

Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia in the News, 2019-2026: Attention, Geography and Tone of Global Coverage, and How It Compares with Research and Invention

Fliar BI · Prism Research Layer · Working paper, October 2026 · Dataset and code: github.com/fliarbi/prism-news-api · Licence CC BY-NC 4.0

Abstract

We measure how Alzheimer's disease and dementia were covered in a global news index from January 2019 to July 2026, using 103,683 de-duplicated articles, and set that coverage beside 152,769 research papers and 7,396 patent families on the topic. Six results stand out:

1. **Steady attention.** The topic took 6.92 articles per 10,000 news articles in 2019 and 6.94 in 2025. The high was 2023, at 8.29 per 10,000, and the peak month was July 2023, at 11.14.
2. **Geography.** The United States holds 61.17% of located articles, 1.26 times its share of all news. The United Kingdom (2.4) and Sweden (6.43) are more over-represented still, while India (0.15) and China (0.57) are under-represented. Asia (0.28) and Africa (0.22) take far less than their weight in the news.
3. **States and shifts.** Within the United States, Massachusetts (2.87) and Missouri (2.85) lead by lift once two states whose tags are geocoding errors are set aside. From 2023 to 2025 the topic's share of national news rose most in South Africa (3.08 times), Brazil (1.94) and New Zealand (1.86), and fell most in Ireland (0.35), Japan (0.54) and China (0.56).
4. **Tone and urgency.** 31.5% of articles are negative in tone, against 33.6% of all news, and 66.8% are positive. Yet 76.7% are rated critical priority (all news: 42.6%).
5. **Measurement.** 37.9% of raw matches for Alzheimer's and dementia vocabulary were structured research abstracts or market-research notices. Counting them would roughly add 61% to the count.
6. **Research and invention.** Papers on the topic grew from 14.55 to 29.54 per 10,000 papers between 2015 and 2025 (2.03 times). Patent families rose from 565 to 941 between 2015 and 2024, but only at the pace of all patenting (1.71 and 1.69 per 10,000 families). China's office holds 37% of filings.

Findings stated for citation

- **F1.** The topic's share of news was 6.92 per 10,000 articles in 2019 and 6.94 in 2025, with a high of 8.29 in 2023 and a low of 6.23 in 2020.
- **F2.** July 2023 was the peak month, at 11.14 articles per 10,000.
- **F3.** The United States' share of located articles (61.17%) was 1.26 times its share of all news; the United Kingdom's (14.01%) was 2.4 times.
- **F4.** Among the 20 leading countries, Sweden (6.43) and the United Kingdom (2.4) were the most over-represented; India (0.15), France (0.52) and China (0.57) the most under-represented.

- **F5.** 31.5% of articles were negative in tone and 66.8% positive (all news: 33.6% and 56.8%).
- **F6.** 76.7% of articles were rated critical priority, 1.8 times the all-news share.
- **F7.** Caregiver support was the fourth most frequent theme, in 4.97% of themed articles.
- **F8.** Papers on the topic rose 2.03-fold as a share of all papers between 2015 and 2025.
- **F9.** Patent families rose from 565 (2015) to 941 (2024), but their share of all patenting stayed level (1.71 and 1.69 per 10,000); 37% of office filings were in China.
- **F10.** Oceania (1.44), Europe (1.31) and North America (1.3) were over-represented; Asia (0.28) and Africa (0.22) were not.
- **F11.** Within the United States, Massachusetts (2.87) and Missouri (2.85) had the most over-represented coverage; New Jersey (0.11) and Pennsylvania (0.61) the least.
- **F12.** From 2023 to 2025 the topic's share of national news rose most in South Africa (3.08-fold), Brazil (1.94) and New Zealand (1.86), and fell most in Ireland (0.35), Japan (0.54) and China (0.56).
- **F13.** Coverage was more negative than the national baseline in Australia (48% against 38.4%) and less negative in India (31.3% against 41.2%).
- **F14.** India accounted for 1.92% of located articles, 0.15 times its share of all news.

1. Introduction

Dementia affects tens of millions of people, and Alzheimer's disease is its most common cause. The last few years brought the first drugs that remove amyloid from the brain, new blood tests and a steady stream of studies on risk factors. News is where most people meet this work. It also carries stories of diagnosis, care and loss. Yet news coverage of dementia is rarely measured as data in its own right. Prevalence studies count patients. Bibliometric studies count papers. Few sources count attention: how much of the news the topic takes, and when, where and in what tone.

This paper and its dataset do that. They combine three records for one topic: a global news index, research papers and patents. Each comparison uses a denominator, so that growth in the index or in publishing is not mistaken for growth in interest. The companion dataset publishes an article-level sample (25,749 rows) and full coverage tables, so every figure here can be re-derived. The [Prism News API](#) serves the full history.

2. Data and methods

News. The Prism news index holds articles from outlets worldwide; non-English articles are indexed in English translation. Each article carries its opening text (the first few sentences), a primary location, a graded tone label, an editorial priority rating (1–9), themes, keywords and named organisations. We count unique article identifiers; repeated rows for the same article are removed. When this release was built, 92.88% of the index was readable, so all counts are lower bounds.

