

Fact Sheet – Rising Tide

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, Canadian Institutes of Health Research and Rx&D. The purpose of the report was 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 Tide*¹

Health Burden of Dementia for Nova Scotia: 2008-2038²

- Incidence of Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias in Nova Scotia (age 65 and older)

2008 – 3,240 new cases per year
2038 – 6,800 new cases per year

- Prevalence of Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias in Nova Scotia:

2008 – 15,186 people with dementia (1.6% of Nova Scotia’s population)
2038 – 28,771 people with dementia (2.5% of Nova Scotia’s population)

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

2008 – 7.2 million hours **2038 - 20 million hours**

Economic Consequences of Dementia for Nova Scotia: 2008-2038²

The Economic Burden of dementia doubles every decade, increasing from \$465.5 million in 2008 to a startling \$24.5 billion in 2038.

- Economic Burden of Dementia (in future dollars)

2008 - \$465.5 million
2038 - \$24.5 billion

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Cumulative Consequences of Dementia over a 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 **28,771³**, with a cumulative economic cost of **\$24.5 billion²** (2008 dollars).

Implications – What can Canada do?

What Has Been Done Elsewhere

Across the globe, many countries are recognizing the urgent issue of dementia. Australia, Norway, the Netherlands, France, Scotland and the United Kingdom have recently developed specific plans or frameworks for dealing with dementia.

Intervention Opportunities

Recognizing the urgent need to start turning the tide of dementia, Rising Tide describes four potential 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

² *Rising Tide: The Impact of Dementia on Canadian Society*. Alzheimer Society, 2009. www.alzheimer.ca

³ Smetanin, P., Kobak, P., Briante, C., Stiff, D., Sherman, G., and Ahmad, S. *Rising Tide: The Impact of Dementia in Canada 2008 to 2038*. RiskAnalytica, 2009