

The future of social care: ownership models, strategy and system change

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Figure 1 : Percentage of population, England – aged 75 and over (CMO Report, 2023)

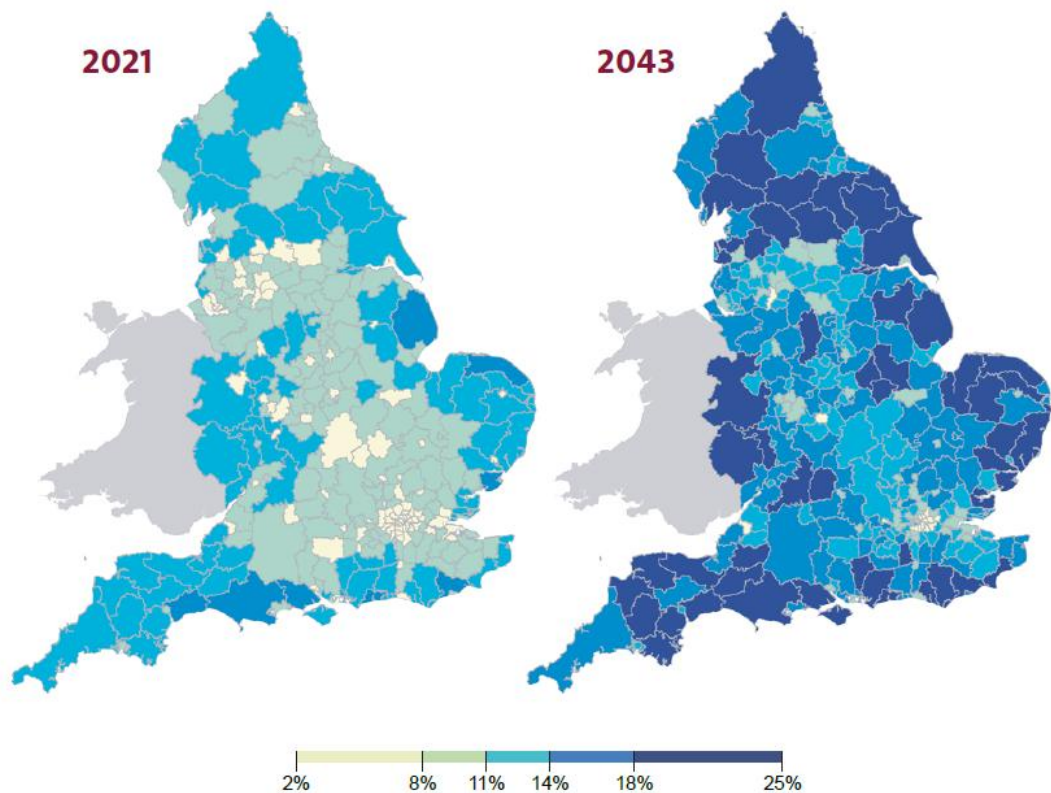


Figure 2: Population distribution, England and Wales – 2023 and 2050 (estimated, ONS)

