



# No country for old men (or women)



**Dr Eileen Corroon Sweeney**

Consultant Psychiatrist  
Inclusion Mental Health Team  
Dublin South City MHS

[sweeneei@tcd.ie](mailto:sweeneei@tcd.ie)

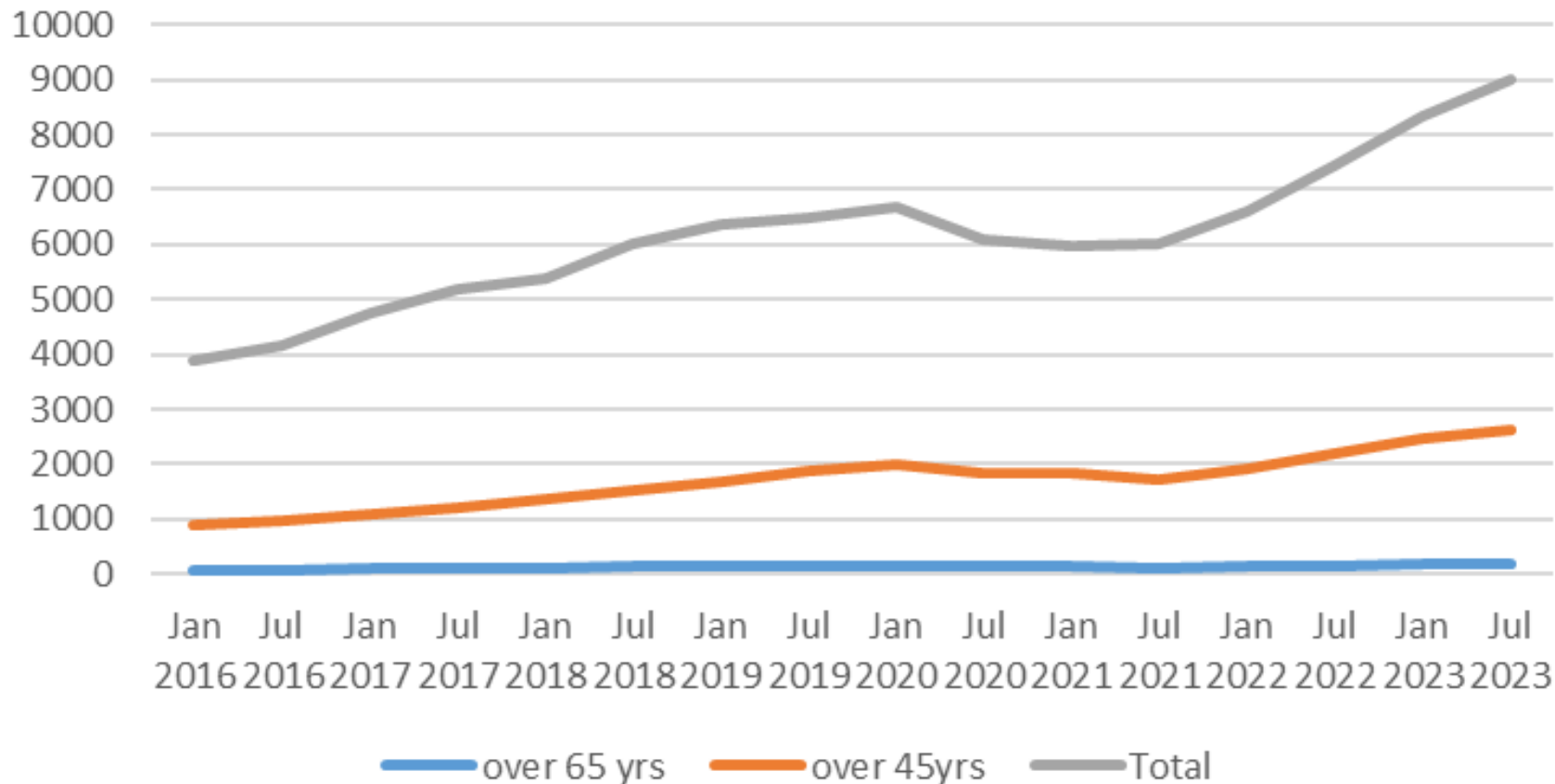
[imht.research@hse.ie](mailto:imht.research@hse.ie)





