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Dementia Friendly Communities in England: A scoping study

Abstract

Objectives: To describe the characteristics of Dementia Friendly Communities (DFCs) across England in order to inform a national evaluation of their impact on the lives of those affected by dementia.

Methods: DFCs in England were identified through online searches and Alzheimer's Society records. A subsample (n = 100) were purposively selected for in-depth study based on online searches and, where necessary, follow-up telephone calls. Data collection and analysis were guided by a pilot evaluation tool for DFCs that addressed how DFCs are organised and resourced and how their impact is assessed. The evidence was predominantly qualitative, in addition to some descriptive quantitative information.

Results: Of 284 DFCs identified, 251 were defined by geographical location, while 33 were communities of interest. Among 100 sampled DFCs, 89 had been set up or started activities following policy endorsement of DFCs in 2012. In the resourcing of DFCs, statutory agencies and charities played an important role. Among DFC activities, awareness raising was cited most commonly. There was some evidence of involvement of people living with dementia in organisational and operational aspects of DFCs. Approaches to evaluation varied, with little evidence of findings having effected change.

Conclusions: DFCs are characterised by variation in type, resourcing, and activities. England has policy endorsement and a recognition system for DFCs. These can be important catalysts for initiation and growth. A systematic approach to evaluation is lacking. This would enable DFCs to be consistent in how they demonstrate progress and how they enable people living with dementia to live well

英國失智友善社區：範圍研究

目標：描述整體英國地區失智友善社區（DFCs）的特徵，以進行全國性評估失智友善社區對失智者生活的影響。

方法：透過關鍵字搜尋和英國阿茲海默症學會的紀錄中找出英國的失智友善社區。根據線上搜尋以及必要時的追蹤電話，有目的地選擇子樣本（n = 100）進行深入研究。數據收集和分析是參考試點評估工具，以評估失智友善社區如何組織和提供資源，以及評估其影響。除了一些描述性的量化分析外，證據主要是質性的訊息。

結果：經過收集和分析，284 個失智友善社區中，有 251 個是基於地理位置的失智友善社區，而 33 個是共同利益的組織，像是教會、連鎖超市和學校等等。其中在 100 個採樣的失智友善社區中，在 2012 年友善社區的政策認可之後，有 89 個失智友善社區已經建立或開始了相關的活動，在失智友善社區活動中，最常被提及的是提高意識，像是舉辦「失智者友善好友」（Dementia Friends），讓社區民眾對失智者的生活有更多的理解。

在失智友善社區的資源配置中，法定機構和慈善機構發揮了重要作用，不管是對工作人員的薪水或是設施的補貼都有些幫助。有證據表明失智者不斷參與失智友善社區服務組織中的諮詢及執行業務，然而民眾的參與在文獻中就沒有很清楚。失智友善社區對失智者生活影響的證據由於評估方法不同，仍未發現有效的改變。

結論：失智友善社區的特徵在於類型、資源和活動的變化。英國擁有失智友善社區認可的制度。這些可以是失智友善社區萌芽和成長的重要催化劑。系統性的評估方法是目前所缺乏的。此方法可使失智友善社區呈現如何保持進步以及如何使失智者的生活變得更好。

