

NHS England data, analysed by HSJ Information and Alzheimer's Society, reveals true extent of delays to discharge from hospital for people living with dementia

Key Findings

- The figures show that around a quarter (24%) of people aged 65 and over who are fit to be discharged but are kept in hospital for at least a week longer than necessary are believed to have dementia – nearly 29,000 people in one year.
- The figures also show that the impact of dementia on delayed discharge gets worse the longer people stay in hospital. The proportion of people believed to have dementia rises to almost a third (31%) for patients kept in for at least 21 days longer than they should be.
- The figures also reveal wide-spread variation at a local level, with some integrated care boards (ICBs) faring much worse than others.
- In total, keeping people living with dementia in hospital unnecessarily accounts for 584,080 bed days, estimated to have cost the NHS £328m in 2024/25.

National data

Figure 1 – Total number of patients aged 65+ believed to have dementia, staying 7 or more, 14 or more and 21 or more days longer than their discharge ready date, presented alongside total number of hospital stays and bed days for these patients

Date Period	Nation	Delayed Discharge Days	Patients (Dementia)	Percentage of All Delayed Patients	Hospital Stays (Dementia)	Delayed Discharge Bed Days (Dementia)
2024/2025	England	7 or more	28,825	24%	31,615	584,080
2024/2025	England	14 or more	14,570	29%	15,460	433,730
2024/2025	England	21 or more	8,240	31%	8,605	321,000

Figure 2 – Proportion of all patients aged 65+, staying 7 or more, 14 or more and 21 or more days longer than their discharge ready date, believed to have dementia (2024/25)

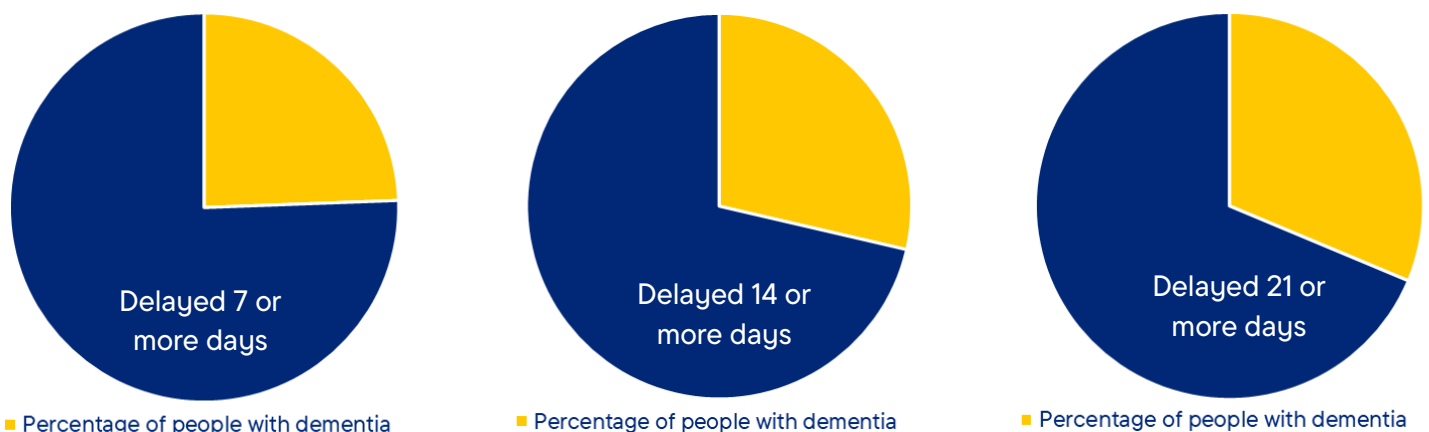


Figure 3 – Total number of patients aged 65+ believed to have dementia, staying 7 or more, 14 or more and 21 or more days longer than their discharge ready date between 2020/2021 and 2024/2025

Patients	Delayed Discharge Days		
	7 or more	14 or more	21 or more
2020/2021	1,630	600	250
2021/2022	2,575	1,225	670
2022/2023	9,135	5,190	3,200
2023/2024	24,630	13,005	7,455
2024/2025	28,825	14,570	8,240

Figure 4 – Total number of patients aged 65+ believed to have dementia, staying 7 or more, 14 or more and 21 or more days longer than their discharge ready date between 2020/2021 and 2024/2025

