



Secure Care

Evolution of the
Wander Management Systems

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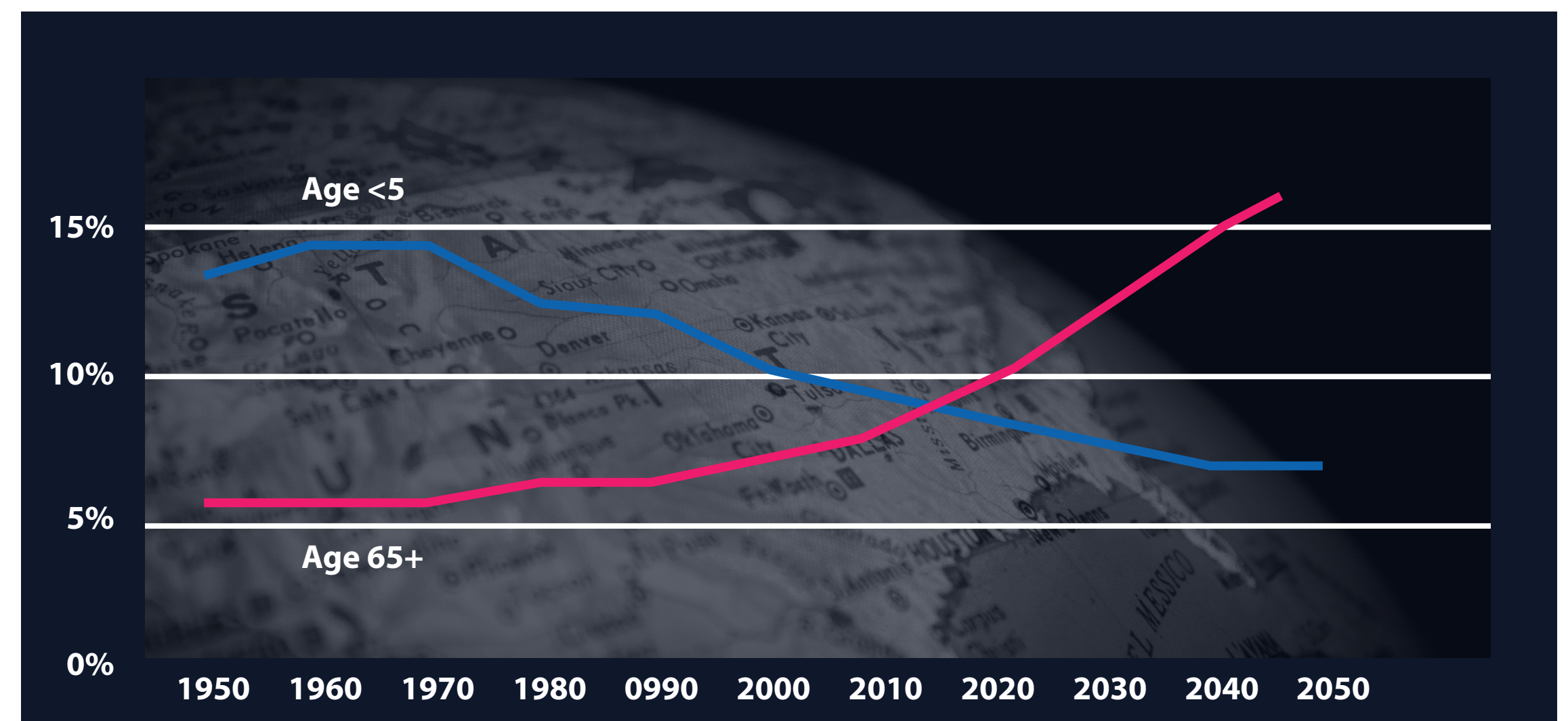
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THE RISE IN DEMENTIA AND ALZHEIMER'S CASES

The U.S. National Institute on Aging estimates people over the age of 65 will make up 16% of the world's population by 2050, up from 8% in 2010. Over the last decade, positive trends in global access to education are expected to decrease dementia prevalence worldwide. "Improvements in lifestyle in adults in developed countries and other places, including increasing access to education and greater attention to heart health issues, have reduced incidence in recent years, but total numbers with dementia are still going up because of the aging of the population," said Maria C. Carrillo, Ph.D., [Alzheimer's Association](#) Chief Science Officer "In addition, obesity, diabetes and sedentary lifestyles in younger people are rising quickly, and these are risk factors for dementia."

