Who is affected by Alzheimer’s Disease?

• An estimated 5.3 million Americans of all ages have Alzheimer’s disease. This figure includes 5.1 million people 65 and older.¹

• One in eight persons 65 and older (13%) have Alzheimer’s disease.¹

• Nearly half of all seniors 85 years and older—2.7 million people—have Alzheimer’s disease.¹

• Every 70 seconds, someone in America develops Alzheimer’s disease. By mid-century, someone will develop Alzheimer’s every 33 seconds.¹

• By 2050, the number of individuals 65 and older with Alzheimer’s is projected to number between 11 million and 16 million. Barring a medical breakthrough, by that date, more than 60% of people with Alzheimer’s disease will be 85 or older.¹

Who Provides Alzheimer’s Care?

• Almost 10 million Americans provide unpaid care for a person with Alzheimer’s disease or other dementia.¹

• About 60% of family and other unpaid caregivers of people with Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias are women.¹

• In 2008, the unpaid caregivers of adults with Alzheimer’s and other dementias provided 8.5 billion hours of care valued at $94 billion.¹

• One study has indicated that about 40% of caregivers of people with Alzheimer’s and other dementias provided more than 40 hours a week of help compared with 28% of caregivers of other older adults.¹

• Compared with those surveyed in 2004, more family caregivers in 2009 said Alzheimer’s or dementia is the main reason their care recipient needed care (8% in 2004 vs. 15% in 2009). In addition, the overall prevalence of Alzheimer’s or mental confusion has increased (22% in 1997, to 25% in 2004, to 30% in 2009).²

Who Needs Help?

• Those who care for Alzheimer’s patients report a higher level of emotional stress than those who care for seniors with other conditions (40% vs. 28%).²

• In the year before their senior with Alzheimer’s or dementia died, 59% of family caregivers felt that they were “on duty” 24 hours a day.¹

• The stress of caregiving was so great that 72% of family caregivers said they experienced relief when the person died.¹

• About one-third of family caregivers of people with Alzheimer’s and other dementias have symptoms of depression.¹

• Caregivers of people who had Alzheimer’s or other dementias with behavioral symptoms are 68% more likely than caregivers of other older people to have reduced their hours or quit work.¹


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Who is affected by Alzheimer’s Disease?

- More than 500,000 Canadians have Alzheimer’s disease or related dementias.¹
- One in 11 Canadians over 65 has dementia.¹
- Women represent 72% of all cases of Alzheimer’s disease, and 62% of overall dementia cases.¹
- In 2008, there were 103,700 new cases of dementia or one new case every five minutes.¹
- By 2038, incidence of Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias will rise to one new case every two minutes or 257,800 new cases.¹

Who Provides Alzheimer’s Care?

- One in five Canadians 45 and older is providing some form of care to seniors who have long-term health problems.²
- For dementia alone, the number of family caregiving hours is expected to more than triple, increasing from approximately 231 million hours in 2008 to 756 million hours by the year 2038.¹
- An estimated 36% of Canadians know someone with Alzheimer’s disease.³
- About 17% of Canadians have someone with Alzheimer’s disease in their immediate family.³

Who Needs Help?

- In 2008, the cost of dementia in Canada was estimated at $15 billion a year. This accounts for direct health costs and indirect costs associated with the provision of unpaid care. This number will reach $153 billion a year by 2038 if nothing changes.¹
- The increase in Canadians 65 and older living at home with dementia is expected to jump from 55% to 62%. This translates into an additional 510,000 people living at home by 2038.¹
- The physical and psychological toll on family caregivers is significant: 40 to 75% of caregivers have psychological illnesses as a result of their caregiving, and 15 to 32% depression.⁴


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