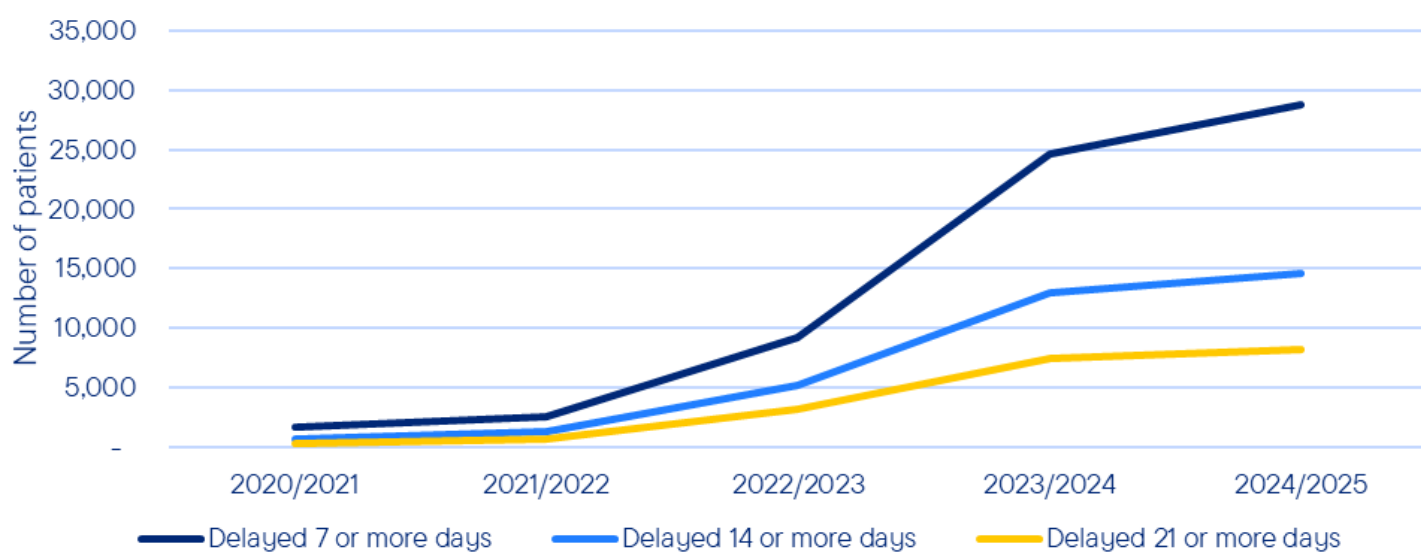
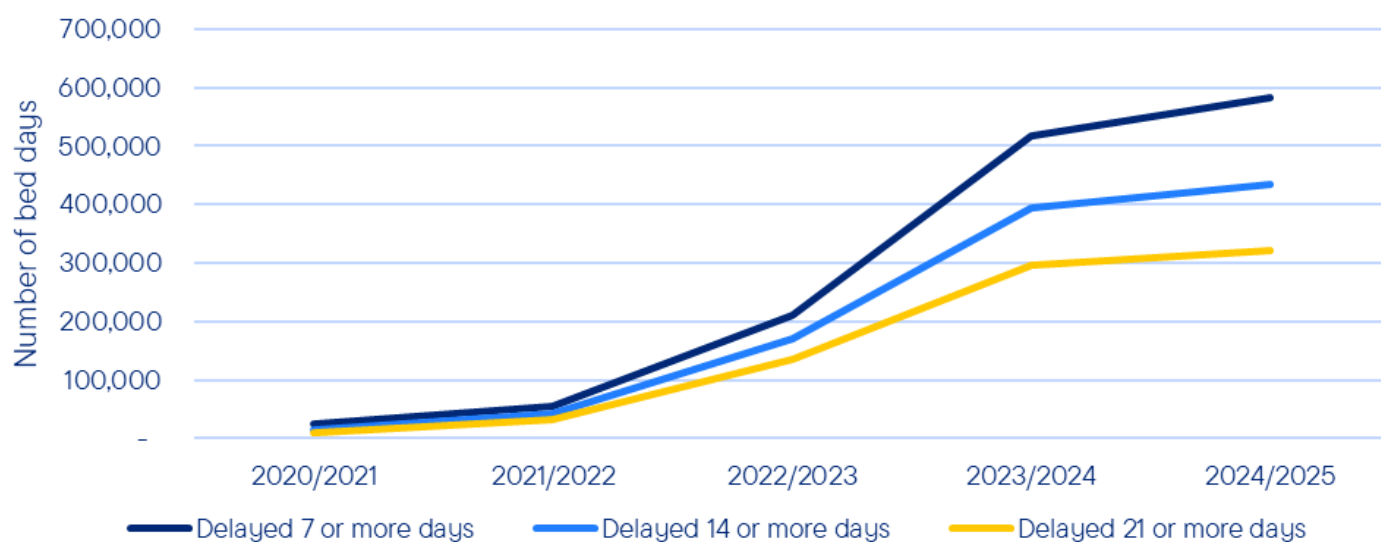


