



Governor's Commission on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders (ADRD)

April 8, 2021

Co-Chairs Glenn Jarrett, Janet Nunziata



Membership and Mission

Webpage: <https://asd.vermont.gov/governors-commission-adrd>



Membership defined by statute.

Established in 1991 by legislature.

Twenty members including:

- DAIL Commissioner (or designee)
- Dept of Health designee
- One Senator
- One Representative

Representatives of these groups or organizations:

- ▶ Physicians
- ▶ Social Workers
- ▶ Nursing Home Managers
- ▶ Adult Day Center Providers
- ▶ SASH Program
- ▶ Business Community
- ▶ Registered Nurses
- ▶ Residential Care Home Operators
- ▶ Family Care Providers
- ▶ Home Health Agency
- ▶ Legal Profession
- ▶ Mental Health Service Providers
- ▶ Area Agencies on Aging
- ▶ UVM's Center on Aging
- ▶ Alzheimer's Association
- ▶ Clergy



Our Mission

- ▶ Identify key public policy issues related to ADRD
- ▶ Educate the public and private sectors regarding these matters
- ▶ Make policy recommendations in support of developing programs and services essential to providing accessible and appropriate services to people living with dementia illnesses and their families and other care partners.

2020 Annual Report to the Legislature

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VERMONT

ALZHEIMER'S STATISTICS

PREVALENCE

65+ NUMBER OF PEOPLE AGED 65 AND OLDER WITH ALZHEIMER'S

Year	TOTAL	ESTIMATED % CHANGE
2020	13,000	30.8%
2025	17,000	

HOSPICE (2017)

543

of people in hospice with a primary diagnosis of dementia

17%

% in hospice with a primary diagnosis of dementia

HOSPITALS (2018)

1,528

of emergency department visits per 1,000 people with dementia

19.6%

dementia patient hospital readmission rate



DEMENTIA DEATHS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

47 more deaths than expected from dementia in 2020

7.6% higher than average

OF DEATHS FROM ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE (2019)

315

5th leading cause of death

MEDICAID

\$ 116 MILLION

Medicaid costs of caring for people with Alzheimer's (2020)

26.4%

projected change in costs from 2020 to 2025

MEDICARE

\$23,830

per capita Medicare spending on people with dementia (in 2020 dollars)

CAREGIVING (2020)

25,000 Number of Caregivers

36,000,000 Total Hours of Unpaid Care

\$717,000,000 Total Value of Unpaid Care

More than **6 million Americans** are living with Alzheimer's. The cost of caring for those with Alzheimer's and other dementias is estimated to total **\$355 billion** in 2021, increasing to more than **\$1.1 trillion** (in today's dollars) by mid-century. Dementia caregivers today are providing **20% more care** than in 2009.



For more information, view the **2021 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures** report at alz.org/facts.
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Report Highlights

- ▶ **Crucial Public Health Issue:**

The growing number of older Vermonters living with dementia, and the impact on families -- especially family caregivers.

A coordinated, comprehensive response is needed.

- **Impact of Covid-19 - Amplified challenges for persons living with ADRD, their caregivers, and support programs and services**

- ▶ **Progress on several fronts**

- ▶ **BOLD Funding from CDC - 3 year grant to Vt Dept. of Health**

Strengthen infrastructure through partnership engagement and planning, input from caregivers and Vermonters impacted by dementia, surveillance, and workforce training for increasing knowledge, screening and diagnosis

- ▶ **2020 VT Action Plan for Aging Well**

Performance measures that address the needs of individuals with ADRD, including memory care services and housing, and access to early diagnosis.



Report Highlights

- ▶ Recommendations Focus on Funding & Education in 3 Areas:
 - ▶ Collaboration
 - ▶ Technology
 - ▶ Infrastructure
- ▶ Collaboration to increase screening, diagnosis, and care
- ▶ Technology to increase medical and social supports
- ▶ Infrastructure to build a dementia and age friendly Vermont; support for “Dementia Friendly Vermont” initiative



2021 Commission Priorities

1. Racism and Caregiving
2. Dementia Friendly Vermont initiative



Racism and Caregiving Sub-Committee

Topic arose from article with interviews of BIPOC caregivers who experienced racism, including threatening behavior

GOAL:

To research best practices to develop recommendations for Care Facilities, Care Provider Agencies and DAIL/DLP.

- ▶ Approaches to support BIPOC caregivers to help protect them from hate speech and physical harm in their work environment (from patients experiencing cognitive decline)
- ▶ How to ensure the care recipient experiencing the cognitive decline/racist behavior can still receive the care that they need (in a no-conflict arrangement)



Dementia Friendly Vermont Sub-Committee

- ▶ Dementia Friendly America
 - ▶ Administered by National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (N4A)
 - ▶ Began in 2015 with Minnesota
 - ▶ DFA is a national network of communities, organizations and individuals seeking to ensure that communities across the U.S. are equipped to support people living with dementia and their caregivers.
 - ▶ Dementia friendly communities foster the ability of people living with dementia to remain in community and engage and thrive in day to day living.
- ▶ Survey to assess gaps in 2020

A Dementia Friendly Community is a village town, city, or county that is safe and respectful of individuals with Dementia, their families, and caregivers. A *Dementia Friendly* community provides supportive options that foster the ability of people living with Dementia to remain in community, and to engage and thrive in day-to-day living!



Dementia Friendly America & Dementia Friends

A dementia friendly community is a village, town, city or county that is informed, safe and respectful of individuals with the disease, their families and caregivers and provides supportive options that foster the ability of people living with dementia to remain in community and engage and thrive in day to day living.



<https://www.dementiafriendsusa.org/become-a-dementia-friend>



Dementia Friendly Vermont Sub-Committee

- ▶ Next Steps: Submit DFA Memo (get on the map!)
- ▶ Explore Dementia Friends program - trains champions to deliver programs to community members (online or virtual)
- ▶ Explore partnership possibilities:
 - ▶ Individual communities can work on becoming dementia friendly
 - ▶ Organizations can partner to deliver Dementia Friends training to community.



Questions and Discussion

Question re: Residential Care and Assisted Living Regulations: Has a timeline been established for review and public comment on draft regulations?

- ▶ We welcome you to attend or to present at one of our bi-monthly meetings.
- ▶ Interested in joining one of our sub-committees? Contact Janet at Janet.Nunziata@med.uvm.edu