

# The Case for Improving Dementia Care

Dementia is among the most feared and costliest diseases in our nation.<sup>1</sup> People with dementia have higher ED utilization, readmissions, and mortality rates than those without dementia.<sup>2</sup>



someone in the U.S. develops Alzheimer's disease

In 2023, total payments for all individuals with dementia are estimated at



Caregiver strain leads to increased health care costs of more than

**\$1,300**

PER CARE RECIPIENT<sup>5</sup>  
AND

**\$4,766  
more**

per year per person  
FOR CAREGIVERS THEMSELVES<sup>6</sup>

Annual Medicaid payments for beneficiaries with dementia were



**22**



TIMES HIGHER  
than for those without dementia<sup>4</sup>

## Failure to address the unmet needs of people facing dementia could bankrupt our health system.



Through better identification, assessment, and support of people with cognitive impairment and their caregivers, we can reduce health care spending and improve quality of life.

Learn more and get started:

[capc.org/dementiatoolkit](https://capc.org/dementiatoolkit)

## References

- 1 Kelley, A., McGarry, K., Gorges, R., Skinner, J. "The Burden of Health Care Costs for Patients With Dementia in the Last 5 Years of Life," *Ann Intern Med*, 2015; 163(10): 729-736.
- 2 LaMantia, M.A., Stump, T.E., Messina, F.C., Miller, D.K., Callahan, C.M. "Emergency Department Use Among Older Adults with Dementia," *Alzheimer Dis Assoc Disord*, 2016; 30(1): 35-40.
- 3 Alzheimer's Association. "2023 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures," *Alzheimers Dement*, 2023;19(4).
- 4 Ibid
- 5 Ankuda, C.K., Maust, D.T., Kabeto, M.U., McCammon, R.J., Langa, K.M., Levine, D.A. "Association Between Spousal Caregiver Well-Being and Care Recipient Healthcare Expenditures," *J Am Geriatr Soc*, 2017; 65(10): 2220-2226.
- 6 Schulz, R., Cook, T. *Caregiving Costs: Declining Health in the Alzheimer's Caregiver as Dementia Increases in the Care Recipient*. National Alliance for Caregiving; Bethesda, Maryland, 2011; 7p.