



Dementia Friendly America: An Overview



Dementia Friendly America

- Launched at 2015 White House Conference on Aging
- **Goal:** To catalyze a movement to more effectively support those living with dementia and their care partners
- Fiscal agent and program administrator: National Association of Area Agencies on Aging

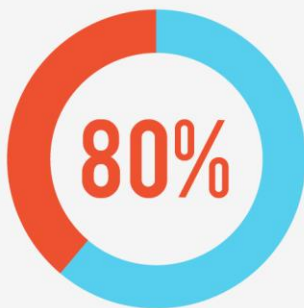
www.dfamerica.org

The Growing Need

Impact on persons with dementia and caregivers

5.7 million people are living with Alzheimer's disease in 2018. By 2025, the number of people age 65 and older with Alzheimer's disease is projected to reach 7.1 million¹

One in 10 people (10 percent) age 65 and older have Alzheimer's dementia¹



80% of people with dementia live at home or with family²

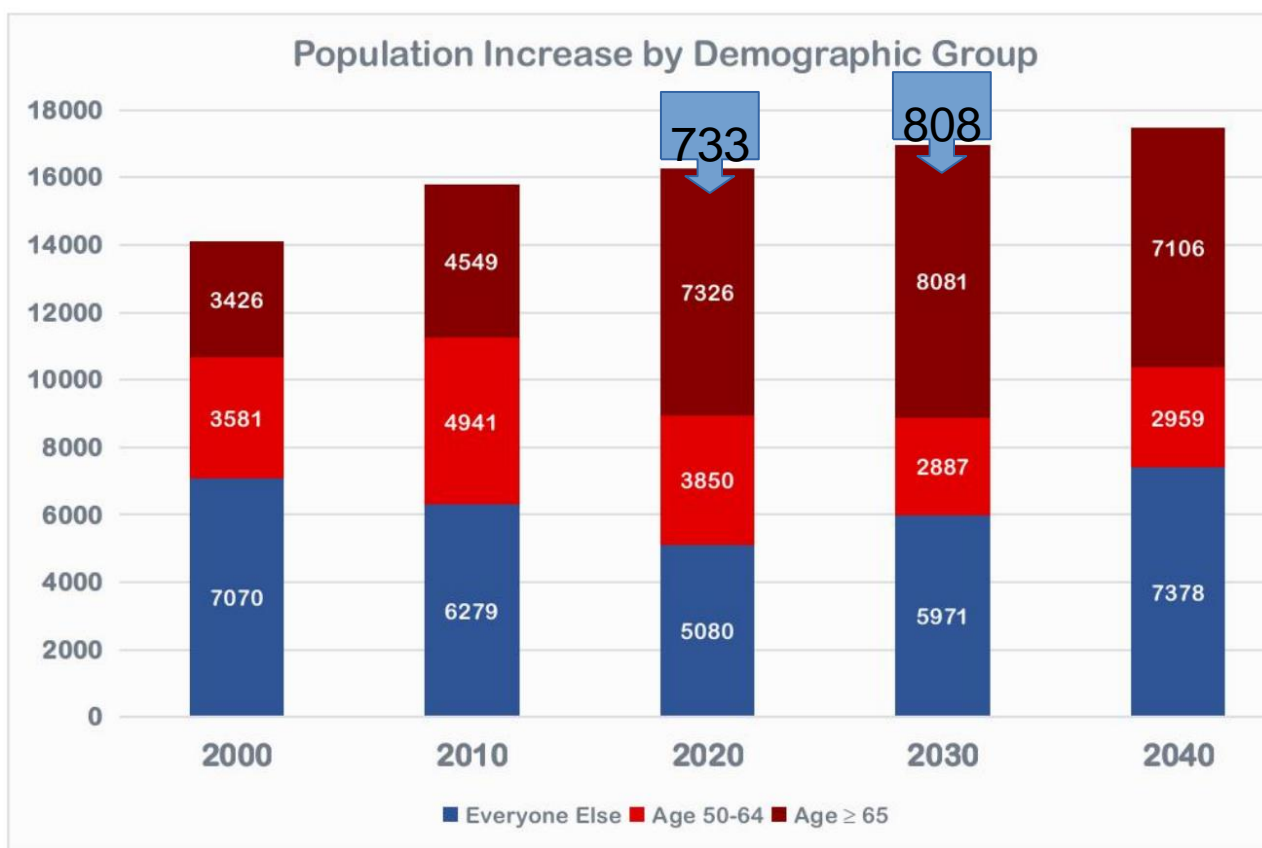


1 in 5 people with dementia live alone²

¹ [alz.org/media/HomeOffice/Facts%20and%20Figures/facts-and-figures.pdf](https://www.alz.org/media/HomeOffice/Facts%20and%20Figures/facts-and-figures.pdf)

