

Living with health and illness - the case of dementia



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People live longer:

- * with a healthy life
- * with chronic illness

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... hence the number of people with age-related disorders like dementia, will increase.

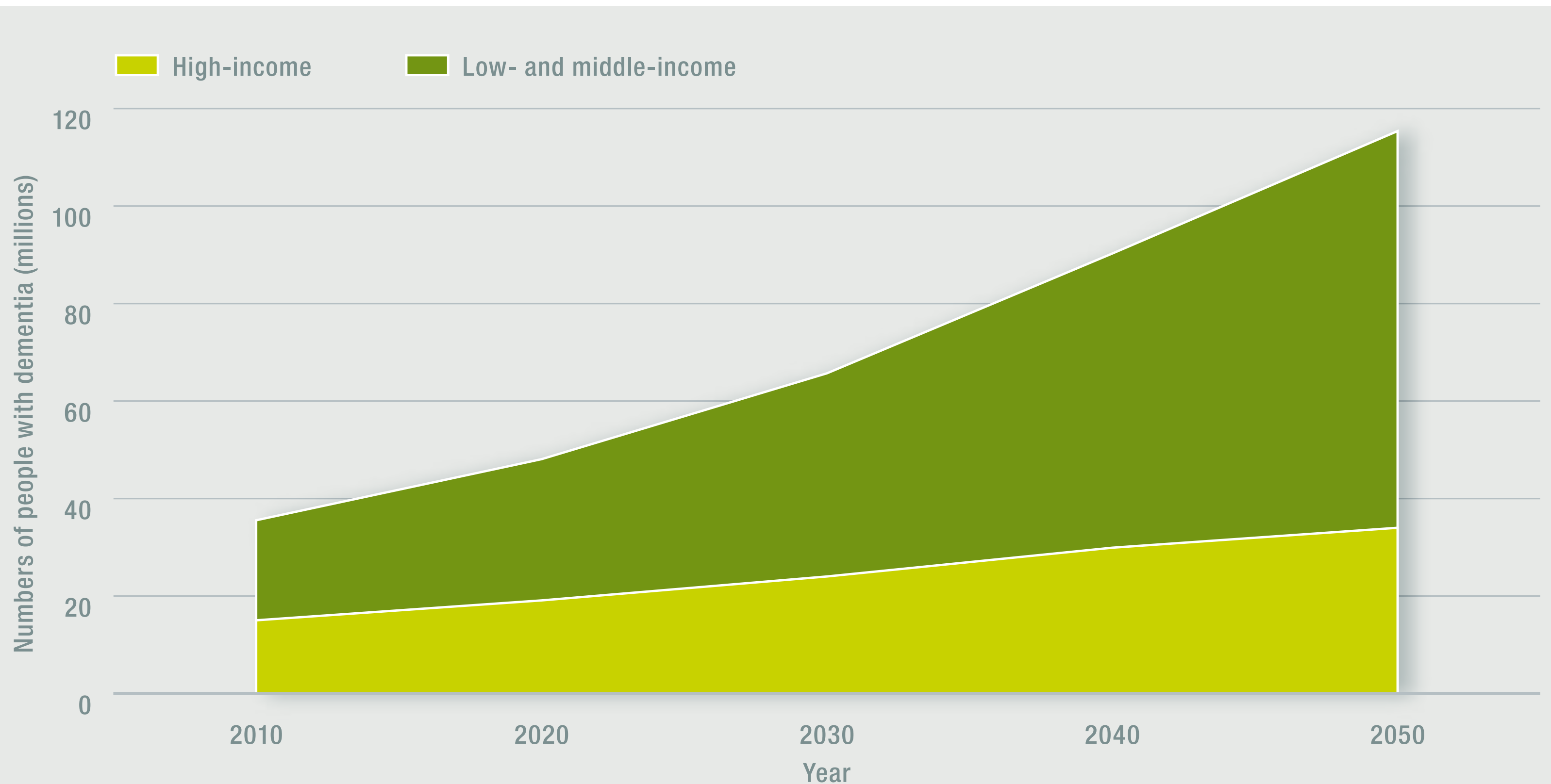


FIG 2.3 Growth in numbers of people with dementia in high-income and low- and middle-income countries

Dementia - a public health priority (WHO, 2013)

Dementia / Major neurocognitive disorder:

An umbrella term for cognitive symptoms,
caused by various diseases, for instance Alzheimer's disease.

