

FACTSHEET

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Medicaid and Seniors with Alzheimer's

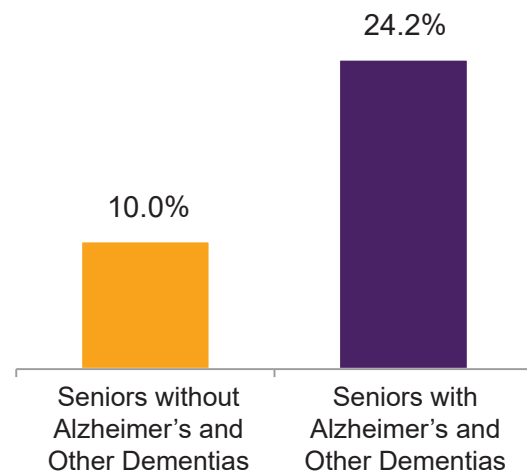
Alzheimer's is a degenerative disease for which there is no cure. Most people with the disease will eventually be admitted to a nursing home.

- 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.
- By the age of 80, three-fourths of people with Alzheimer's and other dementias will be admitted to 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, 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 2023, Medicaid will spend an estimated \$65 billion caring for people with Alzheimer's and other dementias.
- Between 2020 and 2025, 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 today's dollars).