

Your Stories

Poll Results 2025

dementiaresearcher.nihr.ac.uk



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Introduction



This report presents the findings from a poll conducted by Dementia Researcher open from the 1st August to 30th September 2025.

The poll invited members of the Dementia Researcher community and service users to share how they engage with the service and the impact it has had on their work and careers. With responses from researchers at different career stages and across a wide range of disciplines, the results provide insights into which resources are most used, how long members have been connected to the platform, and how the Dementia Researcher service has helped them.

The poll also provided intelligence to help identify future improvements.



Introduction



The Dementia Researcher Annual Report with full statistics will be published in January 2026. The information below provides a snapshot of current levels of service use.



Poll Results Big Picture



440

VIEWS

Number of people who visited the poll

115

STARTS

Number of people who partially completed the poll

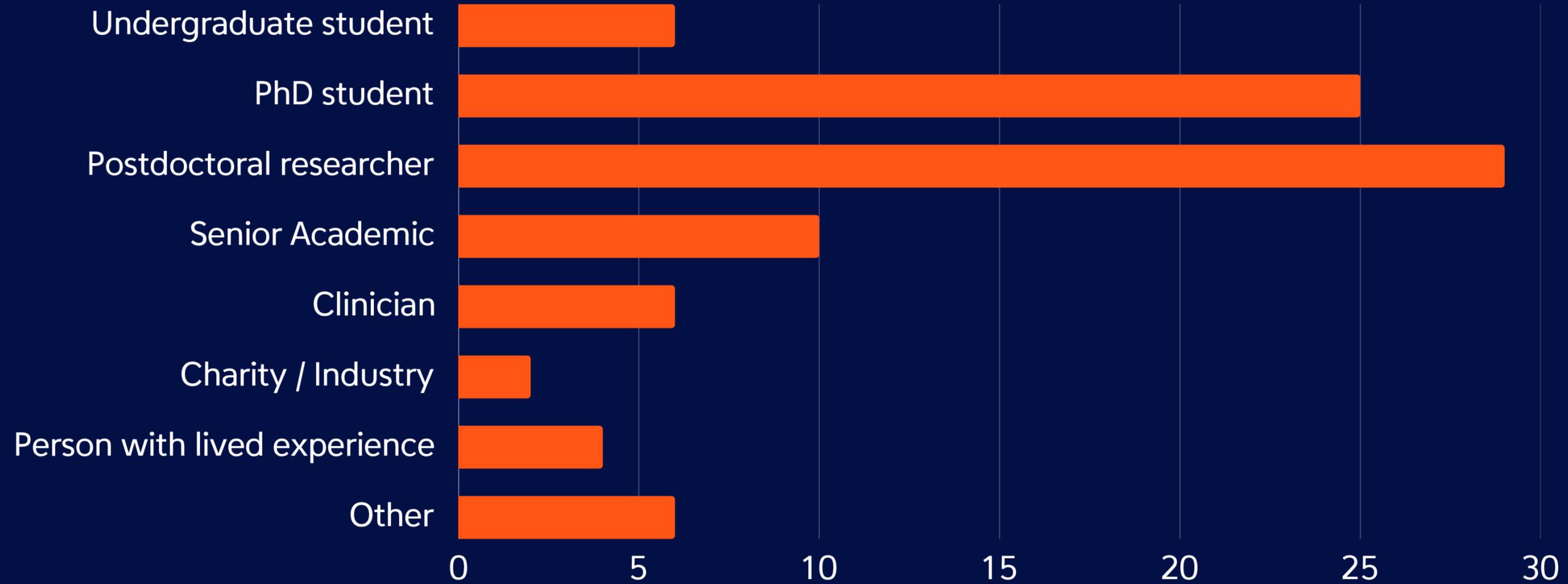
90

SUBMISSIONS

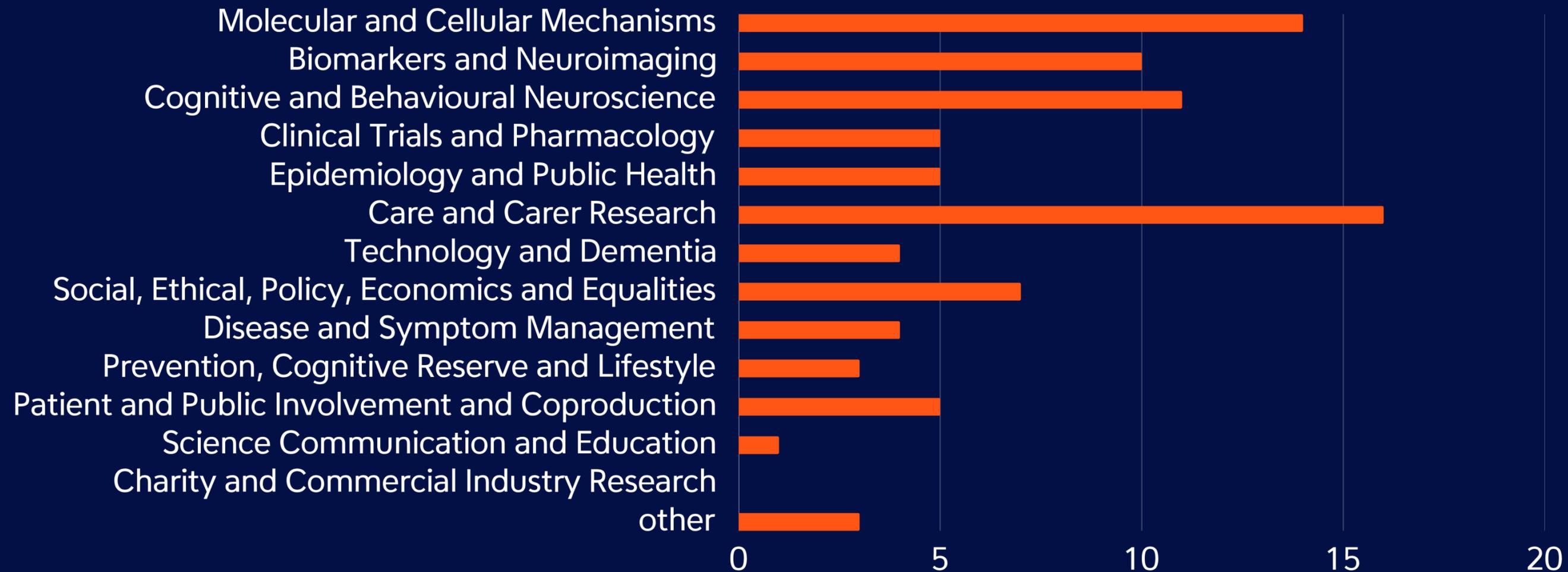
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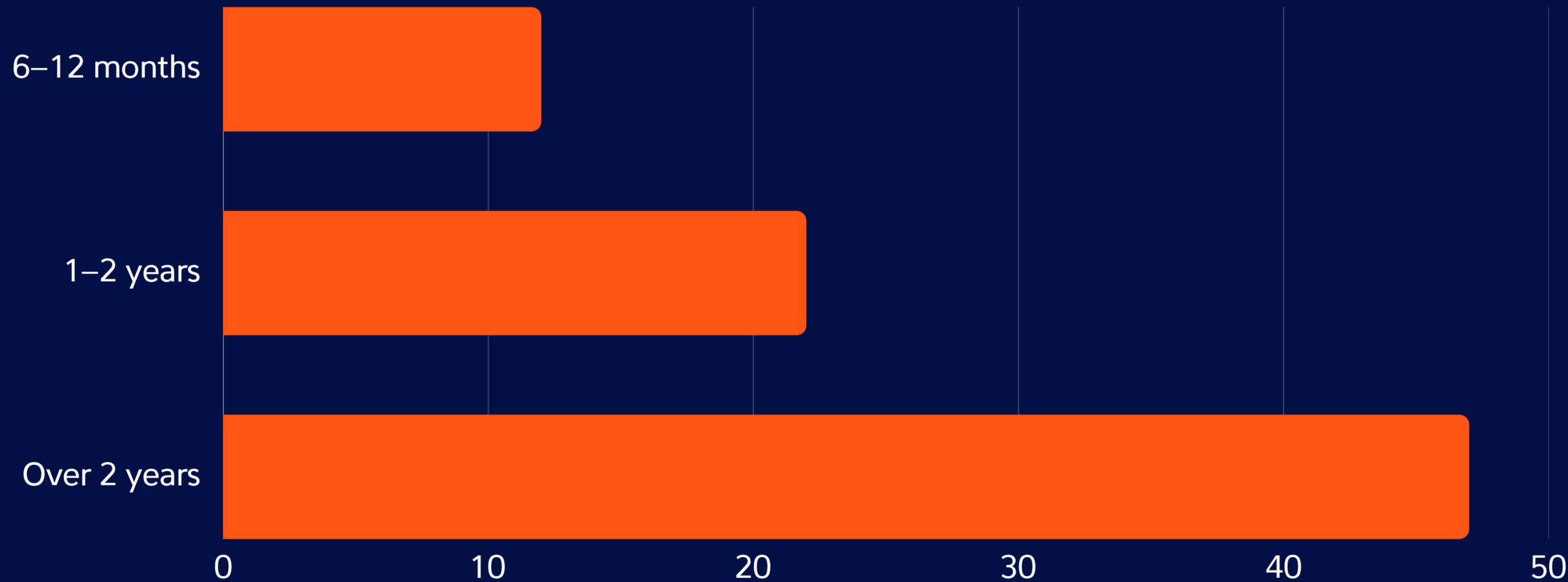
Career Stage