While our population has grown more knowledgeable about the signs, symptoms, and precursors to dementia, the sheer number of people living to be 65 and older accounts for the rise in Alzheimer’s disease. According to the [Alzheimer’s Association](#), data recorded by researchers now estimates that Alzheimer’s mortality rates have increased by 38% between 1990 and 2019. “Without effective treatments to stop, slow or prevent Alzheimer’s and all dementia, this number will grow beyond 2050 and continue to impact individuals, caregivers, health systems and governments globally,” said Carrillo. “In addition to therapeutics, it’s critical to uncover culturally-tailored interventions that reduce dementia risk through lifestyle factors like education, diet and exercise.”



The Impact on Long-term Care Facilities

As Alzheimer's progresses, individuals typically require a more advanced level of care, known as long-term care, because their needs exceed what the person's family can reasonably provide. The person may need around-the-clock care to deal with issues that could include incontinence, aggressive behavior, or frequent wandering. Residential care options provide the necessary long-term care that individuals with dementia need. According to the [National Institute on Aging](#), long term care options include continuing care retirement communities (CCRCs), assisted living facilities, group homes, or nursing homes. Each of these options provides their own advantages and disadvantages.

The impact dementia has on long-term care facilities is daunting. According to the [National Institutes of Health](#), as Alzheimer's disease progresses in severity, the needs and treatment of the patient evolve as well. Once the later stages of Alzheimer's occur, there are very few substitutes for the around-the-clock, intensive care that nursing homes provide. This is particularly apparent when one considers the behavioral and psychiatric symptoms of Alzheimer's disease, which are among the most challenging aspects of dementia for families to manage and often necessitate the supervision and intensive care only a nursing home can provide.

In fact, **64% of Medicare beneficiaries** living in nursing homes have Alzheimer's disease or a related combined dementia, which suggests that any efforts to improve nursing home care must address Alzheimer's disease in some fashion. People with Alzheimer's or dementia are at an increased risk of falls, wandering, and delirium once they have become residents of long-term care facilities. Although nursing homes might not necessarily create these problems, the information emphasizes the difficulty of caring for people with Alzheimer's as the severity of their dementia progresses.

Ensuring Dignity, Respect and a High Level of Care

Nursing homes by nature are performing a balancing act that can be hard to achieve. The dual nature of long-term care facilities, as both institutions and residential housing, can provide challenges for residents, caretakers and families. For people struggling with Alzheimer's Disease and dementia, another dimension is added. Due to growing limitations on their mobility, freedom and autonomy, keeping these residents safe and maintaining their dignity is paramount.



According to the National Institute of Health, *“In the second half of the 20th century, the quality of the nursing home building was often expressed in terms of technological, functional, and economic requirements. Hence, requirements related to the personal preferences of the residents were given less attention. A more holistic vision of health care is currently emerging and considers the consequences of the built environment on the well-being of the residents.”*

We understand that watching a loved one enter a long-term care facility is difficult. For the residents themselves, their family members and friends, this transition can become emotionally, physically and monetarily draining. That is why Secure Care Products have always placed the utmost value on the quality of care and the quality of life a resident receives. We have lived out this mission by consistently partnering with long-term care facilities that share the same philosophy. Secure Care Products are designed to ensure residents struggling with dementia are safe and accounted for, while also taking into consideration their needs as human beings. It is a tough balancing act, but we stand firm in our belief that no resident should ever feel like they are living in confinement.

Social Perceptions and Embracing Change

Long-term care facilities must balance the dignity of the residents with the financial pressures of running a business. For those struggling with Alzheimer's and dementia, wandering can be a huge risk factor. Understanding the common signs of wandering can help caretakers or family members prevent it. Some of the common signs a person may be at risk of wandering include forgetting how to get to familiar places, talking about fulfilling former obligations, or trying to “go home” to their life before entering the long-term care facility.