Matching. An article is about the topic when its opening text contains *Alzheimer*, *Alzheimer's*, *Alzheimers* or *dementia* as whole words, or one of the anti-amyloid drug names

lecanemab, *Leqembi*, *donanemab*, *Kisunla* and *aducanumab*. The index also carries research abstracts and press notices, so two families of matches are excluded:

- structured research abstracts, recognised by headings such as "Background:" or "Objective:" or by clinical acronyms in brackets, such as "(AD)" and "(MCI)";
- market-research notices ("market size", "CAGR").

Together these removed 63,153 of 166,836 raw matches (37.9%). One reviewer read 40 randomly drawn matched openings. 37 used the terms in their medical sense (precision 92.5%), and in 29 (72.5%) Alzheimer's disease or dementia was the main subject. The three false positives were a housing story that named a dementia nursing home as a landmark, a clinical case report and a multi-topic newsletter. Eight of the 40 openings were unstructured research abstracts that the exclusions cannot recognise; they are on topic but are not journalism.

Measures. Coverage over time is expressed per 10,000 articles in the index that month or year, because the index grew from 11,807,177 articles in 2019 to 26,990,006 in 2025. Geography, tone, priority and themes use January 2023 – July 2026. Geography is expressed as lift: a country's share of the topic's located articles divided by its share of all located articles. In that window, 26,860 of 60,522 articles (44.4%) carried a primary country. Place tags derived from ordinary words (714 words such as "Congress", "Earth" and "Winter") were treated as unlocated in every location field, which removed 15.3% of city-tagged articles.

Research and patents. Research papers are de-duplicated articles and reviews (2000–2025) with Alzheimer's or dementia in the title, repository deposits excluded. Patent families (2006–2024) use the same title rule and are counted once per filing office.

3. Results

3.1 How much and when

The index holds 103,683 articles on Alzheimer's disease and dementia from January 2019 to July 2026. Raw counts rose from 8,172 in 2019 to 18,743 in 2025, but the share of all news barely moved: 6.92 per 10,000 in 2019 and 6.94 in 2025 (Table 1). The low point was 2020, at 6.23 per 10,000, 10% below 2019. The high was 2023, at 8.29, a rise of 23.4% on 2022. The highest monthly share was July 2023, at 11.14 per 10,000 (Figure 1). That was the month in which United States regulators granted lecanemab traditional approval; June 2023 (10.24) was also high.

Year	Articles	All articles in index	Per 10,000
2019	8,172	11,807,177	6.92
2020	10,111	16,230,014	6.23
2021	12,025	17,281,220	6.96
2022	12,850	19,115,515	6.72
2023	16,991	20,484,506	8.29
2024	16,867	23,311,896	7.24
2025	18,743	26,990,006	6.94

Table 1. Articles on Alzheimer's disease and dementia per year and as a share of the index. 2026 (January–July) is partial and omitted.

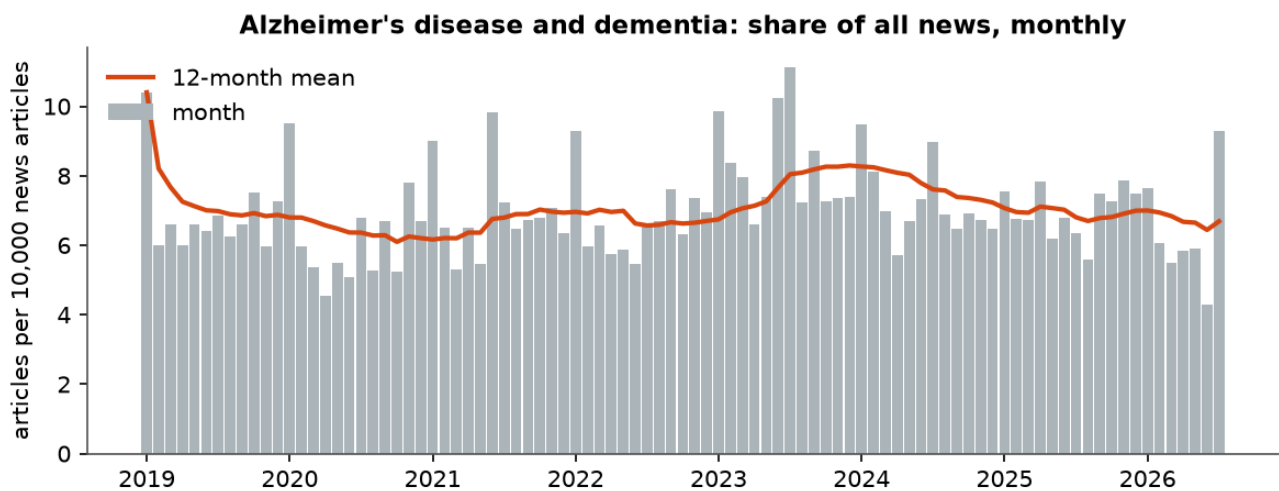


Figure 1. Coverage of Alzheimer's disease and dementia as articles per 10,000 news articles, monthly, January 2019 – July 2026. Bars are months; the line is the 12-month mean.

