



CARE NEEDED:

Improving the lives of people with dementia

Francesca Colombo

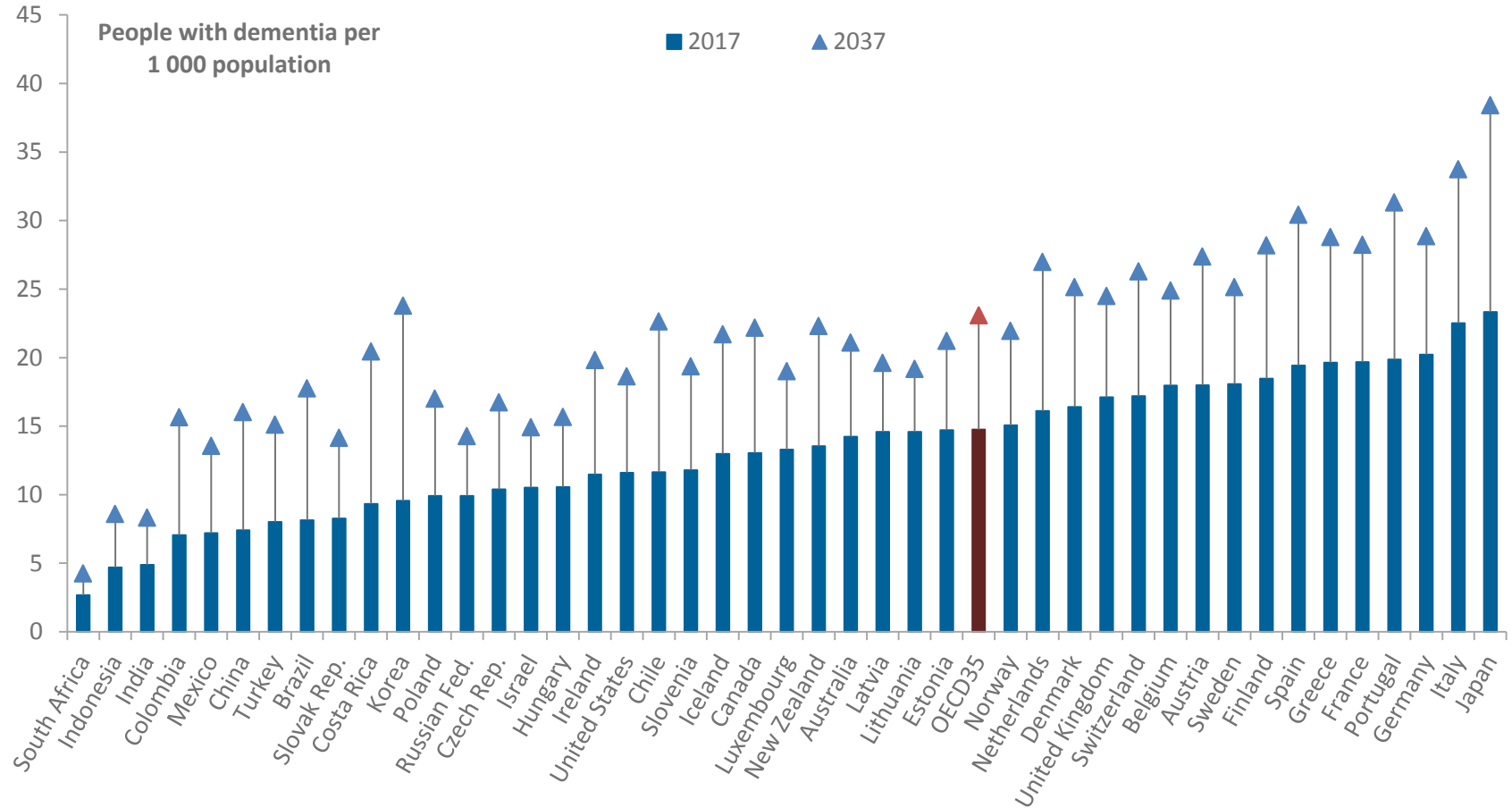
Head of the OECD Health Division

London, 12 June 2018



Dementia affects million of people in OECD, and the numbers will continue to rise

Dementia prevalence is high and rising with ageing populations



Source: OECD Health Statistics 2017



Policy attention and action have grown

- First ever G8 Summit on dementia mobilised international commitment
- 22/35 OECD countries now have national dementia plans or strategies





...But evidence shows that we are still failing people with dementia...

