

# Alzheimer's Disease

## Introduction:

Alzheimer's disease can be defined as a progressive and fatal brain disease that has no known cure. This disease is known to be the most common form of dementia and interferes severely with everyday life. Side effects of this particular disease include memory loss, disorientation, difficulty performing familiar tasks, changes in personality and mood and poor judgment, along with many others. This is a disease that not only affects the person with Alzheimer's but many of the people around them. I chose to research this topic because many elderly people tend to develop this particular disease. Although I do not know anyone personally with this disease I wanted to find out more information about why a cure cannot be found along with information about how this disease occurs.

## Section 1: Background and Problem Statement

*Healthy People 2010 (24)*

<http://www.healthypeople.gov/Document/HTML/Volume2/18Mental.htm>

I thought this website of Healthy People 2010 was very confusing in general. It was hard to find the information I was looking for. When I did find information it didn't touch too much on Alzheimer's in particular instead it focused on mental health and mental disorders. It touched on issues such as trends, disparities, opportunities, and development of different kinds of diseases. Although despite the fact there was a great deal of information, much of it was hard to understand and it was too broad. Overall, this site did not help very much with my research on Alzheimer's disease.

*National Institute on Aging (30)*

<http://www.nia.nih.gov/Alzheimers/Publications/adfact.htm>

I found this Web Site to be extremely informational. It was very organized and detailed, it started off with an introduction, and proceeded to have information on causes, symptoms, how it is diagnosed, if it can be treated, information on new areas of research, and Web Sites that contain more information. The information it provided was clear and concise and easy for a person with no previous knowledge of the disease to understand and learn from.

*Family Caregiver Alliance: Alzheimer's Disease (30)*

[http://www.caregiver.org/caregiver/jsp/content\\_node.jsp?nodeid=567](http://www.caregiver.org/caregiver/jsp/content_node.jsp?nodeid=567)

This was again a very informational Web Site. The information was sectioned off into small segments with details about the different stages of Alzheimer's, different stages caregivers go through while helping a person diagnosed with Alzheimer's, and facts about the disease. I think this is a very good article for people who don't know much about the disease or who may have been recently informed they have been diagnosed or someone they love has been diagnosed.

*NCRAD-The New NIA Alzheimer's Disease Genetics Study (23)*  
<http://ncrad.iu.edu/BackgroundInfo/index.asp>

This Site was okay. It didn't have as much information as some of the other articles but it was very easy to understand. It has background information, how to participate, information for families, information for researchers, and how to contact this organization for additional information. I think it is helpful that this Web Site has information for families because if I had a family member with Alzheimer's I would want to look up research of things I could do to help out.

## **Section 2: Research**

*Clinical diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease (27)*  
<http://www.neurology.org/cgi/content/abstract/34/7/939>

This article researched the onset and progressive impairment of memory and other cognitive functions of Alzheimer's disease. It was concluded within the research that no motor, sensory, or coordination deficits were detected early in the disease. This Web site was very informational.

*Cloning of a gene bearing missense mutations in early-onset familial Alzheimer's disease (24)*  
<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v375/n6534/abs/375754a0.html>

This article researched the different missense mutations have been found that cosegregate with early-onset familial Alzheimer's disease. The research concluded that there were five different missense mutations found. This site was informational and also credited those who took part in the research.

*A new rating scale for Alzheimer's disease (27)*  
<http://www.ajp.psychiatryonline.org/cgi/content/abstract/141/11/1356>

On this Web Site the research being done is on a new rating scale for Alzheimer's disease. The research was designed specifically to evaluate the severity of cognitive and noncognitive behavioral dysfunctions characteristic of persons with Alzheimer's disease. The conclusion of this research was Subjects with Alzheimer's disease had significantly more cognitive and noncognitive dysfunction than the normal elderly subjects.