Figure 5 – Total number of bed days for patients aged 65+ believed to have dementia, staying 7 or more, 14 or more and 21 or more days longer than their discharge ready date between 2020/2021 and 2024/2025

Bed days	Delayed Discharge Days		
	7 or more	14 or more	21 or more
2020/2021	25,440	15,215	9,365
2021/2022	54,815	41,080	31,410
2022/2023	210,605	169,775	134,520
2023/2024	517,055	393,350	295,425
2024/2025	584,080	433,730	321,000

Figure 6 – Total number of bed days for patients aged 65+ believed to have dementia, staying 7 or more, 14 or more and 21 or more days longer than their discharge ready date between 2020/2021 and 2024/2025



Local data

Figure 7 – Total number of patients aged 65+ believed to have dementia, staying 21 or more days longer than their discharge ready date, and total number of hospital stays and bed days for these patients (2024/2025)

Date Period	NHS Integrated Care Board	Delayed Discharge Days	Patients (Dementia)	Percentage of All Delayed Patients	Hospital Stays (Dementia)	Delayed Discharge Bed Days (Dementia)
2024/2025	North Central London	21 or more	115	44%	120	4,335
2024/2025	Derby and Derbyshire	21 or more	75	43%	75	2,600
2024/2025	Cornwall and The Isles of Scilly	21 or more	110	41%	110	4,775
2024/2025	South East London	21 or more	270	40%	280	10,540
2024/2025	Greater Manchester	21 or more	530	40%	555	21,880
2024/2025	Hampshire and Isle of Wight	21 or more	625	38%	655	23,950
2024/2025	Dorset	21 or more	295	36%	310	14,315
2024/2025	North West London	21 or more	215	35%	225	8,705
2024/2025	Cheshire and Merseyside	21 or more	670	35%	700	29,450
2024/2025	Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire	21 or more	235	34%	240	8,980
2024/2025	Norfolk and Waveney	21 or more	230	34%	240	8,345
2024/2025	South West London	21 or more	170	34%	175	6,895
2024/2025	Surrey Heartlands	21 or more	265	34%	280	11,580
2024/2025	Staffordshire and Stoke-On-Trent	21 or more	160	33%	170	6,305
2024/2025	Kent and Medway	21 or more	275	33%	295	9,485
2024/2025	Hertfordshire and West Essex	21 or more	55	32%	55	1,835
2024/2025	Birmingham and Solihull	21 or more	100	32%	100	3,680
2024/2025	Frimley	21 or more	40	31%	45	1,500
2024/2025	North East London	21 or more	100	31%	100	3,455
2024/2025	Northamptonshire	21 or more	335	31%	365	13,090
2024/2025	Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West	21 or more	200	31%	210	6,905
2024/2025	Sussex	21 or more	705	30%	750	33,365
2024/2025	Herefordshire and Worcestershire	21 or more	185	30%	195	6,470
2024/2025	West Yorkshire	21 or more	340	29%	355	12,260
2024/2025	Somerset	21 or more	180	29%	190	7,150
2024/2025	Mid and South Essex	21 or more	55	29%	55	1,675
2024/2025	Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes	21 or more	110	29%	115	3,855
2024/2025	Coventry and Warwickshire	21 or more	165	28%	175	5,390
2024/2025	Cambridgeshire and Peterborough	21 or more	25	28%	25	825
2024/2025	Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland	21 or more	65	27%	65	2,065
2024/2025	Gloucestershire	21 or more	185	27%	195	6,885
2024/2025	Nottingham and Nottinghamshire	21 or more	35	27%	35	1,010
2024/2025	Black Country	21 or more	95	27%	100	3,620
2024/2025	South Yorkshire	21 or more	175	27%	180	5,495
2024/2025	Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin	21 or more	15	25%	15	375
2024/2025	Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire	21 or more	185	24%	195	6,990
2024/2025	North East and North Cumbria	21 or more	195	22%	200	6,535
2024/2025	Devon	21 or more	70	22%	75	2,020
2024/2025	Lincolnshire	21 or more	40	22%	40	1,230
2024/2025	Lancashire and South Cumbria	21 or more	155	21%	160	5,165
2024/2025	Humber and North Yorkshire	21 or more	125	21%	125	3,755
2024/2025	Suffolk and North East Essex	21 or more	70	19%	70	2,255

