

Summer 2025 Newsletter

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The Mary S. Easton Center for Alzheimer's Research and Care at UCLA has very active teams working on basic research, drug discovery, biomarkers for early diagnosis and clinical activity including clinical trials, cognitive testing, and patient care.

Overview of Alzheimer's Association® 2025 Facts and Figures: *American Perspectives on Early Detection of Alzheimer's Disease in the Era of Treatment*



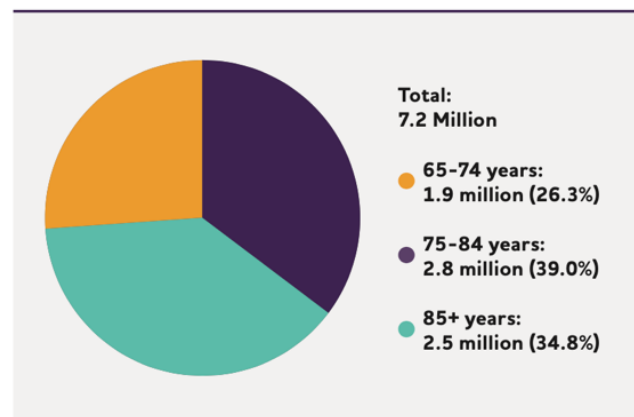
By: [Monica Moore, MSG](#), Community Health Program Manager

The annual release of the [Alzheimer's Association® Facts and Figures](#) report remains an important contribution to increasing awareness of Alzheimer's disease (AD) in the United States (U.S.). This year's report discusses brain changes associated with AD, risk factors, prevalence, impacts on caregiving, the national cost of care for people with Alzheimer's by Medicare, and other areas of interest.

In addition to the main report, a special report titled ["American Perspectives on Early Detection of Alzheimer's Disease in the Era of Treatment"](#) was included this year. Drawing on a national survey of over 1,700 U.S. adults aged 45 and older, the 2025 report explores public awareness and attitudes toward early detection, diagnostic testing, and treatments that can slow AD progression. With the advent of the first-ever disease-modifying therapies for Alzheimer's disease, these insights offer a timely look at public opinion on the future of care. Key findings include:

- Strong Desire for Early Knowledge and Testing

Number and Ages of People 65 or Older with Alzheimer's Dementia, 2025*



*Percentages do not total 100 due to rounding.

Created from data from Rajan et al. ^{A2, 293}

Image courtesy of Alzheimer's Association®.

- Nearly 4 in 5 Americans (79%) want to know if they have Alzheimer's disease before symptoms appear or interfere with daily life.
- A remarkable 91% would be willing to take a simple test, such as a blood-based biomarker test, if it were available.
- The primary motivation for testing is to enable earlier treatment and care.

Perceived Importance of Early Alzheimer's Disease Diagnosis

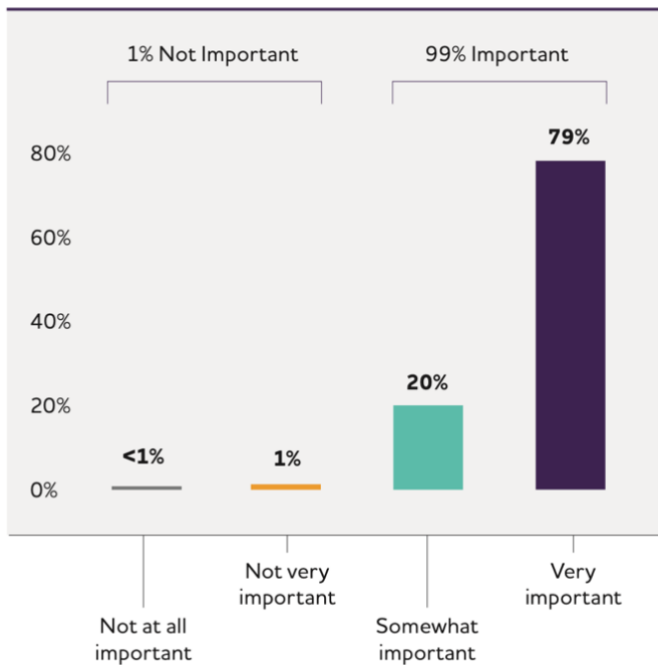


Image courtesy of Alzheimer's Association®.

