



Long Term Solutions

LONG TERM COMMITMENT. LONG TERM PEACE OF MIND.

According to this recently released report from the National Alzheimer's Association, 2008 *Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures*, about 10 million people, roughly 18% of the baby boomer population, can expect to develop Alzheimer's disease or some other form of dementia in their lifetime

The baby boomers are people living in the United States who were born from 1946 through 1964. In 2008, the oldest baby boomers will turn 62 and the risk of developing the disease doubles after the age of 65. **Age is by far the largest factor for this disease.**

The report is a comprehensive statistical abstract of United States data on Alzheimer's disease and provides facts and figures on disease prevalence, mortality and the costs of care and family care giving. There is also special coverage on lifetime risk. Medical advances have reduced the number of deaths due to heart disease, cancer and stroke, currently the three leading causes of death. This reality translates into more people living long enough to develop Alzheimer's and other dementias. Therefore, unless there are new treatments to prevent Alzheimer's and other dementias, the remaining lifetime risk of Alzheimer's and dementia will increase substantially in the future.

On a personal level the disease affects not only individuals but those around them. Seventy (70%) percent of people with Alzheimer's and other dementias live at home and are cared for by family members and friends.

On an economic level the total cost of Alzheimer's and other dementias, including direct (Medicare, Medicaid) and indirect (caregiver lost wages and out-of-pocket expenses, and decreased business productivity costs) is estimated to be more than \$148 billion a year.

The full report is published in the current online issue of *Alzheimer's & Dementia*, the journal of the Alzheimer's Association.