

# **BUILDING BETTER OUTCOMES:**

**Partnering to Support Health Systems  
in Alzheimer's Detection,  
Diagnosis and Care**

alzheimer's  association®

# Agenda



Introduction  
and Overview



Partnering With  
the Alzheimer's  
Association



Why It's a Priority:  
Alzheimer's Care  
and Cost



Developing a  
Strategic  
Partnership



## Goals of the Alzheimer's Association's Health Systems Initiative:

- To support providers with strategies and solutions that can ensure quality care for people living with dementia
- To understand the needs of providers so we can help them meet the complex care needs of individuals and families





## **The Association works with health systems and clinicians to:**

- Improve health outcomes
- Enhance the patient experience
- Reduce the burden on clinicians
- More effectively manage the cost of care





More than 6 million Americans aged 65 and older have Alzheimer's and nearly 12.7 million will have the disease by 2050.

In Washington state today, 120,000 people over the age of 65 have Alzheimer's Disease or other related Dementias. This number is expected to increase to 140,000 people by 2025.



\$

In 2021, Alzheimer's and other dementias will cost the nation \$355 billion.

By 2050, these costs could rise as high as **\$1.1 trillion.**





**94%** of primary care physicians say it's important to assess seniors for cognitive impairment.

**82%** of seniors believe it is important to have their thinking and memory checked.

**But only half of seniors are being assessed for cognitive decline.**





Partnering for  
Change



As a leader in dementia care and a trusted resource by all those affected, we are uniquely positioned to work with you to support clinicians across your health system.





**We seek to partner with national, regional and local health systems.**

Through the consulting services of Alzheimer's Association, Health Systems Directors will help identify custom solutions to transform your dementia care practice.





## Health Systems Directors

We also work across health systems through a gap analysis process, utilizing Quality Improvement (QI) best practices, to help identify specific areas of opportunity to improve desired outcomes for your patients.

**Then, we will create customized, solution-based recommendations tailored to meet your needs and priorities.**



Practice Change



Systems Change



Quality Improvement  
Projects

With the Association's  
guidance and support,  
your health system can

**IMPROVE HEALTH  
OUTCOMES**





## ● **ENHANCE THE PATIENT EXPERIENCE**

Ensure clear communication that provides educated answers and well-planned next steps, so that individuals and their families can:

- **Access care services**
- **Make future financial plans**
- **Participate in clinical trials**



## REDUCE THE BURDEN ON CLINICIANS

Empower clinicians with:

- **Training**
- **Resources**
- **Support**

to deliver a difficult diagnosis and provide follow-up care through an interdisciplinary approach that optimizes the roles of all members of the health care team.