- Widespread Interest in Treatments That Slow Progression
 - More than 9 in 10 Americans (92%) would likely want to take medication to slow Alzheimer's progression upon diagnosis.
 - 58% are willing to accept moderate to high risks associated with anti-amyloid treatments, with 22% accepting high risk.
- Concerns About Testing
 - The top worries include insurance coverage for future care (44%), test accuracy, costs, potential loss of confidence, and restrictions on activities like driving.
- Diverse Community Perspectives
 - Hispanic Americans express the greatest concern about developing Alzheimer's and are most willing to take treatment risks.
- Native Americans report the highest incidence of family history.
- Black (91%), Native American (87%), Hispanic (86%), and Asian Americans (80%) place greater importance on early diagnosis compared to White Americans (76%).
- Optimism for the Future
 - Americans are hopeful that the next decade will bring new treatments to slow, prevent, and ultimately cure Alzheimer's disease.
 - 83% of respondents expressed a willingness to participate in clinical trials if diagnosed.

This year's Special Report highlights groundbreaking progress in Alzheimer's disease-modifying therapies and advances in early diagnosis. According to the Alzheimer's Association, of the estimated 500,000 diagnosed each year, most are diagnosed in the middle or moderate stage, as this is when symptoms become more noticeable and begin to affect daily life. Yet, the disease-modifying treatments currently available are for people in the very early stages of the disease. The report underscores the need for improved communication between physicians and patients to facilitate earlier detection and better access to these therapies.

The diagnostic process remains complex, often requiring multiple specialists and tests, which can delay care. However, emerging blood-based biomarker testing promises to enhance diagnostic speed and accuracy. Integrating dementia screenings into routine medical exams would further promote earlier diagnosis and timely treatment. The Special Report showed that 59% of those polled believe that cognitive screening is an important preventive health service (see image below).

Perceived Importance of Preventive Health Care Services or Screenings

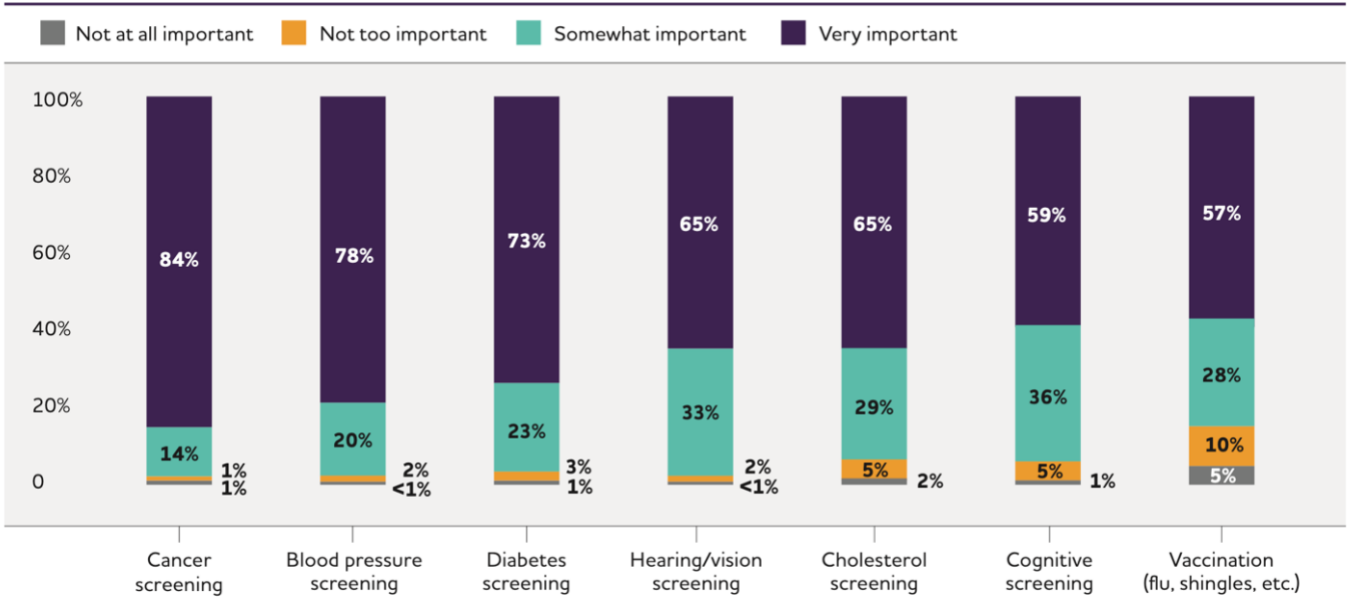


Image courtesy of Alzheimer's Association®.

