

Key Facts about Alzheimer's and Dementia in Australia

Prevalence and Projections

- In 2024, it is estimated that more than 421,000 Australians live with dementia. Without a medical breakthrough, the number of people with dementia is expected to increase to more than 812,500 by 2054.
- In 2024, it is estimated more than 40,500 people are living in Western Australia with all forms of dementia. This figure is projected to increase to almost 87,000 by 2054.
- In 2024, it is estimated almost 29,000 people are living with younger onset dementia, expected to rise to almost 41,000 people by 2054. This can include people in their 30s, 40s, and 50s.

Impact and Care

- More than 1.6 million people in Australia are involved in the care of someone living with dementia.
- 2 in 3 people with dementia are thought to be living in the community.
- More than two-thirds (68.1%) of aged care residents have moderate to severe cognitive impairment.

Causes and Types

- Alzheimer's disease is the most common form of dementia, affecting up to 70% of all people with dementia.
- Alzheimer's is the main cause of dementia.

Mortality

- Dementia is the second leading cause of death of all Australians.
- Dementia is the leading cause of death for Australian women.
- Provisional data suggests dementia will soon be the leading cause of death.

Current Status

- There is currently no cure.

References:

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2022) Dementia in Australia, AIHW, Australian Government, accessed 20 January 2023. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. Dementia Australia (2023) Dementia Prevalence Data 2024-2054, commissioned research undertaken by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare instead of Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2022) Dementia in Australia, AIHW, Australian Government, accessed 20 January 2023. Dementia Australia (2023) Dementia Prevalence Data 2024-2054, commissioned research undertaken by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare instead of Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2022) Dementia in Australia, AIHW, Australian Government, accessed 20 January 2023. Based on Dementia Australia's analysis of the following publications - Department of Health and Aged Care, 2020 Aged Care Workforce Census Report, 2020, p. 6; Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2022) Dementia in Australia, AIHW, Australian Government, accessed 20 January 2023. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2022) Dementia in Australia, AIHW, Australian Government, accessed 20 January 2023. AIHW suggests that more than half of all aged care residents have dementia: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2022) Dementia in Australia, AIHW, Australian Government, accessed 20 January 2020