



Spain

**Population**

47,330,000

Area502,654 km²**Capital**

Madrid

3 largest cities

Madrid (3,330,000)

Barcelona (1,660,000)

Valencia (800,000)

Neighboring countries

Andorra, France,

Portugal

1. Migration history
2. Estimated number of people with a migration background with dementia
3. National dementia plan
4. National dementia care and treatment guidelines
5. References



1. Migration history

Over the last 500 years, Spain's migration was characterised by emigration, especially to Latin America. It reached its peak between 1905 and 1913 when 1.5 million people left the country for Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil, and Venezuela. Between 1946 and 1958, further 624,000 people emigrated. Afterward, the number of emigrants to Latin America decreased (300,000 between 1958 and 1975) and emigration shifted towards other European countries. Between 1960 and 1975, about two million people emigrated to Germany, France, and Switzerland [1, 2]. Approximately 1.5 million of them returned to Spain. In the 1970s and 1980s, the immigration of people from Latin America, the Philippines, and the former colony of Equatorial Guinea, as well as pensioners from Northern and Western Europe increased. In the following years, migration trends shifted towards south-north migration from North Africa (especially Morocco) and east-west migration from Central and Eastern Europe. Spain became the second most popular destination for migrants from Romania. Between 1975 and 2000, the number of foreigners increased fivefold, and from 2000 to 2007, the number of holders of residence permits grew by 20% annually [1].

After the financial crisis in 2008, the number of immigrants decreased for several years. This trend was interrupted by the arrival of 457,700 migrants in 2011 [3]. Between 2016 and 2018, the number of refugees and migrants who arrived in Spain via the western Mediterranean route has increased again (from 14,600 to 65,400) [4]. Most migrants came from Morocco, Algeria, Guinea, the Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, and Syria [4, 5]. Spain is a popular destination for pensioners from Northern and Western Europe, for foreign workers from Eastern Europe (especially Romania), Portugal, Latin America (Ecuador, Colombia, Bolivia) and North Africa (especially Morocco) and, for several years now, for migrants from Sub-Saharan Africa (Nigeria and Senegal) [1]. In 2013, the largest migrant groups were from Romania (797,600), Morocco (745,700), Ecuador (451,200), United Kingdom and Northern Ireland (381,000), and Colombia (359,200) [6]. Between 1990 and 2019, the migrant population (born abroad) grew more than sevenfold (821,600 to 6.1 million) and the proportion of migrants in the total population more than sixfold (2.1 to 13.1%) [7]. As of 2020, the net migration rate is 0.9 [8]. Overall, Spain has developed into an immigration country since 1990.

2. Estimated number of people with a migration background with dementia

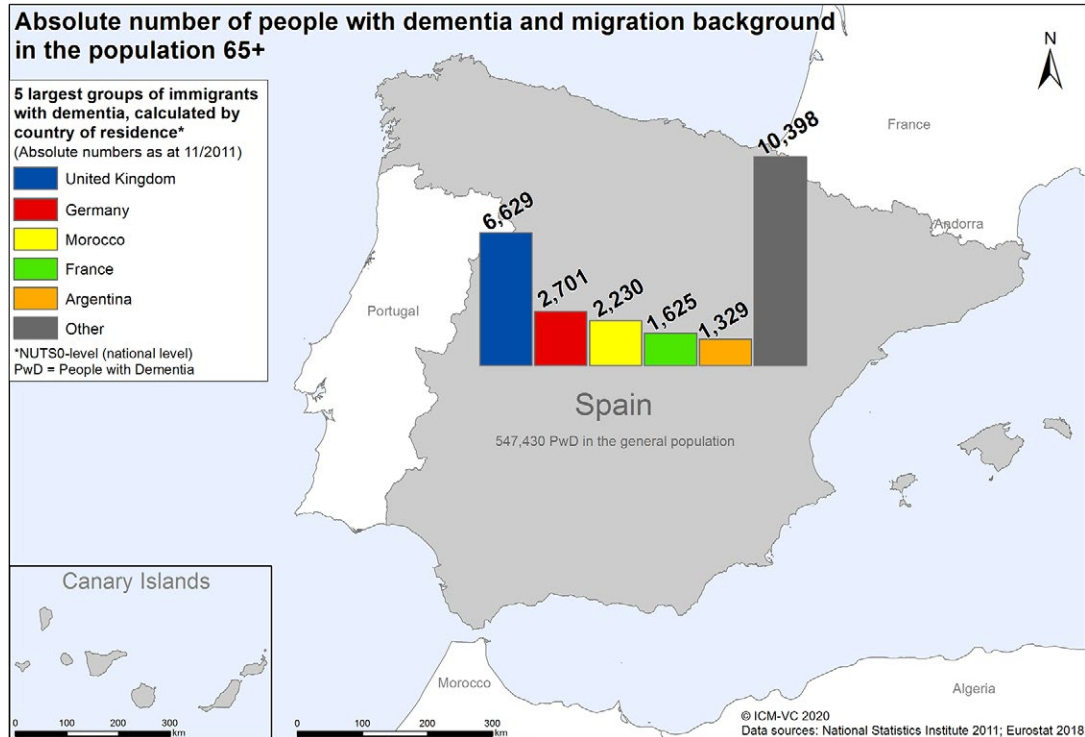


Fig. 3.7.29.1: Absolute number of PwM with dementia aged 65+ (Spain – Nation)

