New Insights into Place of Death for People with Alzheimer’s Disease, Dementia and Senility

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1. Introduction

• Dementia is a syndrome due to disease of the brain, usually of a chronic or progressive nature, in which there is disturbance of multiple higher cortical functions, including memory, thinking, orientation, comprehension, calculation, learning capacity, language and judgement.

• Dementia UK estimates a prevalence of people living with dementia of >600,000 (1.2% of the population).

• By 2030 it is estimated that there will be over 1,000,000 people living with dementia in the UK.

2. ICD Classification and definitions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cause of death</th>
<th>ICD 10 codes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dementia (includes vascular and unspecified dementia)</td>
<td>F01, F03 (any 4th digit)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alzheimer’s disease</td>
<td>G30 (any 4th digit)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senility (without mention of psychosis)</td>
<td>R54 (any 4th digit)</td>
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Underlying cause of death, defined as:

i) the disease or injury that initiated the train of events directly linked to death; or

ii) the circumstances of the accident or violence that produced the fatal injury.

Figure 1: Place of death distribution for males aged 65+ with underlying cause of death of Alzheimer’s disease, dementia or senility, England, 2007 to 2009

Males

- From age 75+ there was a continual decrease in the percentage of males dying in hospital, from 51% for age 75-79 to 25% for age 95+.
- There was a corresponding increase in the percentage of males dying in old people’s homes, from 13% for age 65-69 to 33% for age 95+.
- The percentage of males dying in nursing homes was approximately constant (circa 30%) across the displayed age range.
- The percentage of males dying at home gradually increased from 8% at age 70-74 to 13% for age 95+.

Figure 2: Place of death distribution for females aged 65+ with underlying cause of death of Alzheimer’s disease, dementia or senility, England, 2007 to 2009

Females

- From age 70+ there was a continual decrease in the percentage of females dying in hospital, from 41% for age 70-74 to 18% for age 95+.
- There was a corresponding increase in the percentage of females dying in old people’s homes, from 18% for age 65-69 to 39% for age 95.
- The percentage of females dying in nursing homes was approximately constant (circa 32%) across the displayed age range.
- The percentage of females dying at home gradually increased from 7% at age 70-74 to 10% for age 95+.

Source: Office for National Statistics, annual mortality extracts