Unlike weather-driven topics, coverage has no real season (Figure 2). Every month from February to December holds between 7.09% and 8.98% of a typical year's articles, close to the 8.3% of an even spread. January stands out at 12.06%, but this is a dating artefact: research abstracts that carry only a publication year are dated 1 January. January months in the monthly series (for example January 2019, at 10.4 per 10,000) should be read with this in mind.

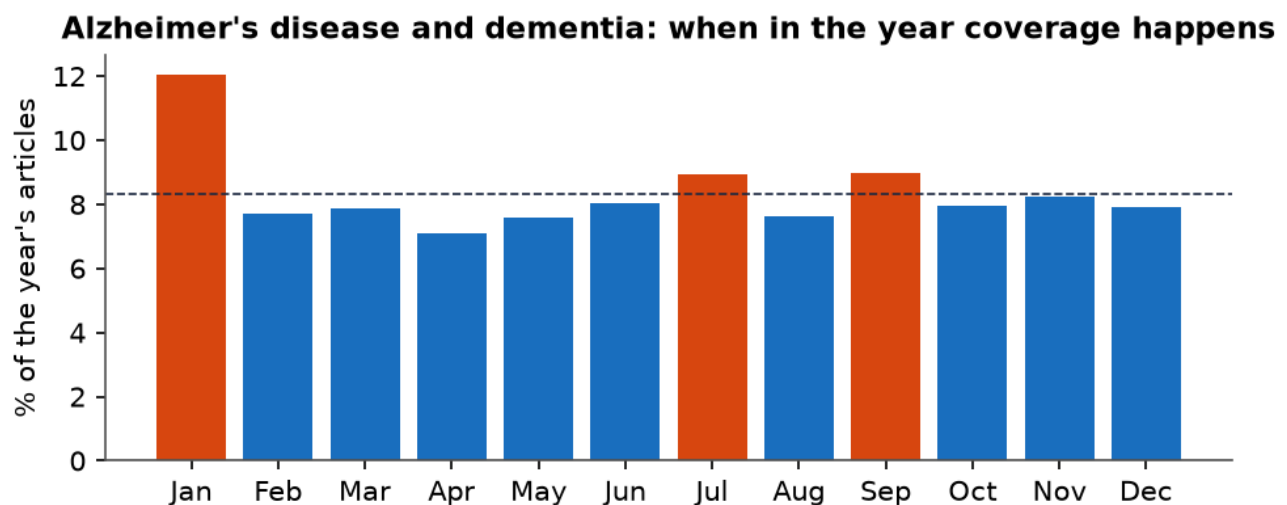


Figure 2. Share of each year's articles published in each month, averaged over 2019–2025. Dashed line = an even spread (8.3% per month). The January excess reflects items dated to 1 January.

3.2 Where

Between January 2023 and July 2026, 26,860 articles carried a primary location. The United States holds the largest share (61.17%), with a lift of 1.26. The United Kingdom follows with 14.01% and a lift of 2.4. The most over-represented country is Sweden (6.43), followed by the United Kingdom. Norway shows a lift of 3.35, but in the sample most of its tags come from the words "tau" (the protein) and "al" (from "et al.") read as place names, so it is not interpreted. The largest countries of Asia take far less than their weight: India's lift is 0.15 and China's 0.57 (Table 2, Figure 3).

Country	Located articles	Share %	Lift vs all news
United States	16,431	61.17	1.26
United Kingdom	3,763	14.01	2.4
Australia	883	3.29	1.53
Canada	648	2.41	1.12
India	516	1.92	0.15
China	400	1.49	0.57
Sweden	378	1.41	6.43
Japan	294	1.09	1.03
France	275	1.02	0.52
Spain	250	0.93	0.95
Germany	217	0.81	0.69
New Zealand	205	0.76	1.18
Singapore	198	0.74	0.83
Norway	183	0.68	3.35

Table 2. Leading countries in located news on Alzheimer's disease and dementia, January 2023 – July 2026, with lift against all located news. Norway's lift is a tagging artefact (see text).

