

OREGON MEMORY NET, SB 796, plans to alleviate state's Alzheimer's Public Health Crisis

In 2020, **69,000**
Oregonians



were living with Alzheimer's.

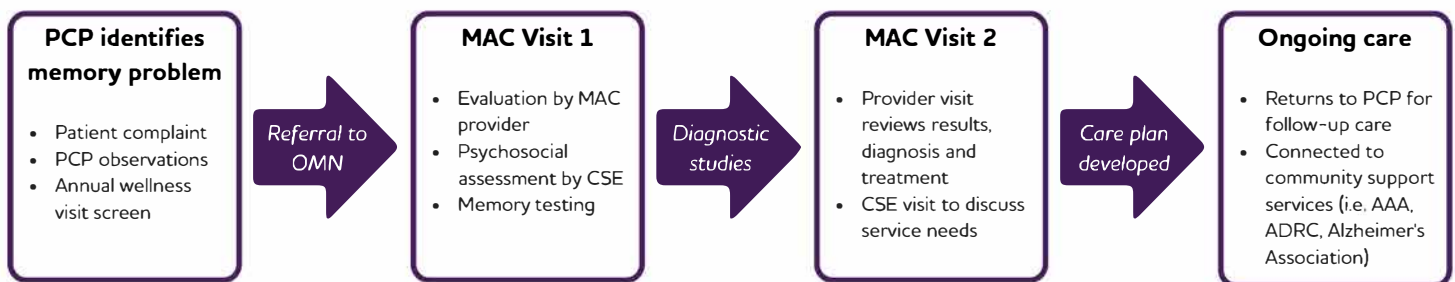
By 2025 the number
is expected to increase by

21.7%

The Oregon Memory Net (OMN), SB 796, would establish a partnership with our local Alzheimer's Disease Research Center to **refine patient workflow**, integrating community services educators (CSEs) and telehealth, and then contract with a designated Memory Assessment Clinic (MAC) to provide the services.

This modest state investment would **expand capacity to geographically diverse and underserved communities** and would be easily replicated at potential future sites.

Early detection and diagnosis are critical for both those with dementia and their family, and their ability to plan, receive services, and treatments to slow the progression. Here's what OMN's patient workflow would look like:



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What **OREGON** Officials Can Do to Address the Crisis



The Situation

Alzheimer's disease and all other dementia are a growing public health crisis in Oregon with more than 69,000 Oregonians currently diagnosed with Alzheimer's in the state and that number projected to grow to more than 84,000 by 2025. This number does not include other types of dementia nor those with mild cognitive impairment or even those younger than 65 with dementia.

The Cost

Early detection and diagnosis are critical for both those with dementia and their family, and their ability to plan, receive services, and treatments to slow the progression. Delayed diagnosis also impacts the state's budget, with unnecessary emergency room visits and early entrance into state supported long term care – both expensive and hard on families. Recognizing this burden, other states including Georgia, California, New York, Wisconsin, and Florida have been running similar and successful statewide programs for years.

What's Broken

Unfortunately, detection and diagnosis services are hard to find and have long waiting lists even in Portland, where wait times often exceed 200 days. Even when a diagnosis occurs in a timely fashion, many leave their appointments feeling alone, without a care plan or referral to the countless services and supports available to them. That must change.

Our Proposal

Based on the innovative Georgia Memory Net, the Oregon Memory Net (OMN), SB 796, would establish a partnership with our local Alzheimer's Disease Research Center, who would refine patient workflow, integrating community services educators (CSEs) and telehealth, and then contract with a designated Memory Assessment Clinic (MAC) to provide the services. This modest state investment would expand capacity to geographically diverse and underserved communities and would be easily replicated at potential future sites.