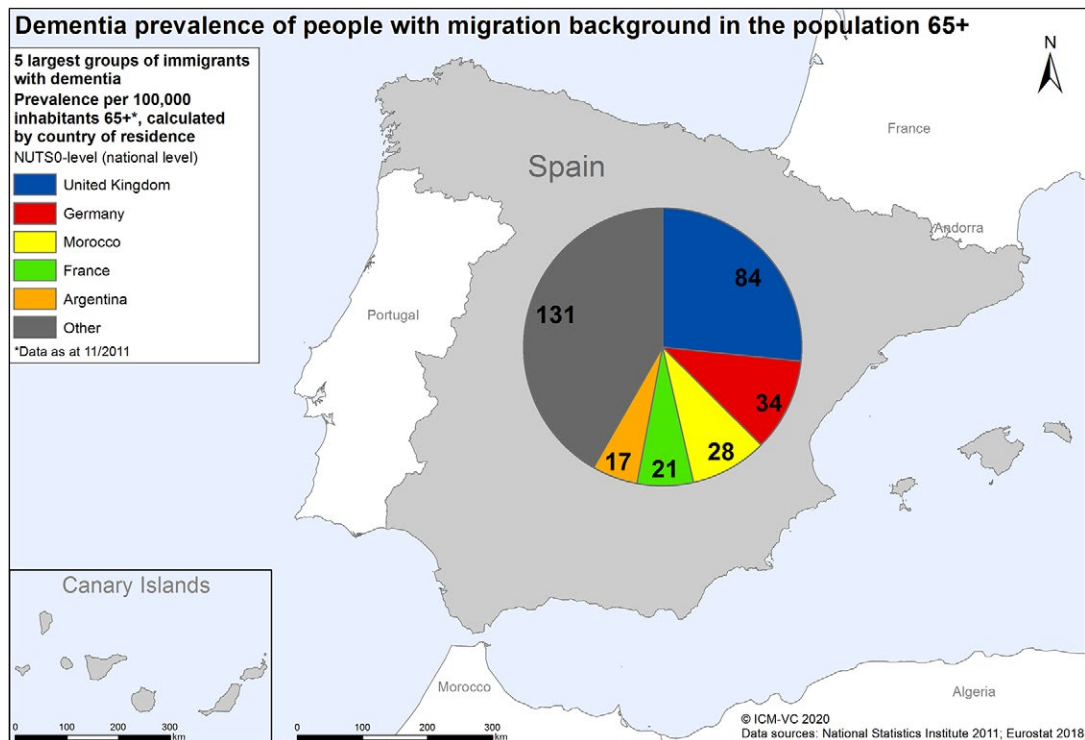


Fig. 3.7.29.2: Prevalence of PwM with dementia among the population aged 65+ (Spain – Nation)



Tab. 50: PwM with dementia: Absolute numbers, prevalence among PwM aged 65+, and prevalence among overall population aged 65+ (Spain – Nation)

NUTS	Total	ES	1. largest group	2. largest group	3. largest group	4. largest group	5. largest group	Other
Absolute Numbers								
Spain	547,430	522,519	UK 6,629	DE 2,701	MA 2,230	FR 1,625	AR 1,329	10,398
Prevalence/10,000 inhabitants with migration background 65+								
Spain	15,162	-	UK 184	DE 75	MA 62	FR 45	AR 37	287
Prevalence/100,000 inhabitants 65+								
Spain	6,900	6,586	UK 84	DE 34	MA 28	FR 20	AR 17	131

Data source: National Statistics Institute (2011)

There are 361,000 PwM aged 65 or older. Of those, approx. 24,900 are estimated to exhibit some form of dementia. Figure 3.7.29.1 shows the most affected migrant groups presumably originate from United Kingdom (approx. 6,600), Germany (approx. 2,700), Morocco (approx. 2,200), France (approx. 1,600), and Argentina (approx. 1,300). The second graph highlights the number of PwM with dementia

in Spain per 100,000 inhabitants aged 65 or older (figure 3.7.29.2). Table 50 displays the values depicted in the maps on the national level. The following maps show the distribution of non-migrants with dementia and PwM with dementia from United Kingdom, Germany, Morocco, France, and Argentina throughout the country in the NUTS2 regions (figures 3.7.29.3 – 3.7.29.8).