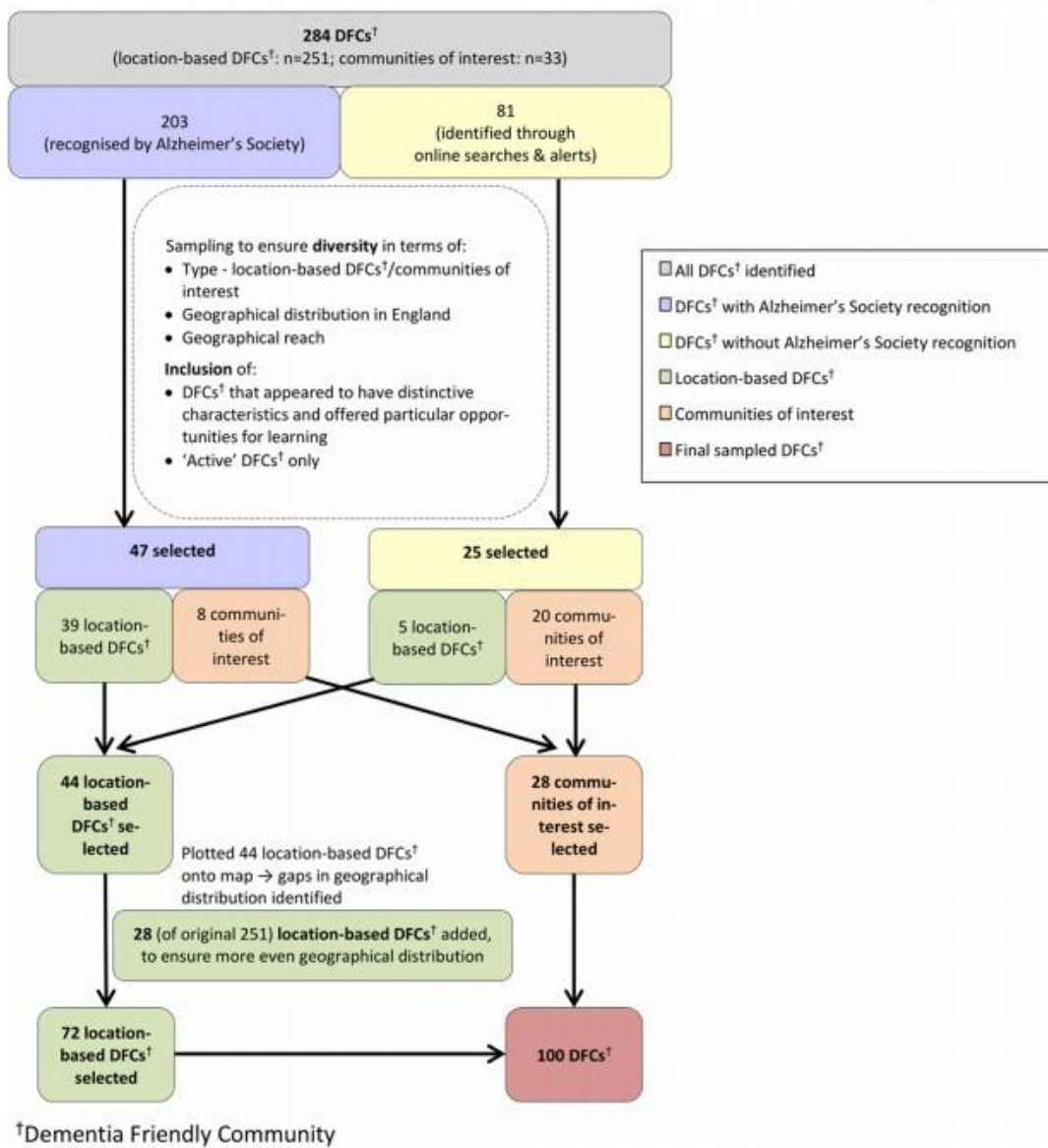


FIGURE 1 Selection process for 100 sampled Dementia Friendly Communities (DFCs) in England [Colour figure can be viewed at wileyonlinelibrary.com]

TABLE 1 Overview of number of DFCs in England (n = 284) and sampled DFCs (n = 100) according to sampling criteria

Sampling Criteria			n out of 284 DFCs in England	n out of 100 Sampled DFCs
Type of DFC		Location-based	251	72
		Communities of interest	33	28
Location in England		South West	49	14
		South East	47	11
		London	14	7
		East of England	40	13
		West Midlands	22	10
		East Midlands	14	4
		Yorkshire & Humber	28	10
		North West	34	15
		North East	25	7
		National or N/A	11	9
Geographical reach	DFCs that clearly define their geographical reach	County	15	8
		City	30	18
		Town	123	27
		Village	14	3
	DFCs that have less clear boundaries/ align with local administration areas	Unitary Authority	5	5
		Borough	19	4
		District	24	3
		Parish	12	1
		Other (including communities of interest)	42	31
Additional features		Data indicate concern with human rights of people living with dementia	8	8
		Data indicate attention to particular groups (Black and Minority Ethnic; Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender)	7	7
		No additional features	269	85
Active status		Yes	204	100
		No	26	0
		Missing data	54	0

Abbreviation: DFC, Dementia Friendly Community.