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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 12.5 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 develop services to meet the needs of older people, and the need to ensure that services are accessible to older people. The Department of Health (2000) has published a strategy for older people, which sets out the government's commitment to older people and the need to develop services to meet their needs. The strategy also sets out the need to ensure that services are accessible to older people.

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the 1990s, the number of people in the world who are under 15 years of age has increased from 1.1 billion to 1.5 billion, and the number of people aged 65 and over has increased from 0.2 billion to 0.4 billion (United Nations, 1999).

There is a growing awareness of the need to address the needs of the young and the old in the context of the ageing of the population. The United Nations (1999) has identified the need to address the needs of the young and the old as a key challenge for the 21st century. The World Bank (1999) has identified the need to address the needs of the young and the old as a key challenge for the 21st century.

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There is a growing awareness of the need to address the needs of the young and the old. The United Nations has set out a series of goals for the 21st century, including the goal of 'improving the lives of the world's youth' (United Nations, 1999). The World Bank has also set out a series of goals for the 21st century, including the goal of 'improving the lives of the world's elderly' (World Bank, 1999).

The need to address the needs of the young and the old is a global issue. It is a challenge that we must all face. We must find ways to improve the lives of the world's youth and the world's elderly. We must find ways to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live a good life.

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the 1990s, the incidence of *S. flexneri* has increased in the United Kingdom [10]. In the United States, *S. flexneri* has been reported as the most common serotype in children with acute bacterial dysentery [11].

There is a paucity of data on the epidemiology of *S. flexneri* in the United Kingdom. The only published study of *S. flexneri* in the United Kingdom was by Smith *et al.* [12], who reported that *S. flexneri* was the most common serotype isolated from patients with acute bacterial dysentery in the United Kingdom in 1987. The serotypes isolated were *S. flexneri* 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

The aim of this study was to determine the prevalence of *S. flexneri* in patients with acute bacterial dysentery in the United Kingdom in 1998.

METHODS

Study area

The study was conducted in the United Kingdom, where the incidence of acute bacterial dysentery is estimated to be 1.5 cases per 100 000 per year [13]. The study was conducted in the United Kingdom, where the incidence of acute bacterial dysentery is estimated to be 1.5 cases per 100 000 per year [13].

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There is a paucity of data on the epidemiology of *S. flexneri* in the United Kingdom. In the 1970s, *S. flexneri* was the most commonly isolated *Shigella* serotype from patients with shigellosis in the United Kingdom [12]. In the 1980s, *S. flexneri* was the most commonly isolated *Shigella* serotype from patients with shigellosis in the United Kingdom [13].

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In the 1990s, *S. flexneri* was the most commonly isolated *Shigella* serotype from patients with shigellosis in the United Kingdom [26]. In the 1990s, *S. flexneri* was the most commonly isolated *Shigella* serotype from patients with shigellosis in the United Kingdom [27].

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