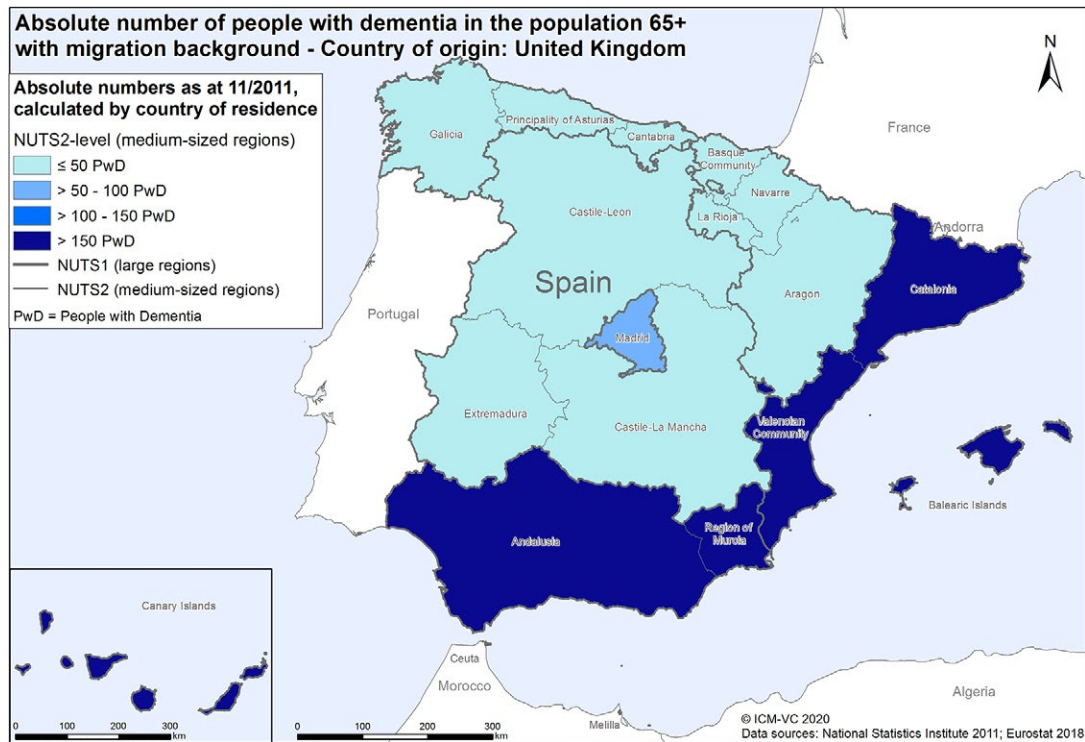


Fig. 3.7.29.3: Absolute number of PwM with dementia age 65+.
Country of origin: United Kingdom (Spain – NUTS2)

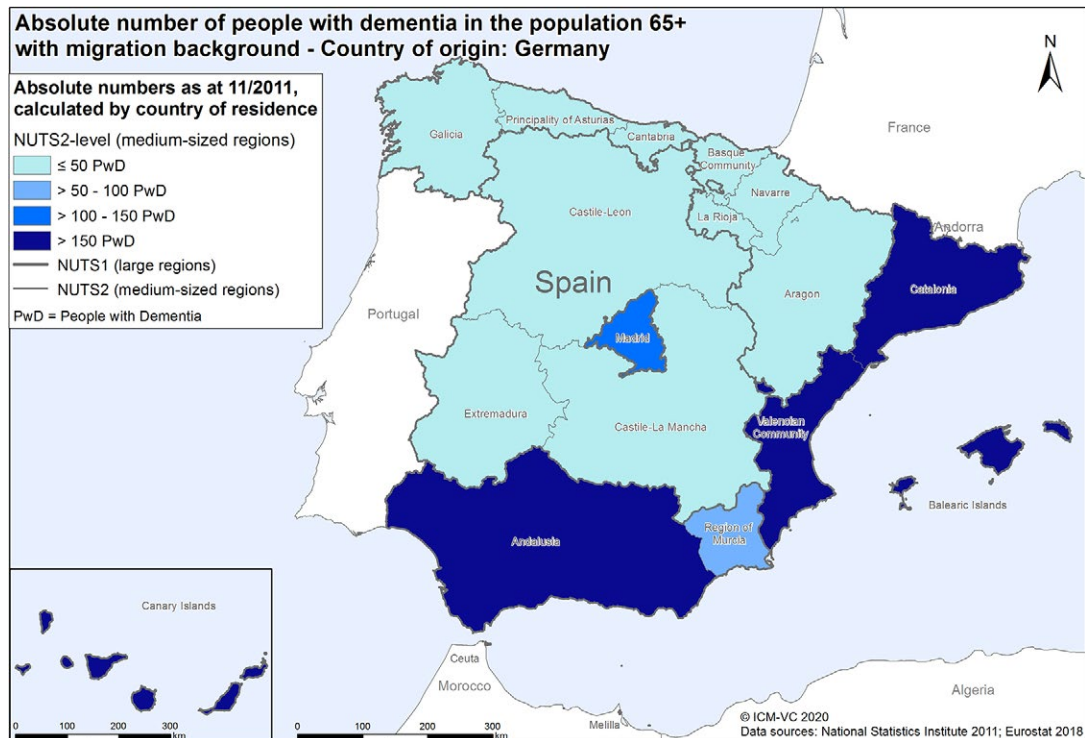


Fig. 3.7.29.4: Absolute number of PwM with dementia age 65+.
Country of origin: Germany (Spain – NUTS2)

