

# Health Disparities in Alzheimers Disease Among Mexican Americans

<https://neurodegenerationresearch.eu/survey/health-disparities-in-alzheimers-disease-among-mexican-americans/>

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### Country

USA

## Title of project or programme

Health Disparities in Alzheimers Disease Among Mexican Americans

## Source of funding information

NIH (NIA)

## Total sum awarded (Euro)

€ 1,963,058.72

## Start date of award

01/09/2016

## Total duration of award in years

1

## The project/programme is most relevant to:

Alzheimer's disease & other dementias

## Keywords

Acquired Cognitive Impairment... Aging... Alzheimer's Disease... Alzheimer's Disease including Alzheimer's Disease Related Dementias (AD/ADRD)... Brain Disorders... Clinical Research... Clinical Research - Extramural... Dementia... Depression... Health Disparities for IC Use... Health Services... Mental Health... Minority Health for IC Use... Neurodegenerative... Neurosciences... Prevention

## Research Abstract

**PROJECT SUMMARY** The long-term goal of this research is to address two important health disparities faced by Mexican Americans suffering from Alzheimer's disease (AD) and mild cognitive impairment (MCI): (1) younger age of onset and (2) decreased access to early detection and treatment. AD is the most common form of neurodegenerative dementia and the 5th leading cause of death for those over 65 (8th leading cause of death for U.S. Hispanics). AD has an annual health care cost that is greater than that of cardiovascular disease (CVD) and cancer. While death rates from CVD and cancer have declined in recent decades, death rates have steadily increased for AD. The Mexican American elderly population is among the fastest growing segments of the population; however, little research on MCI and AD has been conducted among this underserved group. Here we will leverage our ongoing Health & Aging Brain among Latino Elders (HABLE) study to identify different pathways for MCI and AD among Mexican Americans, define subtle neuroanatomical and blood-based biomarker changes that are related to future risk of MCI and AD as well as provide evidence to support the utility of our AD blood-based detection tool that can be implemented in primary care settings. The current research team consists of leading experts in Mexican American cognitive aging, the epidemiology of MCI and AD as well as biomarkers of MCI and AD (neuroimaging and blood-based). The project will leverage a substantial existing infrastructure and HABLE cohort to address the two health disparities outlined above through the following specific aims: Specific Aim 1 – Examine the impact of higher rates of metabolic burden and depressive symptomatology on MCI and AD among community-dwelling Mexican Americans; Specific Aim 2 – Examine neuroimaging and blood-based biomarkers associated with MCI and AD among Mexican Americans; and Specific Aim 3: Validate our blood-based AD screening tool as the first-step in a multi-stage diagnostic process among Mexican Americans. The current project will address significant health disparities faced by Mexican American elders suffering from and at risk for MCI and AD. The identification of novel pathways related to disproportionate burden of diabetes and depression can lead to novel ethnic-specific interventions. The identification of a blood-based screening tool for AD will provide primary care providers a way of meeting the needs of a rapidly growing elderly Mexican American population.

### **Lay Summary**

**PROJECT NARRATIVE** The Mexican American elderly population is one of the fastest growing segments of the U.S. population and AD and MCI prevalence rates are expected to grow exponentially in the near future. Here we propose to address two important health disparities faced by Mexican Americans suffering from MCI and AD (1) younger age of onset and (2) decreased access to early diagnosis methods. The relevance of this project is the identification of potentially different pathways to MCI and AD among Mexican Americans (directly related to increased rates of diabetes and depression and the health disparity of earlier age of onset) as well as the provision of a blood-based screening tool for AD that can be implemented in primary care clinics.

**Further information available at:**

### **Types:**

Investments > €500k

### **Member States:**

United States of America

### **Diseases:**

Alzheimer's disease & other dementias

**Years:**

2016

**Database Categories:**

N/A

**Database Tags:**

N/A