While the incidence of Alzheimer's continues to increase, there is reason for hope. As of January 1, 2025, there were 132 clinical trials underway exploring new disease-modifying therapies. The networks of collaboration between researchers, clinicians, community-based organizations, public policy leaders, etc., bring us closer to a future where Alzheimer's disease can be detected earlier, treated more effectively, and care can be improved. It will give us hope that a future without Alzheimer's is possible.

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Brain-Health Education and Advocacy Movement (BEAM) at UCLA

Brain-Health Education and Advocacy Movement ([BEAM](#)) is an undergraduate organization founded last year (2024) in affiliation with the Mary S. Easton Center for Alzheimer's Research and Care at UCLA (Easton Center). BEAM was established with three core goals: 1) to educate students about dementia and Alzheimer's disease, 2) to provide outreach to communities in Los Angeles, and 3) to delve into the research field of Alzheimer's disease and dementia. Our mission is to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of brain health while integrating community outreach events and research for meaningful exposure.

In our inaugural year as an undergraduate organization, we held applications during the fall and spring quarters, welcoming a total of 30 members. Additionally, BEAM was supported by a team of eight board members and the Easton Center. We would like to extend a warm thank you to [Dr. Jason Hinman](#), [Dr.](#)

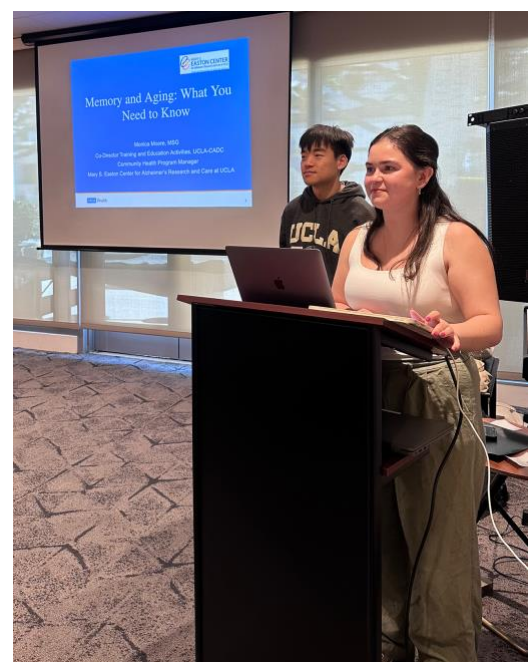
[Timothy Chang](#), [Monica Moore](#), [Nancy Osuch](#), [Samantha Shah](#), and [Dorothy Lie](#) for their invaluable support in launching BEAM.



After recruitment, our first quarter as an organization centered around providing educational resources for our members. With the help of the Easton Center staff, our members learned the basics of Alzheimer's and dementia, the importance of caregiver support, and examples of the unique research being conducted at UCLA. In addition to learning about this research, members were invited by [Dr. Dan Silverman](#) to tour his lab and were able to apply for positions in the Chang Lab, Silverman Lab, or Kagan Clinical Trials Program to further their research experiences. Members have also had the opportunity to join virtual caregiver support groups and learn about the impacts of long-term caregiving.

During the spring quarter, we transitioned to more community service-centered activities, such as learning and administering the Brain Health Screener at education events. Our first community event took place at the Watermark in Westwood, which involved a presentation on brain health and time for our volunteers to connect with community members. Though more opportunities were made available for our members to administer the Brain Health Screener and to engage in community outreach, transportation logistics and funding remain challenges we continue to address.

