



## Alzheimer's Disease Deaths Clark County and Washington State, 1997 through 2006

### Why it Matters

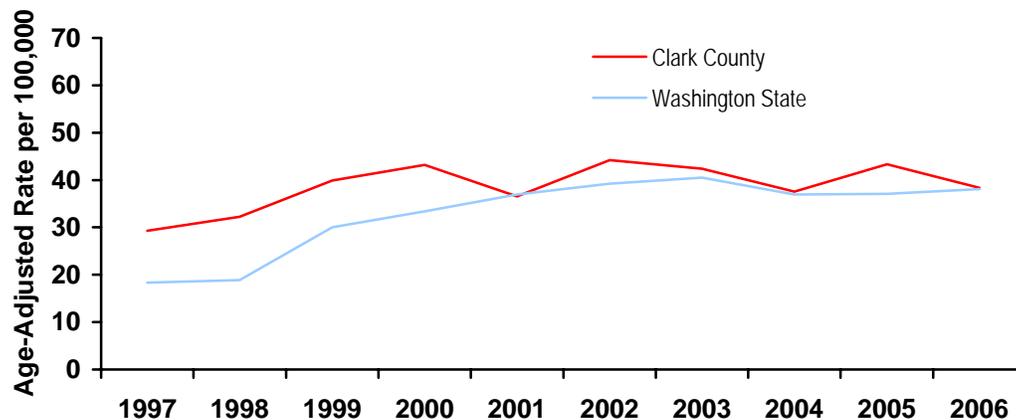
Alzheimer's disease is the most common form of dementia among older people. It involves the parts of the brain that control thought, memory, and language, and impacts a person's ability to carry out daily activities. Scientists do not fully understand what causes Alzheimer's disease, though family history and age are two known risk factors. No cure is currently available. Up to 4.5 million people in the United States suffer from Alzheimer's disease.<sup>1</sup> In 2005, 71,599 people died from this disease in the United States.<sup>2</sup>

### Status

- In 2006, the death rate due to Alzheimer's disease was 38.4 and 38.1 per 100,000 in Clark County and Washington State, respectively.<sup>3,4</sup>
- Clark County's Alzheimer's disease death rate has not changed significantly since 1997.<sup>3,4</sup>
- Washington State's Alzheimer's disease death rate rose from 1997 to 2001 and has remained stable since then.<sup>3,4</sup>
- Clark County's death rate was higher than Washington State's from 1997 through 2000; the rates have been similar since then.<sup>3,4</sup>

### What We Can Do

- Even though no cure is currently available for Alzheimer's disease, medication is available to prevent symptoms from worsening or to control problems like sleeplessness, agitation, wandering, anxiety, and depression.<sup>1</sup>
- Research is underway to find medications to prevent or slow the progression of the disease or help reduce symptoms.<sup>1</sup>



Year	Clark County			Washington State		
	Rate*	95% CI**	Number	Rate*	95% CI**	Number
1997	29.3	(22.6, 37.3)	66	18.3	(17.2, 19.6)	903
1998	32.2	(25.4, 40.3)	78	18.9	(17.7, 20.1)	961
1999	39.9	(32.4, 48.6)	99	30.0	(28.6, 31.6)	1,577
2000	43.2	(35.5, 52.1)	110	33.4	(31.9, 35.0)	1,801
2001	36.6	(29.7, 44.6)	97	37.0	(35.4, 38.6)	2,051
2002	44.2	(36.8, 52.8)	123	39.2	(37.6, 40.9)	2,238
2003	42.4	(35.2, 50.6)	123	40.5	(38.9, 42.2)	2,380
2004	37.6	(31.0, 45.1)	115	36.9	(35.4, 38.5)	2,234
2005	43.3	(36.4, 51.3)	138	37.1	(35.6, 38.6)	2,308
2006	38.4	(32.0, 45.7)	128	38.1	(36.6, 39.6)	2,466

\* Rate per 100,000 deaths age-adjusted using the 2000 U.S. Standard Population.

\*\* 95% confidence intervals; if two confidence intervals overlap, there is generally no significant difference between the rates.

Please see reverse side for technical notes and sources.





#### Technical Notes

- ICD codes used: ICD-9: 331.0; ICD10: G30
- Deaths coded using ICD 9 from 1997-1998 and ICD-10 from 1999-2006.
- If the rate for any given year or group of years is significantly higher or lower than the HP 2010 goal (using 95% confidence intervals) the rate is described as significantly higher or lower than the goal. If the goal falls within the confidence interval, the rate is described as similar to the goal.

**Sources:** (1) US National Institutes of Health, National Institute on Aging, Alzheimer's Disease Education and Referral Center. (2008). Alzheimer's Information. Retrieved May 15, 2008. Website <http://www.nia.nih.gov/Alzheimers>. (2) Kung HC, Hoyert DL, Xu JQ, Murphy SL. Deaths: Final data for 2005. National vital statistics reports; vol 56 no 10. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2008. (3) Vital Registration System, Annual Statistics Files, Deaths 1997-2006. [Data file]. Olympia, WA: Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics. (4) Public Health: Seattle & King County, Epidemiology, Planning, & Evaluation. (1991-2008). VistaPHw 7.3.0.4, 5-14-08 [Computer Software for public health assessment]. Seattle, WA.



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