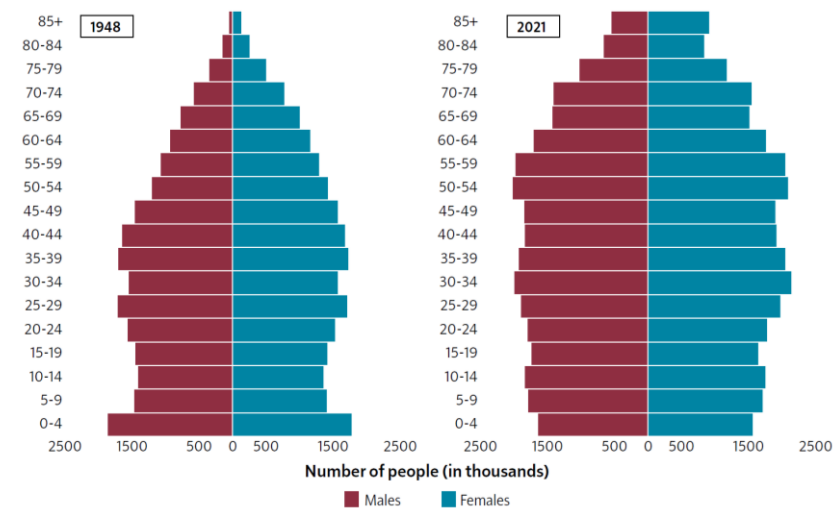
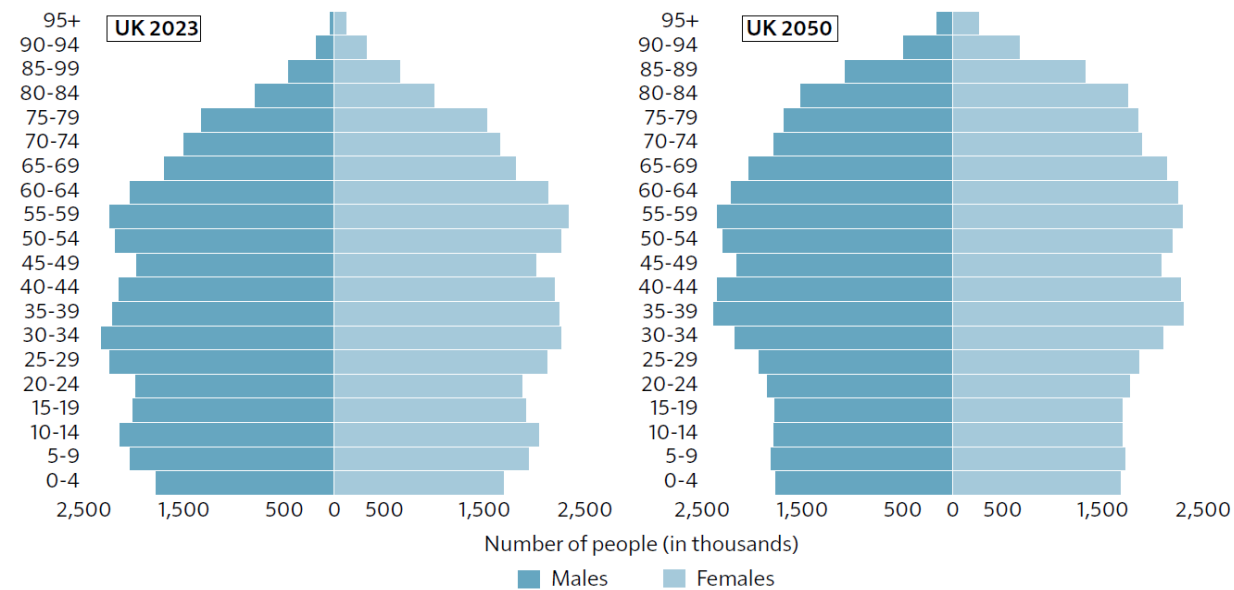
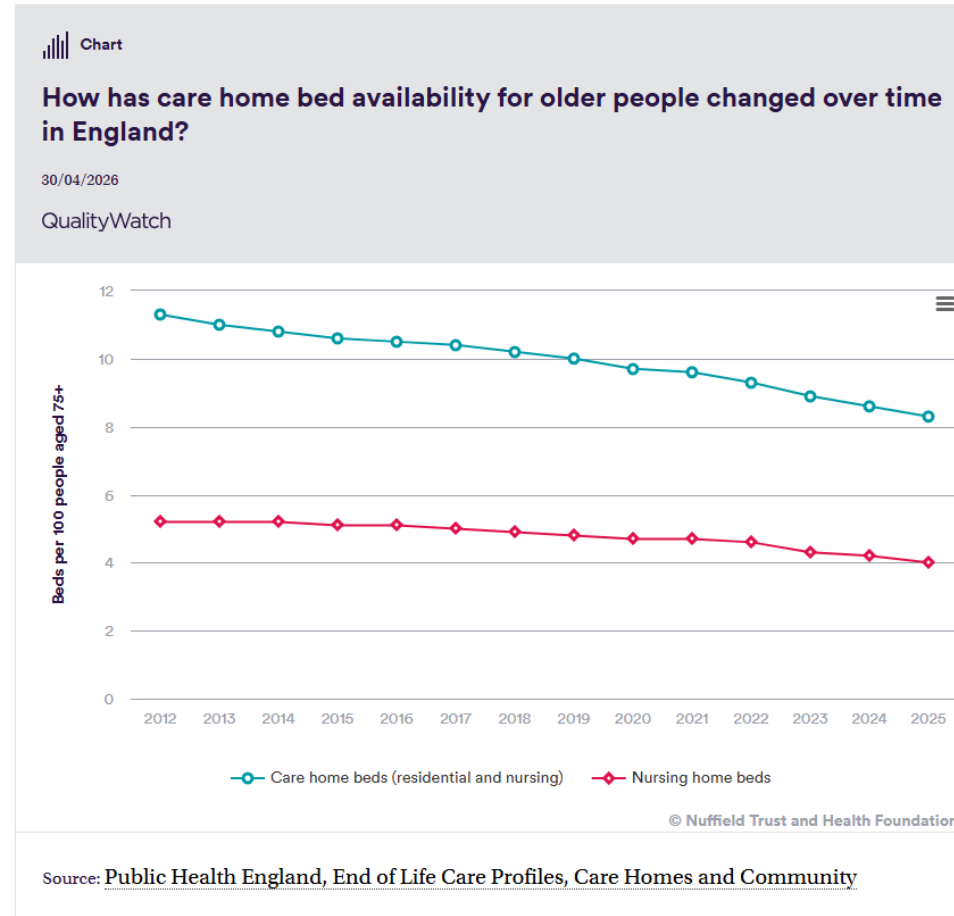


