



Alzheimer's Disease Facts & Figures¹

- Alzheimer's disease is the most common form of dementia and the sixth leading cause of death in the United States.
- Alzheimer's is a progressive, degenerative, and fatal disease that worsens over time. Studies indicate that people age 65 and older survive an average of 4 to 8 years after a diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease, yet some live as long as 20 years with Alzheimer's.
- The greatest known risk factor is aging. Most people with the disease are over 65 but up to 5% of Alzheimer's cases are early onset or younger-onset Alzheimer's which appears in people in their 40s and 50s.
- Growing evidence indicates those with vascular disease – including diabetes, high blood pressure, and high cholesterol – can have higher risks of Alzheimer's disease.
- The number of Americans with Alzheimer's is projected to rise by more than 55% by 2030. By 2050 the Alzheimer's Association estimates that number will explode to nearly 14 million unless prevention or a cure is found. Costs in care could exceed \$1 trillion.
- African-Americans are about twice as likely as whites to have Alzheimer's or another dementia. Hispanics are about one and one-half times as likely.
- Women have a higher risk of developing Alzheimer's disease. In fact, among the more than 5 million people over age 65 living with Alzheimer's – nearly two-thirds are women.
- In 2015, more than 15 million caregivers provided an estimated 18.1 billion hours of unpaid care valued at more than \$221.3 billion.
- In 2016, Alzheimer's and other dementias will cost the United States \$236 billion.
- Six in 10 people with dementia will wander and become lost; many do so repeatedly. Wandering can occur at any stage of the disease. If not found within 24 hours, up to half of wandering individuals will suffer serious injury or death.
- There is no way to prevent Alzheimer's, but there is evidence suggesting that lifestyle strategies for healthy aging can reduce cognitive decline and improve brain health. Some of these strategies include maintaining a healthy weight; managing and reducing stress; exercising both body and mind; avoiding tobacco and excess alcohol; and staying socially connected.

Created in partnership with the [Alzheimer's Association](#) and [Dementia Friendly America](#).
For more information, visit www.pbs.org/EveryMinuteCounts.

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