## **MORE EFFECTIVELY MANAGE THE COST OF CARE**

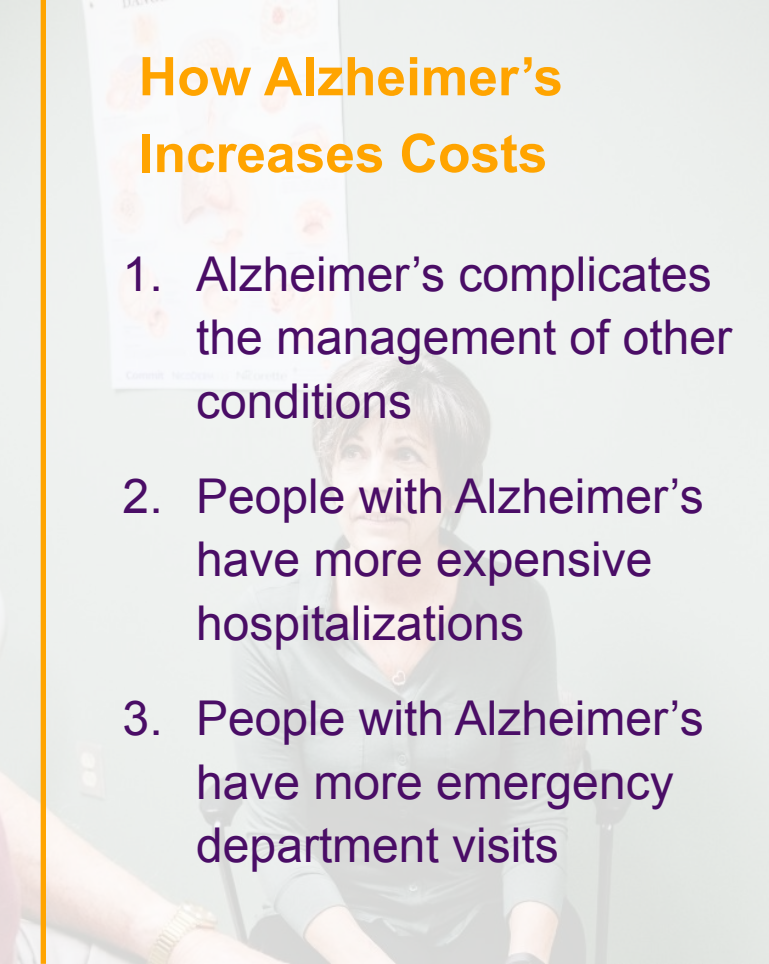
When patients are diagnosed with dementia earlier in the disease process, treatment can be modified with knowledge of a patient's cognitive impairment.





## How Alzheimer's Increases Costs

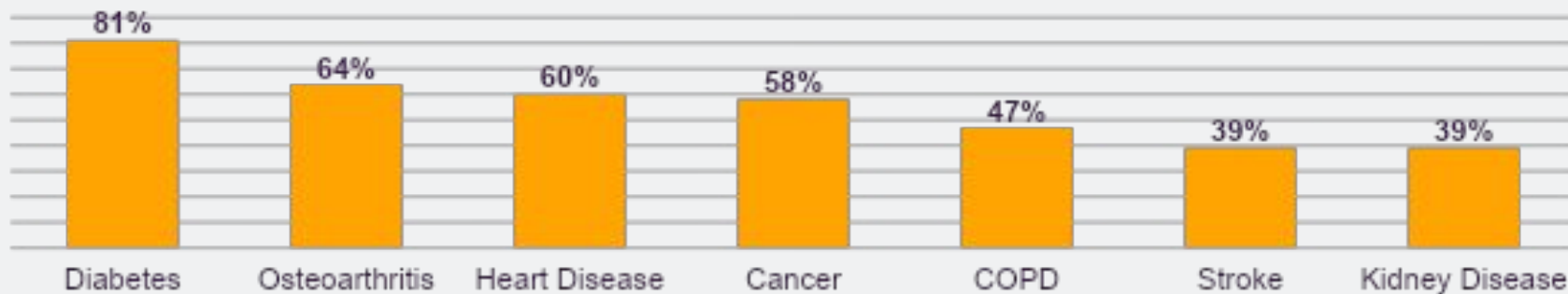
1. Alzheimer's complicates the management of other conditions
2. People with Alzheimer's have more expensive hospitalizations
3. People with Alzheimer's have more emergency department visits