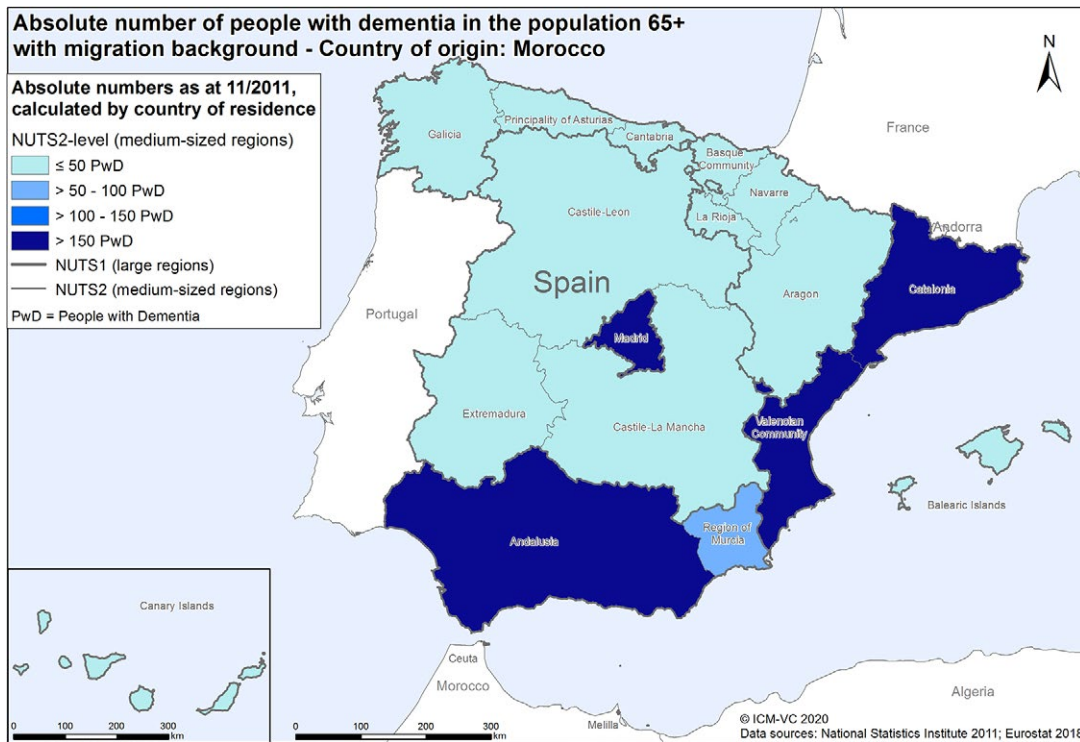


Fig. 3.7.29.5: Absolute number of PwM with dementia age 65+. Country of origin: Morocco (Spain – NUTS2)

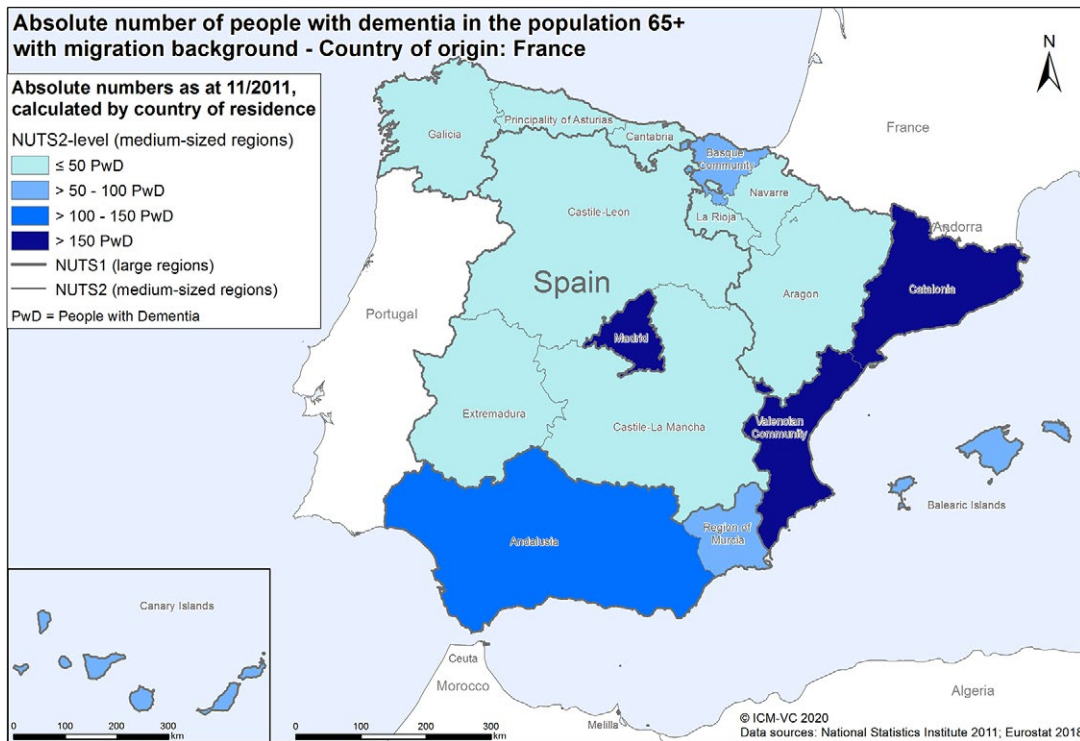


Fig. 3.7.29.6: Absolute number of PwM with dementia age 65+. Country of origin: France (Spain – NUTS2)

