

About the Alzheimer Society

The Alzheimer Society is Canada's leading nationwide health charity for people living with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. Active in communities right across Canada, the Society offers services and programs, research funding, public education and awareness campaigns, and advocacy. We rely on individual and corporate donors, communities and health-care partners to help us carry out our vital work.

In pursuit of a cure

The Alzheimer Society Research Program has been active since 1989, contributing millions of dollars annually to advance research and support Canadian scientists.

The Alzheimer Society is a leading source of support, information and education

For people with dementia, their caregivers and family members, we provide support, information and access to programs and services such as MedicAlert® Safely Home®, a nationwide program designed to help identify those who are lost and assist in a safe return home, and First Link®, connecting people with dementia and their families to health services and information in their own communities.

For health-care providers, we provide information and resources to encourage early diagnosis and support individuals and their families throughout the continuum of the disease.

The Alzheimer Society advocates for change nationally and internationally

We work with Canadian local, provincial and federal governments on dementia public policy and influence health and social programs that directly affect people living with dementia.

We are one of four founding members of Alzheimer's Disease International, and work collectively to make dementia a global health priority, raise awareness and increase investments in research.

Alzheimer Society of Canada

416-847-8920

1-800-616-8816

info@alzheimer.ca

www.alzheimer.ca



Alzheimer *Society*

Alzheimer's disease and other dementias

Alzheimer's disease and other dementias

Dementia is a term that generally refers to a variety of brain disorders. Different physical changes to the brain cause different dementias. Some are reversible, meaning that they can be treated and cured, while others are irreversible, meaning there is no cure.

Symptoms worsen over time and include: loss of memory, changes in judgment and reasoning, difficulty performing familiar tasks, problems with language and changes in mood and behaviour.

Alzheimer's disease is irreversible and eventually fatal. Other dementias include vascular dementia, frontotemporal dementia (including Pick's disease), Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease and Lewy body dementia.

Dementia is not a normal part of aging, but age is the biggest risk factor.

What the numbers say

As of 2016:

An estimated 564,000 Canadians are living with dementia. By 2031, this figure is expected to rise to 937,000, an increase of 66 per cent.¹

The combined health-care system and out-of-pocket costs of dementia is estimated at \$10.4 billion. By 2031, this figure is expected to increase by 60 per cent, to \$16.6 billion.¹

For more information, please visit www.alzheimer.ca.

Footnotes:

1. *Prevalence and Monetary Costs of Dementia in Canada*, a report by the Alzheimer Society of Canada (2016)

Alzheimer Society of Canada

416-847-8920

1-800-616-8816

info@alzheimer.ca

www.alzheimer.ca



Alzheimer *Society*

Research into Alzheimer's disease and other dementias

At the Alzheimer Society, research is a key priority. We support research into the causes and a cure for Alzheimer's disease and other dementias as well as research to improve the quality of life and care for people living with these diseases.

Prevention, diagnosis, and treatment

Researchers are investigating factors that can help reduce our risk for Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. They are also conducting studies that explore antibodies being used against the beta amyloid protein plaques that play a significant role in Alzheimer's disease. Researchers are also studying individuals living with rare genes which may make them susceptible to developing a form of dementia. The hope is to find evidence of the cause of the disease and treatments that could delay or prevent the onset of it, years before symptoms appear.

Researchers working to improve diagnosis study biomarkers which may help detect Alzheimer's disease earlier. Cognitive testing and neuroimaging techniques are used to better identify people with mild cognitive impairment that may lead to dementia. Scientists are also working on ways to differentiate between the various types of dementia that may show similar symptoms but for which the causes, effects and responses to treatments may differ.

While there is still no cure for Alzheimer's disease, many researchers are focusing on understanding the pathological processes underlying the disease with hope that improved medications and treatments will be developed.

Quality of life

Quality of life research explores issues that impact the lives of people with dementia and their caregivers, including their physical, psychological, emotional, social and spiritual needs. This is a fast-growing area of research; investigators from different disciplines are addressing a range of issues and topics, such as nutrition in long-term care, driving and dementia and the impact of creative arts.

About the Alzheimer Society Research Program

Launched in 1989, the Alzheimer Society Research Program (ASRP) is a collaboration of Alzheimer Societies across Canada and our partners and generous donors. Together, we are working to improve the quality of life for Canadians affected by Alzheimer's disease and other dementias and advance the search for the cause and cure through research. We support research directed at both eliminating Alzheimer's disease and other dementias and enabling those affected to live actively and independently for as long as possible.

Canadians consistently rank among the world's top dementia researchers. We are proud to have invested over \$43 million to date in their groundbreaking work. To learn more about the ASRP, please visit: www.alzheimer.ca.

Alzheimer Society of Canada

416-847-8920

1-800-616-8816

info@alzheimer.ca

www.alzheimer.ca



Alzheimer *Society*