# The Importance of **Detecting and Managing Comorbidities**

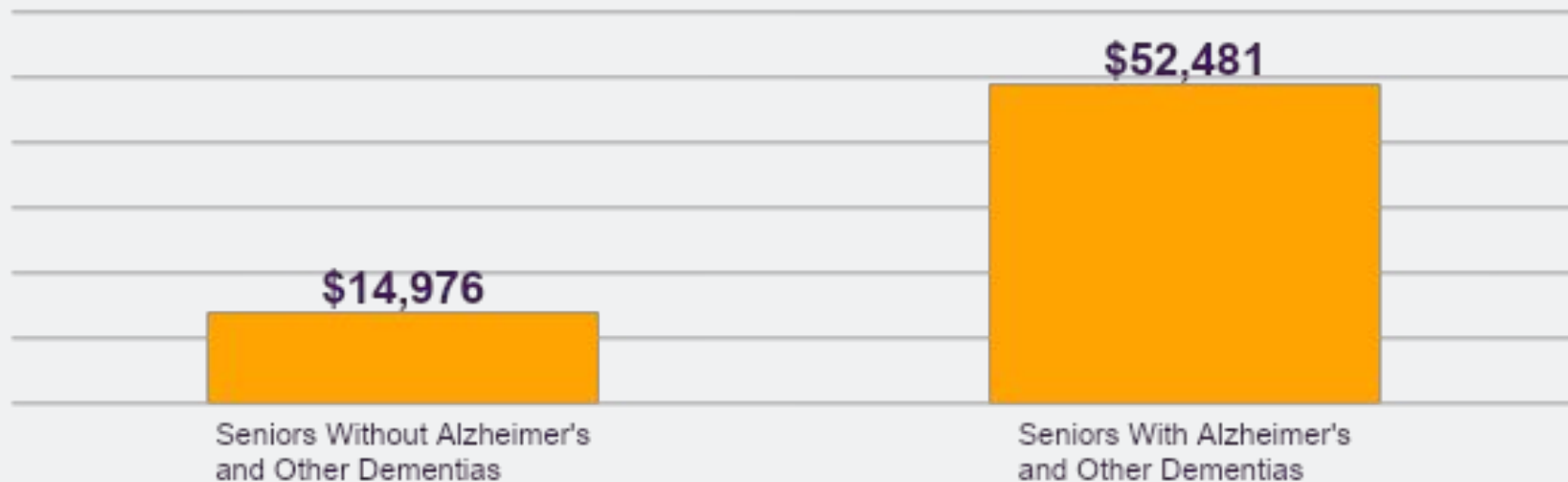
- More than 95% of people living with Alzheimer's have at least one other chronic condition
- Mismanagement or additional management increases health care costs

*Average Increase in Medicare Costs When Senior With Specified Condition Also Has Alzheimer's*