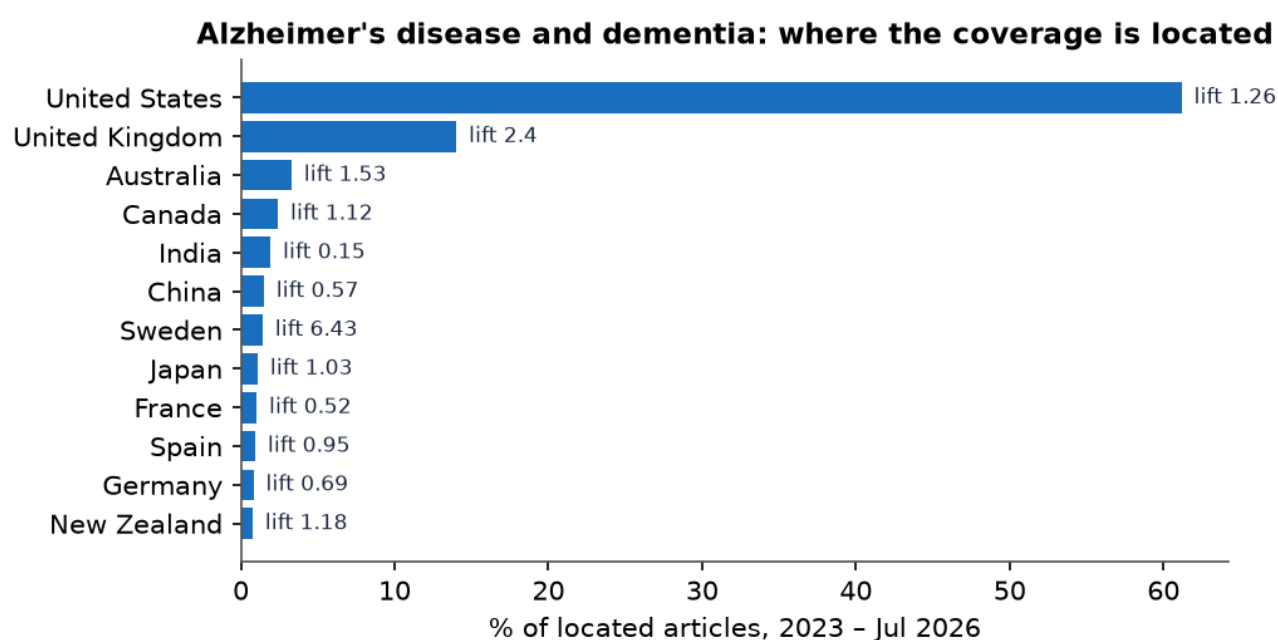


Figure 3. Leading countries by share of located articles, 2023 – Jul 2026, labelled with lift against all located news.

3.3 Geo intelligence: continents, states and shifting attention

The world map (Figure 4) shows the pattern at a glance. Dementia news is over-represented in North America, north-western Europe and Oceania, and under-represented across most of Asia, Africa and South America. By continent, Oceania (1.44), Europe (1.31) and North America (1.3) are over-represented, while South America (0.56), Asia (0.28) and Africa (0.22) are not (Figure 6, left). Coverage is thus concentrated in high-income regions. The data do not show whether this reflects population age, research capacity or the index's own outlet mix, which favours English-language outlets.

Alzheimer's disease and dementia: which countries over- and under-cover the topic

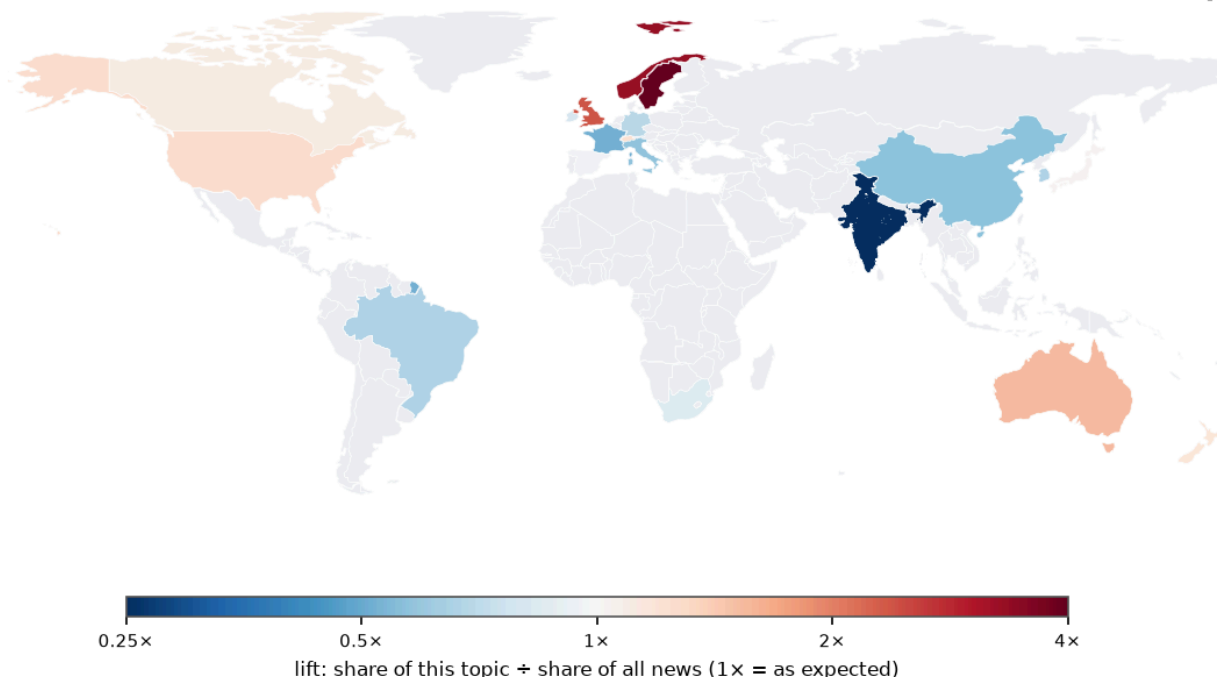


Figure 4. Lift of each country's share of located articles on Alzheimer's disease and dementia, January 2023 – July 2026 (red = over-represented, blue = under-represented, grey = fewer than 100 articles). India is drawn with its official outline.

