# NHS surpasses half a million dementia diagnoses, driven by innovative at-home monitoring



NHS England has reported a significant milestone in dementia care, with over half a million people now having received a formal dementia diagnosis, representing an increase from just over 490,000 this time last year. This record number reflects the ongoing efforts by the NHS to improve dementia recognition and support, aiding many individuals in managing their condition at home with the assistance of family and healthcare services. One of the latest innovations supporting this goal is the introduction of an at-home monitoring service called MinderCare by Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust. This service utilises sensors placed in patients’ homes to track movement, medication adherence, and signs of infection or health deterioration, providing clinical teams with real-time insights to tailor care and potentially reduce unnecessary hospital admissions. Relatives have noted that this technology offers reassurance when caring for loved ones, particularly when they are left alone, enabling earlier intervention should their condition change.

NHS data from July 2024 indicate that 506,549 people have been diagnosed with dementia, continuing a trend of steady increases over recent years. This follows a 2023 report that showed a national diagnosis rate hitting a three-year high, with more than 475,000 diagnoses at that point. The NHS aims to reach a diagnosis rate of 66.7% among those estimated to have dementia, with proactive assessments especially in care homes driving progress in regions such as the North West and North East of England, which are leading the way in meeting this target. Despite these gains, significant challenges remain: around a third of people living with dementia in England are still believed to be undiagnosed. Campaigners from Alzheimer’s Society emphasise that early and accurate diagnosis is crucial not only for accessing essential care and support but also for managing symptoms effectively and avoiding crises.

The importance of improving diagnosis rates is further underscored by recent research from the Alzheimer’s Society, which found that individuals with undiagnosed dementia are three times more likely to attend accident and emergency departments compared to those without dementia. This results in over half a million additional hospital visits annually, highlighting a substantial financial and operational burden on the NHS. Moreover, regional disparities in diagnosis rates remain stark, with some areas exhibiting up to a 45 percentage point difference in detection rates. Such inequality means that more than 115,000 dementia cases potentially go unrecognised, often linked to limited scanning capacity and lack of targeted local strategies to improve diagnostic access.

Access to timely diagnosis also affects patients’ ability to benefit from emerging treatments, particularly for Alzheimer’s disease. Previous reports have indicated that over 250,000 people with dementia in England may miss out on such therapies due to the absence of a formal diagnosis, despite an estimated 708,000 individuals over 65 living with the condition. This gap reinforces calls for continued investment not only in innovative technologies like MinderCare that support care after diagnosis but also in frontline diagnostic services to bridge the divide and ensure equitable care.

The introduction of services like MinderCare represents part of the NHS’s broader commitment to supporting people to live safely and comfortably in their own homes for as long as possible. Funded by the medical research charity LifeArc, Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust plans to enrol 100 patients by September 2025 to study the service’s effectiveness more closely. Jeremy Isaacs, NHS England’s national clinical director for dementia, highlights the potential of technology to transform dementia care and encourages anyone noticing early symptoms—such as forgetfulness or difficulty planning—to seek GP assessment promptly. Alzheimer’s Society also recommends using their dementia symptoms checklist as a first step towards professional evaluation.