According to the National Institute of Health, *“A sense of home is related to personal experiences and emotions and does not come into existence overnight but is gradually developed by the person in whom independence, security, and the source of own identity, choice, and controls, as well as memories, are essential. Fully understanding the experienced sense of home of nursing home residents from both the insider and a holistic perspective might have important implications for the development of policy of health care organizations and the innovations in nursing homes of the future.”*

When developing new products for the skilled nursing, assisted living, and even retirement communities, our team at Secure Care fully embraces social perception and integrates the changes to align with the overall goals of the resident.

Secure Care's View on Quality of Care and Life

The residents' quality of life is always at the heart of our mission. Secure Care has designed all of our products with a holistic approach: keeping your loved ones safe while upholding their dignity as autonomous human beings. Secure Care was founded on the belief that everyone deserves the highest quality of life, which is made possible through high-quality care.



With a range of Secure Care Products to choose from, long-term care facilities are granted various options for care, while loved ones are given peace of mind knowing that their family is getting the quality of care they deserve. The first approach we use at Secure Care is called “Selective Monitoring.” Selective monitoring allows the long-term care facility to be open and accessible to everyone, except the wander-prone residents.

In the past, facilities were locked down to everyone who did not have a code or key to access doorways. Selective monitoring came out of this need to sympathize with both facility workers, and residents. It allows the staff to follow their duties as caregivers and provide the best care possible, while allowing residents the flexibility to go where they please.

Patients and residents are free to roam the safe areas of the facility, without being hindered or bothered by physical barriers or monitoring. This allows residents to maintain a significant level of independence, while boosting their safety and improving the quality of life and care they experience within the facility.

Our products do not have a cookie-cutter system. Our team interviews the staff and residents of a facility before recommending what type of system best suits their needs. We factor in all areas of concern and work tirelessly to develop a system that best serves residents, loved ones and caregivers. Our systems are designed to meet the needs of the facility, the residents, and the administrators, while upholding the highest standards for quality of care and life.

A Unique Discovery Process by Secure Care

All our products at Secure Care use a proprietary discovery process to determine the best solution based on the needs of the residents and the requirements of the skilled nursing/assisted staff. We take the time to understand the footprint of the building, the location, potential risks, and necessary safety measures that need to be taken to recommend a solution that best fits the needs of the customer.



We take the time to understand the problems that facilities are facing by using systematic processing and in-depth reviews. Keeping residents' and staff's safety and health at the top of our list of priorities, we offer top-quality wandering resident solutions for their specific needs.

The key to our success as a provider of security care solutions is our integration of technology and an extensive network of certified partners. For over 40 years we have proudly designed and manufactured wireless protection solutions of the highest quality. Similarly, we maintain a vigorous standard for the network of partners we choose to work with. Thus, the combination of state-of-the-art technology and the best people in the industry results in client-centric solutions that are unmatched.

Our Promise of Customized and Client-Centric Solutions

We understand the potential dangers of wandering residents and the permanent, catastrophic effects that may result. Patients suffering from dementia, or those in memory care units, wander for a variety of reasons, thus causing them to be at high risk.

Not all potential wandering situations can be prevented by installing a wandering resident security system, but at Secure Care we believe it is an absolute key for any wander prevention program.



As our communities continue to change, so do resident care plans. We are constantly constructing new solutions that evolve with your community. Our [wander management products](#) are designed to help future-proof your wander management investment. Evolution provides the utmost flexibility, while showcasing the basics of wander management systems, and adding new features as they become available or are needed.

For four decades, Secure Care Products has served long-term care with a wide range of wander management solutions that are found in thousands of communities around the world. We are dedicated to being a prominent partner and service provider and our focus is always on developing the latest solutions to help meet the changing demands of the industry.

Reframing Quality of Care

The Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion

defines the quality of care for patients as quality health care that is safe, effective, patient-centered, timely, efficient, and equitable. Here at Secure Care, we strive to put those necessities into play. We create solutions that answer every department's needs and requirements, thus setting us apart from other competitors. It is a must that we reframe the context with healthcare and put quality of care and quality of life at the forefront.