# Age profile in Homeless Accommodation

## Age profile of single homeless adults



Since 2016:

X2 people in total

X2 people over 65yrs

X3 people over 45yrs

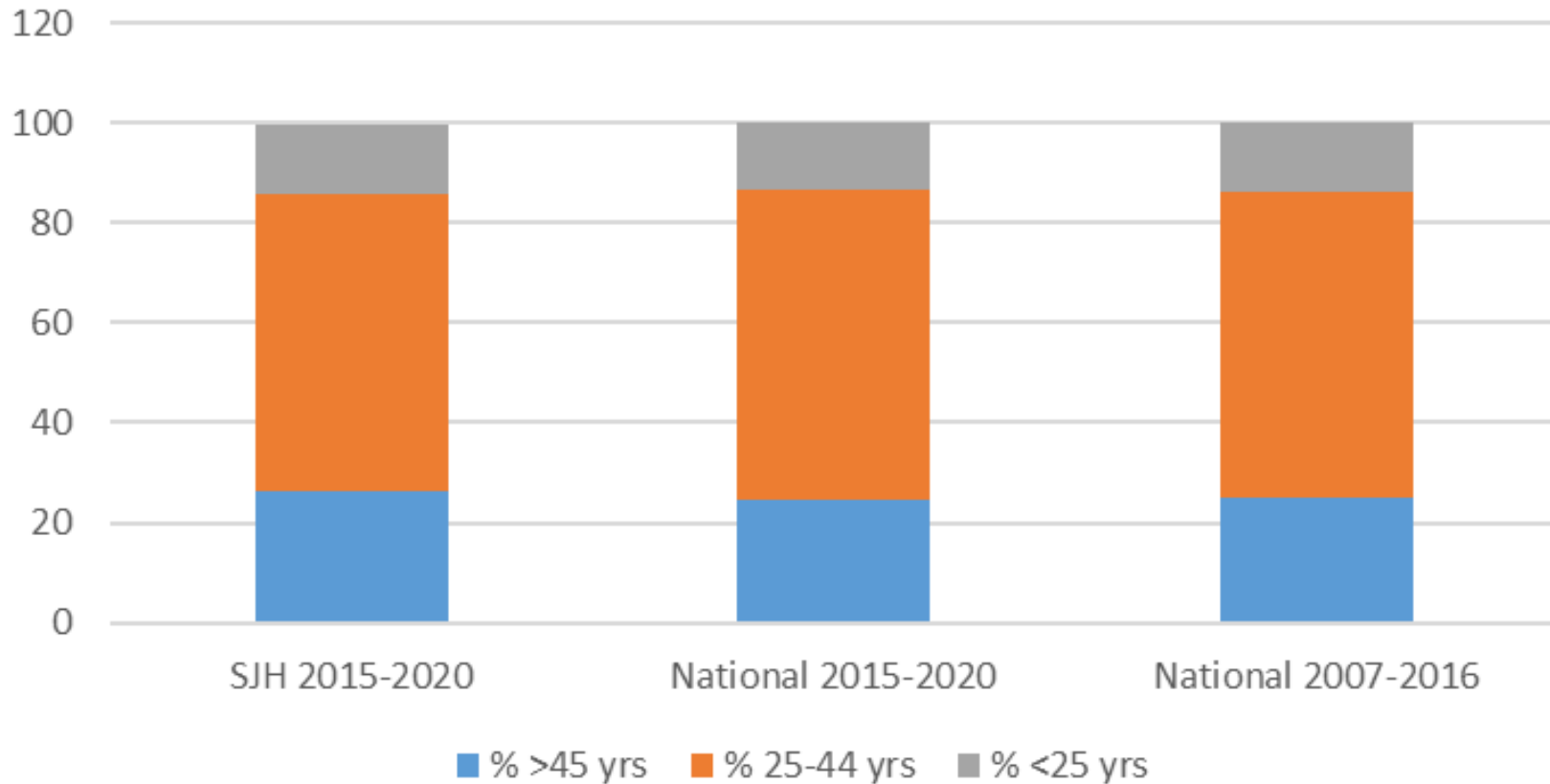
Proportion:

>65 yrs stable at ~2%

>45 yrs 20% to 30%



## Inpatient Psychiatric Admissions



# Psychiatric Admissions

Diagnoses	Organic
SJH 2015-20	2.4%
National 2015-20	0.4%
National 2007-16	0.4%



Dementia Risk Factor	Excess in Homelessness	Dementia Risk Factor	Excess in Homelessness
Age	No	Other drug intoxication	Yes
Gender	No	Social isolation	Yes
Years of formal education	Yes	Cognitive inactivity	Yes
Hypertension	No...but	Unhealthy diet	Yes
Hypercholesterolaemia*	No...but	Pesticide exposure	No
Obesity	No	Family genetics*	No
Physical inactivity	Yes	Deprived environment	Yes
Diabetes*	No...but	HIV	Yes
Depression	Yes	Rheumatoid arthritis	No
Psychosis/Schizophrenia	Yes	Renal disease	No...but
Traumatic brain injury*	Yes	Learning difficulties	Yes
Smoking	Yes	Stroke/CVD*	No...but
Alcohol excess*	Yes	Epilepsy/seizure disorder	Yes

# Dementia Risk

Compiled from (among others):

1. Anstey KJ, Zheng L, Peters R, Kootar S, Barbera M, Stephen R, Dua T, Chowdhary N, Solomon A, Kivipelto M. Dementia Risk Scores and Their Role in the Implementation of Risk Reduction Guidelines. *Front Neurol.* 2022 Jan 4;12:765454. doi: 10.3389/fneur.2021.765454.
2. <https://www.dementiauk.org/information-and-support/young-onset-dementia/young-onset-dementia-facts-and-figures/>
3. Cations et al (2015) What is the role of modifiable environmental and lifestyle risk factors in young onset dementia?

