

Fact Sheet

Rising Tide – The Impact of Dementia on Canadian Society

Rising Tide: the Impact of Dementia on Canadian Society is the final report of an Alzheimer Society project funded by Pfizer Canada, Health Canada, Public Health Agency of Canada and Canadian Institutes of Health Research. The purpose of the report was to:

- To estimate the health and economic burden of dementia in Canada over the next 30 years;
- Analyze the possible effects of intervention scenarios upon this burden;
- Demonstrate how the proposed interventions could affect the health and economic impacts of dementia in Canada;
- Review policy options;
- Make recommendations on how to address the issue.

The Findings of Rising Tide¹

Health Burden of Dementia for Canada: 2008-2038²

- Incidence of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias in Canada:

2008 - 103,700 new cases per year (1 every 5 minutes)

2038 - 257,800 new cases per year (1 every 2 minutes)

- Prevalence of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias in Canada:

2008 480,600 people with dementia (1.5% of Canada's population)

2038 1,125,200 people with dementia (2.8% of Canada's population)

- Hours of informal care provided annually for people with dementia in Canada

2008 231 million hours

2038 756 million hours

Assuming care is provided by family members over a period of 7 years, in 2008 these hours would be equivalent to that which 111,980 full time staff would provide, ballooning to 363,692 in 2038.³

Economic Consequences of Dementia for Canada: 2008-2038²

- Economic Burden of Dementia

2008: \$15 billion (in 2008 dollars)

- \$8 billion direct cost
- \$5 billion opportunity cost to informal caregivers
- \$2 billion indirect cost

2038: \$153 billion (in future dollars)

- \$93 billion direct cost
- \$56 billion opportunity cost to informal caregivers
- \$4 billion indirect cost

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Cumulative Consequences of Dementia over 30 year period

Cumulative data represents the combined total of either the economic costs of dementia per year, or the number of people developing dementia per year, each year between 2008 and 2038. By 2038, the cumulative incidence of dementia will be more than 5.5 million people³, with a cumulative economic cost of \$872 billion (2008 dollars).

Implications – What can Canada do?

Intervention Opportunities

Recognizing the urgent need to start turning the tide of dementia, Rising Tide proposes four hypothetical intervention scenarios, backed by current evidence that could become critical factors in reducing the impact of dementia

The report tested the impact of four potential intervention scenarios:

- Increasing Physical Activity
- Delay Onset of Dementia
- Caregiver Training, Support
- System Navigation

All showed the potential for dramatic reductions in economic impact over the next 30 years.

Recommendations

Rising Tide also makes five recommendations that would make up the components of a comprehensive National Dementia Strategy. They include:

1. An accelerated investment in all areas of dementia research
2. A clear recognition of the important role played by informal caregivers
3. An increased recognition of the importance of prevention and early intervention
4. Greater integration of care and increased use of chronic disease prevention and management;
5. A strengthening of Canada's dementia workforce

To download a copy of Rising Tide: The Impact of Dementia on Canadian Society, please visit www.alzheimer.ca

¹ *Rising Tide: Impact of Dementia on Canadian Society* is a report based on a study conducted by RiskAnalytica, a leading firm in risk management. RiskAnalytica's Life at Risk® simulation platform was customized for the *Rising Tide* study based on the latest dementia and health economic research, validated for epidemiological and economic aspects by subject matter experts and checked for data, logic and results. The simulation platform was then run to establish the base case, or the findings. For more information please visit www.alzheimer.ca

²Rising Tide: The Impact of Dementia on Canadian Society. Alzheimer Society, 2009.

³ Smetanin, Paul and Kobak, Paul, *Rising Tide: the Impact of Dementia in Canada 2008 to 2038*