

## FACT SHEET

CONTACT: Toni Williams: 202.638.8666, [toni.williams@alz.org](mailto:toni.williams@alz.org)

### **Alzheimer's Association Report** *2007 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures*

#### Prevalence

- In 2007, it is estimated that there are now more than 5 million people living with Alzheimer's disease in the United States. This includes 4.9 million people over the age of 65 and between 200,000 and 500,000 people under age 65 with early onset Alzheimer's disease and other dementias.
- One out of eight people age 65 and older has Alzheimer's and nearly one out of two over age 85 has it.
- Age is the greatest risk factor for Alzheimer's. A small percentage of Alzheimer cases is caused by rare, genetic variations found in a few hundred families worldwide.
- Only 19 percent of people with Alzheimer's and other dementias actually have the diagnosis recorded in their medical records.
- Seventy (70) percent of people with Alzheimer's and other dementias live at home, cared for by family and friends.
- Seventy (70) percent of nursing home residents have some degree of cognitive impairment; 47 percent of all nursing home residents have a diagnosis of Alzheimer's or another form of dementia in their medical records.

#### Mortality

- Alzheimer's disease is the seventh leading cause of death for people in the United States; and the fifth leading cause of death for those over the age of 65.
- From 2000 to 2004, deaths from Alzheimer's disease increased by 32.8 percent. Deaths from heart disease decreased by 8 percent, breast cancer deaths decreased by 2.6 percent, prostate cancer deaths decreased by 6.3 percent, and stroke deaths decreased by 10.4 percent.
  - In fact, the number of deaths caused by Alzheimer's may be under-reported because persons with the disease usually have one or more serious co-existing conditions, such as heart disease or stroke, which end up being cited on death certificates.
- People with Alzheimer's in general have decreased survival in the general population. One study noted that people with Alzheimer's survive about half as long as those of similar age who didn't have Alzheimer's. Survival time was four to six years after diagnosis, but survival time can be as long as 20 years from the detection of the first symptoms.

## Cost of Alzheimer's Disease

- Direct and indirect costs of Alzheimer's and other dementia's amount to more than \$148 billion annually.
- In 2005, Medicare spent \$91 billion on beneficiaries with Alzheimer's and other dementias and that number is projected to more than double to \$189 billion by 2015.
- The medical costs of those with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias are more than double the amount of those without when one or more other chronic conditions, such as coronary heart disease and diabetes, is present.
- Almost 10 million Americans are caring for a person with Alzheimer's or another dementia; approximately one out of three of these caregivers is 60 years or older.
- In 2005, it is estimated that unpaid caregivers of people with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias provided 8.5 billion hours of care valued at almost \$83 billion dollars.
- More than half of the states in America provide more than a billion dollars in unpaid care each year. The leading states are: California (\$8.5 billion), Texas (\$5.8 billion), New York (\$5.2 billion), Florida (\$4.6 billion), Pennsylvania (\$3.6 billion).

# # #