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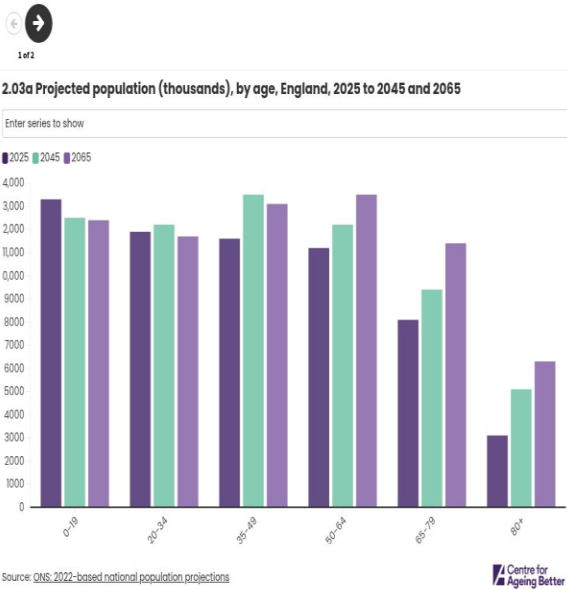


(Architecture&Dising2015)

The Cost of Care: Exploring the Impact of Dementia on Older Partners in the UK

Aim: This study looks closely at what happens inside British homes when an older person becomes the full-time, unpaid carer for a partner with dementia. The main goal is to measure the heavy, often hidden price these elderly spouses pay—not just financially, but in terms of their own failing physical health and emotional exhaustion within the current UK social care system.

Methods: This project answers this by utilizing a structured review of UK qualitative literature (2020–2026) to systematically decode the unpolished human voices and shared patterns of caregiver strain.



(Ageing Better 2025)

Methodology This study conducts a structured review of UK qualitative literature using robust digital repositories including PubMed, Google Scholar, and ProQuest, alongside official NHS archives. To ensure absolute transparency and academic rigor, the study screening strictly aligns with the PRISMA workflow, and the quality of the selected research is evaluated using the qualitative CASP guidelines. Inclusion Criteria: Peer-reviewed primary empirical research (2020–2026) based entirely within the UK, focusing on older spousal or partner care dynamics where dementia is present. Exclusion Criteria: Opinion pieces, literature reviews, studies outside the UK, research published before 2020 or focused on professional nurses and adult children.	Data collection is centered on gathering secondary qualitative evidence from primary empirical research that utilized direct interviews or focus groups to listen to real people. Resources: This process utilizes university library access to search digital repositories and open-access policy databases from NHS England and Age UK, ensuring the data captures the harsh realities of the post-pandemic care crisis.	Data Analysis: The qualitative data collected will be decoded using Thematic Analysis. This method allows for the identification, analysis, and reporting of shared patterns of strain, structural NHS barriers, and marital identity breakdown across the literature. Ethical Considerations: As a secondary study utilizing public, peer-reviewed literature, direct ethical approval for human participants was not required. However, high ethical and academic standards are maintained through constant positional checks to manage emotional bias, ensuring that the heartbreaking accounts of isolation and neglect are critiqued based strictly on factual evidence and scientific objectivity.
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