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the 1990s, the number of people in the UK who are aged 65 and over has increased from 10.5 million to 13.5 million, and the number of people aged 75 and over has increased from 4.5 million to 6.5 million (Office for National Statistics 2000).

There is a growing awareness of the need to address the health care needs of the elderly population. The Department of Health (2000) has set out a strategy for the care of the elderly, and the Health Service Research Board (2000) has funded a research programme on the care of the elderly.

The research programme has funded a number of research projects, including a study of the health care needs of the elderly population in the UK. The study is a cross-sectional survey of the health care needs of the elderly population in the UK.

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