ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE IN LOS ANGELES

PREVALENCE OF ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE

Of the 5.7 million people in the United States who have Alzheimer’s, over 650,000\(^1\) live in California. By 2025, the number of Californians with Alzheimer’s is expected to increase by 29.2%.\(^2\) Between 2015 and 2030, the number of Angelinos living with Alzheimer’s will more than double. This dramatic increase will affect all race and ethnic groups.

Currently, there are 166,540 Angelinos, age 65 and older (177,000, age 55+), living with Alzheimer’s.

- 10% of the population aged 65 and older
- 35% of population aged 85 and older

By 2030, with the aging of the baby boomers, this number will increase by 40%.
Due to a rapidly aging population, the number of Los Angeles’s Latinos and Asians living with Alzheimer’s will double by 2030.

In this timeframe, the number of African-Americans living with Alzheimer’s will increase by over 30%.

Los Angeles is one of the most ethnically and culturally diverse counties in California. As such, it is important to recognize how current and future population trends in Los Angeles will change the face of Alzheimer’s in the next three decades.

For every person with Alzheimer’s and/or dementia, there are 1 to 3 people providing care. More than 1.6 million Californians provide informal care for someone within their family with dementia.4 In LA County, this could be as many as half a million people. Californians provide an estimated 1.8 million hours of unpaid caregiving, valued at over $23 billion.5

The responsibilities of caregiving can have an impact on an individual’s mental and physical health. Compared with caregivers of people without dementia, twice as many caregivers of people with dementia indicate substantial financial, emotional, and physical difficulties. Fifty-nine percent of family caregivers of people with Alzheimer’s and other dementias rated the emotional stress as high or very high. As a result, caregivers of people living with Alzheimer’s in California had over $1 billion in additional health care cost.6

With the expected increase in the number of people living with Alzheimer’s, the projected cost of the disease is also expected to increase dramatically. Currently, there is $3.3 billion in annual Medi-Cal spending on dementia in California. As shown below, many people with dementia have multiple co-existing conditions.7

![Chart showing the number of people age 65+ with Alzheimer's in LA County, 2015-2030.](chart)

![Chart showing the cost of care per person, per year.](chart)

![Bar chart showing the estimated number of people 65+ with Alzheimer's by race, 2015-2030.](chart)
DEATHS FROM ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE IN LOS ANGELES

Because their populations have a higher proportion of older adults, Los Angeles, San Diego, and Orange counties have the highest percentage of deaths due to Alzheimer’s in the state. Between 2013 and 2015, over 23% of the deaths in California attributed to Alzheimer’s occurred in Los Angeles County. In addition, Alzheimer’s was the third leading cause of death of women, and the eighth leading cause of death of men in Los Angeles County.

CO-EXISTING CONDITIONS FOR PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA

- **Hypertension**: 60%
- **Stroke**: 25%
- **Coronary Heart Disease**: 26%
- **Diabetes**: 23%

The prevalence of coexisting conditions is imperative because a recent study found that people with cognitive impairment and three additional chronic health conditions cost Medicare an average of $50,000 per year. As a result, beneficiaries with moderate to severe cognitive impairment cost Medicare three times more than other beneficiaries in the same age group; this difference is driven primarily by hospitalizations. They cost Medicaid 23 times more than other enrollees of the same age, largely due to nursing home utilizations.

OVERALL IN CALIFORNIA:

- Alzheimer’s is the third leading cause of death.
- Compared to other leading causes of death in Los Angeles County, Alzheimer’s showed the greatest growth. (48% from 2003 - 2012)

PERCENT CHANGES IN SELECTED CAUSES OF DEATH IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY (ALL AGES), 2003-2012

- **Alzheimer’s Disease**
- **Cancer**
- **Liver Disease/Cirrhosis**
- **COPD**
- **Diabetes**
- **Colorectal Cancer**
WHO WE ARE...

a dementia-focused nonprofit with 38 years’ experience serving Greater Los Angeles and the Inland Empire - offering free support and services for individuals and families when they need us most.

HELPLINE
information, emotional support, resources, and referrals

CARE COUNSELING
personalized support and help with care planning in person or by phone

SUPPORT GROUPS
safe places for caregivers and/or those living with a dementia to gather and share information

COMMUNITY OUTREACH & CAREGIVER EDUCATION
culturally sensitive and multi-lingual speakers, presentations, and information; various courses for caregivers

EARLY STAGE PROGRAMS
information, education, Care Counseling, and support groups for those with memory concerns or in the early stages of a dementia along with their care partners

ARTS4ALZ & MEMORY MORNINGS
groups and activities that focus on art, music, cognitive stimulation, socialization, and interactive programs

MEDICALERT FOUND CALIFORNIA
24-hour nationwide response service for wandering and medical emergencies

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING
onsite or web-based trainings for professionals; healthcare, emergency responders, and human resources

ENDNOTES:


2 Ibid., 19


5 Ibid., 36

6 Ibid., 36

7 Bynum JP. Characteristics, Costs, and Health Service Use for Medicare Beneficiaries with a Dementia Diagnosis: Report 1. Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy and Clinical Care (2009).

8 Ibid., 47


10 California Department of Public Health and California Conference of Local Health Officers. County Health Status Profiles 2017. cdph.ca.gov.