Within the United States, the picture is uneven (Table 3, Figure 5). Measured against each state's share of American news, Massachusetts (2.87), Missouri (2.85) and Connecticut (2.11) are the most over-represented. Massachusetts combines a high lift with a large count (926 articles); Missouri's tags fall mostly on St. Louis. Mississippi (4.28) and Louisiana (3.82) show higher lifts on the map, but these are geocoding errors: in the sample, most of their state tags come from coverage of a celebrity's diagnosis whose family names match small towns of the same name. Removing place tags taken from ordinary words did not remove them, because these are personal names. They are left out of Table 3 and the findings. New Jersey (0.11) and Pennsylvania (0.61) are far below their weight in American news. India has too few state-tagged articles (328) for stable state lifts; the largest counts are Maharashtra (70), Karnataka (46) and Delhi (44).

US state (highest lift)	Articles	Lift	US state (lowest lift)	Articles	Lift
Massachusetts	926	2.87	New Jersey	270	0.11
Missouri	386	2.85	Pennsylvania	501	0.61
Connecticut	202	2.11	Tennessee	195	0.63
Hawaii	74	1.8	Nevada	101	0.72
Minnesota	377	1.74	South Carolina	67	0.75
Michigan	491	1.55	Alabama	124	0.8
New Mexico	74	1.55	Wisconsin	146	0.8
Iowa	174	1.51	Ohio	244	0.84

Table 3. US states with the highest and lowest lift for Alzheimer's disease and dementia news, January 2023 – July 2026. Lift = the state's share of the country's located articles ÷ its share of all located news from that country. States with fewer than 50 articles are omitted, as are Mississippi and Louisiana, whose tags are mostly geocoding errors (see text).

Alzheimer's disease and dementia: states of United States by lift

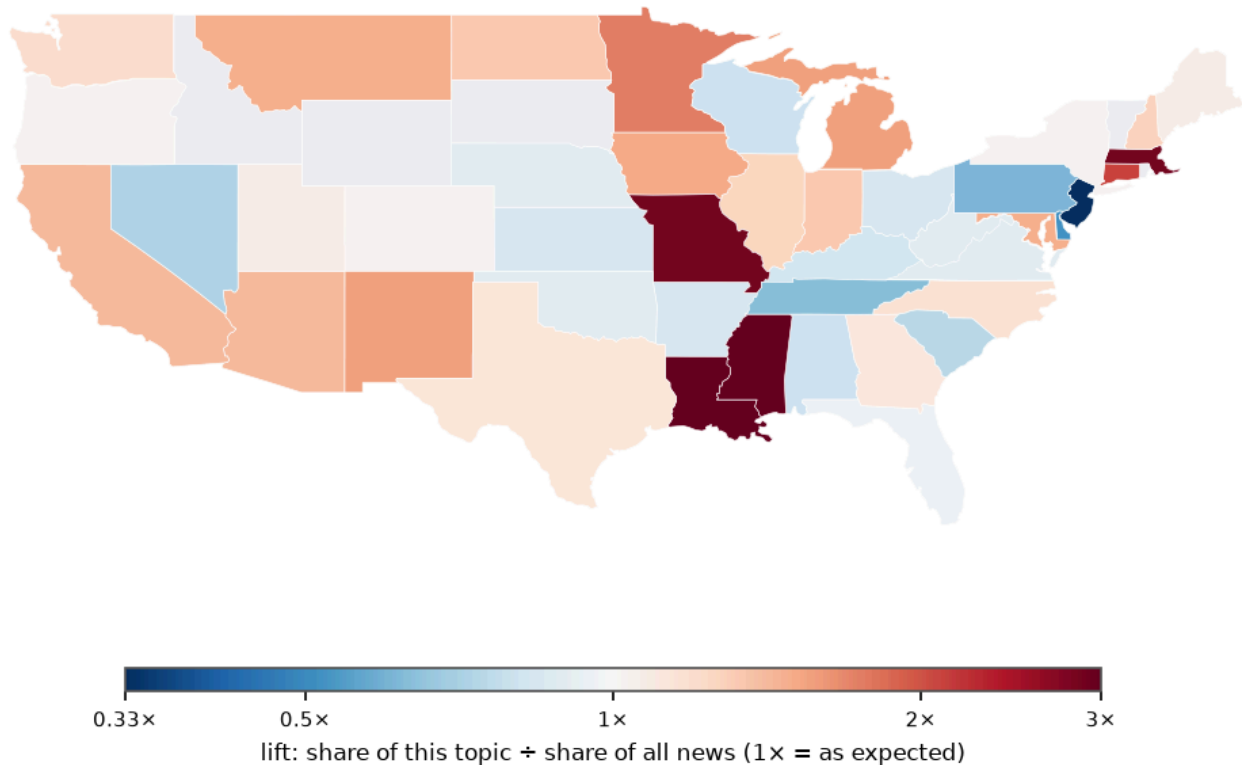


Figure 5. Lift of each US state's share of located articles on Alzheimer's disease and dementia against its share of all located US news, January 2023 – July 2026. The high values for Mississippi and Louisiana are geocoding errors (see text).

