

The impact of Alzheimer's disease and other dementia on family caregivers

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PRESENTATION FORMAT: Oral Presentation

TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE: Public Health Professionals & students - those with an increase in chronic disease

ABSTRACT: More than 15 million Americans, including an estimated 178,000 Oregonians, provide unpaid care for people with Alzheimer's disease or other dementias. The care provided to people with Alzheimer's disease is wide-ranging and in some instances all-encompassing. Compared with caregivers of people without dementia, twice as many caregivers of those with dementia indicate substantial financial, emotional and physical difficulties. For many caregivers, the demands of caregiving may cause a decline in their own health. Evidence suggests that the stress of dementia care increases caregivers' risk to developing COPD, diabetes, or other chronic diseases. Further caregivers are often unprepared for the high costs of caring for someone with Alzheimer's which can jeopardize financial stability and lead to sacrificing basics needs such as food, transportation and medical care. Greater awareness regarding existing interventions as well as new solutions are needed to ensure that caregivers of those with Alzheimer's and dementia are able to continue to provide valued care not at the risk of their own health and quality of life.

OBJECTIVE(S):

- Understand the unique challenges of experienced by those caregiving for family members with dementia- including the health, fiscal, and psycho social implications.
- Discuss the increased risk of chronic disease face when providing care for family members with Alzheimer's disease or other dementias.
- Identify resources and interventions to support family caregivers.

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