

WomenAgainstAlzheimer's

Overview

Imagine a world united by women against Alzheimer's. That vision is at the heart of WomenAgainstAlzheimer's, a disruptive coalition of women across the globe who are demanding solutions for this health crisis and fundamental social injustice. We are driving awareness and change for the greatest women's health and rights imperative of our time: Alzheimer's disease.

Why Alzheimer's, Why Women?

Alzheimer's disease is the most dangerous problem facing women today.

Millions of American women are dying with Alzheimer's, or sacrificing their health, finances, and careers to care for someone with Alzheimer's.

Women are twice as likely to suffer from Alzheimer's.

Two-thirds of those dying with Alzheimer's are women, and one in six women aged 65+ will develop the disease, twice the rate of breast cancer. Yet, the disease is rarely defined as a sex or gender-based public health crisis.

Women are twice as likely to care for someone with Alzheimer's.

The consequences are devastating. Half of women caregivers alter or end the basic routines of their working lives, and 75% worry about caregiving's toll on their health.

This immense burden on women will only grow heavier.

Women bear 80% of the social cost of Alzheimer's—already estimated at over \$200 billion in the U.S. alone. Imagine the impact as the global prevalence doubles every twenty years through 2050.

Those in power are ignoring this catastrophe.

Research funding is one-tenth of that for other diseases, support for affected families is rare, and public discourse overlooks the disproportionate burden on women.

Our Mission and Vision

Our vision: a world united by women to stop Alzheimer's.

We Won't Wait. Our network of women leaders is taking immediate action to fight the disease on all fronts, driven by impatience with the slow progress so far.

We will end "business-as-usual" approaches. We will bolster funding, drive research, and spearhead advocacy to bring Alzheimer's out of the shadows and into the spotlight.

Our Leadership

Our all-women leadership is distinguished and diverse.

Among our leaders, we count prominent scientists, executives, and public figures.

These leaders are raising their voices to fight Alzheimer's.

At world-class academic institutions, government agencies, and corporations, our leaders are invigorating outmoded dialogs to drive awareness of women and Alzheimer's.

Our Advocacy Objectives

We will stop Alzheimer's with a concerted effort towards five advocacy objectives:

Demand

that sex-based studies are a research priority.

Multiply

the amount of public funding for Alzheimer's research.

Overhaul

social support, medical, and workplace systems to alleviate the economic injustice of Alzheimer's.

Improve

families' access to diagnosis, treatment, and clinical trials.

Promote

risk reduction strategies and ideas for living well with Alzheimer's.

Our Call to You

Passionate, informed, and engaged women can stop Alzheimer's. But to do so, we must work together to spread awareness, amplify our messages, and resolutely call for urgent changes.

Join us—you can play an instrumental role in our efforts to create immediate change. Whether it's voicing your support or educating your network, everyone can contribute to much-needed progress. Learn more at www.wontwaitcampaign.org

Our Work

We join together influential women. We are convening the innovative collaborations and dynamic gatherings that will produce the momentum and insights needed to beat Alzheimer's.

We end conversations that exclude women voices. We are leading public discussions, outreach campaigns, and advocacy that frame Alzheimer's as—at heart—an injustice and public health crisis for women.

We establish Alzheimer's as a critical social priority. Our founders and members are spreading awareness, challenging inaction, and demanding change at the highest levels of business, government, and society.

Endnotes

¹ Alzheimer's Association. 2016 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures. 2016. Available at: http://www.alz.org/documents_custom/2016-facts-and-figures.pdf

² Milken Institute. The Price Women Pay for Dementia: Strategies to Ease Gender Disparity and Economic Costs. 2016. Available at: <http://www.milkeninstitute.org/publications/view/778>

³ Alzheimer's Association: Women and Alzheimer's Disease. 2014. Available at: http://www.alz.org/documents_custom/2014_facts_figures_fact_sheet_women.pdf

⁴ National Alliance on Caregiving. Caregiving in the U.S. 2015 Available at: http://www.caregiving.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/2015_CaregivingintheUS_Final-Report-June-4_WEB.pdf

⁵ Alzheimer's Association: Women and Alzheimer's Disease. 2014. Available at: http://www.alz.org/documents_custom/2014_facts_figures_fact_sheet_women.pdf

⁶ Alzheimer's Association. 2016 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures. 2016. Available at: http://www.alz.org/documents_custom/2016-facts-and-figures.pdf

⁷ Hurd MD, Martorell P, Delavande A, Mullen KJ, Langa KM. "Monetary costs of dementia in the United States." N Engl J Med. 2013;368(14):1326-34. Available at: <http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMsa1204629>

⁸ Alzheimer's Disease International. World Alzheimer Report: The Global Impact of Dementia. 2015. Available at: <http://www.alz.co.uk/research/world-report-2015>

⁹ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. "Estimates of Funding for Various Research, Condition, and Disease Categories (RCDC)." 2015. Available at: https://report.nih.gov/categorical_spending.aspx