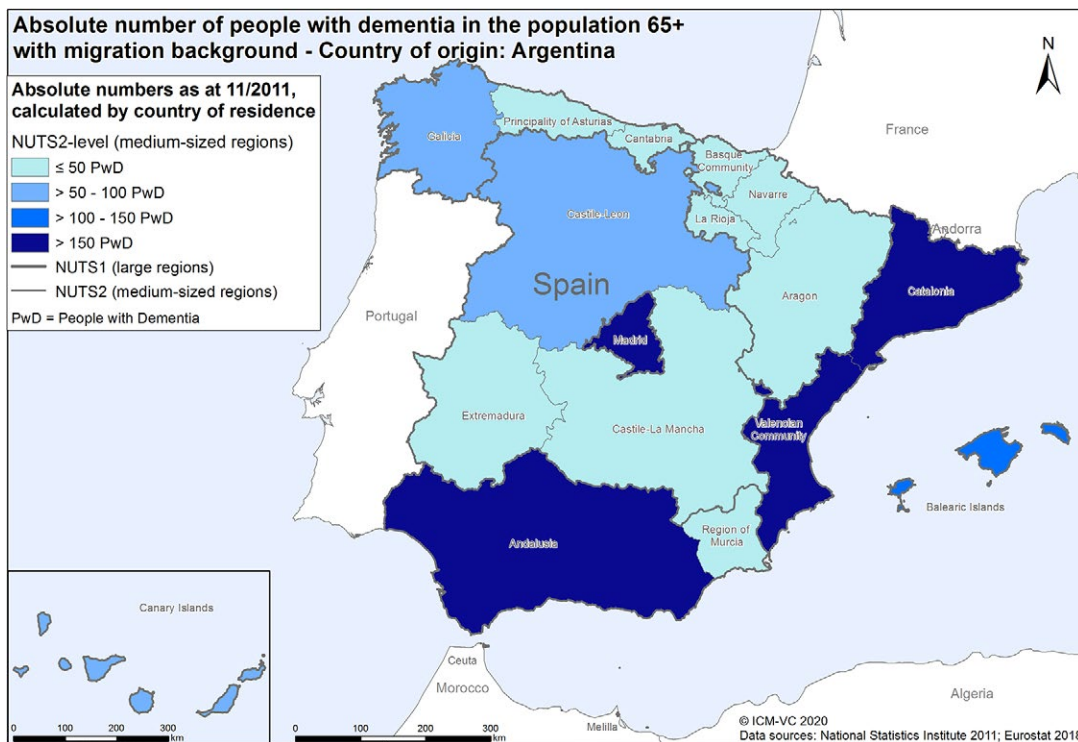


Fig. 3.7.29.7: Absolute number of PwM with dementia age 65+.
Country of origin: Argentina (Spain – NUTS2)

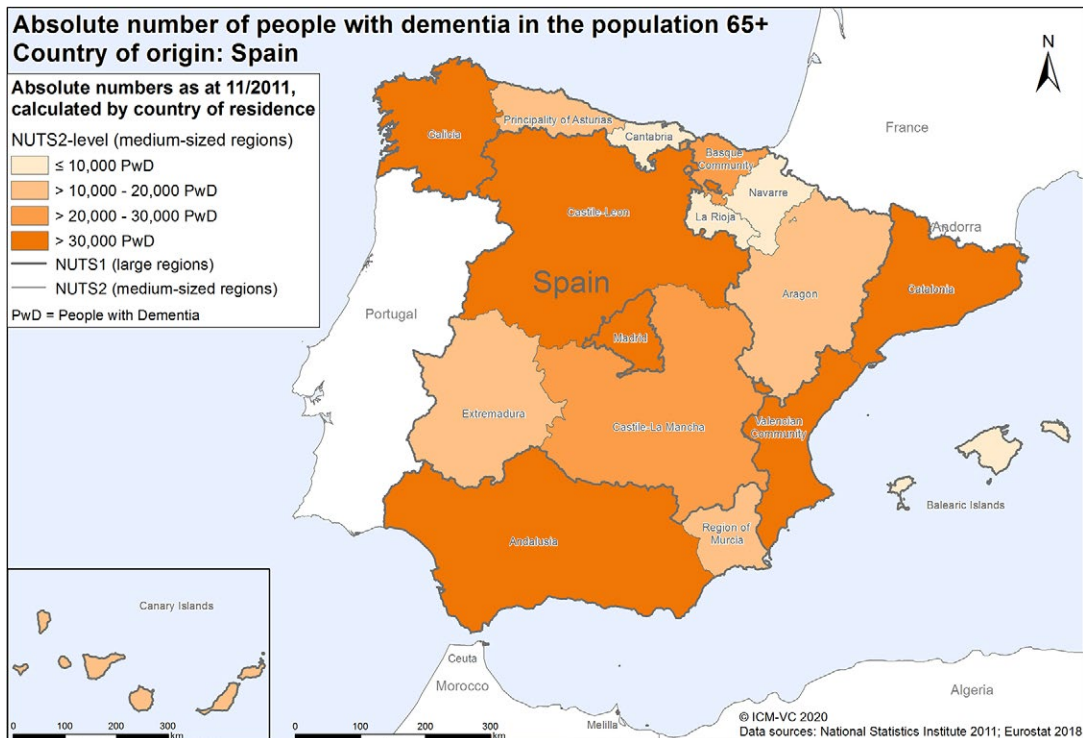


Fig. 3.7.29.8: Absolute number of people with dementia age 65+.
Country of origin: Spain (Spain – NUTS2)



Spain

The graphics below highlight which immigrant groups are estimated to be the most affected at the NUTS2 level. The first map illustrates the absolute numbers of PwM with dementia in the NUTS2 regions (figure 3.7.29.9). The

second graph shows the number of PwM with dementia per 100,000 inhabitants aged 65 or older in the NUTS2 regions (figure 3.7.29.10). The values from the NUTS2 level can be found in table 51 [9-12].