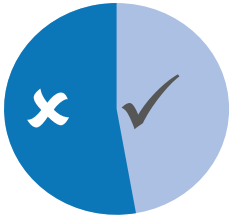
...and there is a risk that political attention moves away.



COUNTRIES ARE POORLY
EQUIPPED TO DIAGNOSE
DEMENTIA



Improvements needed to identify dementia



Access to diagnosis

- Less than half of people with the condition are diagnosed
- Primary care serves as the first point of contact for memory problems in 26 OECD countries



Diagnostic quality

- Many people with dementia do not have more than a general diagnosis of dementia recorded
- 16 countries have developed clinical guidelines for dementia



Screening for dementia

- 4 countries currently offer cognitive screening
- Uptake can be low, even when offered



Data remains poor

<40% of OECD countries can estimate diagnosis rates

Fewer than 1 in 5 OECD countries regularly link primary care data

6 OECD countries have developed dementia registries to help fill data gaps



FRAGMENTED INITIATIVES IN THE COMMUNITY



Fragmented community care



Weak post-diagnostic support:

Post-diagnostic care pathways have been developed for people living with dementia in 9 countries, but adherence varies



Insufficient action for dementia-friendly communities

90% of OECD countries have dementia-friendly communities, but they rely on local associations and NGOs, and remain ad-hoc



Support for informal carers is sorely lacking

interventions that support the caregiver's own personal wellbeing are critical, but underprovided



POOR STANDARDS OF CARE FOR PEOPLE WITH ADVANCED DEMENTIA



Help needed for people with advance dementia



Training for care workers is insufficient

The required level of dementia training for home and residential care workers is very low



Access to dementia-suitable care facilities is weak

Small scale living communities not widely available; four countries (Denmark, Ireland, UK, Norway) have developed guidelines to promote dementia-friendly design

