

Alzheimer's is a Public Health Crisis Devastating **Minnesota**

In 2020,

99,000
Minnesotans



were living with Alzheimer's.

By 2025 the number
is expected to increase by

21.2%



Older Black and Hispanic Americans are **MORE LIKELY** to have Alzheimer's and other dementia and

MORE LIKELY TO NOT BE DIAGNOSED,
than older White Americans.

In 2022 **163,000**
family caregivers provided

225 million
hours of unpaid care valued at



\$5.3 billion

Medicaid costs of
caring for people with
Alzheimer's in 2020



\$905 million

Medicaid costs are
expected to increase

20.1%
by 2025.

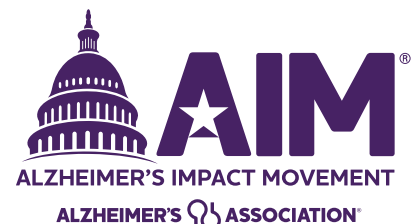


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What **Minnesota** Officials Can Do to Address the Crisis



Dementia Services Coordinator

While we recognize the excellent support the Department of Health currently provides for people with Alzheimer's disease or another form of dementia, there is not a full-time staff person dedicated to the Alzheimer's space. Investing in a dementia services coordinator is a promising strategy that many states have recently taken. Benefits include increasing coordination within MDH and key partners like DHS, identifying service-gaps in Minnesota's dementia care continuum, and tracking progress towards the State Plan on Alzheimer's.

Respite Care

The Alzheimer's Association supports increasing funding for respite care because investments to support unpaid caregivers are an investment in our Long-Term Care Workforce. At least 163,000 Minnesotans provided free care to a loved one with Dementia. This comes with great financial and emotional costs. Unfortunately, caregiver burnout is the number one predictor of placement in a more expensive and intensive residential settings. We urge the legislature to appropriate base funding for respite care grants and the Live Well at Home Grant Program.

Healthy Aging and Dementia Health Curriculum

With an aging population and multi-generational households, more of Minnesota's youth are spending time with elders. We support developing a voluntary healthy aging and Alzheimer's health curriculum module for school health classes. This would raise awareness about Alzheimer's disease, equip young people with the tools to recognize the warning signs of dementia and how to better support their loved ones, and provide information on how to reduce the risk of developing Alzheimer's disease or another form of dementia.

Eliminating Health Disparities Initiative Grant

The Eliminating Health Disparities Initiative or EHDI Grant program was a groundbreaking program to tackle the persistent racial disparities in health outcomes for Minnesotans. Unfortunately, there has been no new funding after over 20 years. The Alzheimer's Association supports increasing the funding for this program and adding Alzheimer's disease and dementia as a priority health area for the program.