

Outside the clinical setting, we can drive change on a broader level. Joining a hospital's community health committee, helping lead quality improvement projects that focus on equity, or volunteering with local outreach programs are all ways to influence the systems we work in. Advocacy is another powerful tool, anyone can write to legislators about expanding Medicaid access, speak up at town halls, or get involved with the American Nurses Association (ANA), the National Student Nurses Association (NSNA), and other professional organizations to amplify their voice. Whether it's inside a hospital or out in the community, nurses have the credibility, experience, and compassion to lead real change.

Whether you're a student or a seasoned nurse, promoting health equity starts with awareness and action. SDOH aren't just

checkboxes, they're the reality many of our patients live with every day. When we address those realities, we do more than provide care, we create change. ■

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2025 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures Report

Each September, people from all over the world unite to raise awareness and to advocate for support and research efforts. As we approach World Alzheimer's Day, which takes place every September 21, we have more reasons than ever to continue the fight to end this disease. We now have traditionally approved treatments to slow Alzheimer's in the early stages, but there is much more work to do. Nurses are uniquely positioned to spread Alzheimer's awareness and challenge the stigma surrounding dementia to foster greater understanding and empathy. That work begins by sharing the facts.

As the number of Americans living with Alzheimer's disease tops more than 7 million for the first time, nearly 4 in 5 Americans would want to know if they had Alzheimer's disease before it impacted their lives. They also want treatment, even if it comes with risks, as long as it slows the progression of the disease. These are among the insights uncovered in the 2025 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures Report released by the Alzheimer's Association.

This annual report reveals the burden of Alzheimer's and dementia on individuals, caregivers, government and the nation's health care system. The report shows that the prevalence and cost of Alzheimer's disease are rising.

Among the findings:

- For the first time, there are now more than 7 million Americans living with Alzheimer's — an estimated 7.2 million. In New York State, 12.7% of adults over 65 are living with Alzheimer's.
- The national cost of caring for these individuals is projected to reach \$384 billion in 2025 — \$24 billion higher than a year ago.
- Across the country, there are nearly 12 million families and other caregivers of people living with dementia, providing an estimated 19.2 billion hours of unpaid help. The number of New York State residents serving as unpaid family caregivers increased from last year to 656,000.

"This year's report finds that the impact of Alzheimer's on New York State residents and families is significant," said Erica Salamida, Director of Community Outreach for the New York State Coalition of Alzheimer's Association Chapters. "Now more than ever, we need to work to advance disease research and treatments that can slow the current trajectory and help all New York families affected by Alzheimer's and other dementia."

An accompanying special report highlights findings from a nationwide survey of more than 1,700 U.S. adults aged 45 and

older, examining their awareness and attitudes about early detection and diagnosis of Alzheimer's, tests used to help diagnose Alzheimer's and treatments that can slow progression of the disease. It finds:

Americans want to know early if they have Alzheimer's disease and want access to testing.

- Nearly 4 in 5 Americans (79%) would want to know if they had Alzheimer's disease before having symptoms or before symptoms interfere with daily activities.
- More than 9 in 10 Americans said they would want to take a simple test — such as a blood biomarker test — if it were available.

If diagnosed with Alzheimer's, most Americans would want medication to slow its progression and would highly value information about the disease and treatment.

- More than 9 in 10 Americans (92%) would probably or definitely want to take a medication that could slow the progression of Alzheimer's disease following an Alzheimer's diagnosis.
- Nearly three in five Americans (58%) said they would accept a moderate or high level of risk with taking an anti-amyloid medication to slow the progression of

Alzheimer's disease. Nearly 1 in 4 Americans (22%) are willing to accept high risk.

Americans are optimistic that the next decade will bring new treatments to slow, prevent and even cure Alzheimer's disease.

- Four in 5 Americans (81%) believe new treatments to stop the progression of Alzheimer's


will emerge in the next decade, and 66% believe new treatments to prevent Alzheimer's will be available soon.

"The survey underscores the need for advancing new treatments and making early diagnosis easier and more accessible to anyone concerned about their memory and thinking," said Salamida. "We're

encouraged that the survey finds people want to be proactive in addressing cognitive concerns. That's a real positive because early diagnosis of Alzheimer's offers the best opportunity for care, management and treatment of the disease." ■

ANA-NY Political Action Committee

Political Action Committee

 American Nurses Association New York

Nurses Deal in Advocacy

The American Nurses Association-New York Political Action Committee (ANA-NY PAC) was established to raise funds to support state legislators and candidates seeking elected office who champion the nursing profession.

Registered nurses (RNs) around the state lead daily, from working on the front lines to caring for patients to mentoring the next generation of RNs. It is essential that we support state legislators and

candidates who advocate for registered nurses and the nursing profession to continue to build healthy work environments in every setting where an RN practices.

The PAC goal is to achieve 100% participation from our 8,800+ fellow ANA-NY members.

Considering it is 2025, we are asking ANA-NY members to donate a minimum of \$25. If all members do this, we can work together to put our PAC on "the map" in New York State.

Your ANA-NY PAC donation is not tax-deductible, must be in your name (not in memory or honor of another person), will be public record, and your employer cannot reimburse the contribution.

Please click on the [link](#) to donate to the

PAC. ***Please note** that when you renew your annual ANA dues and select to donate money to the PAC, your money goes to the national ANA PAC, not your state ANA-NY PAC.

We thank you in advance for donating to ANA-NY PAC to advocate for the nursing profession. A big shout out to our ANA-NY members who have already donated to our PAC! If you are interested in hosting a house party to support the PAC, please email us at pac@anany.org.

We are gearing up for the **ANA-NY Annual meeting on October 9, 2025**. Come by and see us at our table! ■

With heartfelt thanks,
ANA-NY PAC Board

Historical Note

Genesee Valley Nurses Association – May 2025

This month, during National Nurses Week, we were proud to host the Genesee Valley Nurses Association for a specialty tour exploring Susan B. Anthony's connections to the field. The organization played a pivotal role in establishing a directory of nurses, a code of ethics, a path for education, and standards in the profession.

The GVNA played a key role in the origins of the American Nurses Association and was itself formed by members of the Monroe County Association of Registered Nurses. In 1902, the Armstrong Bill was passed in New York. According to a timeline published by GVNA:

This was Rochester's history making event as [the bill] was designed by Rochesterians. The Armstrong Bill was introduced at a New York State Nurses Association meeting, held in Rochester. Its thrust was to place all schools of nursing under regulation of the University of the State of New York, which entailed administration of state examinations and registration of all nurse graduates of accredited schools of nursing. This design has served as a model for laws regulating nursing in other states.

The passage of the bill was spurred by a keynote speech given by Susan B. Anthony at that fateful meeting of the New York State Nurses Association on October 21, 1902. ■

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