

Alzheimer's Disease and American's Fears National Survey Results

Methodology

The Alzheimer's Association conducted a national survey among 1,020 American adults by using Opinion Research Corporation's CARAVAN® Omnibus Survey. Telephone interviews were completed September 16, 2004 through September 19, 2004. The margin of error for the overall sample is ± 3.1 percentage points, and is higher when comparing smaller subgroups.

Key Findings

- *Americans are equally afraid of caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's disease as they are of getting Alzheimer's disease themselves.*
 - Approximately one in two American adults (49%) are as afraid of taking care of a loved one with Alzheimer's disease as they are of getting the disease themselves.
 - Just less than one in five say they are more afraid of getting the disease themselves (17%) or say they are more afraid of taking care of a loved one with Alzheimer's disease (18%).
 - Similar to the total population, approximately one in two "Baby Boomers" (defined as those between the ages of 40 and 59) are as afraid of taking care of a loved one with Alzheimer's disease as they are of getting the disease themselves (49%).
- *Caregivers are significantly more afraid of getting Alzheimer's disease themselves than are non-caregivers.*
 - Caregivers (defined as those who have cared for or are currently caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's disease living at home) are significantly more likely than non-caregivers to be more afraid of getting Alzheimer's disease themselves (25% versus 16%, respectively). By contrast, a similar percentage of caregivers and non-caregivers say they are more afraid of taking care of a loved one with Alzheimer's disease (20% and 18%, respectively).

Fear of Getting Alzheimer's Disease Vs.
Taking Care of a Loved One with Alzheimer's Disease

	All Adults	Caregivers	Non- Caregivers	"Baby Boomers" (Adults between ages of 40 and 59)	Non- "Baby Boomers"
I'm more afraid of getting Alzheimer's disease myself	17%	25%	16%	17%	17%
I'm more afraid of taking care of a loved one with Alzheimer's disease	18%	20%	18%	18%	18%
I'm about as equally afraid of taking care of a loved one with Alzheimer's disease as I am of getting the disease myself	49%	35%	52%	49%	50%
Don't know/no opinion	15%	20%	14%	17%	15%