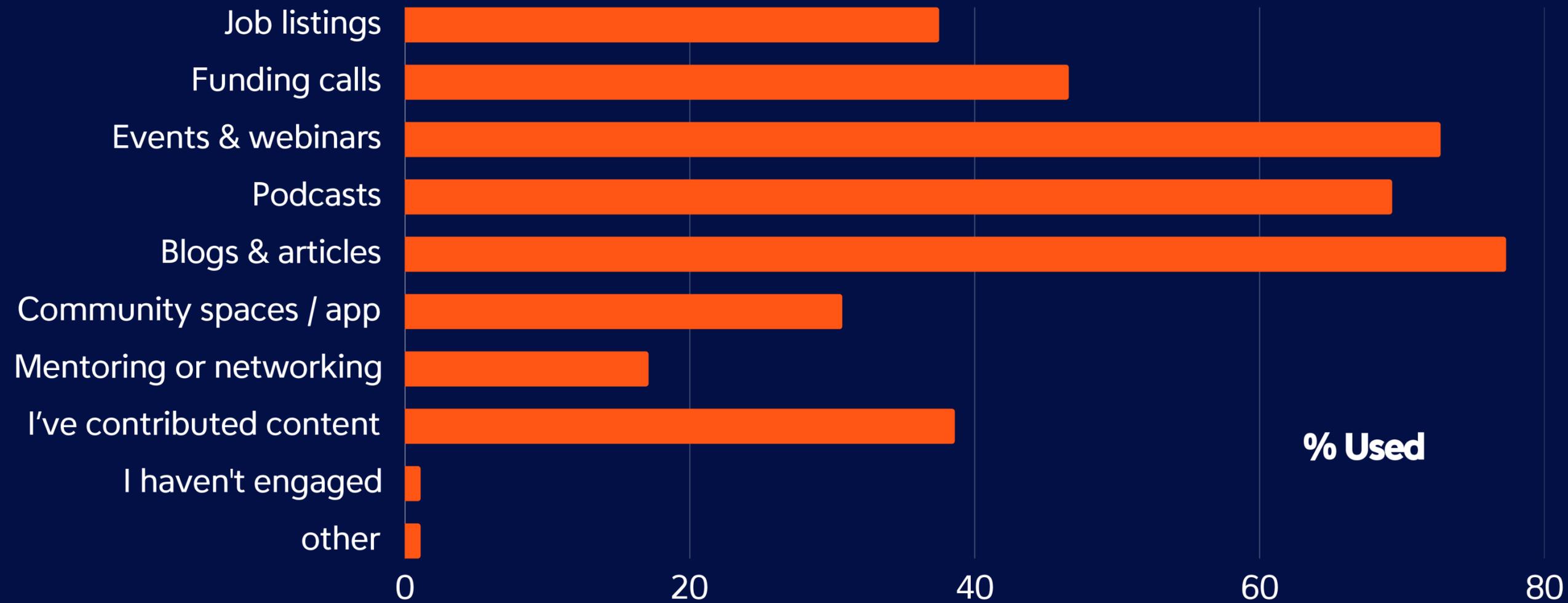
Area of Research



Time as a User



Content Engagement



How we helped



How we helped



I was diagnosed with PCA in 2022, I started looking online for information, and I came across a podcast with Anna Volkmer. It was really helpful, and I have used the website since to try and keep up to date with some of the research that isn't in the news.

I attended the Wessex Dementia Research Conference 2025 and particularly enjoyed the talk on Functional Cognitive Disorders by Dr Elizabeth Mallam

Got talking to someone with a shared interest. Emailed then outside the app and managed to get some samples from a useful cohort that I never knew existed!

Networking. It's great to have a place to meet and 'talk' to new people, even in chats during seminars etc. It's a fab and focused resource.

Lots. Main one is probably the excellent speakers and podcasts. Much broader range of areas than I'd normally go out and read but they're really interesting to get a view on other parts of the field, get other views and really set our research in context

I'm in the first year of my PhD and I find the blogs and podcasts very helpful

I listen to the blogs and find them really interesting, they've been really helpful when it comes to dealing with my imposter syndrome

I attended a livestream providing information on a clinical fellowship call, I got my questions answered and I applied. Still waiting to hear if won,

The articles on study recruitment have really helped me, I got lots of new ideas when recruitment has been difficult. I also welcome hearing from other PhD students about their problems, which really reflect my own.

Dementia Researcher is an incredible source of information, keeping you engaged, even motivated and most of all connected with the wider research community. I think it represents everything that all science should inspire to be.

How we helped



Increase in my knowledge and how to use within my communities

Understanding what research is ongoing and what networks there are

Helped me find useful resources and opportunities that support my PhD work

I gained global visibility through Dementia Researcher UK by recording a podcast. Listing a podcast on my CV also made me stand out in job applications.