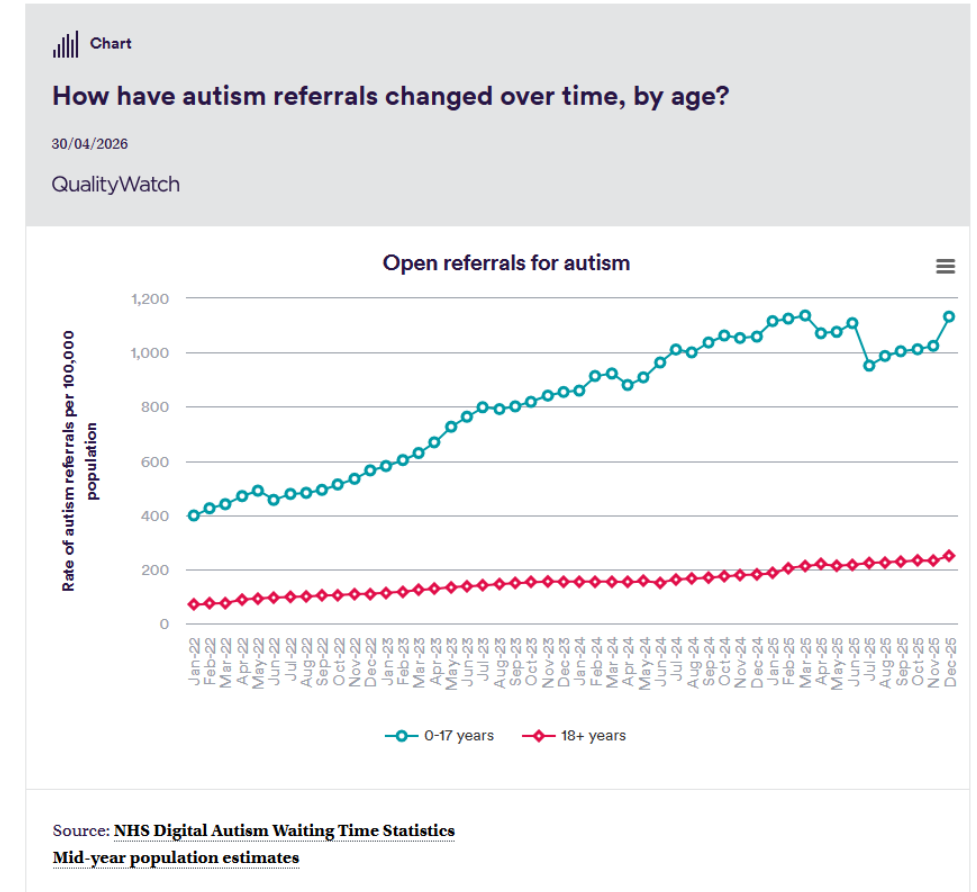
Figure 3: Since the welfare state began - population pyramid showing the distribution of the age and sex of the population for England and Wales, 1948 and 2021

Care home bed availability for the elderly



Between 2012 and 2025, the total number of beds in both nursing care homes and residential care homes (together referred to as 'care homes') for older people declined from 11.3 per 100 people aged 75 and over to 8.3 per 100 people aged 75 and over – a 26% decrease. Likewise, during the same period, the number of nursing home beds per 100 people aged 75 and over fell from 5.2 to 4 – a 23% decrease.

Referrals to autism services



Referrals to autism services are more common among children and young people than older adults. The rate of referrals per 100,000 population more than doubled for both population groups over this close to four-year period. For 0–17 year-olds, it increased from 397 in January 2022 to 1,133 in December 2025. By comparison, for people aged over 18 years it increased from 69 in January 2022 to 250 in December 2025.