Attention also moves between countries from year to year (Figure 6, right). Measured as articles per 10,000 of each country's located news, the largest rises among the 20 leading countries were in South Africa, from 3.65 in 2023 to 11.23 in 2025 (3.08 times), Brazil, from 3.37 to 6.55 (1.94 times), and New Zealand, from 6.67 to 12.4 (1.86 times); Canada rose from 6.3 to 8.63 (1.37 times). South Africa's base is small (104 located articles in the window), so its rise is sensitive to the outlet mix. The United Kingdom rose slightly, from 16.92 to 18.0. The largest falls were in Ireland, from 7.71 to 2.69 (0.35 times), Japan, from 10.86 to 5.87 (0.54 times), and China, from 5.26 to 2.96 (0.56 times). The United States fell from 10.34 to 7.7 (0.74 times). India's share stayed near 1 per 10,000 (1.12 in 2023, 1.21 in 2025).

Tone also differs by country when each is set against its own news. Dementia coverage is more negative than the national baseline in Australia (48% negative against 38.4%) and Canada (38.5% against 27.1%). It is less negative in France (35% against 47.6%), Spain (19.2% against 30.3%), India (31.3% against 41.2%) and Sweden (18.3% against 26.2%). In the United States it is somewhat more negative (36.8% against 33.1%), and in the United Kingdom it is close to the baseline (35.7% against 36.9%).

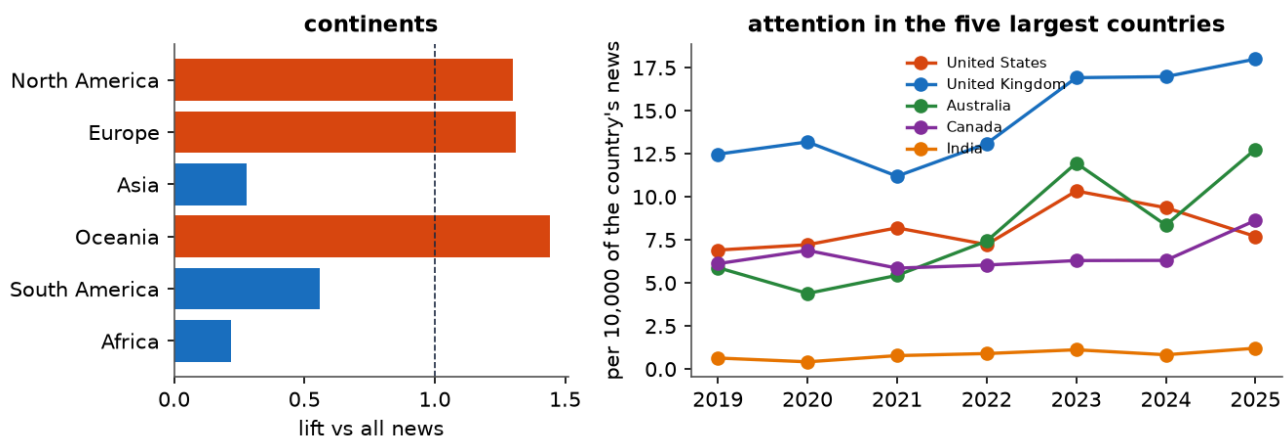


Figure 6. Left: lift by continent, January 2023 – July 2026. Right: articles per 10,000 of each country's located news, 2019–2025, for the five countries with the most articles.

3.4 Tone, urgency and themes

Dementia coverage is slightly less negative than news in general, but rated more urgent (Figure 7). Among articles with a tone label, 31.5% are negative and 66.8% positive, against 33.6% and 56.8% across the index. Research findings, drug approvals and prevention advice make up much of the coverage, and they read as positive. A machine-assigned priority rating puts 76.7% of articles at critical level (7 or higher), against 42.6% of all news (1.8 times).

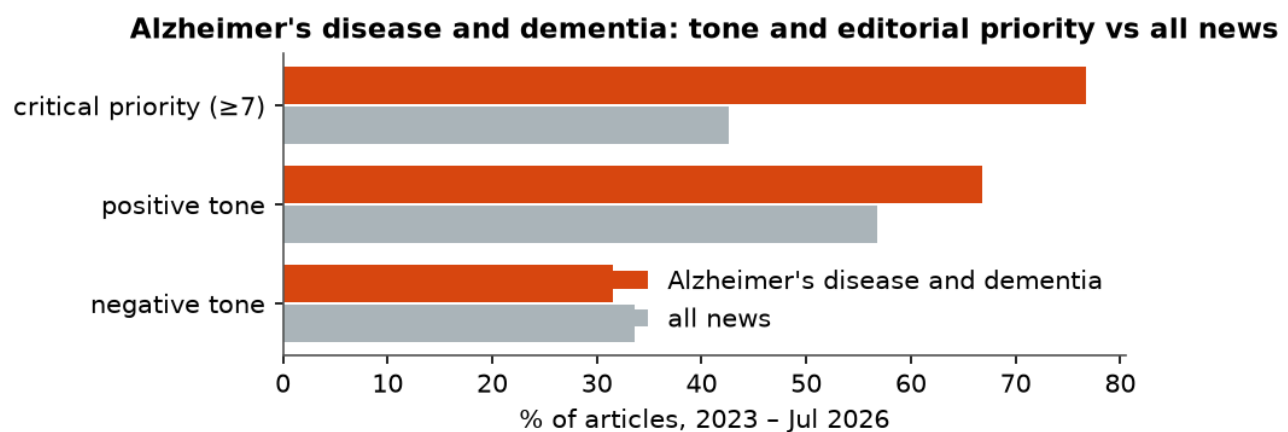


Figure 7. Tone and the share rated critical priority, Alzheimer's disease and dementia vs all news, 2023 – Jul 2026.

