

Addressing the Unmet Medical Needs of Older Americans

America's biopharmaceutical industry has made notable progress over the past several decades in researching and developing new medicines for older adults with chronic diseases. But considerable unmet medical needs remain as many older adults continue to lack treatment options or therapies that would better meet the wide range of complex needs that these patients face. Luckily, the medicines in the research and development pipeline hold the potential to improve health outcomes for all Americans with chronic diseases, including older adults.

More than 400 medicines are in development for leading chronic diseases affecting older Americans

<p>Alzheimer's Disease affects over 6 million Americans and 1 in 3 seniors die with Alzheimer's or some form of dementia.ⁱ</p> <p>117 Medicines in Development</p>	<p>Anemia prevalence among the elderly ranges from 8-44%, with the highest rates found in men aged 85 or older.ⁱⁱ</p> <p>20 Medicines in Development</p>	<p>Osteoarthritis affects 32.5 million Americans and is the most common form of arthritis among older adults.ⁱⁱⁱ</p> <p>53 Medicines in Development</p>
<p>Kidney disease is most prevalent in those over the age of 65 and it is believed 50% of those over the age of 75 have kidney disease.^{iv}</p> <p>22 Medicines in Development</p>	<p>10.7% of older adults ages 57 to 85 in community dwellings reported having chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder (COPD).^{vi}</p> <p>19 Medicines in Development</p>	<p>Among mental illnesses, major depressive disorder is the most common in older adults and one third of all adults living with depression do not respond to two or more antidepressants.^{vii, viii, ix}</p> <p>56 Medicines in Development</p>
<p>15.9 million or 29.2% of American adults aged 65 or older have diabetes (diagnosed and undiagnosed).^x</p> <p>68 Medicines in Development</p>	<p>Approximately 1 out of 3 American adults aged 65 or over has some form of vision-reducing eye disease-- most commonly cataracts, glaucoma and age-related macular degeneration.^{xi}</p> <p>20 Medicines in Development (glaucoma and cataracts)</p>	<p>Heart failure continues to be the leading cause of hospitalization among people over the age of 65.^{xiii}</p> <p>87 Medicines in Development</p>

Health Equity Perspective

As companies across the biopharmaceutical ecosystem continue to develop new medicines for the treatment of chronic conditions, it is essential to take meaningful action to help ensure underserved and historically marginalized communities have an opportunity to participate in clinical trials. Health disparities are seen among those with chronic diseases due to varying prevalence rates, severity of disease and access to treatment among certain disadvantaged and underserved communities. For example:

- African Americans are 2x more likely to develop dementia relative to white Americans.^{xiv}
- African Americans and members of the Black community are more likely than white Americans to die from the leading causes of death in the U.S. including heart disease, diabetes, cancer, stroke and kidney disease.^{xv}

Differences in chronic diseases among certain racial, ethnic and socioeconomic groups can be driven by limitations on healthy behaviors that can prevent these diseases and environmental factors that influence disease development. Our industry remains committed to researching new treatments for diseases that disproportionately impact historically marginalized patient populations and provide the opportunity to reduce the health disparities that impact them.

ⁱ <https://www.alz.org/media/Documents/alzheimers-facts-and-figures-infographic.pdf>

ⁱⁱ www.aafp.org/pubs/afp/issues/2000/1001/p1565.html

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.nia.nih.gov/health/osteoarthritis#:~:text=Osteoarthritis%20is%20the%20most%20common,joints%20break%20down%20over%20time>

^{iv} <https://www.cdc.gov/kidneydisease/publications-resources/ckd-national-facts.html>

^{vi} <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fmed.2022.814606/full>

^{vii} https://www.cdc.gov/aging/pdf/mental_health.pdf

^{viii} Zhdanova M, Pilon D, Ghelertar I, et al. The prevalence and national burden of treatment-resistant depression and major depressive disorder in the United States. *J Clin Psychiatry*. 2021;82(2):20m13699. <https://doi.org/10.4088/JCP.20m13699>

^x <https://diabetes.org/about-us/statistics/about-diabetes#:~:text=Prevalence%20in%20seniors%3A%20The%20percentage,diagnosed%20with%20diabetes%20every%20year>

^{xi} www.aafp.org/pubs/afp/issues/1999/0701/p99.html#:~:text=Approximately%20one%20person%20in%20three,the%20loss%20of%20central%20vision

^{xiii} <https://www.healthingaging.org/a-z-topic/heart-failure/basic-facts>

^{xiv} https://aacr.alz.org/downloads/2020/2020_Race_and_Ethnicity_Fact_Sheet.pdf

^{xv} https://phrma.org/-/media/Project/PhRMA/PhRMA-Org/PhRMA-Org/PDF/P-R/PhRMA_Health_Equity_Chart-Pack_FINAL.pdf