What are the **inequalities** in dementia in Scotland?

- 9% of people over the age of 65 have dementia\(^2\)
- Estimated there will be 20,000 new cases per year\(^3\)
- Resulting in 56,300 Disability Adjusted Life-Years\(^1\)
- 7\(^\text{th}\) most common cause of disease burden in Scotland in 2015
Black & Ethnic Minority inequalities

It is often **believed** to be a **normal** part of ageing.

There is a reluctance to access mental health services and there can be **culturally biased** assessment tools.

Societal **stigma** creates additional barriers to seeking help.

For Gypsy, Traveller and Roma community members there is often a **fear** of discrimination in care.

There are also **challenges to access care** when crossing local authority boundaries.

Learning Disability inequalities

1 in 10 aged 50-65 will develop dementia.

1 in 5 over 65s will develop dementia.

2-3x greater risk of developing dementia compared to the general population.

**Symptoms** can **overlap** with those of dementia making diagnosis difficult.

Research shows a positive impact of **proactive screening** vs reactive treatment.
Geographic inequalities

40% of people living in remote rural areas

47% of people living in accessible rural areas

95% of people live in the rest of Scotland

GPs are accessible (within 15 minutes of public transport) to:

- Fluoride and Aluminium levels in drinking water can significantly increase later dementia risk

Key issues in dementia care in rural areas:

- Distance and lack of transport
- Cost of the service for the user
- Lack of choice in services
- Shortage of skilled staff

Odds ratio of dementia

- < 0.91
- 0.91 - 1.2
- > 1.2

Odds ratio for men

Odds ratio for women

Odds ratio for men

Odds ratio for women

Odds ratio for men

Odds ratio for women
WWD saw a GP an average of 6.5 time per year

MWD saw a GP an average of 7.3 time per year

7.7% of WWD were prescribed psychotropic medication

6.3% of MWD were prescribed psychotropic medication

Women with dementia (WWD) are less represented in dementia studies

Men with dementia (MWD) have higher rates of primary consultation

WWD are less frequently weighed by their doctor

MWD have higher rates of blood pressure checks

Sex inequalities

Women with dementia (WWD) are less represented in dementia studies

Men with dementia (MWD) have higher rates of primary consultation

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Sex inequalities
Treatment

prescribing appropriateness for community-dwelling people with dementia

Only 10% of those with Dementia were not on a repeat prescription\textsuperscript{12}

Over 40% of those with Dementia were taking 5+ medications\textsuperscript{12}

Other UK countries
Over 20% of people with Dementia in a Northern Irish study were prescribed at least one inappropriate medication\textsuperscript{14}

Over one in six people with Dementia are prescribed antipsychotic medication, known to be of minimal benefit and possibly harmful\textsuperscript{13}
References