Figure 8 - Total number of patients aged 65+ believed to have dementia, staying 14 or more days longer than their discharge ready date, and total number of hospital stays and bed days for these patients (2024/2025)

Date Period	NHS Integrated Care Board	Delayed Discharge Days	Patients (Dementia)	Percentage of All Delayed Patients	Hospital Stays (Dementia)	Delayed Discharge Bed Days (Dementia)
2024/2025	North Central London	14 or more	185	42%	190	5,480
2024/2025	Derby and Derbyshire	14 or more	235	40%	235	5,155
2024/2025	South East London	14 or more	395	36%	415	12,825
2024/2025	Greater Manchester	14 or more	855	35%	910	27,840
2024/2025	Cornwall and The Isles of Scilly	14 or more	180	35%	190	6,070
2024/2025	Hampshire and Isle of Wight	14 or more	1,010	34%	1,080	31,030
2024/2025	North West London	14 or more	345	33%	375	11,125
2024/2025	Cheshire and Merseyside	14 or more	1,045	33%	1,115	36,365
2024/2025	Frimley	14 or more	100	31%	105	2,500
2024/2025	Surrey Heartlands	14 or more	420	31%	445	14,295
2024/2025	Mid and South Essex	14 or more	130	31%	135	2,915
2024/2025	Staffordshire and Stoke-On-Trent	14 or more	270	31%	290	8,225
2024/2025	North East London	14 or more	180	30%	185	4,870
2024/2025	Nottingham and Nottinghamshire	14 or more	105	30%	105	2,140
2024/2025	Dorset	14 or more	400	30%	425	16,220
2024/2025	South West London	14 or more	280	30%	300	8,935
2024/2025	Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire	14 or more	425	30%	450	12,390
2024/2025	Hertfordshire and West Essex	14 or more	115	29%	120	2,895
2024/2025	Birmingham and Solihull	14 or more	190	29%	195	5,205
2024/2025	Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland	14 or more	175	29%	185	4,010
2024/2025	Norfolk and Waveney	14 or more	375	29%	400	10,970
2024/2025	Kent and Medway	14 or more	520	28%	555	13,785
2024/2025	Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West	14 or more	380	28%	400	10,030
2024/2025	West Yorkshire	14 or more	650	28%	685	17,770
2024/2025	Northamptonshire	14 or more	535	28%	600	16,970
2024/2025	Sussex	14 or more	970	27%	1,040	38,160
2024/2025	Somerset	14 or more	320	27%	345	9,750
2024/2025	Herefordshire and Worcestershire	14 or more	295	26%	320	8,595
2024/2025	Black Country	14 or more	205	26%	210	5,450
2024/2025	Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes	14 or more	205	26%	225	5,655
2024/2025	South Yorkshire	14 or more	430	26%	445	9,890
2024/2025	Gloucestershire	14 or more	320	25%	355	9,575
2024/2025	Coventry and Warwickshire	14 or more	325	25%	345	8,230
2024/2025	Devon	14 or more	210	24%	215	4,355
2024/2025	Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin	14 or more	40	24%	40	800
2024/2025	North East and North Cumbria	14 or more	505	24%	525	11,835
2024/2025	Cambridgeshire and Peterborough	14 or more	60	24%	60	1,435
2024/2025	Humber and North Yorkshire	14 or more	310	23%	320	6,900
2024/2025	Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire	14 or more	295	23%	315	9,015
2024/2025	Lancashire and South Cumbria	14 or more	340	22%	340	8,145
2024/2025	Lincolnshire	14 or more	105	20%	105	2,330
2024/2025	Suffolk and North East Essex	14 or more	145	18%	150	3,600

