



# Costing Care for People with Dementia in Ireland

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# The Economic and Social Costs of Dementia

- Dementia is a costly condition – US\$604 billion per annum worldwide (World Alzheimer Report)
- UK: annual cost £23 billion per annum: significantly higher than cancer (£12 billion) & heart disease (£8 billion)
- Differs to other conditions in how these costs are distributed across groups – significant burden on informal caregivers



# Costing Care

- Cost of illness study: Identify, measure and value all resources related to a particular disease
- Top down/bottom up methodologies
- Five main resource use categories:
  - Informal care for people living in the community
  - Health and social care: primary/community/drugs
  - Acute care
  - Residential long-stay care
  - Premature mortality from dementia



## Data Issues in Ireland

- Do not have accurate information on the distribution of people with dementia across care settings...estimates only
- Do not have data on resource use for those with dementia
- Poor information on dementia in acute care
- Poor unit cost data generally
- Methodological issues in costing informal care



# Informal Care

- Amount of care informal care received by those with dementia from family/friends – no national data; extrapolation from small scale studies
- Provided free of charge – therefore without value?
  - Opportunity cost approach
  - Public expenditure approach

# Informal Care Costs

Number with dementia in community	26,104
Care hours per day	8.33
Cost per hour (€)	10
Total annual cost	€807,499,128



## Formal Health & Social Care

- **Primary & community care:** GP visits, respite day care, home help visit, etc. (€65m)
- **Out-patient care:** A & E, geriatric visit, etc. (€7m)
- **Medications:** anti-dementia, anti-depressant drugs, etc (€16m)
- **Psychiatric in-patient care:** dementia- related psychiatric inpatient admissions (€39m)



# Acute Care Costs of Dementia

- Accounting for non-diagnosed dementia raises dementia-related discharges in each age category e.g. increase by 2 in the 75-84 age category
- Leads to additional days spent in acute care - e.g. 16 days in the 65-74 age category
- Additional length of stay varies by condition/procedure – cardiovascular 39 days, respiratory 20 days
- Each additional day cost circa €800 – generic estimates



# Cost of Excess Length of Stay Associated with Dementia

Age Group	Dementia Related discharges	Excess length of stay associated with dementia	Number of extra days	Additional cost €m
<65 years	858	12.0	10,296	8,329,464
65-74	1,615	15.7	25,356	20,512,599
75-84	7,048	15.8	111,358	90,088,946
85+	9,165	10.9	99,899	80,817,887
				199,658,896



# Residential Long-Stay Care

- Assuming
  - 41,470 with dementia in Ireland
  - 26,104 in community
  - 644 in acute care
  - 456 in psychiatric care
  - Remainder – 14,266 in residential care?
  - 63% of long-stay residents – significantly higher than official estimates of 26%

# Cost of Dementia in Residential Long-Stay Care

	Number with dementia	Weekly cost of care (€)	Total annual cost of care (€)
HSE unit	4,235	1,246	274,250,823
Private unit	10,030	876	456,897,993
			731,148,816

# Productivity Losses Associated with Premature Death

	Dementia related deaths	Working years lost	Discounted annual earnings (€)	Total loss of earnings (€)
50-54	6	13	22,860	1,783,093
55-59	7	8	25,031	1,401,719
60-64	14	3	27,495	1,154,778
All				4,339,591

# Total Cost of Dementia in Ireland,

	<b>Total cost (€)</b>	<b>% of total cost</b>
Informal care	807,499,128	43
Formal health & social care	126,857,326	7
Long-stay care	731,148,816	39
Acute care	199,658,896	11
Premature mortality	4,339,591	<1%
	1,869,503,757	



# Conclusion

- Dementia is an expensive condition
- Globally \$600 billion plus
- Ireland €1.9 billion
- Majority of costs (43%) borne by family carers
- Residential care costs are also high (39%)
- Acute care costs for people with dementia not so well documented, but significant