

## **Dementia Innovation Readiness Index 2020 Questions & Answers**

### ***What is the Dementia Innovation Readiness Index?***

The 2020 Dementia Innovation Readiness Index analyzes the role of cities in promoting innovation readiness for the treatment, prevention and risk reduction, and care of dementia. A partnership project between Global Coalition on Aging (GCOA), Alzheimer's Disease International (ADI) and Singapore's Lien Foundation, the Index evaluates the capacity of 30 cities around the world to develop, integrate and/or scale innovations within the dementia landscape.

### ***Why did you evaluate cities? How did you select the cities?***

Cities are major hubs for innovation and have the capacity to be the epicenter of implementable solutions and action-oriented policies that are designed to improve efforts in the prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and care of people with dementia.

City selection was designed to represent a range of geographies, population and economy sizes, and healthcare and policy systems. They include major metropolitan centers as well as smaller municipalities that warrant investigation due to specific enablers of or barriers to innovation readiness that are in place such as a program, service or campaign.

### ***How are cities scored? What was the methodology?***

The Index evaluates cities' innovation readiness based on their performance across the five categories: strategy and commitment, early detection and diagnosis, access to care, community support, and business environment. Each category comprises several qualitative and quantitative indicators, and each category's score is derived from the scores assigned to those indicators. Scoring is based on multiple third-party data sources as well as the insights and observations of local, national, and global experts.

### ***Which cities are doing the best and why?***

Rated on a 0-10 scale, the top five performing cities are London (8.4), Glasgow (7.8), Manchester (7.7), Amsterdam (7.5), and Vancouver (7.5). Cities with the top overall score tend to have a consistently high performance across all five categories evaluated. The best-performing cities are actively thinking about, preparing for, and addressing barriers to and

enablers of innovation defined by the categories and indicators. In some cases, this activity is aligned to the existence of a large or growing older population.

***What are the report's key findings? What are opportunities for action?***

The Index found that, overall, cities are failing to support innovation in dementia comprehensively, though bright spots exist. Cities around the world are not fully leveraging opportunities across all five categories to support the development or adoption of innovations in dementia care, treatment and support and should take a leadership role in dementia innovation readiness.

We have identified examples of leading practices, some in unexpected places, across the five key areas identified in the Index that can serve as a model for others in the global community. For instance, among the cities profiled this year, assessments reveal that London and Glasgow lead in strategy and commitment and early detection and diagnosis, but Amsterdam scored highest for access to care and New York for the business environment in support of innovation, based on their performance against the indicators for those categories, according to local experts.

Many cities are missing the opportunity to fully leverage resources and must become better equipped to address the needs of their aging population and work towards the elimination of barriers to dementia innovation. No city was identified as having taken significant action against every indicator in all five categories.

**Other main findings include:**

- **Political will, leadership, and commitment** to address global aging and the growing prevalence of dementia are imperative in positioning it as a top health priority in communities across the globe.
- **Culturally competent and appropriate messages, messengers, and tools** are vital in addressing stigma and myths associated with a dementia diagnosis.
- **Health systems must engage and empower general practitioners** to ensure their role in the detection, diagnosis, and management of dementia is fully leveraged.
- **Streamlining complicated care pathways through better coordination** among people with dementia, their caregivers, and healthcare providers will help remove barriers to access and affordability of care.
- **Major metropolitan areas must take steps to better equip their communities** to support people living with dementia, building from the dementia friendly practices already in place.

To learn more about the Dementia Innovation Readiness Index 2020 partners, visit the following websites:  
[www.globalcoalitiononaging.com](http://www.globalcoalitiononaging.com)  
[www.alz.co.uk](http://www.alz.co.uk)  
<https://www.lienfoundation.org/>

- **Increased multi-sectoral collaboration with the private sector** will help meet the growing demand for care and support for people living with dementia and their communities, as the expansion of the care workforce is a necessity.

***What are some of the common enablers of dementia innovation that moved cities to the top of the Index?***

Top-performing countries tend to be upper-middle income, have some level of nationalized healthcare, and a national plan in place that helps to promote engagement at the city-level. These factors support resources, coordination and planning that spur innovation.