

## ThirdAge Blog

March 23, 2008

### Shocking New Alzheimer's Statistics—Why Doesn't the NIH Allocate FAIR Funding?!

by [Jacqueline Marcell](#) @ 10:51 pm. Filed under [Uncategorized](#), [Health](#), [Men's Health](#), [Psychology & Mental Health](#), [Estate & Transition Planning](#), [ThirdAge Voices](#), [Culture & Society](#), [Aging](#), [Elder Care](#), [Legacy](#), [Body Wellness](#), [ThirdAge Carnival](#), [Life Lessons](#), [Midlife Crisis](#)

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#### **WELCOME BACK ALL MY CAREGIVERS—Tell us your story!**

The Alzheimer's Association has released a fantastic and shocking new report with the latest Alzheimer's Disease (AD) statistics: 5.2 million people in the USA have AD; Out of 78 million Baby Boomers (those born 1946-1964), a whopping 10 million will develop AD and 4 million will develop some other type of dementia; Every 71 seconds someone develops AD; The direct and indirect costs of AD and other dementias to Medicare, Medicaid and American Business is more than \$148 billion each year! (To view the 41-page report: 2008 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures: [http://www.alz.org/national/documents/report\\_alzfactsfigures2008.pdf](http://www.alz.org/national/documents/report_alzfactsfigures2008.pdf))

I am on the Board of Directors of the FAIR Foundation (**F**air **A**llocations **I**n **R**esearch: <http://www.FairFoundation.org/Board/board.htm>), which strives for equitable distribution of research funds from Congress and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for ALL diseases. Our goal is to bring awareness to the vast inequities in spending and to advocate for change.

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The FAIR Foundation's latest figures (graph below) are also shocking, and illustrate how lobbyists and effective media campaigns can make such a huge impact on how research funds get allocated. Our government has only allocated \$124 *per* Alzheimer's patient, \$29 *per* cardiovascular patient, \$50 *per* diabetes patient, yet allocated an astonishing \$14,932 *per* West Nile Virus victim, and \$3,052 *per* AIDS patient! Why shouldn't ALL diseases get an equitable portion of revenue?

Disease	2007 NIH Research \$	Deaths Per Disease	\$ Per Patient Death	\$ Per Patient
<b>HIV/AIDS</b>	2.9 Billion	<b>16,316</b>	<b>\$ 178,046</b>	<b>\$ 3,052</b>
Cardiovascular Dis.	2.3 Billion	871,500	\$ 2,639	\$ 29
Diabetes	1 Billion	73,965	\$ 14,236	\$ 50
<b>Alzheimer's Disease</b>	<b>644 Million</b>	<b>72,696</b>	<b>\$ 8,859</b>	<b>\$ 124</b>
Prostate Cancer	373 Million	27,350	\$ 13,638	\$ 192
Parkinson's Dis.	205 Million	17,898	\$ 12,403	\$ 148
Hepatitis C	121 Million	12,000	\$ 10,166	\$ 25
Hepatitis B	36 Million	5,000	\$ 6,600	\$ 32
COPD*	66 Million	126,128	\$ 500	\$ 5
Breast Cancer	716 Million	40,910	\$ 17,501	\$ 3,967
All Cancers	5.5 Billion	559,650	\$ 9,888	\$ 3,830
<b>West Nile Virus</b>	<b>63 Million</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>\$390,304</b>	<b>\$14,932</b>

\* COPD = Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease

**NOTE:** These figures are for US research allocations only. You may have heard that \$15 BILLION was allocated over five years (pending to double to \$30 billion) to fight global AIDS, TB and Malaria.

Notice that every year Alzheimer's kills nearly as many Americans (72,696) as the combined total for AIDS (16,316), prostate cancer (27,350), Parkinson's (17,898), Hepatitis C (12,000) and West Nile Virus (161). And since Alzheimer's often occurs on top of other diseases and can last over ten years, soon there won't be enough caregivers, healthcare professionals and services to care for all the victims. And even though there are four medications that can slow/mask the progression of AD, better treatments and a cure just have to be found.

### WHAT CAN YOU DO?



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Please contact your representatives and urge them to allocate more funding for Alzheimer's Research. You can even use a prepared letter from the FAIR Foundation if you like: [http://fairfoundation.org/Alzheimers\\_advocacy\\_alert.htm](http://fairfoundation.org/Alzheimers_advocacy_alert.htm) . Simply enter your zip code and then send to the politicians of your choice. You may also choose to join me and thousands who support the FAIR Foundation by joining FREE at <http://fairfoundation.org/join.htm>.

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