# U.S. AGING & DEMENTIA TRENDS

The **proportion** of older people with dementia is **declining 1-2.5% per year.**[1]

However, as Americans live longer and the baby boomers age, the **number of people** with dementia is **increasing.**[2]

The Number of People Ages 65 and Older Will Nearly Double Between 2016 and 2060.[3]

Projected Older People Population (in Millions)

Year	Population
2016	49
2020	56
2030	73
2040	81
2050	86
2060	95
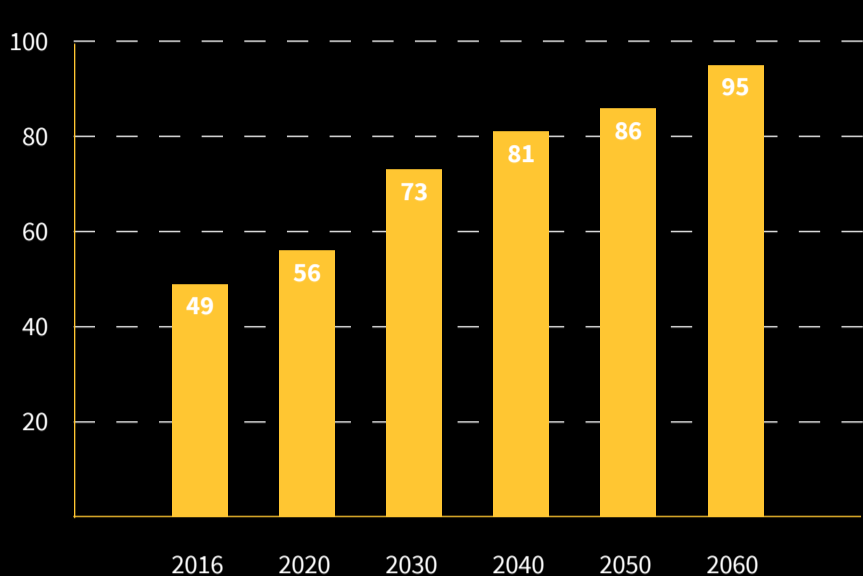
Education

Education gives adults an edge, reducing their dementia risk.

Older adults who do not complete high school are **3x as likely** to experience dementia as college graduates.[4]

Less-educated older people are **more likely to develop dementia and spend more years with the disease** than their more-educated peers.[5]

Older people today are **more educated** than earlier generations—contributing to the dementia decline.[6]

Persistent Gaps

Racial and socioeconomic disparities in dementia are **large and persistent.**

Among Americans ages 55 to 69, rates of cognitive limitation are:

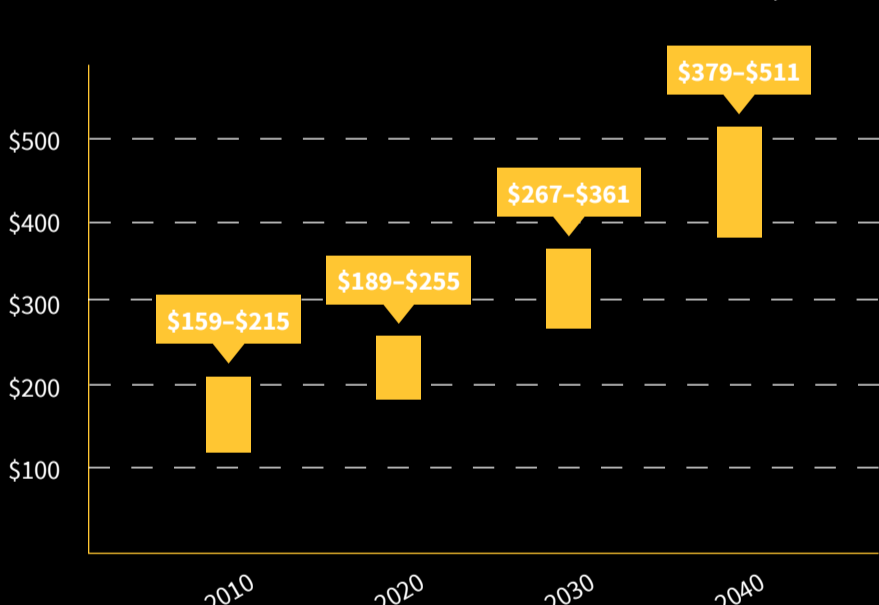**3x-4x** higher for black people than white people.[7]

7x-10x higher for the poorest quarter of the population than the richest quarter.[8]

Cost

Dementia is one of the **most expensive** U.S. health conditions.

Estimated Total Cost of Dementia in the United States (in Billions)[9]

Year	Cost
2010	$159–$215
2020	$189–$255
2030	$267–$361
2040	$379–$511

Estimated yearly costs reach **$215 billion** and could **more than double** by 2040 as the large baby boom generation ages.*

*The estimated total U.S. dementia costs for 2010 range from $159 billion to $215 billion, depending on how unpaid caregivers' time and lost wages are valued. For 2040, the range is $379 billion to $511 billion in 2010 dollars. Families tend to provide nearly all unpaid care.

Looking ahead

The most effective way to reduce dementia prevalence in the future is to postpone its onset through **preventive strategies and treatments.**[10]

Delaying the onset of dementia by two years could **reduce** the number of people living with the disease by **2.2 million (20 percent) by 2040.**

Projected Number of People With Dementia (in Millions)[11]

— If Current Trends Continue

- - - If Dementia Onset is Delayed Two Years
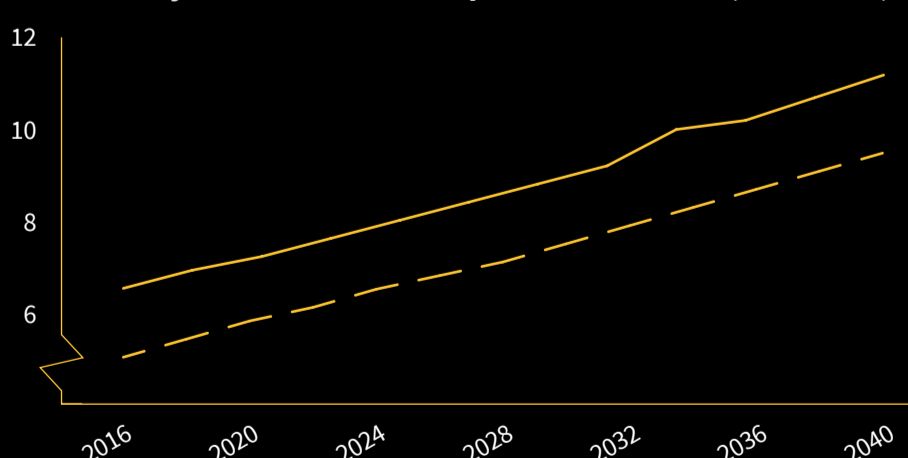
SOURCES

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[1] Schoeni et al. 2018, based on Houdomiet et al. 2018, Crimmins et al. 2018, and Freedman et al. 2018.
[2] Zissimopoulos et al. 2018.
[3] U.S. Census Bureau.
[4] Crimmins et al. 2018.
[5] Crimmins et al. 2018.
[6] Schoeni et al. 2018, based on Crimmins et al. 2018 and Freedman et al. 2018.
[7] Choi et al. 2018.
[8] Choi et al. 2018.
[9] Hurd et al. 2013.
[10] Zissimopoulos et al. 2018.
[11] Zissimopoulos et al. 2018.