

Fact Sheet

Dementia in Saskatchewan

- Today in Saskatchewan, approximately 18,332 people have dementia.
- In 2012, there were over 4,124 new cases of dementia in seniors aged 65 and older.
- In 2012, the cost of dementia in Saskatchewan was over \$957 million per year. This includes direct health costs, unpaid caregiver opportunity costs and indirect costs. By 2038, the cost will reach \$6.2 billion per year.
- The cost of long-term care in Saskatchewan is \$60,500 per year, per person.

About First Link[®]

- First Link[®] is a referral program to assist physicians, health and community service providers to directly link people living with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias and their families to the Alzheimer Society for services and support at the time of diagnosis and throughout the duration of the disease. Individuals and their families are linked to education, services and support as early as possible in the disease process.
- Benefits of First Link[®]
 - People with dementia, their families and caregivers
 - Early access to information, services and support.
 - Ongoing support throughout the continuum of the disease.
 - Helps to reduce the overall incidence and intensity of caregiving crisis situations.
 - Caregivers report they are more knowledgeable about the progression of the disease, and are more confident in their caregiving role.
 - Early intervention provides an opportunity for people with dementia to have a voice in planning for their own care while they are still able to do so.
 - Health care providers
 - By working together, health care professionals can focus on the medical aspects of dementia care and Alzheimer Society staff can provide ongoing support, education and help in navigating the health care system.
 - Provides a holistic approach to care, and may result in fewer unplanned visits to their physicians or medical facilities.
 - Increased understanding and use of current services for a more effective and efficient system; to identify and respond to gaps in services.
 - Health care system
 - Patients are connected to services at a local level for a more community-based, integrated continuum of care.
 - Research shows that families benefitting from early intervention through education, support and counselling will delay placement in a long term care setting, resulting in significant savings for the health care system.
 - The sharing and transferring of expertise; understanding and using resources effectively.
 - If First Link[®] delays long-term care for one person for 557 days, the cost savings is \$92,462.

First Link[®] Expansion

- By the end of September, the Alzheimer Society of Saskatchewan will establish four additional Alzheimer Society Resource Centres in Swift Current, North Battleford, Prince Albert and Weyburn with service to Estevan.
- A full-time First Link Coordinator will be hired for each resource centre. Coordinators will be in charge of all outreach activities, providing First Link[®] presentations, initiating contact with clients, managing the referral process, facilitating educational opportunities and establishing the Alzheimer Society of Saskatchewan in each community.
- Dementia Advisory Networks will be established in every community with an Alzheimer Society Resource Centre. Dementia Advisory Networks will form a committee made up of representatives including, but not limited to, the Alzheimer Society, family physicians and specialists, primary care, home and community care, adult day support programs and long-term care.
- The purpose of the network is to serve as a vehicle to facilitate people and resources coming together locally, regionally and provincially to improve the system of care, which includes service delivery, education and research for persons with dementia, their families and caregivers.