Societal challenges as a consequence of increase of persons living with dementia

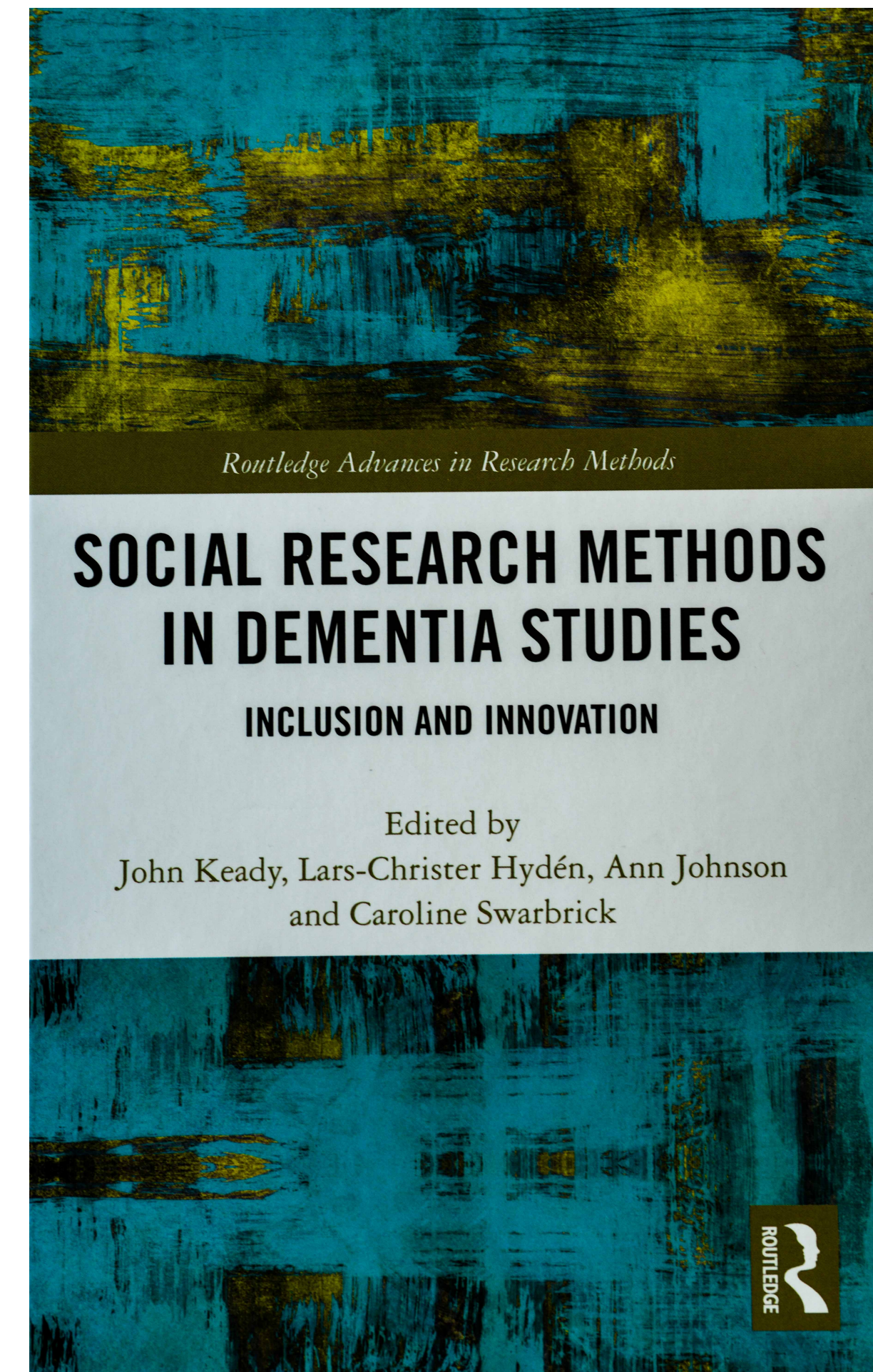
- * medical and social care
- * social participation and meaningful life

The last 25 years the emergence of an interdisciplinary research field concerned with dementia (sometimes called Dementia studies) with a focus on people living with dementia:

- the experiences of people with dementia
- coping with cognitive challenges
- meaning making processes
- living in the community
- human rights



Methodological creativity
as many established methods
have limitations



This new interdisciplinary research have

- * researchers from psychology, sociology, nursing, philosophy, etc.

- * little contact with gerontological and aging research

Three areas of interest and research about dementia:

- * Public health
- * Citizenship
- * Organization of interaction/collaboration

Public health

Van der Linden, M., & Juilerat Van der Linden, A.-C. (2018). A life-course and multifactorial approach to Alzheimer's disease: Implications for research, clinical assessment and intervention practices. *Dementia*, 17, 880-895.

- * the nature of Alzheimer's disease
- * alternative explanations
- * clinical and policy implications

* Citizenship

Bartlett, R., & O'Connor, D. (2007). From personhood to citizenship: Broadening the lens for dementia practice and research. *Journal of Aging Studies*, 21, 107-118.

* Personhood

* Citizenship

* "Inclusive lens"

- * Organization of interaction/collaboration

Hydén, L. C. (2014). Cutting Brussels Sprouts: Collaboration involving persons with dementia. *Journal of Aging Studies*, 29, 115-123.

- * Focus on participation in joint activities (vs individual)

- * Situated activity ecology

- * Troubles and their management

Thank you!

