



Changing the Trajectory of Alzheimer's Disease: How a Treatment by 2025 Saves Lives and Dollars

Alzheimer's disease, the most common cause of dementia, is the 6th leading cause of death in the U.S. and the only disease in the top 10 causes of death in the U.S. without a way to prevent, cure or even slow its progression. In 2011, the National Alzheimer's Project Act (NAPA) was signed into law, calling for the development of the country's first-ever national Alzheimer's plan. A year later, the federal government released the *National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease*, which aims to prevent and effectively treat Alzheimer's disease by 2025.

In February 2015, the Alzheimer's Association released a new report examining the potential lives saved and economic impact if the 2025 goal is achieved. The report, *Changing the Trajectory of Alzheimer's Disease: How a Treatment by 2025 Saves Lives and Dollars*, calculates that a treatment introduced in 2025 that delays the onset of Alzheimer's by five years would reduce the number of individuals affected by the disease by 5.7 million by mid-century and save all payers, including Medicare, Medicaid and families, more than \$220 billion within the first five years.

The report reinforces the value of reaching the 2025 goal set by the *National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease* under the National Alzheimer's Project Act. If the federal government were to invest \$2 billion per year as recommended by the scientific community, then it would recoup its investment within the first three years after a treatment became available.

The Impact of Introducing a Hypothetical Treatment in 2025

A treatment introduced in 2025 that delays the onset of Alzheimer's would cut the number of people in 2050 who have the disease by 42% – from 13.5 million to 7.8 million.

While delaying onset, finding a cure and saving lives are the most important goals, bringing some financial relief to the health care system and those affected by the disease is also a top priority. Congress has required the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to submit a professional judgment budget to Congress every fiscal year until 2025 to help guide them in allocating funding for Alzheimer's research.

The Alzheimer's Association's report also shows the positive impact of adequate funding and the potential consequences of under-funding.

- In 2015, the costs to all payers for the care of people living with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias will total an estimated \$226 billion, with Medicare and Medicaid paying 68 percent of the costs. Without a treatment costs are projected to increase to more than \$1.1 trillion in 2050.

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- Reaching the 2025 goal would save payers \$220 billion over five years and \$367 billion in the year 2050 alone. Savings to Medicare and Medicaid would account for nearly 60 percent of the savings.
- People living with Alzheimer's and other dementias and their families would save \$54 billion over the first five years in their out-of-pocket costs if the 2025 goal is met.

The Alzheimer's Association is working closely with the federal government to ensure the plan and goals outlined under NAPA are being executed and met. A full text of the Alzheimer's Association *Changing the Trajectory of Alzheimer's Disease: How a Treatment by 2025 Saves Lives and Dollars* can be viewed at www.alz.org/trajectory.

About the Alzheimer's Association

The Alzheimer's Association is the world's leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer's care, support and research. It is the largest nonprofit funder of Alzheimer's research. The Association's mission is to eliminate Alzheimer's disease through the advancement of research; to provide and enhance care and support for all affected; and to reduce the risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health. Its vision is a world without Alzheimer's. Visit www.alz.org or call 800.272.3900.

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