Following a successful year of educational lectures, community outreach events, and research involvement, our goals for the following year are to implement larger-scale



outreach events for the greater Los Angeles community. Some ideas for outreach events include health fairs, senior living homes, and community presentations. During these outreach events, BEAM hopes to increase the awareness of Alzheimer's disease within different populations and implement tools like the Mini-Cog during dementia screening events. In the future, we hope to initiate independent research projects by developing our own questionnaires and analyzing the findings. BEAM looks forward to a future of continued student interest and involvement in the field of Alzheimer's and dementia.

To contribute or learn more about supporting the Easton Center, please contact **Jessica Vrazilek**, Director of Development, at **(310) 869-8611** or jvrazilek@mednet.ucla.edu.

We are deeply grateful to our donors for their generous contributions, which have been vital in advancing Alzheimer's research and care. Every gift, large or small, helps us push forward and make meaningful progress, even in challenging times. **Please consider making an online gift today:**

<https://giving.ucla.edu/Campaign/Donate.aspx?SiteNum=3339>

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Clinical Research Opportunities

*Help us learn more about Alzheimer's disease by joining a research study. If you're interested, simply scan the QR code and complete the short form. Our team will reach out to ask a few simple questions. When a study is a suitable fit for you, we will contact you with further information. For additional information, please reach out to us at **(310) 794-6191**.*

Below are the current recruiting trials. For a complete list of enrolling studies, visit our website at <https://eastonad.ucla.edu/>.



OBSERVATIONAL STUDIES:

- [Alzheimer's Disease Research Center - Biomarkers in Neurodegenerative Disease \(ADRC-BIND\)](#)
- [ARTFL-LEFFTDS Longitudinal Frontotemporal Lobar Degeneration \(ALLFTD\)](#)
- [Dementia Research, Education, and Advancement in Los Angeles \(DREAM-LA\)](#)
- [Dementia Research Focus Group](#)
- [Family History and Genetics Risk Factors for Dementia Focus Group](#)
- [Music Stimulation to Improve Cognition \(MUSIC\)](#)
- [National Institute on Aging Alzheimer's Disease Family Based Study \(NIA-AD-FBS\)](#)

INTERVENTIONAL STUDIES:

- [Brain Recovery and Individualized Neuromodulation \(BRAIN Trial\)](#)
- [Brain Tau PET Histopathological Study](#)

- [Microbiota Mediated Flavonoid Metabolites for Cognitive Health \(MAEVE\)](#)
- [Modulating Memory with Low-Intensity Focused Ultrasound \(LIFUP-MCIAD\)](#)
- [Protocol for Maintaining and Improving Mental Status in Alzheimer's Disease \(PROMIS-AD\)](#)
- [SUVEN Study](#)

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For more information on our upcoming lectures and events, please visit the Easton Center [Community Calendar](#).

Brain Talks – “Uncovering Vascular Dementia: The Link Between Heart and Brain Health”

Date: Friday, August 1, 2025

Time: 11:00 AM (PDT)/ 2:00 PM (EDT)

Virtual Platform

Dr. Jason Hinman joins Being Patient Live Talks to explain the risk factors associated with vascular dementia, how it differs from Alzheimer's disease, and why better diagnostics and biomarkers are changing how we identify and treat it. Dr. Hinman is an associate professor of neurology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. As both a practicing vascular neurologist and a neuroscientist, his research explores the molecular pathways connecting stroke and cognitive decline, aiming to develop new diagnostic tools and treatments.

Please RSVP at <https://www.beingpatient.com/event/uncovering-vascular-dementia-the-link-between-heart-and-brain-health/>

Caregiving 101

Date: Wednesday, August 20, 2025

Time: 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM (PDT)

Virtual Platform

“Caregiving 101” is sponsored by Jewish Family Services. Join **Monica Moore, MSG**, in a virtual discussion about what it means to be a caregiver. How has this changed your life and relationships? We will discuss navigating family dynamics, self-care, and available resources.

RSVP to Kimiko Kelly at kkelly@jfscla.org.

