**Dementia is forecast to be the 3rd leading cause of death by 2040.**

In January 2025, Alzheimer’s Disease International (ADI) published a commentary and research in [*Nature Reviews Neurology*](https://www.nature.com/articles/s41582-024-01051-w).

Through comparison of projected mortality figures for 143 diseases categorized as level 3 in the International Classification of Diseases shows that:

* At a national level, dementia is projected to be among the top 10 leading causes of death in 166 of the 195 countries and territories for which calculations are possible.
* Among these countries, it is projected to rank in the top five causes of death in 121, the top two in 53, and will be the leading cause of death in 19 countries.
* When considering years of life lost, dementia will be the 5th leading cause by 2040.  These data also demonstrate that dementia-related mortality will also increase substantially in low-income countries.

Currently, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), more than

55 million people are currently living with dementia, a number that is projected to increase to 139 million by 2050. Dementia is, according to this data, currently the seventh leading cause of death globally and fifth leading among noncommunicable diseases (NCDs).

The article highlights the omission of dementia from policy and framework conversations surrounding the NCD agenda – leading to consequences for people living with the condition, and their carers.

ADI strongly welcomes the inclusion of dementia in the Zero Draft of the political declaration and emphasises the importance of sustaining this momentum in the lead-up to September to ensure dementia remains prominently reflected in the final text.

Please contact [info@alzint.org](mailto:info@alzint.org) for a copy of the article or for more information.