

Alzheimer's Disease and Public Health

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Alzheimer's Association Perspective - Alzheimer's is a public health crisis

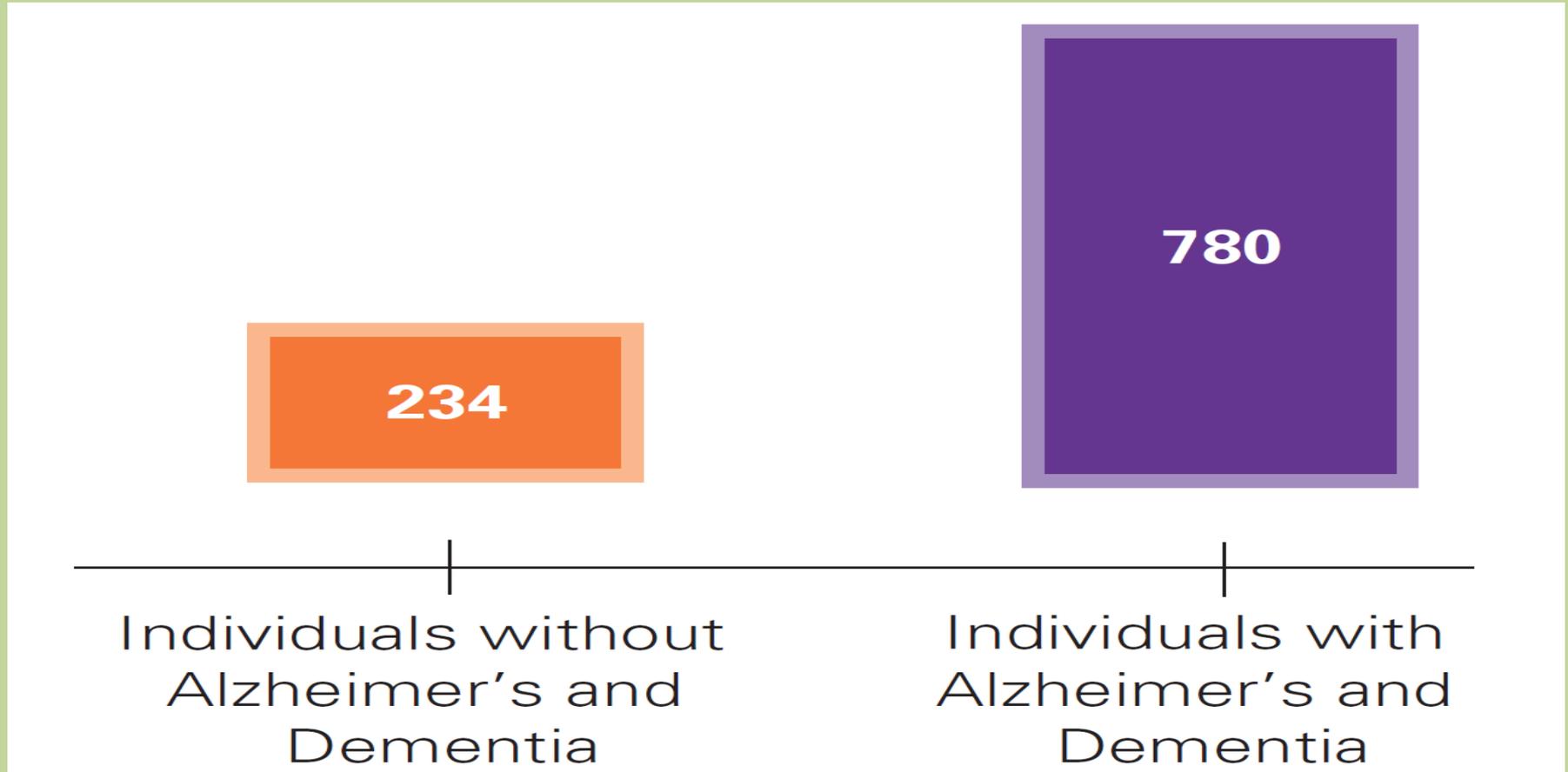
- Alzheimer's is the most under-recognized public health crisis of the 21st century**
- About 80,000 Oregonians are living with Alzheimer's (5 million people nationally)**
- Alzheimer's care will cost \$2 billion in Oregon in 2013 (\$203 billion including \$142 billion in costs to Medicare and Medicaid nationally)**