² [aspe.hhs.gov/system/files/pdf/257966/LivingArran.pdf](https://www.aspe.hhs.gov/system/files/pdf/257966/LivingArran.pdf)

In San Juan County



The Growing Need

Caregivers and families

There are **16.1 million** family and other unpaid caregivers of people with Alzheimer's or other dementias³

The physical and emotional impact of dementia caregiving is estimated to have resulted in **\$11.4 billion** in health care costs in the United States in 2017³

In 2017, caregivers provided estimated 18.4 billion hours of unpaid care, averaging 22 hours per week and valued at \$232.1 billion annually³

³ alz.org/media/HomeOffice/Facts%20and%20Figures/facts-and-figures.pdf

83%

Eighty-three percent of the help provided to those with dementia comes from family members, friends or other unpaid caregivers³



Business

Research shows that 83% of people with memory problems have switched their shopping habits to places that are more accessible⁴

\$34 billion annually is lost in revenue/productivity due to caregiving responsibilities⁵



⁴ alzheimers.org.uk/sites/default/files/2018-04/Alzheimer_s_Society_NEW_Business_guide_Web.pdf

⁵ aarp.org/content/dam/aarp/research/public_policy_institute/lrc/2012/understanding-impact-family-caregiving-work-AARP-ppi-lrc.pdf

A Dementia Friendly Community is ...

- ... informed, safe and respectful of individuals with the disease, their families and caregivers
- ... and provides supportive options that foster quality of life.
- DFA communities are working to become more dementia friendly

Response to the Need



Community Toolkit Steps

1

2

3

4

1. **Convene** key community leaders and members to understand dementia and its implications for your community. Then, form an Action Team.
2. **Engage** key leaders to assess current strengths and gaps in your community
3. **Analyze** your community needs and determine the issues stakeholders are motivated to act on; then set community goals.
4. **Act together** to implement and identify ways to measure progress.

Sample Community Actions

- Collaborating with law enforcement on training, ID bracelets, file of life initiatives
- Offering training to bank, restaurant and shop employees
- Providing a safe space for those with dementia to gather and engage (“memory cafe”)



Alignment with Age-Friendly



Age and Dementia Friendly Communities

Since age is the greatest risk factor for dementia, communities working towards age-friendly resources may want to consider adding dementia friendly elements to their efforts. The list below, shows dementia friendly elements that communities may want to consider adding to their age-friendly efforts

Age Friendly	Dementia Friendly	Features
✓		The city is clean and pleasant, with enforced regulations.
	✓	The environment is familiar (the functions of buildings are obvious) and distinctive (urban and building form is varied).
	✓	The physical environment is easy to navigate and includes a variety of landmarks to aid wayfinding.
✓		A spectrum of quality housing options, including support for aging in place, is available for older people as their needs change over time.
	✓	A range of quality housing options, including memory care services and supports, exists for people with dementia at various stages of the disease.
✓		A wide-variety of affordable, convenient and accessible activities is offered to older adults and their companions.
	✓	People with dementia and their caregivers have access to organized activities designed specifically for their needs.
✓		Public transport is reliable, frequent, safe and affordable; serves all city areas; and has priority seating for older adults.
	✓	Transport does not require passengers to handle money, and supportive assistance is available along the way to help passengers with dementia travel successfully
✓		Drivers (public transport, taxis, other services) are courteous and sensitive to older riders.
	✓	Drivers are trained to recognize passengers with dementia and how to help them.
✓		Roads are well-maintained, well-lit, and well-signed, and priority parking and drop-off spots are readily available.
	✓	Transportation services for people with dementia are well-advertised and promoted as supportive.
✓		Older people are valued and respected by the community
	✓	Community is dementia-aware and puts forth a spirit of support; people with dementia, including those from seldom-heard communities, are free from stigma.
✓		Older people receive services and products adapted to their needs and preferences.

RESEARCH REPORT

MARCH 2016

Better Together: A Comparative Analysis of Age-Friendly and Dementia Friendly Communities

Natalie Turner and Lydia Morken

Dementia Friendly Orcas

For more information about the
Dementia Friendly Community project on Orcas
see:

www.orcasseniors.org/dementia-friendly/

Or call (360) 376-2677



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