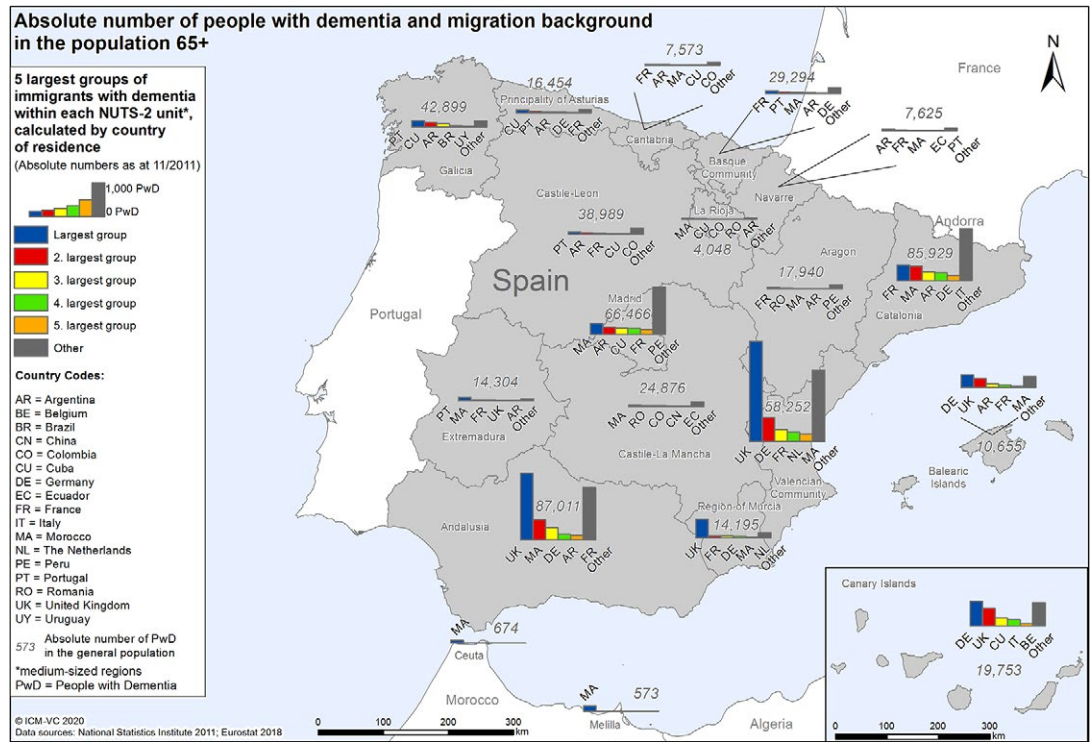


Fig. 3.7.29.9: Absolute number of PwM with dementia aged 65+ (Spain – NUTS2)

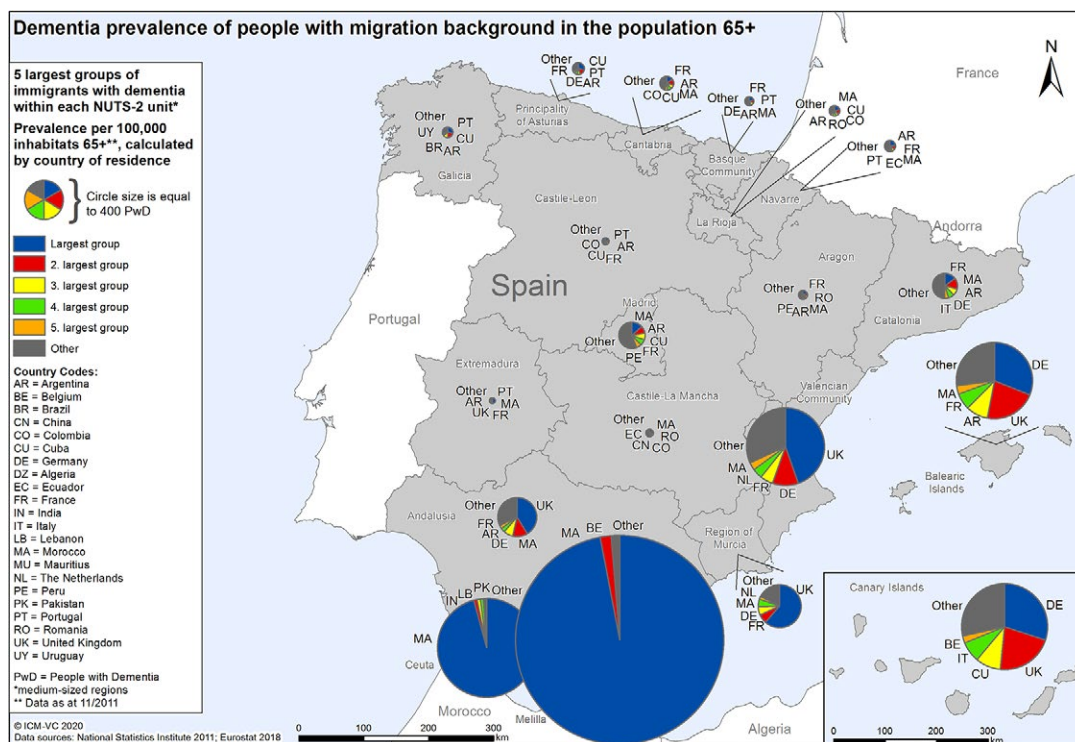


Fig. 3.7.29.10: Prevalence of PwM with dementia among the population aged 65+ (Spain – NUTS2)

