

# FACTSHEET

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## State Alzheimer's Disease Plans

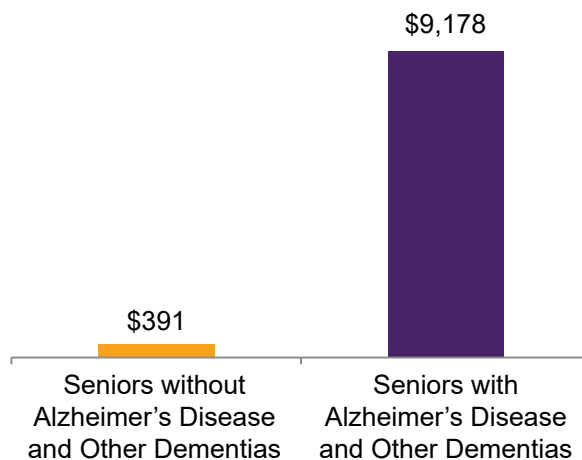
**Alzheimer's is a large and growing public health crisis that state policymakers cannot ignore.**

- Today, more than 6 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's, and that number is expected to more than double by 2050.
- Average per-person Medicaid spending for seniors with Alzheimer's and other dementias is 23 times greater than average per-person Medicaid spending across all seniors without dementia.
- In 2021, caring for people with Alzheimer's will cost Medicaid an estimated \$59 billion — and will rise by more than 200% (before inflation) by 2050.

**States develop their response to this crisis by engaging advocates, legislators, public health officials, and social service agencies in the creation of a State Alzheimer's Disease Plan.**

- Each state has its own unique gaps and needs, and a state-specific plan can recommend tailored policies to better serve those living with dementia and their families.
- State Alzheimer's Disease Plans establish accountability by helping to ensure policymakers create the infrastructure necessary to address the growing crisis.
- When successfully implemented by state legislatures and state agencies, state plans result in a timely and effective response to Alzheimer's disease.

### Average Annual Per Person Medicaid Spending



### What Can States Do?

- Advance legislation or state agency directives to update and implement State Alzheimer's Disease Plans.
- Designate a state agency to lead the implementation of the state plan.
- Establish a workgroup of state officials (including public health, aging, social services, and Medicaid), advocacy stakeholders, and professional care providers.
- Implement state policy changes as recommended in the state plan, including establishing an infrastructure that serves the needs of those with the disease and their caregivers.

**Since 2007, 49 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico have published State Alzheimer's Disease Plans.**

- Common recommendations in state plans include increasing education and awareness of the disease; promoting early detection and diagnosis; expanding access to home and community-based services; and addressing workforce shortages.
- Many states have also addressed other issues, including health care system capacity; quality of care; legal issues; funding for medical research; and safety.

**States must ensure their State Alzheimer's Disease Plans are implemented — and then periodically reviewed and updated.**

- Following publication of a state plan, states must work to make the plan's consensus-developed recommendations a reality.
- States should measure the impact of the new policies and their effectiveness in improving the lives of those with Alzheimer's and their families.
- To ensure the plans — and state policies — reflect the current needs and best practices, states must update their plans every three to five years.

**States with State Alzheimer's Disease Plans**  
By Year Created/Updated

