

2023 Annual Report





ARKANSAS

2023 ALZHEIMER'S STATISTICS

NUMBER OF PEOPLE AGED 65 AND OLDER WITH ALZHEIMER'S

YEAR	TOTAL
2020	58,000
2025	67,000

ESTIMATED % INCREASE

15.5%

PREVALENCE

55

OF GERIATRICIANS IN 2021

143.6%

INCREASE NEEDED TO MEET DEMAND IN 2050

21,900

OF HOME HEALTH AND PERSONAL CARE AIDES IN 2020

29.5%

INCREASE NEEDED TO MEET DEMAND IN 2030

WORKFORCE

UNPAID CAREGIVERS (2022)

154,000

 # OF CAREGIVERS

268,000,000

 TOTAL HOURS OF UNPAID CARE

\$4,423,000,000

 TOTAL VALUE OF UNPAID CARE

CAREGIVER HEALTH (2021)

72.8%

 OF CAREGIVERS WITH CHRONIC HEALTH CONDITIONS

38.0%

 OF CAREGIVERS WITH DEPRESSION

25.0%

 OF CAREGIVERS IN POOR PHYSICAL HEALTH

CAREGIVING

HOSPICE (2017)

3,133

OF PEOPLE IN HOSPICE WITH A PRIMARY DIAGNOSIS OF DEMENTIA

18%

HOSPICE RESIDENTS WITH A PRIMARY DIAGNOSIS OF DEMENTIA

HOSPITALS (2018)

1,530

OF EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT VISITS PER 1,000 PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA

21.5%

DEMENTIA PATIENT HOSPITAL READMISSION RATE

MEDICAID

\$396M

MEDICAID COSTS OF CARING FOR PEOPLE WITH ALZHEIMER'S (2020)

14.6%

PROJECTED CHANGE IN COSTS FROM 2020 TO 2025

MEDICARE

\$24,951

PER CAPITA MEDICARE SPENDING ON PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA (IN 2022 DOLLARS)

HEALTH CARE

OF DEATHS FROM ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE (2019)

1,507

250.5%

INCREASE IN ALZHEIMER'S DEATHS 2000-2019

MORTALITY

More than 6 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's, and over 11.5 million provide their unpaid care. The cost of caring for those with Alzheimer's and other dementias is estimated to total \$345 billion in 2023, increasing to nearly \$1 trillion (in today's dollars) by mid-century.



For more information, view the [2023 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures](https://alz.org/facts) report at alz.org/facts.

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Alzheimer's And Dementia Advisory Council



Senator Ricky Hill
Co-Chair



Representative Julie Mayberry
Co-Chair

State Agency Representatives

Toney Bailey, MHA - Branch Manager, Arkansas Department of Health

Kenya Eddings - Arkansas Minority Health Commission

Director Jay Hill - Division of Aging, Adult, and Behavioral Health Services, Arkansas Department of Human Services

Charlotte Bishop - Program Administrator Long Term Care Ombudsmen, Arkansas Department of Human Services

Membership

Dr. Gohar Azhar - UAMS

Carolyn Berry - Alzheimer's Arkansas

Rachel Bunch - AR. Health Care Association

David Cook - Alzheimer's Association

Dr. Sue Griffin - UAMS

Jennifer Hallum - Area Agencies on Aging

Dr. Kerry Jordan

Tatum Owenby - Arkansas Home-Based Services Association

Toots Lamberth

Cathey McAllister-Griffin - Family Caregiver AARP

Dr. Amyleigh Overton-McCoy - D.W. Reynolds Centers on Aging

Melanie Thomasson - AR. Hospital Association

Dr. Jeanne Wei - UAMS

Phyllis Bell - Arkansas Residential Assisted Living Association

Background

Alzheimer's and Dementia Advisory Council

In 2021, the 93rd General Assembly initiated ACT 391 which established a permanent Alzheimer's and Dementia Advisory Council. The council held its first organizational meeting on September 21, 2021. The council has met monthly to hear from state agencies, providers, caregivers, and field experts to assess the state plan, understand the needs of Arkansas families affected by dementia, identify gaps in available support services, and fulfill statutory obligations included in ACT 391 to provide an update to the state legislature on the status of implementation of the state plan.