“Memory Matters” Addressing Memory Concerns for African Americans

Date: Saturday, August 23, 2025

Time: 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM (PDT)

Location: Calvary Baptist Church

1502 20th Street

Santa Monica, CA 90404

The “Memory Matters” event is sponsored in collaboration with Alzheimer’s Los Angeles. African Americans have a higher risk of developing Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias compared to their white counterparts and are about twice as likely to be diagnosed with Alzheimer’s. Join Alzheimer’s Los Angeles, Calvary Baptist Santa Monica, and the Easton Center for a day discussing why “Memory Matters” and what can be done to reduce one’s dementia risk.

RSVP to Petra Niles at pniles@alzla.org.

Clinical Trials – “How You Can Be a Part of the Next Great Scientific Discovery!”

Date: Wednesday, September 3, 2025

Time: 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM (PDT)

Location: Leeza’s Care Connection (Burbank Joslyn Center)

1301 W. Olive Street

Burbank, CA 91506

You may be holding the key to the next great discovery. This presentation will discuss what clinical trials are and why participation in trials is important. The first person to be cured of Alzheimer’s disease will be someone in a clinical trial. Will it be you or someone you love?

RSVP is not required.

Advances in Alzheimer’s Research

For a diverse English-speaking community

Date: Saturday, September 13, 2025

Time: 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM (PDT)

Skirball Cultural Center

2701 N. Sepulveda Boulevard

Los Angeles, CA 90049

Alzheimer’s Los Angeles is hosting the “Advances in Alzheimer’s Research,” a series of one-day conferences designed to provide the latest information on Alzheimer’s and dementia care, treatment, and research. Free of charge. Parking and food are included.

Registration is required: [Free Registration](#) [[Flyer](#)]

For more information: <https://www.alzheimersla.org/for-communities/alzheimers-and-dementia-research/advances-in-alzheimers-research/>

Update on Research

Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025

Time: 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM (PDT)

Location: Cerritos Senior Center

12340 South Street

Cerritos, CA 90703

Monica Moore, MSG, from the UCLA Easton Center, discusses the latest findings related to the symptoms and causes of dementia and Alzheimer’s disease. Learn about the latest treatments

available and the research that is being conducted to find a cure for this devastating disease.

RSVP is not required.

South Day Dementia Education Consortium - "An AAIC Alzheimer's Research Update"

Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025

Time: 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM (PDT)

Virtual Platform

Susan Howland, MSG, Alzheimer's Association Director of Programs, will present on the latest research released at the annual Alzheimer's Association International Conference.

RSVP to Monica Moore at mrmoore@mednet.ucla.edu.

Avances en la investigación sobre el Alzheimer (Presented in Spanish)

Para la comunidad hispano hablante

Date: Friday, September 26, 2025

Time: 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM (PDT)

Wedgewood Rio Hondo

10627 Old River School Road

Downey, CA 90241

Alzheimer's Los Angeles presenta Avances en la Investigación del Alzheimer: una conferencia especial de un solo día para la comunidad latina y de habla español. Se compartirán los avances más recientes en la investigación y el tratamiento del Alzheimer, dirigida a personas preocupadas por la pérdida de memoria, personas que viven con Alzheimer u otra demencia, y sus cuidadores familiares o amigos.

Alzheimer's Los Angeles is hosting the "Advances in Alzheimer's Research," a series of one-day conferences designed to provide the latest information on Alzheimer's and dementia care, treatment, and research. **Dr. Mirella Díaz-Santos** is a panelist in the Spanish event at Wedgewood Rio Hondo. Free of charge. Parking and food are included.

Registration is required: [Free Registration](#) [[Flyer](#)]

For more information: <https://www.alzheimersla.org/for-communities/alzheimers-and-dementia-research/advances-in-alzheimers-research/>

Advances in Alzheimer's Research

For the Black/African American community

Date: Saturday, October 4, 2025

Time: 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM (PDT)

California State University, Dominguez Hills (Loker Student Union)

1000 E. Victoria Street

Carson, CA 90747

Alzheimer's Los Angeles is hosting the "Advances in Alzheimer's Research," a series of one-day conferences designed to provide the latest information on Alzheimer's and dementia care, treatment, and research. Free of charge. Parking and food are included.

Registration is required: [Free Registration](#) [[Flyer](#)]

For more information: <https://www.alzheimersla.org/for-communities/alzheimers-and-dementia-research/advances-in-alzheimers-research/>

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