How Many Arizonans with Alzheimer’s Disease in 2020 Should We Plan For?

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Background
- Need to plan for services for persons with Alzheimer’s Dementia (AD)
- Arizona’s population is expanding
  - increasing absolute count
  - increasing proportion of elderly persons
- Prevalence of AD correlates with the age of the population
- There is no surveillance system to monitor the prevalence of AD in Arizona

Method
- Create synthetic, state estimates by using prevalence rates from two published sources.
- Estimate AD prevalence at a statewide and county-specific level.
  > Age- and gender-specific rates are used in source #2.
  > Severity is estimated using source #1.
  http://www.azcommerce.com/EconInfo/Demographics/

Results
- Estimates of Arizonans with AD in 2009 are 107,935 (Source 1) and 66,351 (Source 2).
- By 2020 the estimated number will be 172,893 (Source 1) and 104,241 (Source 2). Using either source, these figure represent an approximate 60% increase in the number of cases in 2020 compared to 2009.

Estimated cases of Alzheimer’s Disease, all stages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 2009</th>
<th>Year 2020</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arizona</td>
<td>107,935</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Source 1</td>
<td>66,351</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Source 1 rate is ~1.6% of population age 65+. # Source 2 rate is ~ 9.7% of population, sexes combined, age 71+.

Limitations
- The case definitions of AD and methodologies are somewhat different in the two sources.
- Cases among persons of younger ages are excluded from the estimates.

Conclusion
- If current prevalence rates remain unchanged, the absolute number of persons with AD and the services they require will increase by approximately 60% statewide.
- The two sources produced generally similar estimates.

Recommendation
- Service planners and providers should use these estimates to prepare the state for the services needed to care for affected persons and their families.
- We welcome input from researchers who generate prevalence rates at a population level, especially among race and ethnic groups, so that we may generate more accurate estimates in the future.

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