

Why should you support the American Federation for Aging Research and the biology of aging?

The Demographics

Since 2006, the first of the baby boomers began turning 60 at a rate of 330 per hour. By 2029, more than 70 million Americans will be aged 65 and older.

Sixteen million Americans could have Alzheimer's disease by 2050. That number is larger than the combined total of the current populations of New York City, Los Angeles, Chicago, and Houston.

The Challenges

Consider this: Americans spend more than \$2 trillion annually on health care — more than any other nation in the world.

Americans spent nearly \$163 billion on non-fuel items in convenience stores in 2006. That would fund the National Institutes of Health for more than five years!

Today Medicare spends \$91 billion on Alzheimer's disease treatment alone. That number will rise to \$189 billion in 2015 and \$1 trillion in 2050.

Only 5.5 cents of the American health dollar is invested in medical research.

The Opportunities

If we could delay the onset and progression of Alzheimer's disease by five years, the nation could save \$50 billion a year in health care costs.

Thanks to research advances, disability rates have dropped dramatically over the last two decades: from 26.5% in 1982 to 19% in 2004.

Medicare could save \$73 billion a year if older people were able to remain fully independent over the course of a single calendar year.

Learn more about the importance of aging research. Please visit www.afar.org and www.Infoaging.org