

## Dementia Prevalence in Orange County – FAQs

*According to new figures release by Alzheimer's Orange County*

**164,346** people in Orange County are affected by dementia or mild cognitive impairment (MCI)

### **Why are so many people affected and why has the prevalence increased?**

Age is the primary risk for developing dementia. Orange County's 65+ population is projected to grow to 27% of the total OC population by 2060 (Report on Aging in Orange County 2022, OCSPA)

Many types of dementia, including Alzheimer's disease—the most common form of dementia—don't have a cure.

### **How was this new estimate calculated?**

AlzOC applied widely published dementia prevalence figures to federal census data and to statistics from the County about the total number of seniors to extrapolate the number of people in Orange County with dementia or mild cognitive impairment (MCI)—an early form of memory loss. We also overlaid the number of people 65+ from the County with ethnicity as stated in the federal census.\*

### **What has changed since our previous estimate?**

Alzheimer's Orange County released a similar estimate in 2014 stating that 84,000 residents of Orange County either have or are at immediate risk of dementia. Some things that are worth noting since the release of our last estimate:

- 1) The state and country are aging but the population of older adults is growing more rapidly in Orange County
- 2) The identification of MCI has improved. For example, [we know from a study](#) referenced in this estimate that up to 22% of people over 65 experience some form of MCI. In our 2014 estimate we only knew the presumed incidence of dementia
- 3) The ethnic mix in the OC has deepened and communities of color are more at risk of developing dementia

**For more information and to download the toolkit visit:**

<https://www.alzoc.org/facts-and-stats/oc>



*\*Disclaimer: these numbers are estimates using widely published and generally accepted prevalence and census figures. Gender and younger onset dementia or dementia occurring before 65 have not been factored into these figures.*