



THE BRAINS BEHIND SAVING YOURS.™

Alzheimer's disease is an epidemic in the United States that continues to grow at an alarming pace. Currently there are more than 5.2 million people with Alzheimer's disease nation-wide. Over the past 10 years there was a 68% increase in deaths attributed to Alzheimer's disease, and it is currently the sixth leading cause of death (fifth among seniors over age 65). It is the only disease among the top ten causes of death that does not have any way to prevent, cure, or even slow the disease. Statistically one in nine people age 65 have Alzheimer's and one in three people age 85 have the disease. More than 500,000 people die annually from Alzheimer's disease. A 2013 survey indicates that Alzheimer's disease is the most feared disease for people age 60 and older; more so than cancer or coronary disease.

There are more than 28,000 people in Utah who suffer with Alzheimer's disease. This represents more than ten percent of our senior population. With the Baby Boomer generation continuing to age, we expect to see a 127 percent increase in Alzheimer's patients by the year 2025, with nearly one in four seniors (25 percent) being affected.

Most of the Alzheimer population has one or more other serious medical condition. Coordinated care is critical because so many with Alzheimer's are also managing multiple chronic conditions, like coronary heart disease or diabetes. Cognitive impairment greatly complicates the management of these other conditions, resulting in more hospitalizations, longer hospital stays, and higher costs than for those with these same conditions but no Alzheimer's disease. In fact, Medicare costs are three times higher than for those without Alzheimer's disease, while Medicaid costs are nine times higher.

As the leading care, research and advocacy organization for Alzheimer's disease, the Alzheimer's Association supports efforts to increase access to affordable healthcare coverage. While the Association does not endorse any specific health care reform plan, we are working to ensure that people with the disease have access to an effective health care delivery system through the promotion of care coordination, transitional care, and long-term care services. We support efforts by Utah Governor Gary Herbert and the Utah State Legislature to strengthen access to healthcare for unprotected populations and to close the coverage gap for those citizens who currently fall through the cracks.

The Alzheimer's Association believes that while improving healthcare coverage is important, ultimately solving the Alzheimer crisis—with its far reaching impact on families, business, Medicare, Medicaid and the State of Utah as a whole—will require investment in research to develop effective treatments that prevent, stop or cure the disease.

Alzheimer's Association—The Alzheimer's Association is the leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer care, support and research. Our 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. Our vision is a world without Alzheimer's. For more information, please contact our office or visit our website at www.alz.org/utah.