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**NEW REPORT REVEALS IMPACT  
OF ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE ON CALIFORNIA**

**SAN DIEGO, CA March 9, 2010** – According to the Alzheimer's Association's® *2010 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures*, there are **480,000** people living with Alzheimer's disease in **California** and that number is expected to rise to **660,000** by 2025. "Alzheimer's is a significant threat not only for the nation – but also for the people of **San Diego and Imperial Counties**" said Lisa, Bruner, the executive director of the Alzheimer's Association's San Diego/Imperial Chapter.

**Impact of Alzheimer and Dementia Caregivers**

- With family members providing care at home for about 70 percent of people with Alzheimer's disease, the ripple effects of Alzheimer's disease can be felt throughout the affected person's entire family.
- According to *Facts and Figures*, in 2009, nearly 11 million Alzheimer caregivers in the U.S. provided 12.5 billion hours of unpaid care valued at \$144 billion.
- In California alone, **1,233,164** caregivers, provided **1,404,327,156** hours of unpaid care for a loved one with Alzheimer's or another dementia valued at **\$16, 149,762,293** dollars.
- The new report also reveals that more than 40 percent of family and other unpaid Alzheimer and dementia caregivers rate the emotional stress of caregiving as high or very high, compared with 28 percent of caregivers of other older people.

"The latest Facts and Figures report shows the significant impact of Alzheimer's disease – on the individual, the family, and state and federal government – all underscore the need for states to plan for the growing number and urgent service needs of these people," said **Bruner**. "We are currently working on an Alzheimer State Plan that will begin to address how **California** can begin the planning process, and state lawmakers' support in the **implementation** of this plan would be a significant first step."

**Special Report on Race, Ethnicity and Alzheimer's Disease**

- Although whites make up the great majority of the more than five million people with Alzheimer's and other dementias, African-Americans and Hispanics are at higher risk for developing the disease.
- Although whites makes up the great majority of the more than five million people with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias, African-Americans are about two times more likely than whites to have Alzheimer's and other dementias.

- Although whites make up the great majority of the more than five million people with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias, Hispanics are about one and one-half times more likely than whites to have Alzheimer's and other dementias.
- There are no known genetic factors that can explain the greater prevalence of Alzheimer's and other dementias in African-Americans and Hispanics than in whites.
- Conditions such as high blood pressure and diabetes, which are known risk factors for Alzheimer's and other dementias in all groups, are more common in African-Americans and Hispanics than in whites.
- High blood pressure and diabetes are potentially modifiable conditions and better management of these conditions could help to reduce the prevalence of Alzheimer's and other dementias.
- Although African-Americans and/or Hispanics are more likely than whites to have Alzheimer's and dementia, they are less likely than whites to have a diagnosis of the condition.
- Delays in diagnosis mean that African-Americans and/or Hispanics are not getting treatment in the earlier stages of the disease when treatments are most effective and they also miss the opportunity to make legal, financial and care plans.

The full text of the Alzheimer's Association's *2010 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures* can be viewed at [www.sanalz.org](http://www.sanalz.org).

#### **Alzheimer's Association's Facts and Figures**

The *Alzheimer's Association's Facts and Figures* report is a comprehensive compilation of national statistics and information on Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. The report conveys the impact of Alzheimer's on individuals, families, government, and the nation's health care system. Since its 2007 inaugural release, the report has become the most cited source covering the broad spectrum of Alzheimer issues. The *Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures* report is an official publication of the Alzheimer's Association®.

#### **About the Alzheimer's Association:**

The Alzheimer's Association San Diego/Imperial Chapter is a nonprofit 501 (c)(3) voluntary health organization whose mission is to eliminate Alzheimer's disease through the advancement of research; to provide and enhance care and support for all affected; and to reduce the risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health. The Chapter provides free services, including support groups, educational seminars, 24-hour Helpline, a research library, Care Consultations, Safe Return™ and Memories in the Making™ art program. For more information, visit [www.sanalz.org](http://www.sanalz.org) or call 1-800-272-3900.

