



Fact sheet - What is dementia?

Dementia is the 6th largest killer of people in the UK. It is a term used to describe various different brain disorders and illnesses. Dementia causes a loss of memory and brain function, it is usually progressive and ultimately severe.

Symptoms include memory loss, confusion, problems with speech and understanding. There are over 100 different types of dementia, the most common is Alzheimer's disease. Once Alzheimer's has begun it usually gets worse.

Facts.

- Dementia costs the UK £17 billion per year, or £539 per second.
- 1 in 3 people will live to develop some form of dementia.
- 700,000 people in the UK are affected by dementia; more than half have Alzheimer's disease.
- In less than 20 years nearly a million people will be living with dementia. This will reach 1.7 million by 2051.
- Dementia affects 1 in 5 over 80s and 1 in 20 over 65s
- The Alzheimer's Society champions the rights of people living with dementia and those who care for them. The Alzheimer's Society works in England, Northern Ireland and Wales.

Numbers of people with dementia by local authority today, with projections to 2021

Local authority	Number of people with dementia now Total	Number of people with dementia by 2021 Total	Percentage increase %
Bedfordshire	3751	5753	53
Cambridgeshire	5953	9225	55
Essex	15267	21962	44
Hertfordshire	11286	15403	36
Luton	1339	1803	35
Norfolk	12311	18282	49
Southend-on-Sea	2562	3118	22
Suffolk	9110	13448	48
Thurrock	1046	1509	44
TOTAL	62626	90503	45

All data taken from the Dementia UK report 2007 and alzheimers.co.uk