Figure 9 - Total number of patients aged 65+ believed to have dementia, staying 7 or more days longer than their discharge ready date, and total number of hospital stays and bed days for these patients (2024/2025)

Date Period	NHS Integrated Care Board	Delayed Discharge Days	Patients (Dementia)	Percentage of All Delayed Patients	Hospital Stays (Dementia)	Delayed Discharge Bed Days (Dementia)
2024/2025	South East London	7 or more	645	32%	700	15,520
2024/2025	North Central London	7 or more	350	32%	380	7,225
2024/2025	Derby and Derbyshire	7 or more	720	32%	755	9,890
2024/2025	Greater Manchester	7 or more	1,550	30%	1,710	35,225
2024/2025	Surrey Heartlands	7 or more	760	29%	820	17,765
2024/2025	North West London	7 or more	630	28%	690	14,095
2024/2025	Frimley	7 or more	290	28%	310	4,350
2024/2025	Nottingham and Nottinghamshire	7 or more	380	28%	400	4,755
2024/2025	North East London	7 or more	330	27%	355	6,415
2024/2025	South West London	7 or more	530	27%	585	11,675
2024/2025	Hampshire and Isle of Wight	7 or more	1,805	27%	2,025	39,895
2024/2025	Cheshire and Merseyside	7 or more	1,630	27%	1,785	42,685
2024/2025	Mid and South Essex	7 or more	260	27%	275	4,260
2024/2025	Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland	7 or more	495	26%	530	7,095
2024/2025	Staffordshire and Stoke-On-Trent	7 or more	540	26%	605	11,135
2024/2025	Hertfordshire and West Essex	7 or more	350	26%	375	5,165
2024/2025	Black Country	7 or more	575	25%	615	9,125
2024/2025	Northamptonshire	7 or more	920	25%	1,085	21,475
2024/2025	Kent and Medway	7 or more	1,135	24%	1,255	20,340
2024/2025	Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin	7 or more	145	24%	150	1,770
2024/2025	West Yorkshire	7 or more	1,175	24%	1,280	23,490
2024/2025	Sussex	7 or more	1,445	24%	1,580	43,250
2024/2025	Cornwall and The Isles of Scilly	7 or more	305	24%	325	7,290
2024/2025	Birmingham and Solihull	7 or more	380	24%	400	7,170
2024/2025	Coventry and Warwickshire	7 or more	710	24%	780	12,240
2024/2025	Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire	7 or more	775	24%	855	16,270
2024/2025	Dorset	7 or more	620	23%	675	18,590
2024/2025	Somerset	7 or more	620	23%	695	12,980
2024/2025	South Yorkshire	7 or more	1,100	23%	1,240	17,215
2024/2025	North East and North Cumbria	7 or more	1,380	23%	1,490	20,735
2024/2025	Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes	7 or more	410	22%	450	7,780
2024/2025	Devon	7 or more	640	22%	680	8,680
2024/2025	Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West	7 or more	735	22%	815	13,845
2024/2025	Norfolk and Waveney	7 or more	655	22%	720	13,950
2024/2025	Cambridgeshire and Peterborough	7 or more	145	21%	150	2,235
2024/2025	Humber and North Yorkshire	7 or more	700	21%	740	10,880
2024/2025	Herefordshire and Worcestershire	7 or more	490	21%	550	10,800
2024/2025	Gloucestershire	7 or more	535	21%	620	12,065
2024/2025	Lancashire and South Cumbria	7 or more	760	21%	815	12,565
2024/2025	Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire	7 or more	545	19%	600	11,715
2024/2025	Lincolnshire	7 or more	345	19%	365	4,665
2024/2025	Suffolk and North East Essex	7 or more	365	18%	390	5,810

Methodology notes

Data produced in collaboration with HSJ Information. This work uses data provided by patients and collected by the NHS as part of their care and support. Secondary care data is taken from the English Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) database produced by NHS England, Copyright © 2025, NHS England. Re-used with the permission of NHS England. All rights reserved.

Costs have been calculated using NHS England's latest figure of £562 per day.

Counts are rounded to the nearest 5.

'People believed to have dementia' refers to people whose hospital record identifies that they have dementia. This is likely to be inconsistent with GP records and is also likely to be an underestimate – 1 in 3 people living with dementia do not currently have a diagnosis.

Non-elective admissions only.

For further information on the methodology, contact Alzheimer's Society Strategic Evidence Team - strategic.evidence@alzheimers.org.uk