I used the 'Solutions Lab' and got some brilliant help, and was introduced to someone who has agreed to become my mentor and offer me some lab experience.

It made it easier to learn from researchers and understand what the work involves

I came across a funding call on Dementia Researcher that I applied for and got

The podcasts gave me ideas I could actually use in my work

It helped me find other researchers going through the same stuff as me.

I spotted my job on Dementia Researcher and probably wouldn't have found it anywhere else.

How we helped



Dementia Researcher has helped me connect with peers facing similar challenges, giving me practical advice and support that I couldn't find elsewhere.

I wrote in my fellowship application about my contributions to the community to demonstrate my commitment to dementia research. I got the fellowship!

I've been working in dementia care practice for 33 years and have been on my PhD research journey for the past 8. In my current role in workforce development, staying up to date with the latest research is essential. Podcasts have been a big part of that journey. I haven't missed a single one. For me, podcasts have been more than just a source of knowledge; they've sharpened my ability to look at dementia care from multiple perspectives and to take a more critical stance. Some of the episodes on research methods have been particularly helpful.

I've even had the chance to step onto the other side of the microphone after an unexpected meeting with Adam in Finland, I was invited to present on a podcast myself. That experience did wonders for quieting my imposter syndrome and reminded me how much this field is about learning, sharing, and connection.

What I really love about the website is that it's not just about academic matters. Hearing how others balance work, make career decisions, and deal with uncertainty has been so reassuring- those are exactly the kinds of things I've needed to hear. I also think having the blog narrated is brilliant, it makes it easier to engage with.

It's helped me get connected to a community of like minded researchers globally

I took part in a podcast which really helped my confidence and allowed me to meet other scientists in the field and build my network.

I was given a space where I can be myself, and talk about my favourite topics-I felt accepted and welcomed right away.

