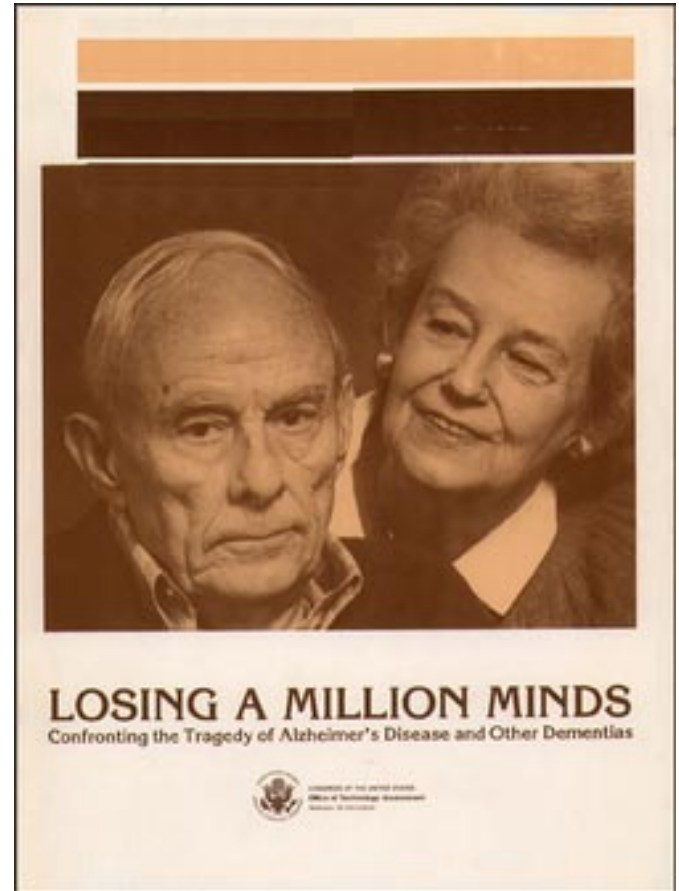


*Losing a Million Minds: Confronting the
Tragedy of Alzheimer's Disease and Other
Dementias*

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Foreword

Congressional concern about the plight of those suffering from Alzheimer's disease and other dementias has steadily mounted for the past five years. This report grew out of a previous OTA report on Technology *and Aging in America*; it was requested by the following seven committees:

- U.S. Senate:
 - Committee on Finance,
 - Committee on Labor and Human Resources,
 - Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and
 - Special Committee on Aging.
- U.S. House of Representatives:
 - Committee on Energy and Commerce,
 - Committee on Science and Technology, and
 - Select Committee on Aging.

In addition to the requesting committees, the House and Senate subcommittees that appropriate funds to the Department of Health and Human Services have frequently expressed interest, as have the Senate Committee on the Budget and the House Committee on Ways and Means. Members and staff of the requesting committees, other committees, and personal staff have been directly involved in identifying subjects that are covered in this report. The unusual length of this report is testimony to the diversity of issues associated with dementia that fall within the jurisdiction of various committees.

Writing this report involved collection of more than 10)000 pages of existing documents and preparation of more than 40 papers by outside experts under contract to OTA. Many of the OTA contract reports have been released to the National Technical Information Service or published elsewhere (see appendix C). OTA staff also gathered information through discussions with more than 130 congressional staff and hundreds of others—including government employees at the State and Federal levels and representatives of more than 100 nongovernment organizations in the United States and other countries. The resulting document has been reviewed by the project's advisory panel and more than 50 other experts in various relevant fields. More than one hundred other individuals have reviewed specific chapters or early drafts.

On behalf of OTA, I wish to express my thanks to the myriad of individuals who contributed either directly or indirectly to this study. It distills a mass of information into a form that I hope will be useful to policy makers. As with all OTA reports, however, the content is the sole responsibility of OTA and does not necessarily constitute consensus of or endorsement by the advisory panel or the congressional Technology Assessment Board.

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NOTE: OTA appreciates and is grateful for the valuable assistance and thoughtful critiques provided by the advisory panel members. The panel does not, however, necessarily approve, disapprove, or endorse this report. OTA assumes full responsibility for the report and the accuracy of its contents.

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