Alzheimer's Association Perspective -

Alzheimer's is a public health crisis

- Over 165,000 Oregon family members / friends provide unpaid care to people with Alzheimer's and other dementias (15 million nationally)
- Care was valued at over \$216 billion in 2012
- Oregon caregivers have over \$90 million in additional health care costs due to the physical and emotional toll of caregiving (over \$9 billion nationally)

Annual Hospital Stays per 1,000 Seniors



State Plan for Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias

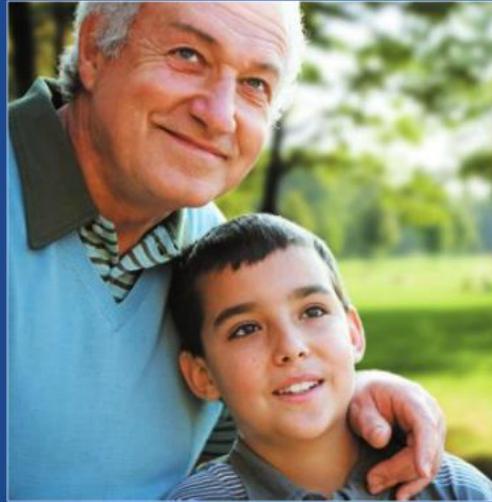
State Plan for Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias in Oregon



July 2012

THE HEALTHY BRAIN INITIATIVE

Alzheimer's
Association / CDC
partnership



The Healthy Brain Initiative

The Public Health Road Map for State
and National Partnerships, 2013–2018

alzheimer's 
association



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The Public Health Perspective

- **Current medical emphasis is on secondary prevention - Slowing progression**
 - Symptom management with acknowledgement that progression is inevitable
- **Lack of clear data regarding primary public health preventive strategies**

The Public Health Perspective

- 2nd most feared illness in the US (behind cancer)
- Data for impacts on community health status is lacking
 - Impact on senior suicide rates is under-researched
 - Impact on health of lay caregivers is unappreciated & under-researched
 - Other....

The Public Health Perspective

- **Healthy Lifestyle approaches appear promising – “What’s Good For The Heart Is Good For The Brain”**
 - **Evidence suggests that Healthy Lifestyle choices may have positive effects above the shoulders too!**