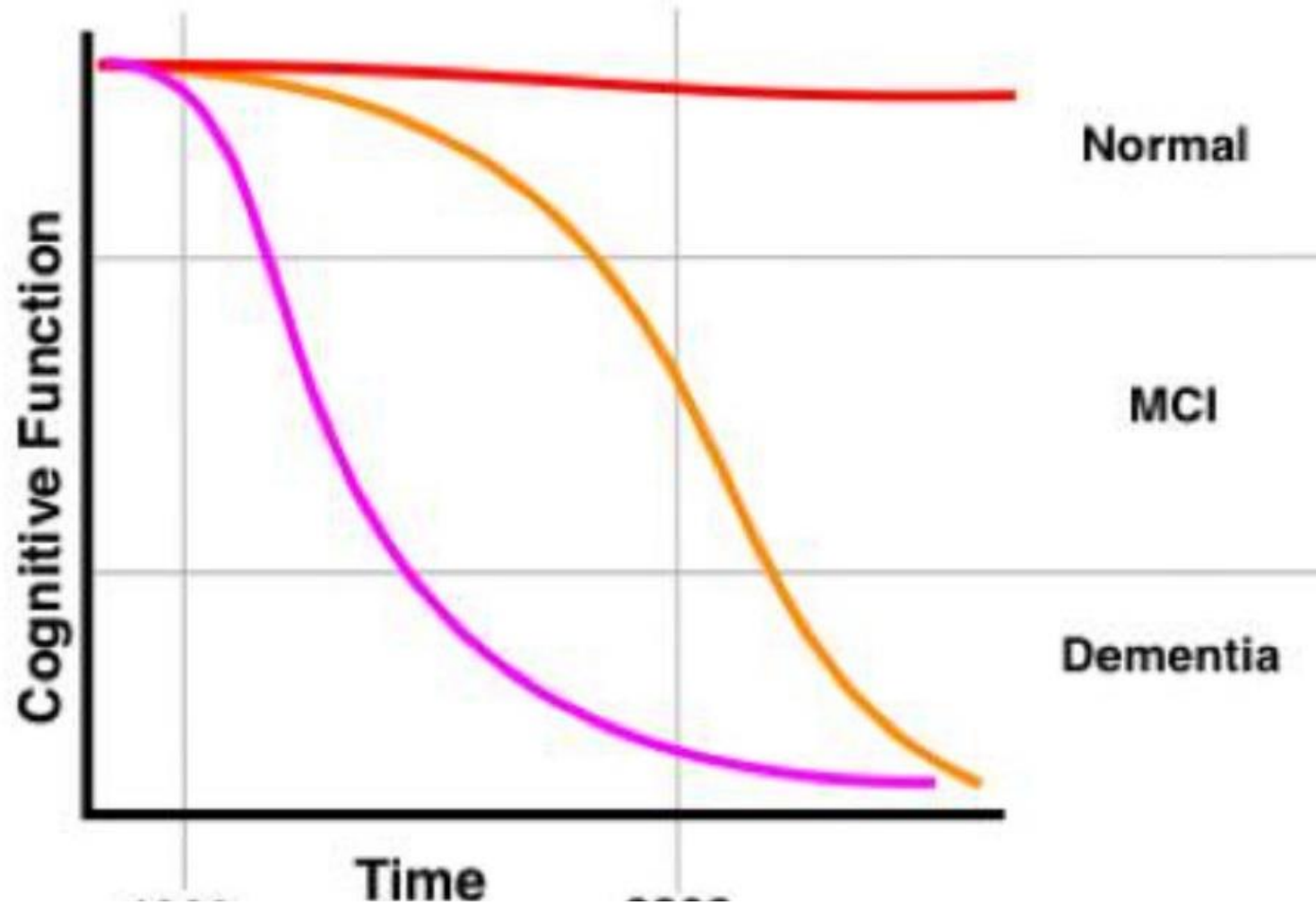


# Dementia Risk

Prevalence of all-cause dementia	Total <sup>1</sup>	Homeless
≥65yrs	80/1000	784/1000 <sup>2</sup>
30-65yrs	4/1000	250/1000 <sup>3</sup>

Average age of onset is 56yrs vs 84yrs

1. Genio Trust. Prevalence and projections Ireland 2011, [https://www.genio.ie/system/files/publications/Dementia Prevalence 2011 2046.pdf](https://www.genio.ie/system/files/publications/Dementia%20Prevalence%202011%20046.pdf)
2. Okamura, T., Awata, S., Ito, K., Takiwaki, K., Matoba, Y., Niikawa, H., Takeshima, T. (2017). Elderly men in Tokyo homeless shelters who are suspected of having cognitive impairment. *Psychogeriatrics*, 17, 206–207
3. Depp, C. A., Vella, L., Orff, H. J., & Twamley, E. W. (2015). A quantitative review of cognitive functioning in homeless adults. *The Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease*, 203, 126–131.



# Young-onset Dementia

O. T. Carmichael, et al.  
Ventricular volume and dementia progression in the Cardiovascular Health Study. *Neurobiology of Aging*, V. 28 (3), February 2007, pp 389-397



## **Early intervention**

Access to timely diagnosis and appropriate medications?

## **Who cares?**

People with young-onset dementias already fall between supports/services – how much worse if homeless, dealing with addiction?

## **Home care if no home**

Access to home help?

## **Mortality**

Average life expectancy in nursing home is about 2yrs, what if you are sent there too early?

## **BPSD**

Pre-existing trauma leads to dysregulation, behavioural responses, additive effect of cognitive impairment. How do NHs manage?

# Dementia Inequity

Discussion points...