Themes show what the stories are about (Table 4). Ageing and gerontology is the most common (19.61% of themed articles). The themes most specific to the topic concern advocacy, stigma, caregiving and treatment. Caregiver support appears in 4.97% of themed articles, the fourth most frequent theme. Lifts above 1,000 in Table 4 mean only that these topic-specific labels almost never occur elsewhere; they are not a measure of emphasis.

Theme	Articles	Share %	Lift
aging and gerontology studies	6,237	19.61	86.8
caregiver support strategies for alzheimer's patients	1,581	4.97	1107.63
pharmacological treatments for alzheimer's	1,078	3.39	1007.69
alzheimer's patient advocacy and awareness campaigns	1,047	3.29	1176.1
alzheimer's disease prevention and lifestyle interventions	990	3.11	1053.4
social stigma and alzheimer's disease perception	724	2.28	1110.29
epidemiology of alzheimer's in aging populations	702	2.21	1108.48
sleep disorders linked to alzheimer's pathology	359	1.13	1032.12

Table 4. Leading themes in coverage of Alzheimer's disease and dementia, with lift against all themed news, January 2023 – July 2026.

Among the organisations named, the two developers of lecanemab and aducanumab lead the companies: Biogen (1,636 articles) and Eisai (1,494), followed by the National Institutes of Health (1,325), the Mayo Clinic (628) and Lilly (617). The organisation tagger also reads the disease name and some clinical acronyms as organisations, so the list is indicative only.

3.5 Research attention and invention

Research on Alzheimer's disease and dementia grew much faster than the scientific literature. Papers with either term in the title rose from 14.55 per 10,000 papers in 2015 to 29.54 in 2025, a 2.03-fold increase in share, while the total literature in the corpus grew by a factor of 1.0 over the same years. Between 2015 and 2025, 152,769 such papers were published. The most-cited include the diagnostic recommendations of the National Institute on Aging and the Alzheimer's Association, the research framework that defines the disease biologically, reviews of the amyloid hypothesis and of neuroinflammation, and the phase 3 trial of lecanemab [1–6].

News attention does not track research attention (Figure 8). Research share rose every year, while news share rose in 2023 and then returned to its 2019 level.

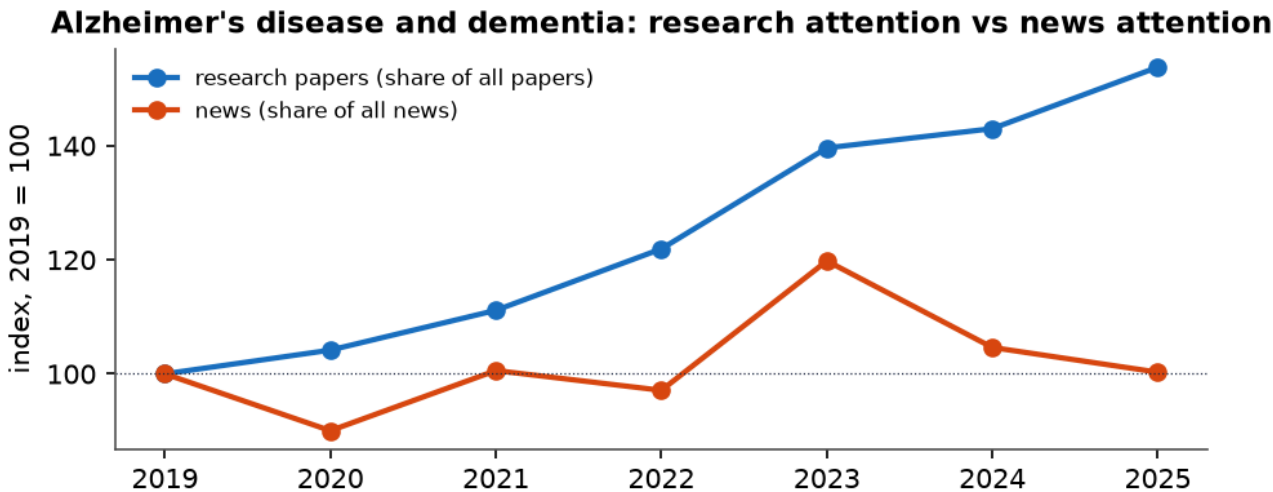


Figure 8. Research papers with Alzheimer's or dementia in the title (share of all papers) and news on the topic (share of all news), each indexed to 2019 = 100.