My work can often feel isolating, and being part of Dementia Researcher provides a valuable sense of community with like-minded colleagues

Dementia Researcher has expanded my knowledge beyond what I study in my PhD

It has enabled me to find a space directly targeted to expand my knowledge in neurodegeneration, from many angles, so I learn more than the specifics of my PhD

How we helped



I connected with a community of researchers that otherwise would not have been possible through emailing

I particularly love the blogs as a quick and accessible way to gain knowledge, hear about other researcher's insights and contribute my own thoughts on research issues

It's my go-to when I need inspiration, encouragement or just a welcome break from analysis...

My previous job role saw me supporting those living with dementia - and, by extension, their carers - in Primary Care. There were often questions about advances in treatment or assessment of progression. I found Dementia Researcher helpful in the scale and accessibility of its articles and resources - to help me keep up-to-date with current information and to 'myth bust' that which had often been picked up from less reliable media.

As an undergraduate with a niche interest in speech and language markers of cognitive decline it was encouraging to see a community that I could engage with for any queries related to early career. The job listings helped me envision different career paths I could take. With the Friday bulletin I stay up to date with the news in the field and the profile section and helped me find people who share the same interests and have built career in spaces I see myself. The tote bag at events are always a treat!

I presented at one of the salons. It was a very pleasant experience; it's nice to hopefully help people. The funding listings are also excellent.

Through the establishment of the OT and Dementia Journal Club, I have gained increased organisational, leadership and communication skills. I have also created a community of researchers and clinicians who have an interest in this area.

Dementia researcher has provides a great summary of all dementia related jobs/funding that's available, whilst also having a great array of podcasts and blogs to help those in the field.

Really felt able to keep abreast of developments all in one place

The stories of researchers from different backgrounds really helped me to find a sense of belonging and help me to build confidence

How we helped



Dementia Researcher is a great platform that helped me looking for new jobs and networking with seniors in the feild of dementia

I find the funding updates very helpful and it is good to get to know other researchers through the app

Connected with researchers at Kings College and got my wife enrolled in the Abate study. Being the partner of someone with mild cognitive impairment is distressing in that we know what is around the corner. As a retired GP keeping in touch through Dementia Researcher is opening up a window of possibilities.

Contributing to Dementia Researcher has definitely helped raise my profile with my funder and institute, which I hope will only be helpful in the long run.

I was invited to record a podcast about my work on a rare form of dementia. The biggest success of this was that I was contacted by a person who had lived experience of this disease. We had a long discussion about the disease and we are now planning a lived experience session in a conference together. This connection would not have been possible without dementia researcher and the dissemination of our work.

It has helped me become more confident as a researcher.

I have especially enjoyed the different perspectives from the blogs. They are a way of hearing quite personal insights that are otherwise not often talked about eg. feelings or the unseen processes behind writing a thesis. I have got some great tips from the blogs.

I was not working in dementia research when I first came across it, but it inspired me to become a future dementia researcher. And I will now be working as part of Alzheimer's society new dementia trials network research nurses, with the aspiration of also becoming a clinical academic.

Introduced me to new research directions which I would but have explored otherwise.

It helped me connect with other researchers both at my level and in other points of their carreers, in a way that was much less intimidating than conferences.

How we helped



Dementia Researcher has enhanced my understanding of research methodology, study design, and attitudes toward dementia diagnosis. It has also deepened my awareness of caregiver burden and the importance of self-care in research to prevent burnout. I sincerely appreciate the guidance that has contributed to this growth.

Dementia Researcher was particularly in the lockdown times it was heartening to connect with other PhD students and hear about their work and productivity challenges. The sense of connection, and exposure to interesting articles and ideas was appreciated.

It keeps me up to date with new opportunities and expanded my network by providing content

I felt isolated as a PhD student. The platform reduced my feelings of isolation and the disconnect between myself and the wider dementia research community (e.g., via salons, webinars, and the app).

It's enlightening me and I strongly believe I will make great impact in my community. Thank you.

It has helped me learned how to write grants (awarded two as a result!)