Maintaining a high quality of life, care, and dignity is what goes into our safety and security applications. We have put those key elements into our [wander management](#), [infant security](#), [real time locating systems](#), and [staff duress/safety products](#).

Through the use of location-based data solutions, efficiency escalations, patient throughput, asset tracking, staff workflow, and data process automation, we have been able to expand into the smart home health care space.

The Next Generation of Technology Solutions

At **Secure Care** we want to change the concept of “needs” and transform it into improving how we look at long-term care by leveraging the data provided by the system to identify trends and become smarter about improving the quality of care.

We strive to design a single platform to support nurse calls, emergency alerts, wander management, temperature monitoring for food service and pharmaceuticals, and staff assist/duress. We will provide a seamless intelligent wireless communication network to meet the needs of all previously mentioned general use cases. A tag will be placed in various form factors to be worn or attached, to communicate with a facility-wide network of dedicated devices. Fully supervised tags, including tamper detection options, will serve as a simplified support service for local certified partners. We want to continue to make the technological advances needed while living in this [new pandemic environment](#).

How Secure Care is Paving the Way to Advancements in Increased Security and Safety

For the past 40 years, we have provided both cutting-edge technological solutions and have acquired an extensive network of certified partners. We are constantly looking to move forward and make new advances in order to keep up with the constantly changing industry.



Secure Care was the first company in the world to design and manufacture electronic monitoring equipment for wander-prone residents to prevent elopement and potential injuries. To this day, every advancement we make has raised the bar for the health care industry and keeps the security and safety of our residents and staff at the forefront of our efforts.

Moving forward, we hope to use fully supervised tags as a complete facility. We will make a major reduction in the size of tags with numerous available formats. These tags will provide patients with a button to notify staff of deteriorating conditions or urgent requests for help. The staff-to-patient tag associations will allow for automated data collection to identify bottlenecks in the process. In summary, the simple implementation of patient throughput allows for quicker door-to-door turnaround times.

Conclusion

Today our products have empowered long-term care and healthcare facilities around the world with state of the art, cutting-edge technologies that keep people and things protected.

The process of helping a loved one enter a long-term care facility is difficult, and we agree that you deserve to know that your loved one will be safe and protected while they are being cared for. We understand these individuals that are prone to wandering call for a more advanced level of long-term care, and our products are designed to help caregivers provide the highest quality care without having to worry about injuries or missing residents. We have made it our mission to always place value on the quality of care and the quality of life that our residents receive.

Our team at Secure Care Products will continue to develop the highest quality, best performing wandering resident and safety products and work with facilities in order to ensure that the patients are accounted for, safe, and secure – and cared for in the most dignified manner.

About the Author



Steve Nibbelink, CHPA, CA-AM is an active member of IAHSS (International Association for Healthcare Security & Safety), is a past-president of the IAHSS Foundation and currently serves on the Board of Directors. He earned his CHPA (Certified Healthcare Protection Administrator) in 2009 and his IAHSS Workplace Violence Prevention Program certificate in 2022. Steve has authored several whitepapers, the last two being “Safety and Security in Senior Care” (in 2022) and “Healthcare Security & Safety: Past, Present and Future” (co-authored with Bryan Warren, CHPA. CPO-I in 2021). In May of 2011, Steve was presented with the IAHSS President’s Award for outstanding contributions in Healthcare Security. Steve has been in the Security and Safety industry for forty years and he leads the corporate and strategic account programs at Secure Care.

About Secure Care Products, LLC

For nearly 40 years, Secure Care Products, LLC has been committed to providing improved safety, security, and locating solutions through best-in-class service and innovative design for your most valuable assets. As the first company in the world to design and manufacture electronic monitoring equipment for wander-prone residents, we empower long-term care and healthcare facilities around the world. Using state-of-the-art, cutting-edge technologies, we keep people and things protected. Let us know how we can help you by calling 1.800.451.7917 or [contact us](#).