

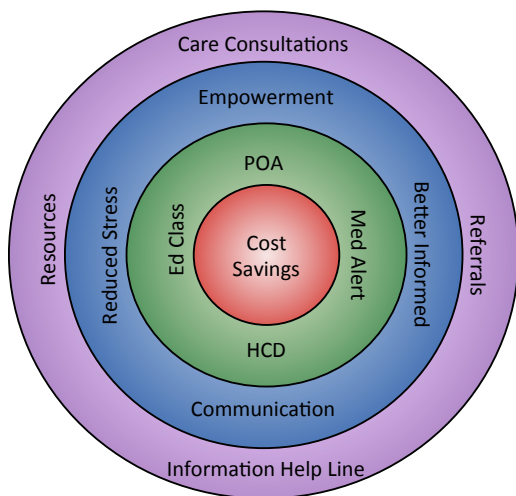


North Dakota Dementia Care Services Program (DCSP): Impact on Caregiver Support and Estimated Health/Long-Term Care Cost Savings

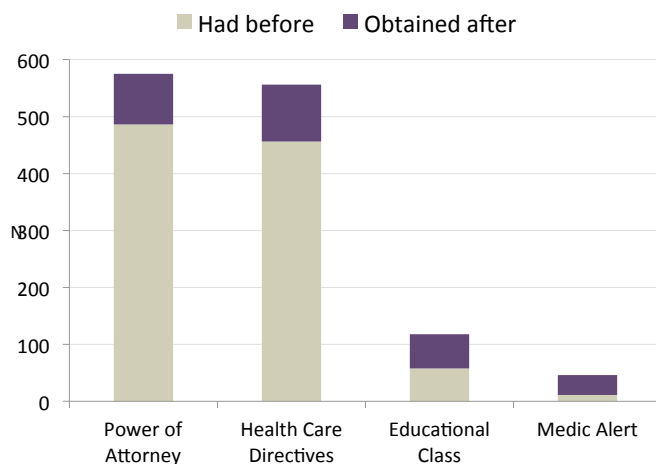
This fact sheet is Number 4 in a four-part series.

The intent of the DCSP is to increase caregiver knowledge about dementia and caregiving, decrease caregiver stress, and coincide with estimated health and long-term care cost savings.

DCSP Services and Aims



Impact of DCSP Participation on Caregivers' Completion of Important Dementia Care-Related Tasks/Activities



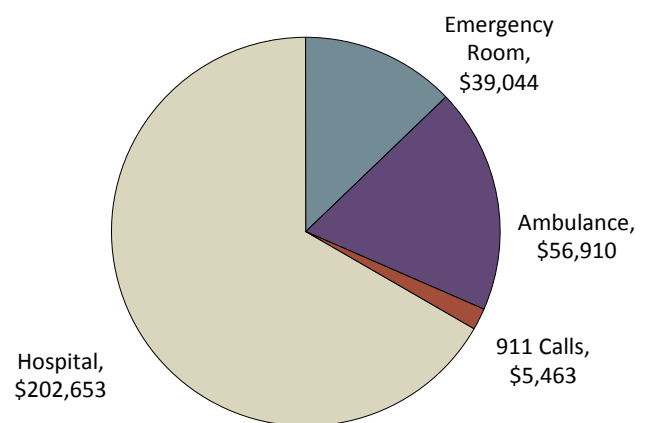
Caregivers' DCSP participation coincided with increases in completion of the following dementia care-related actions:

- Obtaining health care directives (22%)
- Establishing power of attorney (18%)
- Acquiring a medic alert system/device (318%)
- Attending a dementia-related educational class (103%)

Has DCSP participation coincided with estimated health care cost savings?

- Yes. DCSP participation coincided with reductions in PWDs' health service use, amounting to an estimated saving of \$304,070.

Estimated Savings by Health Service^a



Has DCSP participation coincided with estimated long term care cost savings for PWDs?

- Yes. DCSP participation coincided with notable changes in dementia caregivers' intentions for placing their PWD in long-term care, an estimated cost avoidance of **\$28,354,721.**^a

Conclusions

- As US health care spending continues to escalate¹ and dementia increases hospital stays by three-fold among the elderly,^{2,3} it is important to provide adequate support to dementia caregivers to increase their ability to provide home care and reduce avoidable hospital stays and associated costs incurred by dementia-affected persons/families, the health care system, and society.
- Initiatives like the DCSP are needed in other regions of the country and particularly in rural/frontier areas where caregivers face many additional challenges including decreased access to primary health care and scarce caregiving resources.

The Dementia Care Services Program (DCSP) was created by Dementia Care Services Bill (North Dakota House Bill 1043) in 2009. Funded by a grant from the Department of Human Services, the DCSP's aim is to inform persons with dementia (PWDs) and their caregivers about dementia care issues which, in turn, may lead to increased family support, decreased depression, delays in nursing home placement, and reductions in unnecessary health service use. Administered by the Alzheimer's Association, the DCSP provides care consultations to PWDs and their caregivers; these consultations consist of assessing needs, identifying issues and concerns and resources, developing care plans and referrals, and providing education and follow-up.

Notes

^a During the first 26 months of DCSP existence.

References

- ¹ Auerbach DI, Kellermann AL. A decade of health care cost growth has wiped out real income gains for an average US family. *Health Aff (Millwood)*. 2011;30:1630-6.
- ² Alzheimer's Association. 2012 Alzheimer's disease facts and figures. *Alzheimer's & Dementia*. 2012;8:131-168.
- ³ Bynum J. Unpublished tabulations based on data from the Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey, 2008. Lebanon, NH: Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy and Clinical Care, Dartmouth Medical School; 2011.

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