

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 is projected to increase by 2.5 million by 2020 in the USA (U.S. Census Bureau 2000). The number of people aged 65 and over in the UK is projected to increase by 2.5 million by 2020 (Office for National Statistics 2001).

There is a growing awareness of the need to address the health and social care needs of the ageing population. The World Health Organization (WHO) has identified the need to address the health and social care needs of the ageing population as a key priority for the 21st century (WHO 1999). The WHO has identified the need to address the health and social care needs of the ageing population as a key priority for the 21st century (WHO 1999).

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