Dementia diseases, which are chronic, long-term and slowly but inevitably lead to extensive functional disabilities, affects the entire life situation for patients and their families for many years. The care of dementia patients is also very resource intensive, which is a major challenge not only for the public health care system but also for family, friends, neighbors.

The Swedish National Board of Health and Welfare has previously published two reports where cost of illness of dementia in 2000 and 2005 was presented. The aim with current report is to make a renewed estimate of costs as well as to describe and analyze the cost trends from 2000 and 2005 to 2012, and to assess how these costs are distributed between the various players in the health care system. A further aim is to estimate the number of persons with dementia and the number of new cases of dementia in Swedish municipalities in 2012.

The main option assumes that in 2012 there were about 158 000 people with dementia in Sweden, compared with about 133 000 people in 2000 and 142 200 in 2005. When comparing the 2012 cost model (after some methodological adjustments), the cost per person with dementia in 2012 has been reduced by 13% compared to the year 2000 and by 6% compared to 2005. The main reason is that the proportion of persons with dementia living in sheltered livings (for example nursing homes) has been reduced. However, since the number of persons with dementia has increased, the total societal costs of dementia (costs for municipalities, county councils, informal care and including co-morbidities) increased to about SEK 63 billion, (or about SEK 400 000 per person) according to the main alternative of the cost models. The municipal cost is by far the largest part; about 78%. The relatives' efforts (informal care) are estimated to have a social value corresponding to approximately SEK 10 billion. The net costs were calculated to SEK 48 billion US, corresponding to 74% of the total societal costs. An extensive sensitivity analysis has been carried out since there was uncertainty and variability in the cost estimates. There are now several studies suggesting that the prevalence and incidence of dementia in different age classes is changing. Most studies indicate a decrease, but according to some studies, there is also a tendency to an increase. Applied to Swedish conditions, this results in a variation of the number of persons with dementia between 113 000 and 169 000 persons, and a corresponding cost variance between SEK 54 and 65 billion.