

Embargoed till Friday 20 September 2019, 0001 Hrs

Appendix

Alzheimer's Disease International 2019 Report

The World Alzheimer's Report is an annual report done yearly to survey the attitudes and climate of dementia around the world. The worldwide report for 2019 is the largest attitudes to dementia survey ever undertaken, with responses from almost 70,000 people across 155 countries and territories. Survey respondents included people living with dementia, carers, healthcare practitioners and the general public. Analysis of the study was carried out by the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE).

Out of the 70,000 global respondents, Singaporeans made up 224 respondents.

This year's Report reveals that stigma around dementia is preventing people from seeking the information, advice, support and medical help that could dramatically improve their length and quality of life for what is one of the world's fastest growing causes of death globally. The number of people living with dementia is forecast to more than triple, from over 50 million currently, to 152 million by 2050.

The survey's key findings include:

- 2 in 3 people still think that dementia is a normal part of ageing, as opposed to a neurodegenerative disease.
- 62 per cent of healthcare practitioners also think it is a normal part of ageing.
- Around 50 per cent of people living with dementia feel ignored by healthcare professionals (physicians and nurses).
- 33 per cent of people thought that if they had dementia, they would not be listened to by health professionals or doctors.
- 1 in 5 people attribute dementia to bad luck, almost 10 per cent to God's will and 2 per cent to witchcraft.
- 48 per cent of respondents believe a person with dementia's memory will never improve, even with medical support.
- 1 in 4 people think there is nothing we can do to prevent dementia.
- 95 per cent of participants think they could develop dementia.
- Over two thirds of people (69.3 per cent) would take a genetic profiling test to learn whether they are at risk of dementia, even though there is currently no disease-modifying treatment.

Other statistics:

- Every 3 seconds, someone in the world develops dementia, but most people with dementia do not receive a diagnosis or support.
- The annual cost of dementia is over US\$1 trillion – a figure set to double by 2030.
- Deaths due to dementias more than doubled between 2000 and 2016, making it the 5th leading cause of global deaths in 2016 compared to 14th in 2000.

Alzheimer's Disease Association x Singapore Management University April 2019 Survey

The study, titled *Remember.For.Me*, polled 5,679 respondents in January and February 2019. 32 were persons with dementia while 1,156 were primary or secondary caregivers. The others were the general public with no connection to dementia.

The survey was led by Ms Rosie Ching, a senior lecturer of statistics at SMU's School of Economics, as part of a module in which students also tackle real-world challenges. Ms Ching and her 99 students worked closely with the ADA to develop a tailored survey consisting of more than 133 questions.

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The survey's key findings include:

- Nearly three in four people with dementia here experience rejection and loneliness.
- More than half of the general public feel uncomfortable interacting with them, nearly eight in 10 want to do more to improve the lives of people with dementia.
- More than half of the people with dementia surveyed (56 per cent) said that others treat them as less competent, and half feel that they cannot be open with others about their condition.
- About 56 per cent of the general public think their knowledge of dementia is low. More than two in five (44 per cent) feel frustrated not knowing how to help people with dementia.
- Half of those with dementia feel ashamed of their condition, with stigma as the main reason.
- About 70 per cent of all respondents said people with dementia should live with family and agree that Singapore needs to provide more dementia-friendly amenities.

Details on the study can be found here: <http://www.screeningstatistics.com/alzheimers/>