



# Social Determinants of Alzheimer's Disease

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# What is the burden of Alzheimer's disease in the United States and Alaska?

- ▶ One of the top 10 leading causes of death in the United States.
- ▶ The 6<sup>TH</sup> leading cause of death among US adults.
- ▶ The 5<sup>TH</sup> leading cause of death among adults aged 65–85 years.
- ▶ **The 9<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death in Alaska**





# U.S. and Alaska Alzheimer's Statistics

- ▶ Over 5 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's and as many as 16 million will have the disease in 2050.
- ▶ The cost of care is estimated to total \$214 billion in 2014, increasing to \$1.2 trillion by mid century.
- ▶ Nearly one in every three seniors who dies each year has Alzheimer's or another dementia.
- ▶ Number of people aged 65 and older with Alzheimer's by age in Alaska

Year	65-74	75-84	85+	TOTAL
2014	1,100	2,000	2,200	6,100
2020	1,600	3,000	3,000	8,500
2025	1,900	5,000	4,000	11,000

- ▶ 2014 Alzheimer's Association Disease Facts and Figures Report ([alz.org/facts](http://alz.org/facts))

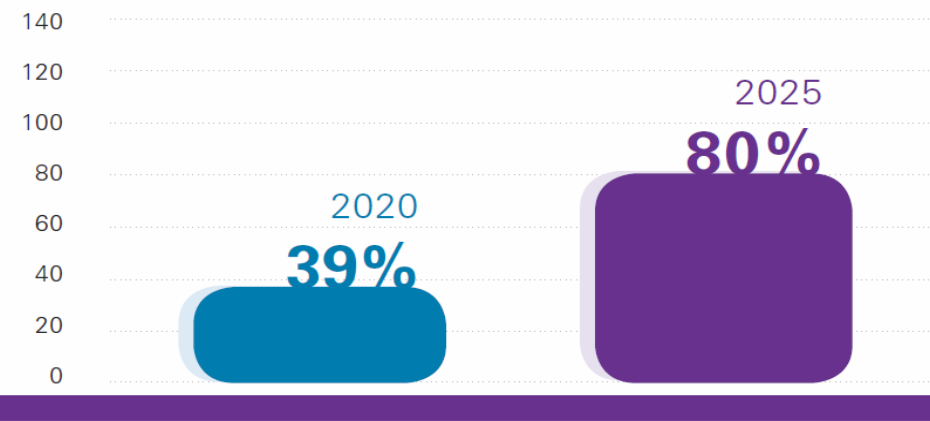
Percentage of seniors  
with Alzheimer's disease

9%

Number of Alzheimer's and dementia caregivers,  
hours of unpaid care, and costs of caregiving

Year	Number of Caregivers <i>(in thousands)</i>	Total Hours of Unpaid Care <i>(in millions)</i>	Total Value of Unpaid Care <i>(in millions)</i>	Higher Health Costs of Caregivers <i>(in millions)</i>
2011	32	37	\$443	\$24
2012	33	37	\$459	\$26
2013	33	37	\$466	\$26

Percentage change from 2014 in the number  
of seniors living with Alzheimer's disease



Number of deaths from  
Alzheimer's disease in 2010

- 81% increase in Alzheimer's deaths since 2000

85

# Leading Social Determinants Related to Alzheimer's disease and other dementia in Alaska

- ▶ DENIAL
- ▶ Economic Inequality
- ▶ Dependence upon family caregivers for support, 24/7 care.
- ▶ Limited access to preventive care.
- ▶ Inability to obtain health care coverage until other health problems appear.
- ▶ Warehousing of people with Alzheimer's during moderate to severe stages.

# The 6 pillars of Alzheimer's prevention



# Partial Answer to Health Care Disparities in Alaska

## Single Payer Health Care System

(Medicare for All)


Covers everyone under a single, publicly financed insurance plan that provides comprehensive health care.

- ▶ **Access to Prevention:** Giving everyone access to primary care without cost barriers reduces how many people get sick in the first place.
- ▶ **Early Intervention:** Allowing everyone to have a regular source of care, without cost barriers, allows us to catch illness and injury before it becomes serious and expensive to treat.
- ▶ **Reducing Insurance Overhead:** Private insurance companies spend from 10% to 30% of every health care dollar on overhead; public insurance less than 5%. Single payer plans don't need to advertise or compete on a market.
- ▶ **Reducing Provider Overhead:** When hospitals and physicians send all their bills to one payer (the public insurance plan), they don't need a billing department to juggle different forms for hundreds of insurance companies, and *each doctor and each health care practitioner* wastes less of their time on paperwork and devotes more time to actual care.
- ▶ **Bulk Purchasing Power:** When there is only one payer for basic medical services and goods, that payer can bargain the best possible prices, and make sure that middle-men aren't overcharging patients. This in particular drives down the cost of prescription drugs.
- ▶ **Power of Health Insurance Companies Disappears:** No longer in charge of setting prices and life-and-death treatment decisions. \$300 Billion saved in administrative costs, waste, and profit.
- ▶ **Money Saved:** Drug prices cut by 40% or more. Single record data base. Prevention emphasized. No more personal bankruptcy.
- ▶ **Cost:** Rather than paying premiums and deductibles, citizens will pay taxes which will be less than the premiums and deductibles now paid.





Please put Alzheimer's disease care on the State of AK health policy agenda. It's imperative!



# Resources

**alz.org®** | alzheimer's association®



<http://www.alzalaska.org/>  
907-561-3313



[www.alaskaaging.org](http://www.alaskaaging.org)

## Alaska's Roadmap to Address Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias

<http://dhss.alaska.gov/acoa/Documents/documents/Alaskas-Roadmap-to-Address-ADRD.pdf>