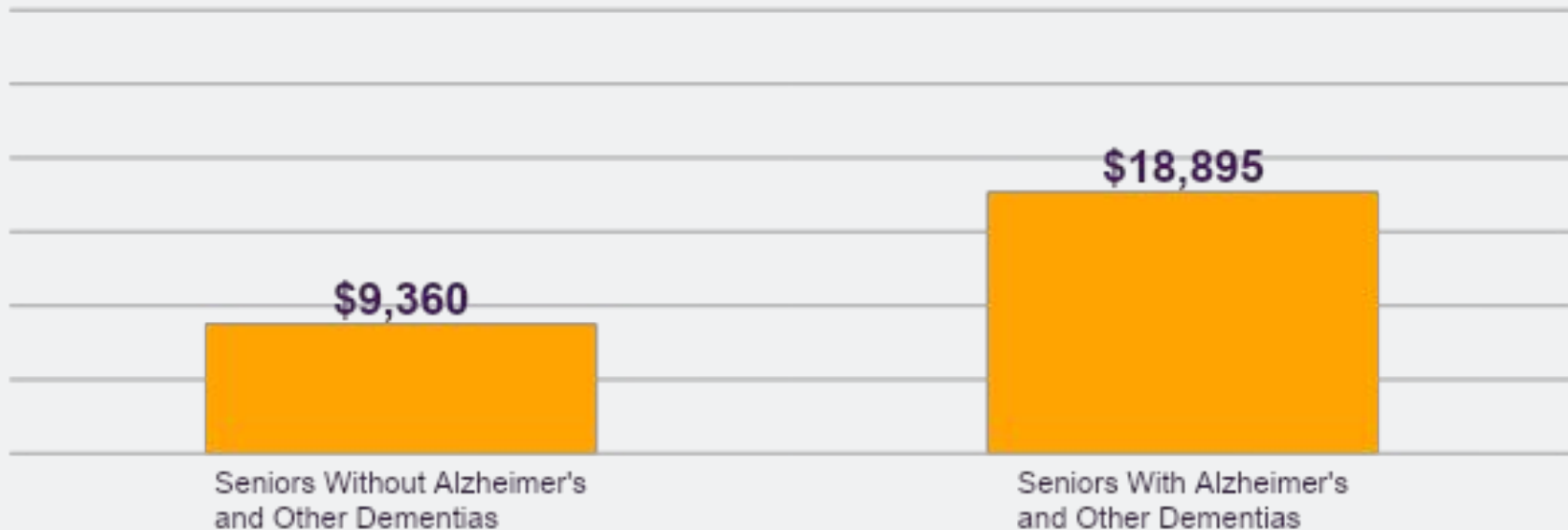
# Financial Impact

*Average Annual Per-Person Health and Long-Term Care Costs, 2011  
(inflated to 2020 dollars)*



## Similar Findings In Managed Care

*Average Per-Person Medical Costs for Seniors in Medicare Advantage in Year of Diagnosis, 2007-2011  
(inflated to 2020 dollars)*





# 24/7 Helpline



- Free, confidential support 24/7, 365 days a year
- Care consultations by phone from specialists & master's-level clinicians for topics such as:
  - Safety issues
  - Legal, financial and care decisions
  - Treatment options for managing symptoms
- Bilingual staff (English & Spanish) and translation service that accommodates more than 200 languages



# Community Education Programs

Education programs are a great way to help the public learn more about the disease.

There are 16 programs that can be offered to the public. A few that are commonly delivered are:

- 10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's
- Understanding Alzheimer's and Dementia
- Effective Communication Strategies
- Healthy Living for Your Brain and Body
- Legal and Financial Planning

# Support Groups

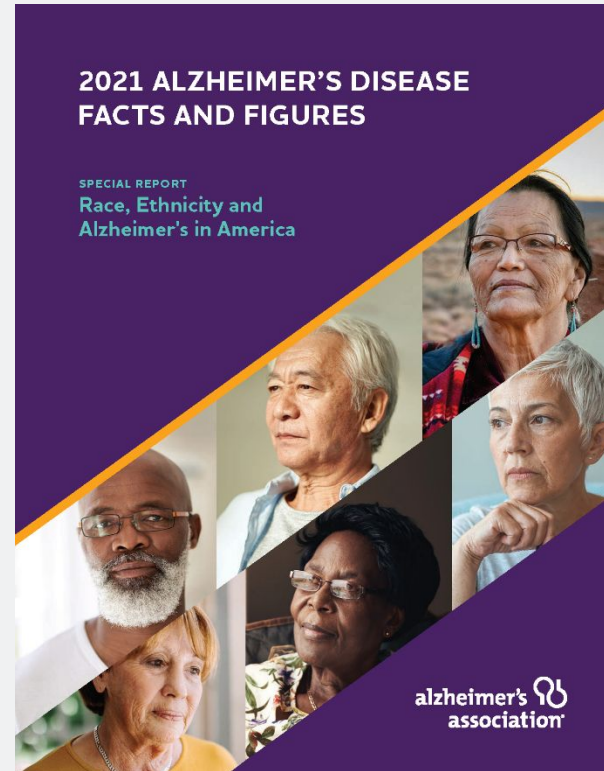
- Alzheimer's Association support groups provide emotional, educational and social support through regularly scheduled meetings
- The Association offers two types of support groups: caregiver support groups and early-stage support groups.
- To find out more about support groups near you visit [www.alz.org/alzwa/helping\\_you/support\\_groups](http://www.alz.org/alzwa/helping_you/support_groups)





# ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION *ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE FACTS AND FIGURES* REPORT

[alz.org/facts](https://alz.org/facts)





A partnership with the Alzheimer's Association can support health systems by improving the quality of care for people living with Alzheimer's and other dementias, their families and caregivers in their community.





**THANK  
YOU**

alzheimer's  association®