*Inflammation and Alzheimer's disease (27)*  
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/10858586>

This research article focused on the better understanding AD inflammatory and immunoregulatory processes. It was concluded that it should be possible to develop anti-inflammatory approaches that may not cure Alzheimer's disease but will likely help slow the progression or delay the onset of this devastating disorder.

### Section 3: Statistics

*National Center for Health Statistics: Fast Stats A-Z Alzheimer's Disease (25)*  
<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/alzheimr.htm>

This Web Site was very informational and easy to follow and understand. This information was last updated in August of 2008, which means it is very recent. The information provided includes the amount of people under Hospice care. The number of current patients with Alzheimer's as primary diagnosis is 7,900 and the percent of current patients with Alzheimer's as primary diagnosis is 7.5. Also for Nursing home care the number of residents with Alzheimer's is 231,900 and the percent of residents with Alzheimer's is 14. Also the mortality rate is also displayed the number of deaths is 71,599 and the deaths per 100,000 population is 24.2. This information is all from within the last year.

*Alzheimer's Association: Fact Sheet (30)*  
[http://www.usc.edu/schools/medicine/departments/psychiatry\\_behavioralsciences/research/gsc/alzheimers/facts\\_ADstats.pdf](http://www.usc.edu/schools/medicine/departments/psychiatry_behavioralsciences/research/gsc/alzheimers/facts_ADstats.pdf)

This Web Site was extremely helpful and informational. This information is based on statistics in the United States. Important information about this disease includes facts such as the number of Americans with Alzheimer's disease will continue to grow by 2050 and the number of individuals with Alzheimer's could range from 11.3 million to 16 million. This site provides many other statistics as well as the statistics of costs for families and statistics for research.

*Answers 4 Families: Statistics of Alzheimer's Disease (26)*  
<http://www.answers4families.org/family/alzheimers/legal-financial/statistics-alzheimers-disease-ad>

The information from this Web Site is a little bit older than the other sites but nonetheless it is still very informative. The information that I found from this Web Site to be important included that 14 million Americans will have AD by the middle of the next century unless a cure or prevention is found. Also Alzheimer's Disease is the third most expensive disease in the United States, after heart disease and cancer.

*Statistics on African Americans with Alzheimer's (22)*  
<http://www.netwellness.org/question.cfm/22815.htm>

The information from this particular Web Site was much narrower than the other statistical articles. It focused solely on African Americans although it was interesting to learn that today, four million Americans have Alzheimer's disease and for a variety of reasons, fewer African Americans tend to participate in research and usually do not seek the assistance of health care professionals until later into the disease. From the information that was obtainable included that a general estimate based on several studies is that roughly 6% of African Americans have Alzheimer's disease.

## Section 4: Consumer Information

*Alzheimer's Association (30)*  
<http://www.alz.org/index.asp>

I think a person with absolutely no knowledge of Alzheimer's Disease could get a very good understanding of what the disease is from this Web Site. It is very organized and there are sections with different information such as information about the disease, living with the disease, research, how to help, and much more. The information is precise and easy to understand.

*Drug Digest: Alzheimer's disease (24)*  
<http://www.drugdigest.org/DD/PrintablePages/HealthConditions/1,20041,2,00.html>

This is another great Web Site that is easy to understand. The information about Alzheimer's is very organized and it covers many aspects of the disease. For example it tells a history, possible causes, who the disease effects, symptoms, and how to help yourself. This information is great and easy to understand for someone who doesn't know much about this topic.

*Drug "breakthrough" for Alzheimer's?(23)*  
<http://blogs.consumerreports.org/health/2008/08/drug-breakthrou.html>

This article was okay. It was a short article although it did have some important information. Although there wasn't much content the information was important and easy to understand. Also what I found was helpful with this Web Site was that it had certain words that you could click on for more information about them.

