

African Americans Against Alzheimer's

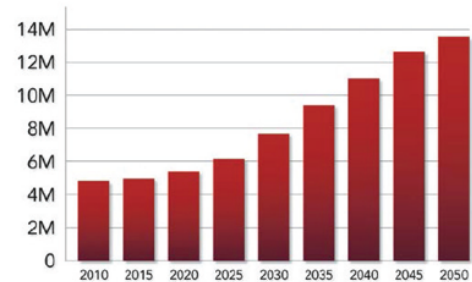
A Network of *Us* Against Alzheimer's

2017 FACTS

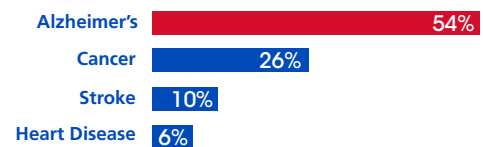
What Is Alzheimer's Disease?

- Alzheimer's is one of the great health crises of our time. An estimated 5.4 million Americans have it.ⁱ That number is expected to more than double by 2050 without a treatment to stop or slow its progress.ⁱⁱ
- Although Alzheimer's prevalence is growing, no new treatments for it have been approved by the FDA in more than a decade.ⁱⁱⁱ
- Alzheimer's disease is the most common form of dementia. It is progressive, starting with mild memory loss and often leading to loss of conversational ability and responsiveness to one's environment. It can seriously affect the ability to carry out daily activities.
- Alzheimer's is not a normal part of aging. It destroys parts of the brain responsible for thought, memory, language, learning, decision-making and behavior. It also leads to loss of motor abilities like walking and swallowing. It is eventually fatal.
- Scientists are learning more every day but still do not know exactly what causes Alzheimer's.

Alzheimer's Incidence, U.S.



Most Feared Diseases



Marist Institute for Public Opinion, 2014

Only 45% of people with Alzheimer's report being told of their diagnosis, compared with 90% of people with leading types of cancer.¹

Impact of Alzheimer's on African Americans

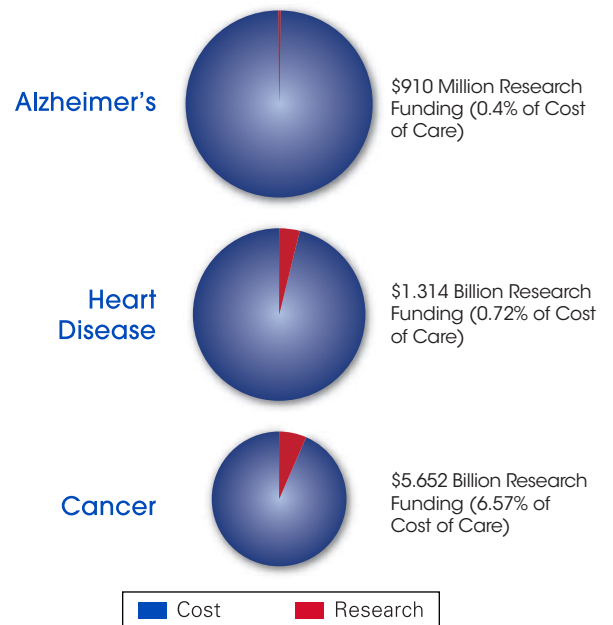
- African Americans are two to three times more likely than non-Hispanic white Americans to develop Alzheimer's.^{iv}
- Alzheimer's disease is the 6th leading cause of death overall in the U.S. For older African Americans, it is the 4th leading cause.^v
- Racial differences in genetic risk factors do not appear to account fully for these disparities.^{vi}
- African Americans are less likely than non-Hispanic whites to be diagnosed with Alzheimer's and are often diagnosed at a more advanced stage.^{vii}
- African Americans represented 13.2% of the U.S. population in 2013; they will represent 17.9% by 2060. More than half live in the South.^{viii}

The Urgent Need for Research

- Alzheimer's has no definitive cause. Unlike other major diseases, there are no treatments to slow or stop its progression. Researchers are studying whether education, diet and environment play a role.
- African Americans are particularly affected, but we are just beginning to understand why. Scientists are studying the role of high blood pressure, heart disease, diabetes and stroke — which are known Alzheimer's risk factors and are more common in older African Americans.^{ix}
- Up to 90% of what we know about Alzheimer's has been discovered in the past 15 years, thanks in large part to people who have participated in clinical trials.

The Economic Realities of Alzheimer's Disease

- In 2014, the cost of care for Alzheimer's and other dementias in the United States was as much as **\$226 billion**ⁱ — more than for heart disease or cancer.
- As the nation's older and minority populations grow, these costs will rise dramatically. Alzheimer's is expected to cost the U.S. **more than \$1.1 trillion annually by 2050**.ⁱⁱ This represents a five-fold increase in both government spending and out-of-pocket costs to families.
- African Americans who leave the workforce to care for an affected family member lose on average more than \$300,000 in earnings, pensions and Social Security benefits^x and are more than three times as likely to live in poverty as similarly situated white Americans. On average, African Americans spend more time caregiving — roughly 30 hours/week — than non-Hispanic whites.^{xi}
- In 2010, the average American family spent \$41,000 to \$56,000 caring for a relative with Alzheimer's.^{xii}
- The U.S. government commits a fraction of research funds to Alzheimer's (around \$900 million annually) compared to other top diseases.^{xiii} Taxpayers spend nearly 250 times more on Alzheimer's care as on research.



Sources: NIH; Alzheimer's Association; American Heart Association; American Society for Clinical Oncology

With strong research investment, heart disease deaths in the U.S. fell by 13% in the past decade. Alzheimer's deaths rose by 68% from 2000 to 2010.^{xiv} Greater investment in Alzheimer's research is the only way to reverse this trend.

About AfricanAmericansAgainstAlzheimer's

AfricanAmericansAgainstAlzheimer's is a network of UsAgainstAlzheimer's, an innovative advocacy organization demanding and delivering a solution to Alzheimer's. AfricanAmericans AgainstAlzheimer's is the preeminent voice in and for the African American community on Alzheimer's and its disproportionate impact on African Americans. Through the play *Forget Me Not*, we reach communities nationwide to build appreciation for and participation in clinical trials by African Americans.

Stand up. Speak out. Overcome.

We can end Alzheimer's by 2020 if we come together.

Text **StopAlzAAN** to **22828** to join us today and stay informed.

www.AfricanAmericansAgainstAlzheimers.org

ⁱ Alzheimer's Association. 2015 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures

ⁱⁱ Herbert et al., 2013; Herbert et al., 2001

ⁱⁱⁱ Cummings et al., 2014

^{iv} Alzheimer's Association 2010 Special Report; Gurland et al., 1999

^v CDC National Vital Statistics Reports, Vol. 65, No. 2

^{vi} Logue et al., 2012; Farrer et al., 1997

^{vii} Clark et al., 2005

^{viii} U.S. Census Bureau

^{ix} Craft, 2009; Kennelly et al., 2009; Newman et al., 2005; Arvanitakis et al., 2004; Honig et al., 2003; Luchsinger et al., 2005

^x MetLife, 2010

^{xi} National Alliance for Caregiving and AARP, 2009

^{xii} Hurd et al./RAND, 2013

^{xiii} National Institutes of Health, 2016

^{xiv} CDC National Vital Statistics Reports, Vol. 61, No. 4 and Vol. 50, No. 15