The Advisory Council updated the Alzheimer's and Dementia State plan in October of 2022. The state plan identifies four issues of emphasis that were selected using the Healthy Brain Initiative Roadmap. The HBI roadmap, published by the Alzheimer's Association and The Centers for Disease Control, was selected to ensure that the state remained competitive when applying for federal funding that would improve the state's infrastructure and aid in the implementation of the state plan. The advisory council chose to focus on the following priority areas:

Public Awareness and Education

Access and Quality of Care

Family Caregiver Support

Dementia Training and Workforce Development

The state plan includes key recommendations to ensure that the direct care workforce is equipped to meet the needs of the dementia population, increase awareness about the importance of early detection and diagnosis, and ensure we are supporting family caregivers.

Alzheimer's State Plan Implementation Report

BOLD Funding

The Arkansas Health Department received federal funding under the Building Our Largest Dementia Infrastructure Act (BOLD ACT) in 2021. The health department was awarded core capacity funding to strengthen the state's infrastructure to respond to the needs of the dementia population. The funding allowed the health department to make updates to the agency website, develop a public awareness campaign, and provide funding for a grant manager to oversee the work. During the core capacity funding period, the state passed legislation to establish the advisory council and worked to update the state plan.

2023 Legislative Report

During the 2023 legislative session, legislation was advanced to strengthen the state's dementia infrastructure, improve dementia training standards across care settings, and increase support services for family caregivers.

Alzheimer's and Dementia Advisory Council Amendment ACT 102

This legislation amended ACT 391 of the 93rd General Assembly by adding two additional members to the advisory council. The council added the Arkansas Homebased Services Association and the Arkansas Residential and Assisted Living Association.

Dementia Services Coordinator Position ACT 682

According to the Alzheimer's Association, there are 58,000 Arkansans over the age of 65 currently living with Alzheimer's. In 2025, that number is expected to exceed 67,000. This data does not account for individuals living with younger onset or other forms of dementia. As the number of Arkansans living with dementia increases, it is imperative that the state has a coordinated approach to ensure service availability. ACT 682 established a dementia coordinator at the Department of Human Services. The state Dementia Services Coordinator will ensure coordination across state agencies and service providers, reduce duplication of services, help identify service gaps, and ensure the unique needs of persons with dementia are being met.

Access and Quality of Care

Caring for someone with Alzheimer's or other dementia can be especially challenging for the workforce. To ensure quality care, the advisory council evaluated the current dementia training and identified areas to improve dementia training standards across care settings.

Access and Quality of Care cont.

Dementia Training Standards in Assisted Living - ACT 335

ACT 335 establishes dementia training standards for direct care staff in assisted living communities. All Direct Care staff must complete four (4) hours of initial dementia training and two (2) hours of annual continuing dementia training. The statute also required the Department of Human Services to update the rules and regulations

Dementia Training Standards in Homecare - Act 70

ACT 70 establishes dementia training for homecare providers. The statute requires four (4) hours of dementia-specific training for direct care staff employed by a home health provider.

Dementia Training Standards for Law Enforcement/ First Responders - ACT 202

A dementia diagnosis can impact communication and behaviors that can complicate crisis and emergency services. The state should ensure that members of law enforcement and emergency responders are equipped with evidence-based training on dementia. ACT 202 establishes two (2) hours of dementia training as part of the Arkansas Law Enforcement Training Academy curriculum.

Family Caregiver Support

Alzheimer's and Dementia Respite Grant Funding

Upon receiving a diagnosis of Alzheimer's or dementia, initial caregiving duties typically fall to family members. In 2022, more than 93 thousand caregivers provided over 268 million hours of unpaid care valued at over \$4.4 billion dollars. In 2021, the Arkansas Department of Human Services included \$200 thousand dollars of funding in the agency budget to fund the Alzheimer's and Dementia Respite Grant program. The funding provides \$500 dollar respite grants for family caregivers providing care for an individual with dementia. During the first year of the program, the program assisted 400 families with access to critical respite. Data collected from caregivers indicates that families who participated in the program utilized respite to attend family events and medical appointments and for self-care. Investing in home and community-based services allows dementia patients to age in place and delay placement in more costly care settings.