*Early Alzheimer's Disease (28)*  
<http://www.ahrq.gov/clinic/alzcons.htm>

This was another great site for information on Alzheimer's Disease. This had a lot of important information that was also easy to understand. It also had a guide of contents at the top of the page that you can click on to go right to the information you're looking for. I think this is a great site for someone who doesn't know about Alzheimer's disease.

## Conclusion:

### Section 1: Background and Statement

Best Web Site: <http://www.nia.nih.gov/Alzheimers/Publications/adfact.htm>

I thought that this was the best Web Site because it was extremely organized and informational. The information provided was easy to understand and gave the best break down of the topic.

Worst Website: <http://www.healthypeople.gov/Document/HTML/Volume2/18Mental.htm>

I though that this was the worst Web Site because it was very confusing. The Healthy People 2010 site was hard to go through and find the information you needed. When I did find

the information it didn't address Alzheimer's Disease, it was more broad about Mental Illness in general.

### Section 2: Research

Within the four articles I researched there was a lot of new information that I learned. For example I learned that no motor, sensory, or coordination deficits were detected early in the disease. Also I learned that it should be possible to develop anti-inflammatory approaches that may not cure Alzheimer's disease but will likely help slow or delay the onset of this disorder which shows there may be hope for the future.

### Section 3: Statistics

After researching all of the Web sites for Alzheimer's I found out some interesting information. Americans with Alzheimer's disease will continue to grow by 2050 and the number of individuals with Alzheimer's could range from 11.3 million to 16 million. Also I found out that if a cure is not found then 14 million Americans will have Alzheimer's disease by the middle of the next century. Also I thought that it was interesting that Alzheimer's disease is the third most expensive disease in the United States, after heart disease and cancer.

### Section 4: Consumer Information

Best Web Site: <http://www.alz.org/index.asp>

I thought this was the best Web Site because it was loaded with information. It was also very easy to understand and I feel as though it covers every question one may have regarding Alzheimer's disease.

Worst Web Site: <http://blogs.consumerreports.org/health/2008/08/drug-breakthrou.html>

I thought this was the worst Web Site because it was a short article with information regarding Alzheimer's. It didn't have as much information as the other Web Sites and wasn't as easy to understand either.

Overall most of these Web Sites were very informational. I wouldn't consider any of them to be bad but some were not as good as others.

<b>Back to Betty C. Jung's Web site</b>	<a href="http://www.bettyjung.net/">http://www.bettyjung.net/</a>
<b>Back to Web site Critique Reports Directory</b>	<a href="http://www.bettyjung.net/Pch201wsreports.htm">http://www.bettyjung.net/Pch201wsreports.htm</a>

# Alzheimer's Disease (Class Handout)

## Section 1: Background and Statement

Best Web Site: <http://www.nia.nih.gov/Alzheimers/Publications/adfact.htm>

After analyzing the background/problem statement on Alzheimer's Disease I thought that this National Institute of Aging Web Site was the best because it was extremely organized and informational. The information provided was easy to understand and gave the best break down of the topic.

## Section 2: Research

Best Web Site: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/10858586>

The Web Site that had the best research information was provided through PubMed. The site was clear and concise and the information it provided was reliable and accurate.

## Section 3: Statistics:

Best Web Site:

[http://www.usc.edu/schools/medicine/departments/psychiatry\\_behavioralsciences/research/gsc/alzheimers/facts\\_ADstats.pdf](http://www.usc.edu/schools/medicine/departments/psychiatry_behavioralsciences/research/gsc/alzheimers/facts_ADstats.pdf)

The Website I found to be the best for the statistics of Alzheimer's disease was the Alzheimer's fact sheet provided through the Alzheimer's Association. This was the best site because the site focused completely on the disease and provided a lot of good information regarding Alzheimer's.

## Section 4: Consumer Information

Best Web Site: <http://www.alz.org/index.asp>

I thought this was the best Web Site because it was loaded with information. It was also very easy to understand and I feel as though it covers every question one may have regarding Alzheimer's disease.