I use the Dementia Researcher blogs and podcasts as a learning resource, and it is especially useful when wanting to hear from other researchers about specific topics like fellowship interviews and applications. I save them for listening while I am on my walks

I first found out about my current fellowship via Dementia Researcher. If it wasn't for them, I might not have applied in time.

I had never heard of the Churchill Fellowship until I saw it advertised on the Dementia Researcher website. I applied and got the funding, and now I am going to Japan to do a research project! Dementia Researcher has been so helpful for finding out about funding and jobs!

Access to a network of dementia researchers and opportunities to learn from each other

How we helped



I have been really motivated by Emily Spencer's blog series. Being a mum to a toddler while completing my PhD, it was nice to know I'm not alone in the trials and tribulations the juggle brings. I also love the saloon sessions! And everything you do

I really find the work you do collating all dementia events/funding opportunities in one place really great!

Inspired by the podcast with GBHI faculty, I applied for Atlantic Fellowship for Equity in Brain Health, and got it!

The work you have done to build a network of thought leaders in dementia innovation and research space is great, it helpful to be able to follow and learn from them

Your weekly listings for jobs kept me in the loop of what was being advertised across the UK.

Has helped expand my network past those that I would immediately know, by interactions making podcasts and other similarities

I attended some of the workshops and seminars which I found helpful and used in my work.

The high quality seminars on disease-modifying treatment that helped me prepare for their eventual introduction to clinical practice over the coming years.

I was feeling worried about my next steps the uncertainty about next job or project. Then I listened to a blog of someone going through the same and was planning to travel. I was only going to travel 4-6 weeks but decided to make them 8 with confidence and stop worrying.

Since I joined dementia Researcher it has helped me grow my network and connect with other researchers.

How we helped



I first came across Dementia Researcher back in 2023 when I went to AAIC as one of the ISTAART ambassadors. One of my fellow ambassadors was invited on their podcast, and that's how I got to know about them. After returning to India, I started browsing their website. Around that time, I was also looking for a position in dementia research here in India and abroad.

I even tweeted about it on Twitter and LinkedIn and I remember Adam from Dementia Researcher actually replied on my post. He pointed me toward the job listings page, which had a lot of great opportunities. I ended up applying for one at Cambridge University. I didn't get in, but I had an eye opening, extremely motivating conversation with the professor.

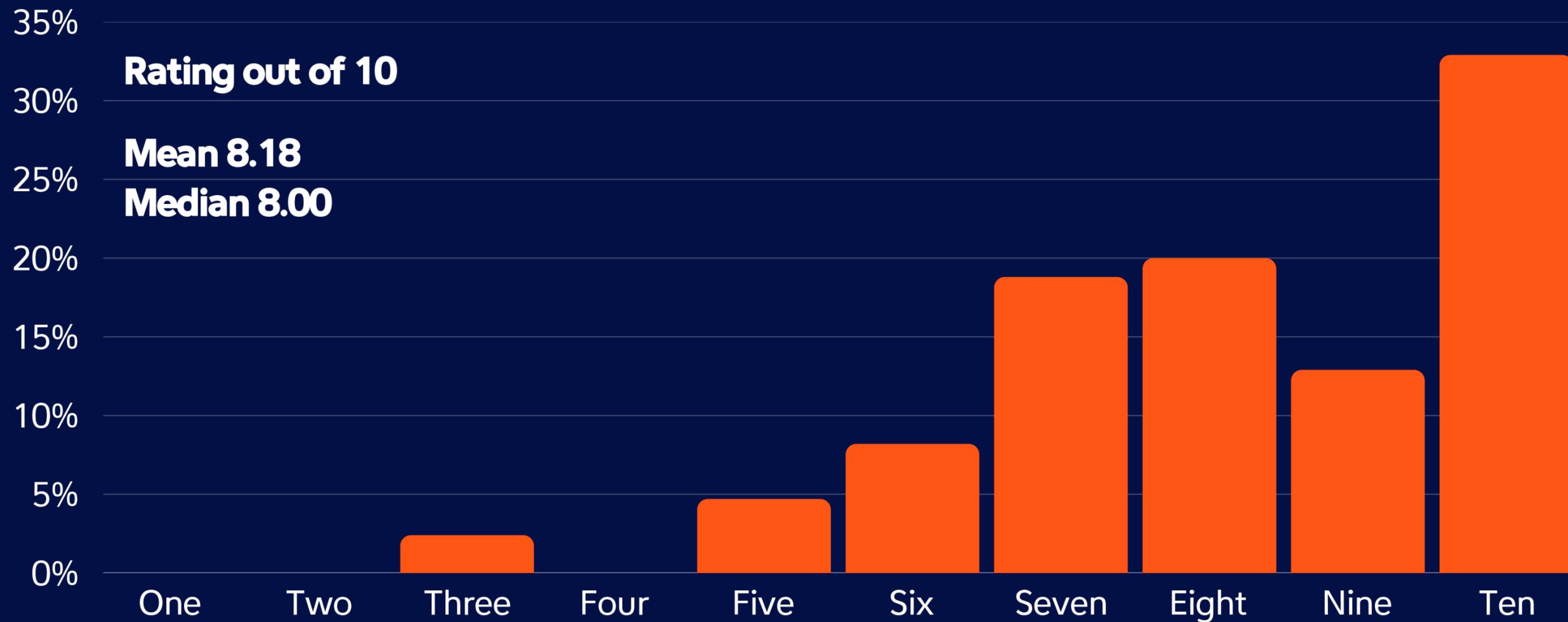
Since then, I've been following their blogs and podcasts from time to time. There are a few contributors I really appreciate and love their writing. There's Rebecca and Jodi whose all pieces I find really engaging, and Ajantha's article on thesis writing, which actually helped me write my first manuscript. This year I couldn't attend AAIC, so the recap series was a lifesaver.

