

Individuals with cognitive impairment were no more, or less, likely to install adaptations than those without

Are older people with cognitive impairment more likely to install home adaptations than those without?

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Introduction

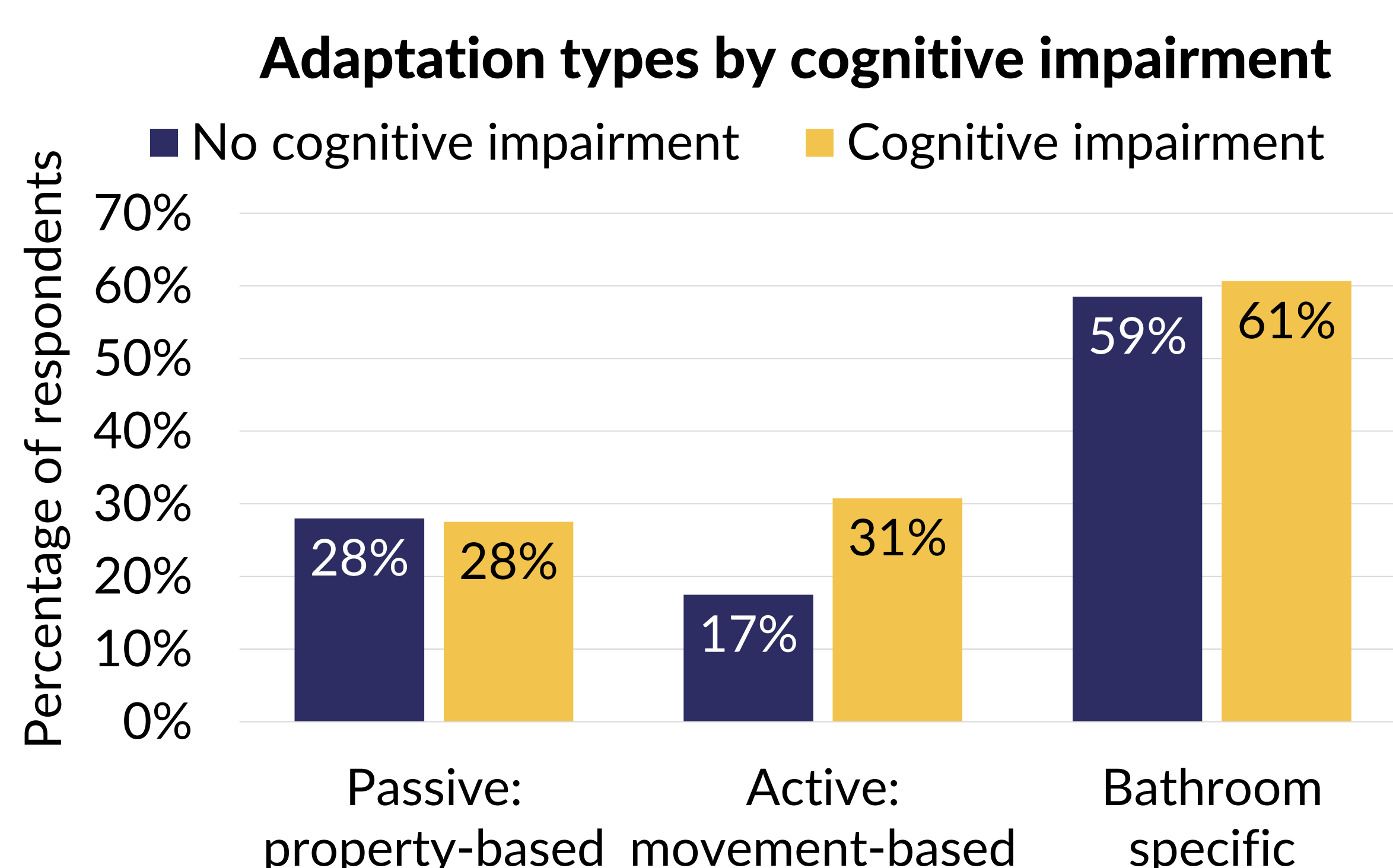
- By 2024, one million people in the UK will have dementia. Dementia is one of the main causes of disability in later life, more than CV disease or stroke.
- The UK housing stock is largely inaccessible, fewer than 1 in 10 homes have accessibility features to support people living with disabilities.

Methods

- Data were analysed from waves 7-9 of the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA).
- Using binary logistic regression, we investigated whether baseline (W7) cognitive impairment was associated with the installation of future adaptations (W8/W9).

Sample

- N=2965
- 59% installed one or more home adaptations.
- 67% of respondents living with cognitive impairment installed adaptations, compared to 63% without cognitive impairment.



Results

- 93% of those who installed adaptations reported bathroom adaptations.
- Cognitive impairment was **not significantly associated** with installation of future adaptations.
- Age, health, mobility problems, household size and housing tenure were the most predictive factors of adaptation installation.

Discussion

- While adaptations are accessible to people with and without cognitive impairment, the reported adaptations emphasize physical rather than cognitive needs.
- Individuals living with cognitive impairment may benefit from further adaptations and support than currently represented in research.

Passive: property-based

- Wide doorways or hallways
- Ramps or street level entrances
- Automatic or easy open doors
- Accessible parking or drop off sites
- Kitchen modifications

Active: movement-based

- Bed levers and rails
- Hoists
- Handrails
- Lifts
- Stairlifts or stair glides
- Alerting devices

Bathroom specific

- Toilet equipment and commodes
- Bath or shower seats
- Walk-in showers
- Over-bath showers

Odds ratios	
Cognitive impairment	0.94 (NS)
Age 60-69	1.32**
Age 70-79	1.63***
Age ≥80	2.98***
Dual person household	1.50***
Larger household (≥3 people)	1.34*
Tenure: renting	0.68**
Fair/poor self-rated health	1.67***
Mobility problems	1.27*

* p<.05, ** p<.01, *** p<.001

Control groups: no cognitive impairment, age 50-59, single person household, tenure: homeowner, good/very good/excellent self-rated health, no mobility problems.

Non-significant control variables: sex, income, non-housing wealth, tenure: buying with mortgage/loan, ADL/IADL difficulties.