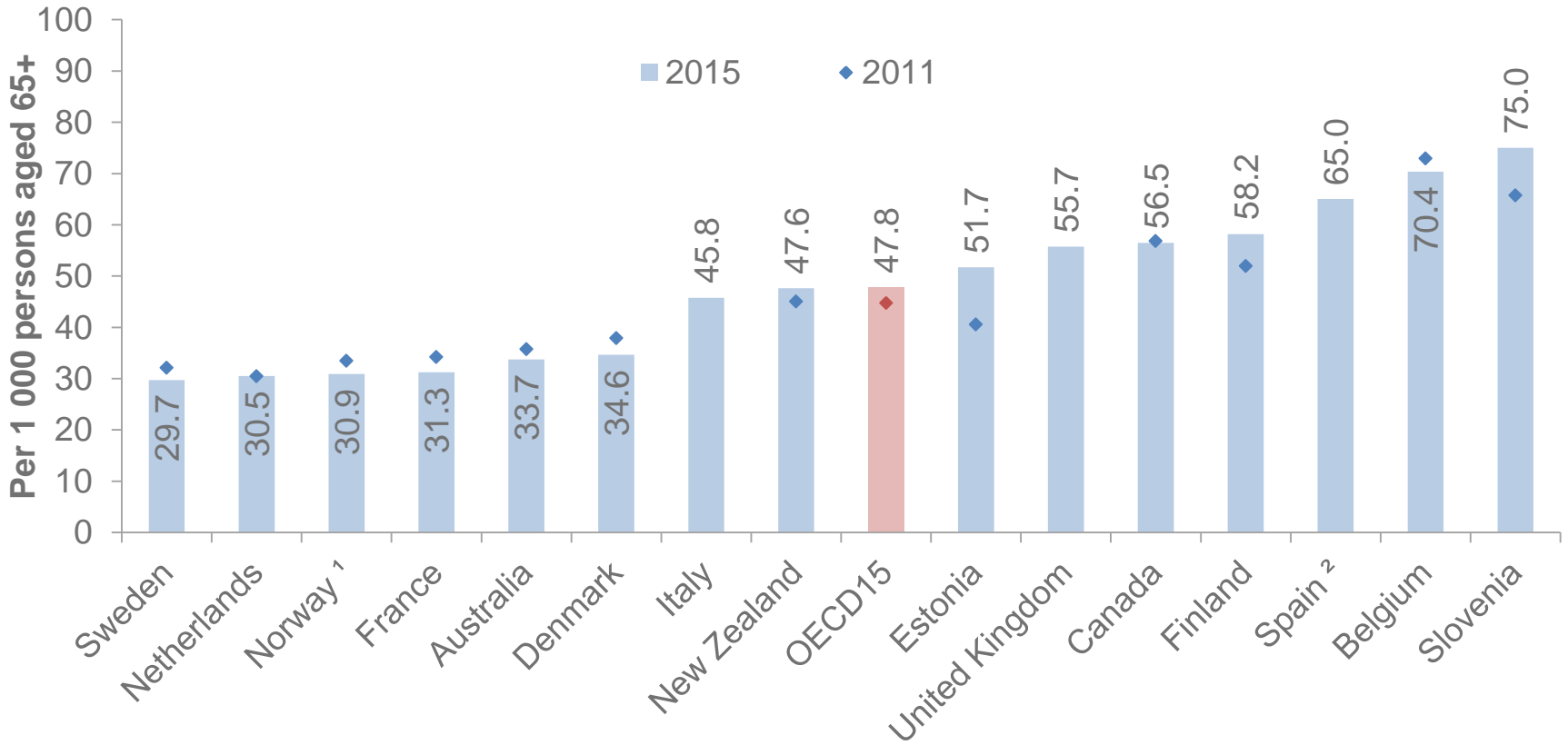


Hospitals are ill-adapted for the needs of people with dementia

Poor coding, poor management of condition



High rates of antipsychotic use indicate poor care persists





Lack of comparable data across the full pathway of care

22 OECD countries have recently developed **dementia policies and strategies**



We have **evidence to support best practice** in some areas

But most countries have **very few indicators** of dementia care; lack of robust, systematic data



Very difficult to make international comparisons of dementia care



Key recommendations

Identifying dementia

- Scale-up training and support for physicians, particularly in primary care
- Improve dementia coding and data linking, from primary care to hospital

Caring in the community

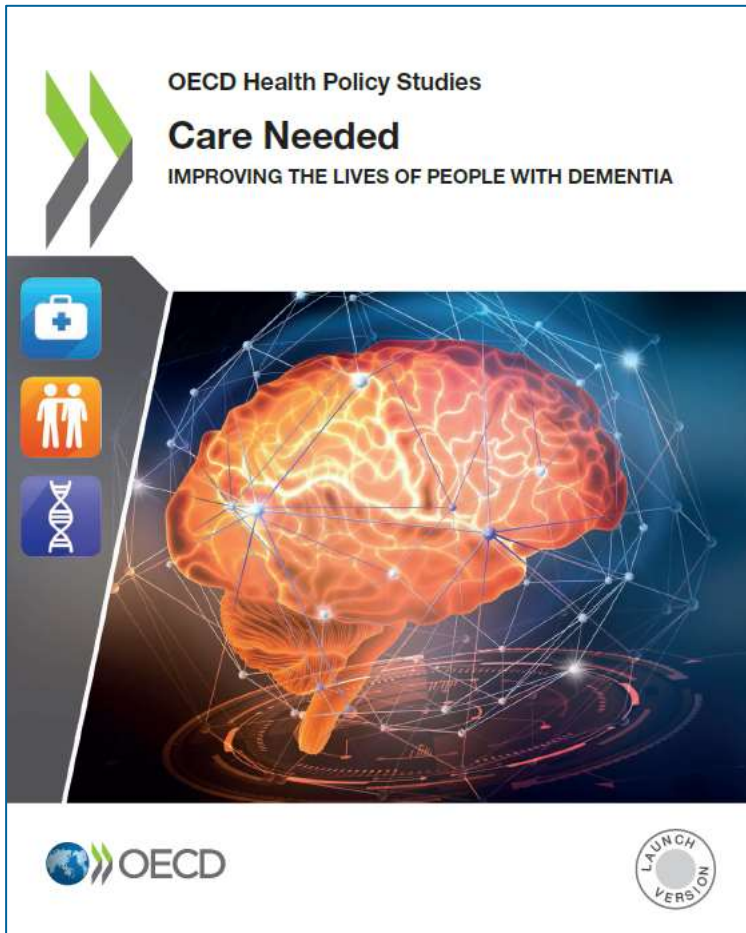
- Develop and disseminate best practice dementia-friendly communities guidelines
- Strengthen post-diagnostic pathways, care coordination and case management for people with dementia, especially for complex dementia
- Scale-up training and support for informal carers

Improving quality of care for people with advanced dementia

- Strengthen dementia management skills and training for care staff
- Develop and disseminate best practice dementia-friendly building guidelines
- Consider financial and professional incentives for care staff with dementia training
- Develop and regularly monitor key quality of care measures, including antipsychotics prescribing



Thank you for listening



Download the report

<https://oe.cd/dementia-care-needed>



Follow us on Twitter

@OECD_social



Email me

Francesca.COLOMBO@oecd.org