

factsheet

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State Government Alzheimer's Disease Plans

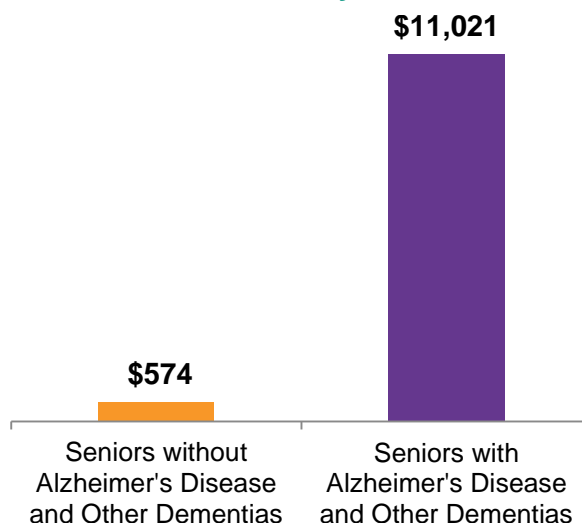
Alzheimer's disease is a pivotal public health issue that state policymakers cannot ignore.

- Today, an estimated 5.3 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's disease, and that number is projected to rise to as many as 16 million by 2050.
- Average per-person Medicaid spending on seniors with Alzheimer's and other dementias is 19 times higher than average per-person Medicaid spending on seniors without these conditions.
- In 2015, Medicaid costs to care for people with Alzheimer's and other dementias will total an estimated \$41 billion – and will rise over 300 percent (before inflation) by 2050.

Most states have a strategic plan to address cancer, diabetes or pandemic flu. States must be equally prepared for the Alzheimer's epidemic.

- A State Alzheimer's Disease Plan is a written report drafted by a group of interested parties, sanctioned by the state government, that explores the current impact of Alzheimer's disease in the state and outlines what steps the state must take over the next 5 to 10 years to improve its services for and support to people with Alzheimer's and their families.
- State Alzheimer's Disease Plans create the infrastructure and accountability necessary to confront the sweeping economic and social impact of this devastating disease.

Average Annual Per-Person Medicaid Payments



The state planning process provides a mechanism to consider the Alzheimer's crisis in a comprehensive fashion.

- The planning process brings to the table all of the essential stakeholders: state agency officials, legislators, business leaders, the legal community, care providers, family caregivers and people living with Alzheimer's.
- States are able to collectively address the full range of Alzheimer's issues, including the availability of diagnostic services, support services for people at all stages of the disease, Medicaid coverage of long-term care for people with Alzheimer's, and the safety of individuals with Alzheimer's who wander.

Once a state has published a State Alzheimer's Disease Plan, it must then work to translate the vision of the Plan into actual public policy.

- States must enact legislation and implement regulations to carry out the recommendations of the plan in order to ensure that it is more than just a document – that it becomes a description of the reality of the state's public policies.
- It will be easier to successfully implement policy changes that improve Alzheimer's care and support because of the consensus-building that is the hallmark of the state planning process.

States must ensure their State Alzheimer's Disease Plans are periodically reviewed and updated.

- Until recently, most states had not updated their state Alzheimer's plans in two decades.
- It is essential that this new generation of state plans become living documents that states and stakeholders regularly consult and re-evaluate. States should annually review their plans and update them every 3 to 5 years.

To read any of the published state plans or for a comparison of the recommendations in the published plans, visit alz.org/stateplans.

States with State Alzheimer's Disease Plans As of June 2015