Patenting did not gain share: 565 patent families with the terms in the title were published in 2015 and 941 in 2024, but all published families grew from 3,302,996 to 5,556,813 over the same years, so the topic held 1.71 and 1.69 families per 10,000. Office shares count each family once per office. China's office holds 37% of families from 2015 to 2024, followed by the United States (13%), international applications (11.8%) and South Korea (10.7%) (Figure 9). The leading technology class is medicinal preparations (A61K, 1,506 families), followed by chemical and biological analysis (G01N, 454), which covers diagnostic tests.

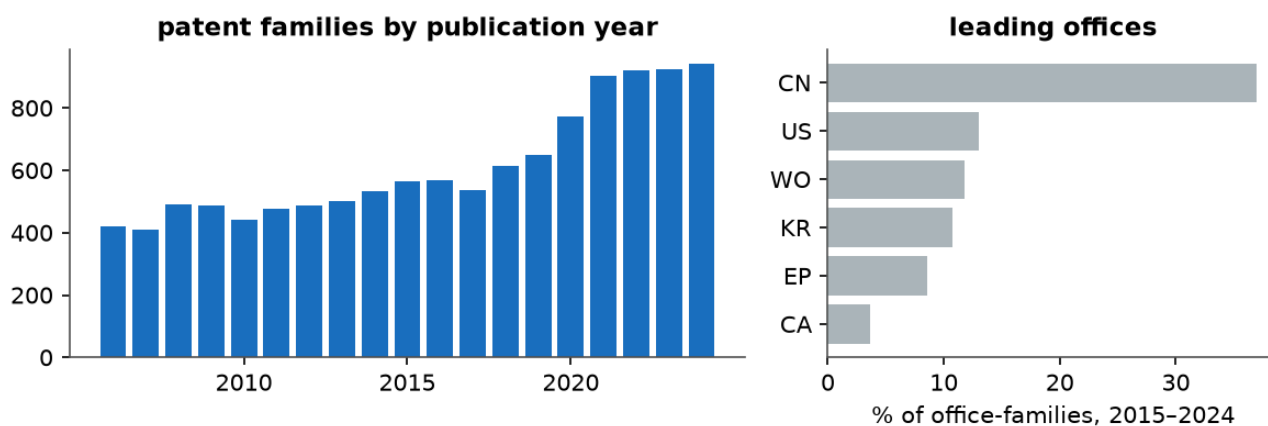


Figure 9. Patent families with Alzheimer's or dementia in the title by publication year (left) and the leading filing offices, 2015–2024 (right).

4. Discussion

Three points matter for anyone who uses news as a record of attention to dementia. First, attention is steady. Unlike disasters, dementia has no season and few sudden peaks; the highest month, July 2023, sits less than twice the average. Second, coverage is concentrated in North America, Europe and Oceania, and countries with large and fast-ageing populations, such as India and China, are under-represented. The United Kingdom and Sweden take an especially large share. Third, a large part of what keyword searches return as "dementia news" is not journalism. Structured research abstracts and market notices made up more than a third of raw matches, and unstructured abstracts remain in the data.

Research, invention and news run on different clocks. Research share doubled in a decade. Patent families grew only at the pace of all patenting, so their share stayed level. News share has stayed flat. The dataset lets researchers link the three, for example to test whether drug approvals are followed by changes in tone or in national attention.

5. Limitations

- **Index availability.** 92.88% of the index was readable at build time, so counts are lower bounds. Shares and lifts are less affected, because the missing part is spread across topics.
- **Coverage after May 2026.** The index thins after May 2026, so 2026 is partial and is excluded from year comparisons.
- **Matching.** Matching uses the article opening. Articles that mention dementia only later are missed, and 7.5% of matches are not about the topic. About one match in five in the hand check was an unstructured research abstract.
- **Dates.** Abstracts dated only by year fall on 1 January, which inflates January in monthly series.
- **Machine labels.** Location, tone, priority, themes and organisations are machine-labelled. The city field is noisy and is not analysed. The state field can also mis-read personal names as small towns; two US states (Mississippi and Louisiana) are affected strongly enough to be excluded from the findings, but they remain in the US state map (Figure 5). At country level, Norway's lift rests mostly on the words "tau" and "al" read as place names and is not interpreted.
- **Place words.** Place tags derived from ordinary words (such as "Congress", "Earth" or "Winter") were treated as unlocated in every location field, which removed 15.3% of

city-tagged articles; the located base is therefore smaller, and a few genuine places with the same names may be lost.

- **Outlet mix.** The index over-represents English-language outlets. This shapes the geography, especially for India and China.
- **Research and patent counts.** These match titles only. Many drug patents name the disease only in their claims.

Data availability

The dataset (article sample, monthly and country tables, research and patent tables, all metrics) is released under CC BY-NC 4.0 with this paper. The sample holds 25,749 of 103,671 matched articles to 31 July 2026. Full article text, headlines, publishers, later articles and other topics are served by the Prism News API: <https://github.com/fliarbi/prism-news-api> (base URL <https://radar-api.fliarbi.com/news>). A worked query: `prism-news trends "alzheimer" --since 2019-01-01 --until 2026-07-31 --granularity monthly`.

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