

LEXINGTON, Ky. (WTVQ/Press Release) – Kentucky’s 6th and 2nd congressional districts, which cover Lexington and surrounding areas and Louisville respectively, have among the nation’s highest prevalence levels of Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias (ADRD) among Black and Latino Americans in the traditional Medicare program, according to a new [analysis](#) by the UsAgainstAlzheimer’s Center for Brain Health Equity.

The data brief found that KY-6 ranks thirteenth in the list of districts where Black Americans are most impacted by Alzheimer’s with an average prevalence level of Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias (ADRD) of 9.16%, while KY-2 ranks 21st with average of 8.12% according to Medicare Fee for Service 2016 data.

UsAgainstAlzheimer’s and the [Urban Institute](#), with support from the [National Minority Quality Forum\(NMQF\)](#), analyzed Medicare and other socioeconomic data to identify trends related to social determinants of health (SDOH) in the communities most impacted by Alzheimer’s. SDOH that impacted Alzheimer’s diagnosis included household income, health insurance, and access to exercise opportunities.

With 8,387 people living with ADRD in KY-6, and 9,431 people living with ADRD in KY-2, the total Medicare fee-for-service costs spent on ADRD beneficiaries in the district totaled \$187,889,421 (KY-6) and \$199,589,874 (KY-2) in 2016.

Addressing the impact of ADRD on Black and Latino families will require public health policy interventions at the local and national levels.

“A greater understanding of Alzheimer’s and the ways to prevent, delay, or treat the disease is creating new hope for millions of individuals and families, but ensuring that hope reaches all families regardless of race, ethnicity, income, or zip code will take greater commitment, investment, and policy change centered in health equity and social change,” said **Stephanie**

Monroe, executive director of AfricanAmericansAgainstAlzheimer's, a network of UsAgainstAlzheimer's.

Despite higher risk of diagnosis, Black and Latino Americans living with dementia are:

- **Less likely** than White patients to receive a timely diagnosis
- **More likely** to report experiencing racial discrimination along their patient and caregiver journeys
- **Less likely** to be enrolled in cutting edge Alzheimer's and brain health research.

By identifying the 41 congressional districts that correspond with the top 25 counties where Black and Latino Americans are most impacted by Alzheimer's, the brief highlights the pervasive systemic inequities that might contribute to higher rates of ADRD diagnoses among communities of color.

"Where people are born, live, learn, work, and play can have a profound effect on a person's health, including their risk for Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, and these social determinants of health cause a ripple effect of inequities, including in brain health among Latino and Black Americans," said Jason Resendez, Executive Director of the UsAgainstAlzheimer's Center for Brain Health Equity. "There has never been a more urgent time to bend the curve of the Alzheimer's in communities of color. If nothing is done, by 2030, nearly 40 percent of all Americans living with Alzheimer's will be Latino or Black."

The data brief has inspired UsAgainstAlzheimer's to call on Congress and the White House to take action in four policy areas:

- Invest in public health, treatment, and research infrastructure in communities hard-hit by Alzheimer's and related dementias.
- Invest in educational and economic opportunity to reduce social inequities.
- Establish an ambitious national goal to prevent Alzheimer's disease and related dementias and address disparities in diagnosis.
- Collect better data to identify and address gaps in access to Alzheimer's health services and research for underserved communities.

A link to the full data brief can be found [here](#).