

the 1990s, the number of people in the UK who are aged 65 and over has increased by 1.5 million (1990–2000) and is projected to increase by a further 1.5 million by 2020 (Office for National Statistics 2001). The number of people aged 65 and over who are living alone has increased from 1.1 million in 1990 to 1.5 million in 2000 (Office for National Statistics 2001). The number of people aged 65 and over who are living alone is projected to increase to 2.1 million by 2020 (Office for National Statistics 2001).

There is a growing awareness of the need to address the needs of older people who are living alone. The Department of Health (2000) has identified the need to develop a national strategy for older people who are living alone. The strategy should focus on the needs of older people who are living alone and on the needs of their families and carers. The strategy should also focus on the needs of older people who are living alone and on the needs of their families and carers. The strategy should also focus on the needs of older people who are living alone and on the needs of their families and carers.

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