

Alzheimer's disease and other dementias

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Dementia is a term that generally refers to a variety of brain disorders. Different physical changes to the brain cause different dementias. Some are reversible, meaning that they can be treated and cured, while others are irreversible, meaning there is no cure.

Symptoms worsen over time and include: loss of memory, changes in judgment and reasoning, difficulty performing familiar tasks, problems with language and changes in mood and behaviour.

Alzheimer's disease is irreversible and eventually fatal. Other dementias include vascular dementia, frontotemporal dementia (including Pick's disease), Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease and Lewy body dementia.

Dementia is not a normal part of aging, but age is the biggest risk factor.

What the numbers say

As of 2016:

An estimated 564,000 Canadians are living with dementia. By 2031, this figure is expected to rise to 937,000, an increase of 66 per cent.¹

The combined health-care system and out-of-pocket costs of dementia is estimated at \$10.4 billion. By 2031, this figure is expected to increase by 60 per cent, to \$16.6 billion.¹

For more information, please visit www.alzheimer.ca.

Footnotes:

1. *Prevalence and Monetary Costs of Dementia in Canada*, a report by the Alzheimer Society of Canada (2016)

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