Tab. 51: PwM with dementia: Absolute numbers, prevalence among PwM aged 65+, and prevalence among overall population aged 65+ (Spain – NUTS 2)

NUTS	Total	ES	1. largest group	2. largest group	3. largest group	4. largest group	5. largest group	Other
Absolute Numbers								
Galicia	42,899	42,235	PT 188	CU 139	AR 95	BR 33	UY 30	179
Principality of Asturias	16,454	16,162	CU 85	PT 46	AR 24	DE 22	FR 19	97
Cantabria	7,573	7,415	FR 23	AR 22	MA 15	CU 14	CO 11	72
Basque Community	29,294	28,899	FR 81	PT 43	MA 40	AR 29	DE 21	180
Navarre	7,625	7,499	AR 31	FR 13	MA 10	EC 8	PT 7	57
La Rioja	4,048	3,985	MA 13	CU 9	CO 6	RO 6	AR 5	23
Aragon	17,940	17,703	FR 43	RO 22	MA 18	AR 16	PE 14	124
Madrid	66,466	63,946	MA 337	AR 227	CU 199	FR 183	PE 153	1,420



NUTS	Total	ES	1. largest group	2. largest group	3. largest group	4. largest group	5. largest group	Other
Castile-Leon	38,989	38,589	PT 73	AR 50	FR 47	CU 25	CO 23	183
Castila-La Mancha	24,876	24,594	MA 44	RO 28	CO 27	CN 20	EC 19	146
Extremadura	14,304	14,181	PT 60	MA 14	FR 12	UK 6	AR 5	27
Catalonia	85,929	82,753	FR 472	MA 449	AR 273	DE 243	IT 169	1,571
Valencian Community	58,252	51,660	UK 2,941	DE 711	FR 354	NL 275	MA 218	2,093
Balearic Islands	10,655	9,461	DE 370	UK 263	AR 111	FR 82	MA 43	323
Andalusia	87,011	81,965	UK 2,081	MA 635	DE 384	AR 175	FR 145	1,626
Region of Murcia	14,195	13,296	UK 551	FR 60	DE 59	MA 52	NL 20	157
Ceuta	674	576	MA 93	<5	<5	<5	<5	1
Melilla	573	393	MA 169	<5	<5	<5	<5	2
Canary Islands	19,753	17,268	DE 747	UK 535	CU 238	IT 190	BE 68	707
Prevalence/10,000 inhabitants with migration background 65+								
Galicia	44,570	-	PT 196	CU 144	AR 99	BR 34	UY 31	186
Principality of Asturias	38,762	-	CU 199	PT 108	AR 58	DE 52	FR 44	229
Cantabria	33,214	-	FR 103	AR 98	MA 65	CU 62	CO 47	315
Basque Community	51,168	-	FR 141	PT 76	MA 71	AR 51	DE 37	315
Navarre	41,778	-	AR 168	FR 74	MA 53	EC 42	PT 40	314
La Rioja	44,973	-	MA 146	CU 100	CO 69	RO 69	AR 54	253
Aragon	52,076	-	FR 126	RO 64	MA 53	AR 45	PE 42	360
Madrid	18,205	-	MA 92	AR 62	CU 55	FR 50	PE 42	389
Castile-Leon	67,108	-	PT 125	AR 87	FR 80	CU 43	CO 40	315
Castila-La Mancha	60,821	-	MA 107	RO 68	CO 65	CN 48	EC 46	356



NUTS	Total	ES	1. largest group	2. largest group	3. largest group	4. largest group	5. largest group	Other
Extremadura	80,135	-	PT 336	MA 77	FR 66	UK 33	AR 27	151
Catalonia	18,666	-	FR 103	MA 98	AR 59	DE 53	IT 37	341
Valencian Community	6,098	-	UK 308	DE 74	FR 37	NL 29	MA 23	219
Balearic Islands	6,161	-	DE 214	UK 152	AR 64	FR 48	MA 25	187
Andalusia	11,899	-	UK 285	MA 87	DE 52	AR 24	FR 20	222
Region of Murcia	10,894	-	UK 423	FR 46	DE 45	MA 40	NL 15	121
Ceuta	4,759	-	MA 655	IN 7	LB 7	PK 7	PT 6	7
Melilla	2,204	-	MA 652	BE 11	AR 6	MU 6	DZ 5	9
Canary Islands	5,484	-	DE 207	UK 148	CU 66	IT 53	BE 19	196
Prevalence/100,000 inhabitants 65+								
Galicia	6,900	6,793	PT 30	CU 22	AR 15	BR 5	UY 5	29
Principality of Asturias	6,900	6,777	CU 35	PT 19	AR 10	DE 9	FR 8	41
Cantabria	6,900	6,757	FR 21	AR 20	MA 14	CU 13	CO 10	65
Basque Community	6,900	6,807	FR 19	PT 10	MA 10	AR 7	DE 5	42
Navarre	6,900	6,786	AR 28	FR 12	MA 9	EC 7	PT 7	52
La Rioja	6,900	6,794	MA 22	CU 15	CO 11	RO 11	AR 8	39
Aragon	6,900	6,809	FR 17	RO 8	MA 7	AR 6	PE 6	48
Madrid	6,900	6,638	MA 35	AR 24	CU 21	FR 19	PE 16	147
Castile-Leon	6,900	6,829	PT 13	AR 9	FR 8	CU 4	CO 4	32
Castila-La Mancha	6,900	6,822	MA 12	RO 8	CO 7	CN 5	EC 5	40
Extremadura	6,900	6,841	PT 29	MA 7	FR 6	UK 3	AR 2	13
Catalonia	6,900	6,645	FR 38	MA 36	AR 22	DE 20	IT 14	126