As families across the country reconnect, especially during holiday periods, the opportunity to identify early signs of dementia grows, offering hope that diagnosis rates will continue to climb and that more people will gain access to the care and support they need.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/uk/half-a-million-people-have-received-dementia-diagnosis-on-nhs-figures-show/a1019034984.html), [[7]](https://www.imperial.nhs.uk/about-us/news/innovative-home-monitoring-service-aims-to-improve-care)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/uk/half-a-million-people-have-received-dementia-diagnosis-on-nhs-figures-show/a1019034984.html), [[2]](https://www.england.nhs.uk/2024/07/dementia-diagnoses-in-england-at-record-high/), [[3]](https://www.england.nhs.uk/2023/11/nhs-dementia-diagnosis-rates-at-three-year-high/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[4]](https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/news/2024-09-16/living-with-undiagnosed-dementia-three-times-more-likely-visit-ae), [[6]](https://www.theguardian.com/society/2023/oct/23/inequality-leaving-115000-dementia-cases-undiagnosed-in-england), [[5]](https://www.theguardian.com/society/2023/jul/20/dementia-patients-england-could-miss-new-treatments-alzheimers)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/uk/half-a-million-people-have-received-dementia-diagnosis-on-nhs-figures-show/a1019034984.html), [[7]](https://www.imperial.nhs.uk/about-us/news/innovative-home-monitoring-service-aims-to-improve-care), [[4]](https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/news/2024-09-16/living-with-undiagnosed-dementia-three-times-more-likely-visit-ae)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/uk/half-a-million-people-have-received-dementia-diagnosis-on-nhs-figures-show/a1019034984.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.england.nhs.uk/2024/07/dementia-diagnoses-in-england-at-record-high/> - In July 2024, NHS figures revealed a record 487,432 people in England had received a dementia diagnosis, marking a three-year high with a diagnosis rate of 65.0%. This reflects a significant increase from the previous year, indicating the NHS's commitment to enhancing dementia care. Despite this progress, the NHS aims to meet its target of diagnosing 66.7% of individuals estimated to have dementia. Proactive assessments in care homes have contributed to this rise, with regions like the North West and North East England exceeding the national target.
3. <https://www.england.nhs.uk/2023/11/nhs-dementia-diagnosis-rates-at-three-year-high/> - In November 2023, NHS data showed a significant rise in dementia diagnoses, with 475,573 people diagnosed, an increase of over 52,000 from the previous year. This brought the diagnosis rate to a three-year high. The NHS introduced new pilots to further boost diagnosis rates, including proactive assessments in care homes. The initiative aims to meet the national ambition of diagnosing 66.7% of individuals over 65 with dementia, with regions like the North West and North East England leading in meeting this target.
4. <https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/news/2024-09-16/living-with-undiagnosed-dementia-three-times-more-likely-visit-ae> - A study by Alzheimer's Society, published in September 2024, found that individuals with undiagnosed dementia are three times more likely to visit A&E compared to those without the condition. This equates to over 520,000 additional visits annually. The research underscores the importance of early diagnosis, which can lead to better management of symptoms and potentially reduce hospital admissions. The study highlights the financial burden on the NHS and the need for improved diagnostic services to address this issue.
5. <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2023/jul/20/dementia-patients-england-could-miss-new-treatments-alzheimers> - An article from July 2023 highlighted that over 250,000 dementia patients in England might miss out on new treatments due to the lack of a formal diagnosis. NHS data estimated that approximately 708,000 individuals over 65 have dementia, but only about 450,000 have a recorded diagnosis. This significant gap means many patients are unable to access potential new treatments for Alzheimer's disease. The article emphasizes the need for improved diagnostic rates to ensure patients benefit from emerging therapies.
6. <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2023/oct/23/inequality-leaving-115000-dementia-cases-undiagnosed-in-england> - A report from October 2023 revealed that more than 115,000 dementia cases in England remain undiagnosed due to regional disparities. Analysis of NHS primary care dementia figures showed a 45 percentage point difference between areas with the highest and lowest diagnosis rates. This means over 255,000 patients are living with dementia without a recorded diagnosis. The report calls for increased scanning capacity and strategic local plans to improve access to diagnostic services across the country.
7. <https://www.imperial.nhs.uk/about-us/news/innovative-home-monitoring-service-aims-to-improve-care> - In July 2025, Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust launched 'MinderCare', an innovative at-home monitoring service for people living with dementia. The service uses a network of sensors installed in the home to send data to a dedicated team of healthcare professionals. This team monitors daily routines, medication adherence, and identifies early signs of changing health needs, aiming to reduce unnecessary hospital admissions. The initiative is part of the NHS's commitment to providing care closer to home and enhancing the quality of life for individuals with dementia.