One post that really stood out to me recently was from the Solution Lab. It was about feeling lost as the only dementia researcher in your space. That hit me hard, because that's exactly how I was when I started. For the last year and a half, people had been asking me to start an online dementia student researcher group in India, but I kept putting it off. In July, I finally gathered some courage to test the waters. I got a lot of responses, which honestly felt overwhelming, so I paused. Then in late August, I came across that blog post and it clicked. It made me realize why starting that group actually mattered.

So in September, we finally launched it officially. On the 4th, we had our first meeting. Since then, I've been busy creating the logo, website, and page for the group. It was kind of right post at the right time.

I also want to say that Adam and the whole team are doing an amazing job with this initiative. I don't know exactly how it all started, but I'm really glad it did. For someone like me, sitting here in India, it breaks down so many barriers whether it's through the blogs, the podcasts, or the job listings. All of those features make me feel more connected, and it really comes across as a very student-friendly community. And the fact that it's free is just incredible. Amazing job, and truly, thank you.

The Friday Bulletin



Improvements



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Events and Training – requests for more webinars, workshops, and training opportunities + in-person.

Mentoring and Support – a desire for more structured mentoring and career guidance.

Visibility and Reach – suggestions to promote the service more widely.

International Connections – interest in broadening links beyond the UK to share knowledge globally.

Specialist Topic Coverage – requests for deeper focus on specific research fields or niche topics.

Ease of Access – mentions of improving how quickly or easily people can find what they need



Reflection



Every year we try to take stock of where we are and what difference Dementia Researcher is making.

We've been looking at the numbers for a long time now. The stats have always been strong, tens of thousands of users, hundreds of thousands of views, steady growth year on year. They've reassured us that Dementia Researcher is reaching people. But this report feels different.

We only had responses from a small number of users, but what this poll captured is the story behind those numbers. The jobs people have found, the funding calls they applied for, the collaborations that started with a simple conversation in a chat box. The student who gained confidence, the researcher who discovered a new idea, the lived experience voice who felt welcomed into the community.

It's one thing to say "131,000 users." It's another to read about someone changing direction in their PhD because of a podcast they heard, or a mentor they met here who helped shape their career. That's what turns a service into a community.

So while the stats remain impressive, and we'll keep tracking them, it's these stories that remind us why this matters. The poll shows that Dementia Researcher isn't just used, it's valued, and there is more we can do. And that's something worth celebrating.

Programme Director, Dementia Researcher