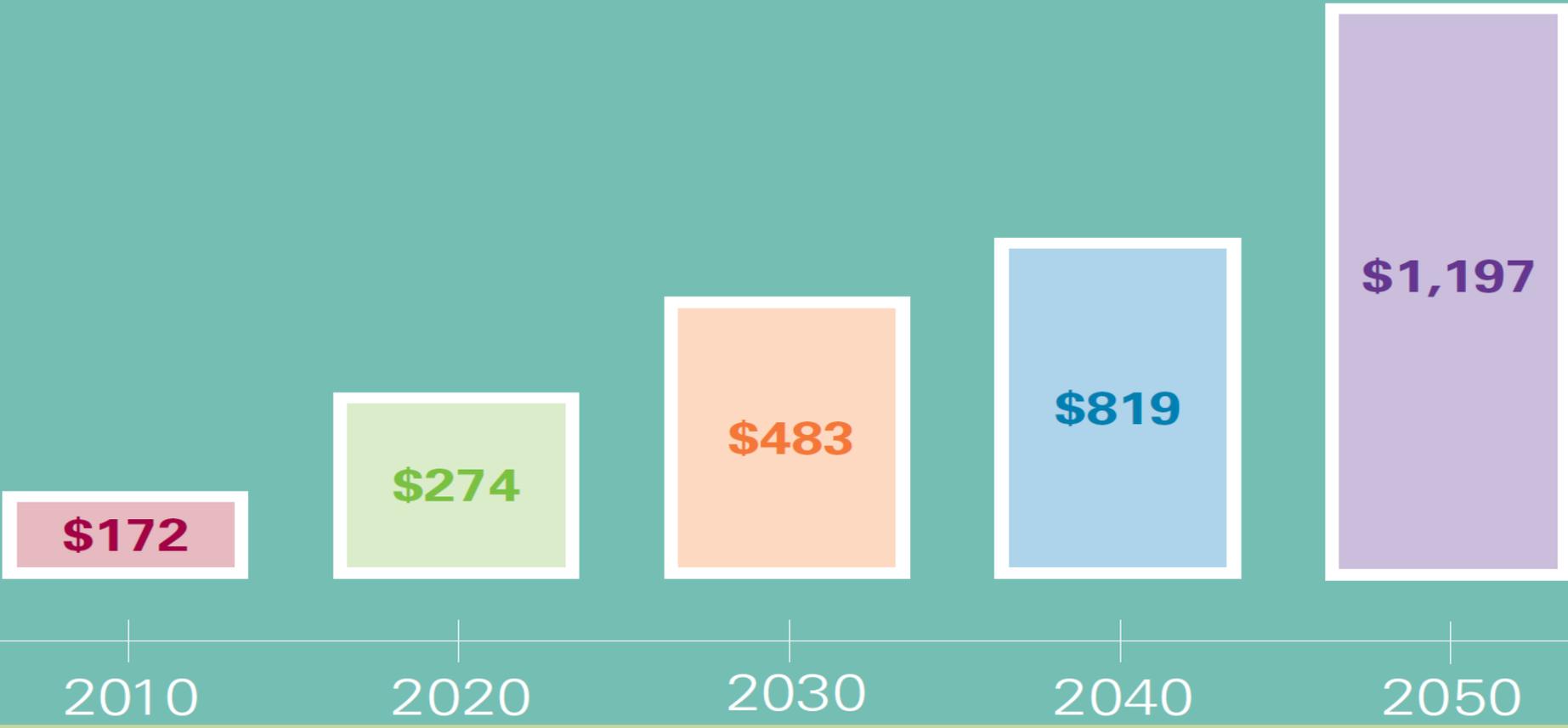
The Public Health Perspective

- **Critical to improve family / community health perspectives**
- **Mental / Behavioral health care for patients and caregivers is improving, but far from adequate**
- **High potential for violence / neglect by family / caregivers**

The Public Health Perspective

- Most people with Alzheimer's have one or more other chronic conditions
- Alzheimer's complicates the treatment & management of other conditions - and increases care costs
 - A senior with diabetes and Alzheimer's costs Medicare 81 percent more than a senior who has diabetes but no Alzheimer's

By 2050 there could be as many as 16 million Americans with Alzheimer's



Source: Changing the Trajectory of Alzheimer's Disease



Resources / References

- **State Plan for Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias in Oregon**
http://act.alz.org/site/DocServer/SPADO_Report.pdf?docID=7144
- **Alzheimer's Association: 2013 Alzheimer's Disease Facts & Figures**
http://www.alz.org/downloads/facts_figures_2013.pdf
- **WHO: Dementia: A Public health Priority**
http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/75263/1/9789241564458_eng.pdf
- **CDC: The Healthy Brain Initiative: A National Public Health Road Map to Maintaining Cognitive Health**
<http://www.cdc.gov/aging/pdf/2013-healthy-brain-initiative.pdf>

Discussion Items

Traditional Public Health focuses primarily on Communicable Disease and Maternal / Child Health....So....

How do we fit Alzheimer's and dementia into 21st century Public Health?

- Better epidemiology?**
- Community Health Improvement?**
- Primary prevention?**
- Health of care-givers?**
- Other?**

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