



Alzheimer's Disease –A Public Health Crisis

Dr. Lara M. Al-Natour

The Hashemeite University.

Faculty of Medicine

Dep. Of Pharmacology and Public health

[*laram@hu.edu.jo*](mailto:laram@hu.edu.jo)

[*laram@staff.hu.edu.jo*](mailto:laram@staff.hu.edu.jo)

Office number: 1012

What Is Alzheimer's Disease?

- Certain brain diseases and conditions cause dementia.
- Alzheimer's disease is the most common type of dementia.
- It accounts for an estimated 60% to 80% of cases.
- Alzheimer's disease is an irreversible, progressive brain disorder.
- Slowly destroys memory, thinking skills, and the ability to carry out basic functions.

⁴Alzheimer's Association. What is Dementia? Accessed June 8, 2015 from website: <http://www.alz.org/what-is-dementia.asp#causes>

⁵National Institute on Aging. (2015) Alzheimer's Disease Fact Sheet.

Worldwide Epidemic

- Worldwide, the total number of people with dementia (including Alzheimer's disease) is estimated at over 47 million, in 2015.
- This number is projected to nearly double every 20 years to
 - 76 million in 2030
 - 145 million in 2050.
- The total number of new cases of dementia each year worldwide is nearly 7.7 million, which equates to one new case every four seconds.

Role of Public Health

- Public health plays an important part in addressing Alzheimer's.
- Three key public health intervention tools that can reduce the burden of Alzheimer's disease:
 - ✓ *Surveillance/monitoring*
 - ✓ *Primary prevention (risk reduction)*
 - ✓ *Early detection and diagnosis*



Surveillance/monitoring

- Surveillance/monitoring allows public health to compile data and use it to:
 - Develop strategies and interventions
 - Guide research
 - Evaluate programs and policies
 - Educate populations

Primary prevention (risk reduction)

- Promoting primary prevention can be used to promote risk reduction for Alzheimer's disease
- as well as promote cognitive health in general.

Early detection and diagnosis.

- Public health may play an important role in efforts to increase early detection and diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease, including:
 - Educating the public about the warning signs of dementia, benefits of early detection
 - Training to health care providers and newly diagnosed individuals, families, and caregivers.
 - Identifying and promoting strategies designed to promote early detection

*For more information, please visit the Alzheimer's Association website at:
<http://www.alz.org>*

Thank you 😊