

2023 Annual Report

Alzheimer's And
Dementia Advisory
Council





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.

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.