



alzheimer's from the frontlines: challenges a national alzheimer's plan must address

What people in MINNESOTA are saying...

Impact of Alzheimer's in Minnesota:

94,000 people 65 years and
older with Alzheimer's in 2010

237,441 caregivers provided unpaid care
valued at over
\$3.2 billion

Source: 2011 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures

The *National Alzheimer's Project Act (NAPA)*, Public Law 111-375, requires creation of a national strategic plan to address the rapidly mounting Alzheimer's crisis and will coordinate Alzheimer's disease efforts across the federal government.

In response to this, the Alzheimer's Association gathered input from Americans across the country. More than 43,000 people participated, including residents of Minnesota. Ten key challenges emerged that participants believe the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services must address in the National Alzheimer's Plan now being created through the implementation of NAPA:

1. A lack of public awareness
2. Insufficient research funding
3. Difficulties with diagnosis
4. Poor dementia care
5. Inadequate treatments
6. Specific challenges facing diverse communities
7. Specific challenges facing those with younger-onset Alzheimer's
8. Unprepared caregivers
9. Ill-equipped communities
10. Mounting costs

*"My husband was diagnosed in February of this year with early-onset Alzheimer's (he's now 56), and he is now receiving Social Security Disability. But we **have to wait two years for Medicare for him!**" – Bemidji, MN*

*"While the research still needs to go forward to find a cure for AIDS, the same effort for **public awareness and funding is needed to find a cure for Alzheimer's.**" – White Bear Lake, MN*

*"I would like to see **more clinical trials in more areas so those of us who have family members with Alzheimer's would be able to participate.** I know I will have this disease myself someday." – Minneapolis, MN*

*"Although often a disease of the elderly, there are active younger (under 65) people also affected. They lose their jobs and health insurance but are too young for Medicare. This diagnosis may make them uninsurable. The medical costs are high, as are the social consequences. Early-onset Alzheimer's individuals may have children at home still in school. **It is heartbreaking for the caregivers at any age, but when young, any dream of a normal retirement with their spouse is gone.** Please don't make early-onset people wait two years after diagnosis for Medicare." – St. Paul, MN*

For more information, visit the Alzheimer's Association's *From Act to Action* web site at alz.org/napa.