

# PREVALENCE OF DEMENTIA IN CROATIA FROM 1995 TO 2018

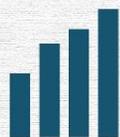


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There are over **50 million** people living with dementia globally predicted to increase to **152 million** by 2050.

Dementia is more common after the age of 65.

It is mostly demographically induced and with a lack of causal pharmacological therapies, **preventive approaches** are gaining in importance.

## Background



Almost **62%** of healthcare providers worldwide think that dementia is part of normal ageing.

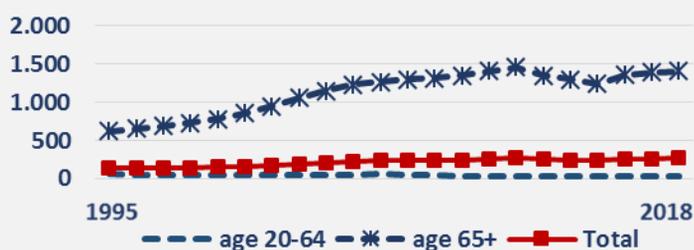
**40%** of the general public think doctors and nurses ignore people with dementia.

It is important to **identify the factors** that may delay the onset, slow the progression, or prevent cognitive decline. Physical and intellectual activity and social engagement being the most helpful.

## Material & Methods

- Descriptive statistical methods were used for data analysis for Dementia F00-F03 (ICD 10) diagnosed by General/Family Medicine teams from Croatian Health Service Yearbook, 1995-2018, according to the Croatian National Institute of Public Health.

Dementia (F00-F03) Croatia 1995-2018, rate /100,000



## Results

- In the observed period in Croatia, the prevalence of dementia had an increasing trend.
- In 2012 the rate was highest, 290/100,000 (12,444 patients) and lowest in 1996, 132/100,000 (5,858 patients).
- The average annual percent change (AEPCC) was 3.4%. The overall increase in the prevalence rate, compared to the beginning of the observed period, was 91%.
- At the beginning of the observed period, one family medicine team cared for 3 patients with dementia, and at the end for 5 patients.
- In 20-64 age group rate ranged from 24-69/100,000; median 40/100,000; AEPCC decreasing by -3.7%.
- In 65+ age group rate ranged from 611-1,524/100,000; median 1,253/100,000; AEPCC increasing by 4.1

## Conclusion

- In the observed period in Croatia, dementia prevalence had an increasing trend.
- There is a need to increase the public health awareness of dementia and improve the quality of health care, social care and long-term care support and services for people living with dementia and their families.
- Public health awareness campaigns for the elderly should include the promotion of physical activity, social connection, cognitive training, proper diet and management of cardiovascular risk factors.
- Early detection and better patient registration could be beneficial in shaping health policy and for the future development of dementia care.