**Alzheimer’s Disease**

**UK**

Alzheimer's disease is the most common cause of dementia, affecting around 465,000 people in the UK.

**Symptoms:**

People in the early stages of Alzheimer's disease may experience lapses of memory and have problems finding the right words. As the disease progresses, they may:

* become confused, and frequently forget the names of people, places, appointments and recent events
* Experience mood swings. They may feel sad or angry. They may feel scared and frustrated by their increasing memory loss
* Become more withdrawn, due either to a loss of confidence or to communication problems.

As the disease progresses, people with Alzheimer's will need more support from those who care for them. Eventually, they will need help with all their daily activities.

**AGE:**

Age is the greatest risk factor for dementia. Dementia affects one in 14 people over the age of 65 and one in six over the age of 80. However, Alzheimer's is not restricted to elderly people: in the UK, there are over 16,000 people under the age of 65 with dementia, although this figure is likely to be an underestimate.

**Economic risk:**

Social care, unpaid care and medical care costs total more than 1% of world GDP and are likely to increase to 85% by 2030.

If dementia was a country it would be the world’s 18th largest economy, and if it was a company it would be the world’s biggest annual revenue.

Currently costs the UK £20 billion annually.

**Zimbabwe**

Long term:

* more than 1.7 million will suffer by 2051 – ageing population
* not restricted to elderly people.

Chronic/ degenerative disease.

Pandemic risk.

Alzheimer’s is most prevalent in MEDC’s such as USA, Canada, UK, Australia, New Zeland and Western Europe.

It fits into stage 3: age of chronic diseases.

Impacts:

* Number of people with dementia will almost double by 2030 to 66 million and more than triple by 2050 to 115 million.
* Stress on health care will hinder quality of service.