The Cancer Sized Burden of Alzheimer’s: Race and Sex Do Matter

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Alzheimer’s: The Facts

• 5.4 million Americans current have Alzheimer’s

• It’s the 6th leading cause of death for all Americans, and the 4th for older African Americans
Alzheimer’s: A Cancer Sized Problem

- A new, 8 year study suggests its true toll may top half a million lives a year – placing it just below heart disease and cancer on the list of America’s top killers.

  – Source: Rush University, Chicago.
  – Published in the peer-reviewed journal Neurology
Alzheimer’s Deaths Are Up

• Unlike ALL other major diseases, Alzheimer’s deaths increased by 68% over the past decade

• It’s the only disease in the top 10 without an effective treatment or cure
And it’s Projected to Get Worse
It’s Impact Isn’t Equal

– African Americans make up 13.6% of the U.S. population but bear over 30% of the costs of Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias.

– The economic burden of Alzheimer’s for African Americans was $71.6 billion in 2012.

– More than 60% of these costs are borne by women and their families.

– African Americans between 40 and 64 lost $6.1 billion in labor market productivity due to Alzheimer’s – mostly from lost wages.
It’s An Unrecognized Health Disparity

• African Americans are 2 to 3 times as likely to develop Alzheimer’s disease and other dementia as non-Hispanic whites.

• As the African American population ages, the prospects of 1 in 3 and then 1 in 2 older African Americans with Alzheimer’s and other cognitive impairments is a very real possibility.
It has a Greater Impact on Women and Their Families

Source: Authors’ calculations based on the 2010 MEPS, the 2010 & 2012 Alzheimer’s Disease Facts & Figures and the Census Bureau Data.
It’s Economic Burden Is Regional

Source: Authors’ calculations based on the 2010 MEPS, the 2010 & 2012 Alzheimer’s Disease Facts & Figures and the Census Bureau Data.
The Projected Costs for African Americans Is Devastating

- Caregiving
- Productivity Loss
- Nursing Homes, Adult Day Care, Assisted Living
- Medical Care Cost

Source: Authors’ calculations based on the 2010 MEPS, the 2010 & 2012 Alzheimer’s Disease Facts & Figures and the Census Bureau Data.
Yet...It’s NIH Funding Is Comparatively Low

• Cancer: $5.446 Billion

• Heart Disease: $4 Billion

• Alzheimer’s: $560 million
“Health disparities are pervasive and persistent. They have been documented between racial/ethnic groups, rural/urban and other geographical settings as well as for socioeconomic status and uninsured.

Improved research is one way to reduce health disparities.

More than 80,000 lives each year could be saved by eliminating the black-white mortality gap in America.”

Satcher, D.
2005
Our HOPE: Successful Clinical Trials

Successful Recruitment and Retention in Clinical Research

Study Participant: Honesty, Sensitivity, Flexibility, Incentives

Key Family Members/Friends, PCPs/Other Healthcare Providers, FBOs and Community Organizations

African American Network Against Alzheimer's
Stand up. Speak out. Overcome.
Thank You

WWW.AfricanAmericansAgainstAlzheimers.org