NUTS	Total	ES	1. largest group	2. largest group	3. largest group	4. largest group	5. largest group	Other
Valencian Community	6,900	6,119	UK 348	DE 84	FR 42	NL 33	MA 26	248
Balearic Islands	6,900	6,127	DE 240	UK 170	AR 72	FR 53	MA 28	209
Andalusia	6,900	6,500	UK 165	MA 50	DE 30	AR 14	FR 11	129
Region of Murcia	6,900	6,463	UK 268	FR 29	DE 29	MA 25	NL 10	76
Ceuta	6,900	5,900	MA 950	IN 11	LB 11	PK 11	PT 9	10
Melilla	6,900	4,740	MA 2,042	BE 36	AR 19	MU 18	DZ 17	28
Canary Islands	6,900	6,032	DE 261	UK 187	CU 83	IT 67	BE 24	247

Note: Absolute numbers < 5 are not given for data protection reasons.
Data source: National Statistics Institute (2011)

3. National dementia plan

Spain has published a National Strategy for Neurodegenerative Diseases in 2016 and a National Alzheimer’s Plan in 2019.

The ‘Strategy for Neurodegenerative Diseases of the National Health System’ from 2016 has 165 pages. It addresses different neurodegenerative diseases prevalent in Spain such as Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias, Parkinson’s disease, and multiple sclerosis. It discusses aspects such as prevention and early detection, support and care of patients, support for family caregivers, autonomy and rights of patients, education and training of professionals, and research and coordination of health and social care. However, the document does not refer to the topic of migration [13].

The 94-page ‘Comprehensive Plan for Alzheimer’s and Other Dementias (2019–2023)’ from 2019, which covers the topics: scope and impact of Alzheimer’s disease on society and health; policy context and legal framework; raising public awareness of

Alzheimer’s disease; living environment of the person with Alzheimer’s disease; prevention, diagnosis, and treatment; rights, ethics, and human dignity; as well as research, innovation, and knowledge, also does not refer directly to migration. However, in three passages of two chapters, this document briefly addresses a sub-theme related to dementia and migration, that is, the issue of culturally sensitive care. In these passages, the importance of developing awareness campaigns and care programs on Alzheimer’s disease and that are appropriate to the cultural context and the specific needs of the respective communities is emphasised. With regard to the care of people with Alzheimer’s disease, it is stated that the needs and preferences of these individuals should be considered by developing coordinated support systems and providing health and psychosocial care that is person-centred, culturally appropriate, and has a strong community base. The use of innovative social and health



technologies can be beneficial for people with Alzheimer's disease and their caregivers if age-, gender-, and culturally-specific needs are taken into account [14].

Within the context of several areas of care for people with Alzheimer's disease, the Spanish Alzheimer's plan highlights the importance

of considering the cultural background of the persons with Alzheimer's disease, but there is no specific focus on people with a different cultural background than the autochthonous population. Overall, the topic of migration does not play a relevant role in these national plans/strategies.

4. National dementia care and treatment guidelines

The 'Clinical Practice Guideline on the Comprehensive Care of People with Alzheimer's Disease and Other Dementias' from 2010 is no longer valid, but still publicly available. Furthermore, no newer dementia-specific guidelines could be identified. The document does not have a separate chapter on migration, but in several sections, it refers briefly to the topics of cultural differences in care and the proportion of immigrants among caregivers. First, the aim of culturally independent equal opportunities in health and social care is formulated. The implied statement that culture influences opportunities in health and social care is again made explicitly for the group of people suffering from dementia and their families. Thereby, the problem is identified that the cultural background of a person can influence the results of the cognitive tests used for the diagnosis of dementia. In the section on dementia treatment, it is pointed out that the information provided to patients and families must also consider their ethnicity, culture, and religion. The guideline repeats several times that in the case of language barriers an independent mediator must be consulted. It also mentions cultural influences as one reason for the low utilisation of the support services of the Asociación de Familiares de Enfermos de *Alzheimer* y Dementias (=Association of Families of Patients with Alzheimer's Disease) (AFA), which offers counselling for holistic care of people with dementia and represents the

interests of these persons and their families before other institutions. In another chapter, an assessment of the treatment of dementia patients is given. Here, it is described that the treatment of dementia patients by professional caregivers without dementia-specific education or training has increased significantly. It is pointed out that these carers are mainly young immigrants, the majority of whom come from Latin America. Thus, a specific need for training is identified in the group of young carers with a migration background and especially in the subgroup of immigrants from Latin America. Another topic discussed is the abuse of people with dementia. In this regard, the influence of cultural factors on the risk of abuse of people with dementia is discussed and the consideration of cultural differences in the investigation of cases of abuse is demanded. In the context of psycho-emotional and psycho-social needs of people with advanced dementia, it is identified that people from other cultural or religious groups may have different spiritual needs that should be considered. The 'Clinical Practice Guideline on the Comprehensive Care of People with Alzheimer's Disease and Other Dementias' describes various challenges regarding dementia in people with a different cultural background and gives some recommendations for improving the care situation of this group. However, no reference is made to currently available specialised healthcare services [15].



5. References

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