

ASSESSING THE SOCIOECONOMIC IMPACT OF ALZHEIMER'S IN WESTERN EUROPE* AND CANADA

*France, Germany, Italy, Spain and the UK

Alzheimer's disease is the most common form of dementia, accounting for 60-80% of dementia cases. There are currently an estimated 47m people living with dementia worldwide, with numbers expected to increase to nearly 131m by 2050. This increase is putting severe pressure on countries' healthcare systems, budgets, families and informal caregivers.



RAPIDLY AGEING POPULATIONS ARE ADDING TO THE RISING NUMBER OF PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA

Alzheimer's disease is a fatal illness that is believed to start with changes in the brain, which may begin 20 years or more before symptoms appear. These changes cause a progressive decline in memory and other aspects of cognition that eventually lead to dementia.

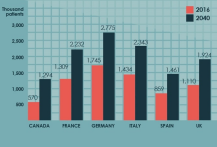


PREVALENCE



Across the European countries studied, only 0.1% of the population under 60 has been diagnosed with dementia. This proportion almost doubles at each 5-year older age band from 65-69 to 90 and older.

DEMENTIA PATIENTS IN 2016 AND ESTIMATES FOR 2040



THE GROWING HUMAN AND FINANCIAL COSTS OF DEMENTIA MAKE THE DISEASE ONE OF THE MOST PROBLEMATIC ISSUES CONFRONTING GOVERNMENTS AND SOCIETY TODAY



The burden of caring for someone with Alzheimer's is often a cause of considerable emotional stress for caregivers, especially if they are looking after a family member.

COUNTRY EXAMPLE:

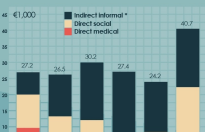


In Canada, for example, one survey found that more than 40% of those with Alzheimer's disease and dementia below the age of 65 reported being permanently unable to work.



Financially, the cost of dementia on health systems is becoming onerous due to the rise in the number of people with Alzheimer's as an overall percentage of the population."

ESTIMATED AVERAGE ANNUAL COST PER DEMENTIA PATIENT, 2016



*Direct costs can be subdivided into medical care costs and social care costs. Indirect costs are not medical expenses but instead account for losses such as income, productivity and opportunity.



Informal care is the largest cost component in all European countries, while in Canada we observed the opposite trend.

€7.4bn



UK

€976m



Italy

According to our analysis the UK has the highest direct medical cost of national level, at €7.4bn vs Italy at €976m.

IN TACKLING ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE, POLICYMAKERS ARE CONFRONTED WITH A NUMBER OF HURDLES.



Low rates of diagnosis



Increased burden on informal caregivers



Poor co-ordination of health and social care



Low levels of awareness

"Dementia is not looked at as a disease as such,"
"It's seen as a symptom of ageing."

Hans-Helmuth König

specialist in the economy of health at the University of Hamburg

MULTI-PRONGED SOLUTIONS

Multistakeholder collaboration can accelerate progress in tackling dementia.



The development of national dementia plans and strategies



Investment in research



Supporting awareness

CONCLUSION

Because the global population is ageing rapidly, the rising number of people with dementia is putting more pressure on health and social-care systems. The socioeconomic burden of Alzheimer's disease on these systems could be reduced significantly if countries succeeded in developing effective policies and collaborate in raising awareness.

"The fight against Alzheimer's disease and related illnesses requires a change of view of society as a whole"

Joël Jacuén

president, France Alzheimer