

Facts about Dementia in Calgary

Alzheimer's disease and other diseases that cause dementia are fatal, progressive and degenerative diseases that destroy brain cells. Diseases that cause dementia are physical diseases of the brain. **They are not mental illnesses and they are not a normal part of aging.**

Dementia is one of the most significant health crises of this century because of its rapid growth and its profound social impacts. These diseases can affect anyone, regardless of race, gender, family history, occupation, or social status.

- There are approximately 20,000 people in Calgary and area living with Alzheimer's disease or related dementias, and 2,800 more will develop it this year.
- Alberta will see a 286% increase in the number of people living with dementia from 2020 to 2050.
- About 68% (261,000) of Albertans living with dementia live at home (outside of publicly funded long-term care or nursing homes).
- For each person diagnosed, another 10 to 12 individuals are directly impacted
- Alberta is expected to see the largest percentage increase in the number of care partners for people living with dementia (290% increase) and the number of hours of unpaid caregiving (302% increase) compared to the rest of the country.
- Dementia is not just a disease of the aged; 5-10% of people diagnosed with dementia are under the age of 65 (young/early onset)

Sources:

Alzheimer Society of Canada: Navigating the Path Forward for Dementia in Canada: The Landmark Study Report #1

Canadian Institute of Health Information: How Dementia Impacts Canadians

Alzheimer Society of Calgary: www.alzheimercalgary.ca

Facts about Calgary's Older Adults

In 2021, there were 177,405 Calgarians aged 65+. Calgary's 65+ population is expected to increase by 29% in the next five years, with the population of seniors aged 85+ expected to grow at a much higher rate.

Seniors comprise 23% of Calgary's 84,600 households in housing need.

The median income (after tax) of people aged 65+ in Calgary in 2020 was \$33,600. For men 65+ it was \$40,000 and for women 65+ it was \$29,000.

The City of Calgary's Age Friendly Strategy commits to achieving six priorities for older adults:

1. Easy access for older adults to information and services
2. Community support and health - to age in place well
3. Housing - that meets accessibility and affordability needs and is close to services
4. Participation and inclusion – older adults feel welcomed and valued and can be socially, physically and intellectually active
5. Elder abuse is prevented and responded to
6. Transportation and mobility – older adults are able to freely move throughout the city as they age

Sources:

2023 City of Calgary Housing Needs Assessment
2021 Age Friendly Calgary Census Snapshot