

# FACTSHEET

MARCH 2024

alzimpact.org

## Medicaid and Seniors with Alzheimer's

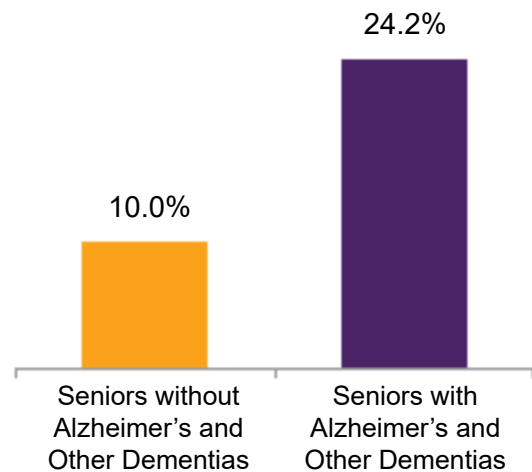
**Alzheimer's is a degenerative disease for which there is no cure. Most people with the disease will eventually be admitted to a nursing home.**

- Of people with Alzheimer's who live from age 70 to age 80, 40% of that time, on average, will be spent in the most severe stage of dementia — often making it difficult or impossible for family and friends to continue to provide care at home.
- At the age of 80, three-fourths of people with Alzheimer's and other dementias live in a nursing home, compared with just 4% of the general population.
- Among all residents of nursing homes, 61% have moderate or severe cognitive impairment, and nearly half of seniors in nursing homes have been diagnosed with some form of dementia.

**It is not uncommon for a person to live for 20 years with Alzheimer's. This, combined with the high cost of nursing home care, means most people with Alzheimer's will ultimately need help from Medicaid.**

- Among seniors with Alzheimer's and other dementias, 24% have both Medicare and Medicaid ("dual-eligible seniors"), compared with just 10% of seniors without Alzheimer's.
- Of all dual-eligible seniors, nearly one-third have been diagnosed with dementia — and 58% have some cognitive or mental impairment.

### Seniors on Both Medicare and Medicaid



**Dual-eligible seniors with Alzheimer's are a huge cost to Medicaid and place a huge strain on state and federal budgets.**

- Average per-person Medicaid spending for seniors with Alzheimer's and other dementias is 22 times greater than average per-person Medicaid spending across all seniors without dementia.
- In 2024, Medicaid will spend an estimated \$68 billion caring for people with Alzheimer's and other dementias.
- Between 2020 and 2025, an estimated 30 states will see Medicaid spending on people with Alzheimer's increase at least 20%, before inflation. And in 2050, Medicaid spending on those with Alzheimer's will total a projected \$186 billion (in 2022 dollars).