheimer’s disease, improve patient outcomes and reduce the burden on caregivers.^{vii} Caring for a person with Alzheimer’s disease can be overwhelming, and research shows that caregivers themselves often are at increased risk for depression and illness, especially if they do not receive adequate support from family, friends and the community.^{xii, xiii}
- In a United States survey of working caregivers providing unpaid care for people age 50 and older with Alzheimer’s disease, two-thirds reported that they missed work because of their caregiving responsibilities. In addition, 14 percent gave up work entirely or chose early retirement; 13 percent cut back on their work hours or took a less demanding job; 8 percent turned down a promotion; and 7 percent lost job benefits.^{xiv}
- In 2011, more than 15 million (unpaid) caregivers of people with Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias in the United States provided an estimated 17.4 billion hours of unpaid care, a contribution to the nation valued at more than US\$210 billion.^{vi}
- When utilized earlier in the disease course, caregiver interventions may be more effective in allowing caregivers to provide care at home.^v
- Additionally, an early diagnosis allows people with Alzheimer’s and other dementias to make important decisions about their future while they still have the capacity to do so.^v

- Evidence suggests that initial feelings of shock, anger and grief are balanced by a sense of reassurance and empowerment when both people with dementia and their families are well prepared and supported.^v

ⁱ Alzheimer's Association. *Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures 2007*. Washington, DC: Alzheimer's Association; 2007.

ⁱⁱ Tiraboschi P, Hansen LA, Thal LJ, Corey-Bloom J. The importance of neuritic plaques and tangles to the development and evolution of AD. *Neurology*. 2004;62:1984-1989.

ⁱⁱⁱ Alzheimer's Disease International. *World Alzheimer Report 2009*. <http://www.alz.co.uk/research/files/WorldAlzheimerReport.pdf>. Accessed June 1, 2010.

^{iv} National Institute on Aging. *Alzheimer's Disease: Unraveling the Mystery*. Bethesda, MD: National Institutes of Health; US Dept of Health and Human Services; 2003. NIH publication 02-3782.

^v Alzheimer's Disease International. *World Alzheimer Report 2011: the benefits of early diagnosis and intervention*.

www.alz.co.uk/research/WorldAlzheimerReport2011.pdf. Accessed October 26, 2011.

^{vi} Alzheimer's Association. 2012 Alzheimer's disease facts and figures. *Alzheimer's and Dementia: The Journal of the Alzheimer's Association*. March 2012; 8:131-168.

^{vii} Alzheimer's Disease International. *World Alzheimer Report 2010*. <http://www.alz.co.uk/research/files/WorldAlzheimerReport2010.pdf>. Published September 21, 2010. Accessed September 28, 2010.

^{viii} Brookmeyer R, Johnson E, Ziegler-Graham K, Arrighi HM. Forecasting the global burden of Alzheimer's disease. *Alzheimers Dement*. 2007;3(3):186-191. doi:10.1016/j.jalz.2007.04.381.

^{ix} NIA 2008 Progress Report. National Institute on Aging. *2008 Progress Report on Alzheimer's Disease: Moving Discovery Forward*. Bethesda, MD: National Institutes of Health; 2009. NIH Publication Number: 09-7378.

^x Murphy SL, Xu J, Kochanek KD. Deaths: preliminary data for 2010. *National Vital Statistics Reports*. 2012;60(4). Hyattsville, MD: National center for health statistics. 2012. http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/mvstr/supp/mv45_11s2.pdf.

^{xi} Alzheimer's Association. *Changing the Trajectory of Alzheimer's Disease: A National Imperative*. http://www.alz.org/documents_custom/trajectory.pdf. Accessed June 1, 2010.

^{xii} National Institute on Aging. *Alzheimer's Disease: Unraveling the Mystery*. Bethesda, MD: National Institutes of Health; US Dept of Health and Human Services; 2008. NIH publication 08-3782. <http://www.nia.nih.gov/Alzheimers/Publications/Unraveling>.

^{xiii} National Institute on Aging, National Institutes of Health. *Caregiver Guide: Tips for Caregivers of People with Alzheimer's Disease*. Bethesda, MD: National Institutes of Health; US Dept of Health and Human Services; 2010. NIH

^{xiv} Alzheimer's Association, National Alliance for Caregiving. *Who Cares? Families Caring for Persons With Alzheimer's Disease*. Washington, DC: Alzheimer's Association. [no publication date available].

^{xv} Alzheimer's Association, National Alliance for Caregiving. *Families Care: Alzheimer's Caregiving in the United States, 2004*. http://www.alz.org/national/documents/report_familiescare.pdf. Accessed June 1, 2010.