

# FACTSHEET

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## Women and Alzheimer's Disease

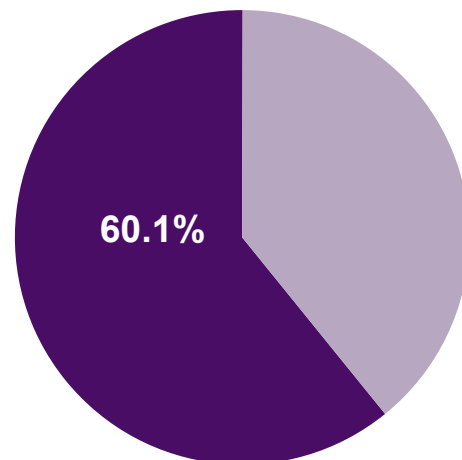
**Women are at the epicenter of the Alzheimer's crisis. Almost two-thirds of American seniors living with Alzheimer's disease are women.**

- An estimated 4.2 million women aged 65 and older are living with Alzheimer's.
- Among those aged 65 and older, 11% of women have Alzheimer's compared with 9% of men.
- At age 65, women without Alzheimer's have more than a 1 in 5 chance of developing Alzheimer's during the remainder of their lives, compared with a 1 in 10 chance for men.
- A 65-year-old woman is more than twice as likely to develop Alzheimer's disease over the rest of her life as she is to develop breast cancer.

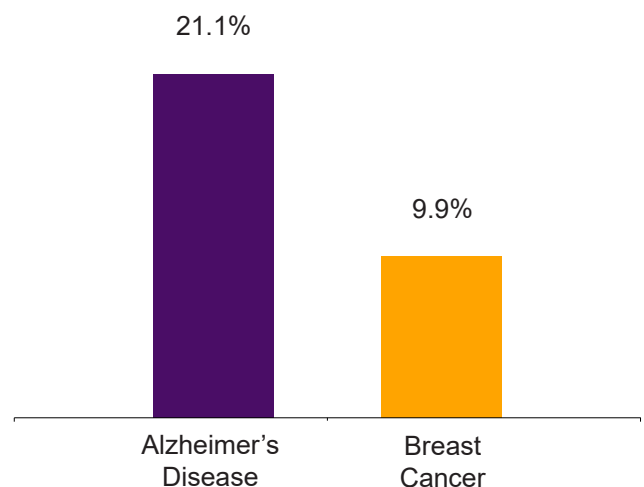
**Individuals with Alzheimer's have higher health care costs. But, women with the disease have higher costs than men.**

- Over the course of a lifetime, a woman with Alzheimer's will cost Medicare, on average, \$20,724 more than a woman without Alzheimer's. This is more than 16% higher than the "incremental cost" for men with the disease.
- Under Medicaid, a woman with Alzheimer's will have \$22,576 more in costs than a woman without — more than 70% higher than the incremental costs for male Alzheimer's patients.

**Percentage of Individuals with Alzheimer's Who are Women**



**Remaining Lifetime Risk for 65-Year-Old Women**



## Not only are women more likely to have Alzheimer's, they are also more likely to be caregivers of those with Alzheimer's.

- Studies have consistently shown that women make up 60% to 70% of all unpaid Alzheimer's and dementia caregivers in the United States.
- This means that as many as 8 million women are currently providing unpaid care to someone with Alzheimer's or another dementia.

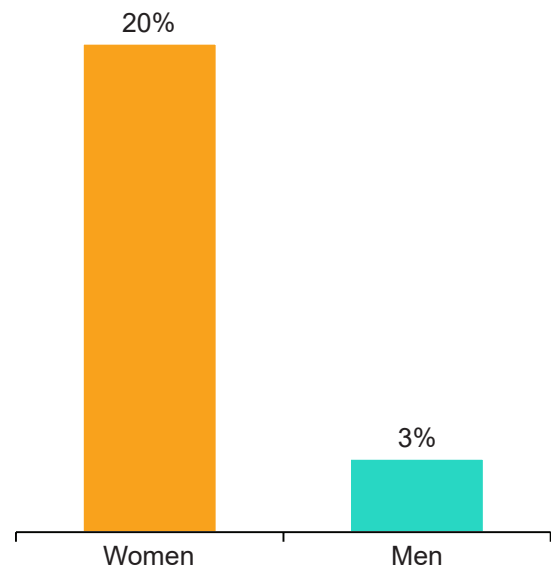
## Women caregivers provide more intense care for longer periods of time.

- Nearly three in four caregivers who spend more than 40 hours per week providing care to someone with dementia are women.
- More than six in ten caregivers who have been providing care to someone with dementia for more than five years are women.
- Studies show female caregivers take on more caregiving tasks than their male counterparts — and care for people with more cognitive, functional, and/or behavioral problems.

## Caregiving responsibilities take a toll on women's health and well-being.

- Almost half of all women Alzheimer's caregivers say caregiving is physically stressful. This is twice the rate as male Alzheimer's caregivers.
- While about one-third of both men and women Alzheimer's caregivers feel isolated as a result of their caregiving duties, for women, this feeling is much more commonly linked to depression.
- Nearly three-quarters of women caregivers express concern about the ability to maintain their own health since becoming a caregiver.

## Percentage of Working Alzheimer's Caregivers Who Have Gone from Full-Time to Part-Time Work



## Because of caregiving duties, women are likely to experience adverse consequences in the workplace.

- Nearly 19% of women Alzheimer's caregivers had to quit work either to become a caregiver in the first place or because their caregiving duties became too burdensome.
- Among working women caregivers, 20% have gone from working full time to part time, compared with only 3% of working male caregivers.
- Other employment effects on working women caregivers include:
  - 18% have taken a leave of absence from work;
  - 10% have lost job benefits;
  - 17% felt they had been penalized at work because of their caregiving duties.