

Background

- Despite African American adults being disproportionately impacted by Alzheimer's disease (AD), researchers face significant challenges in recruiting such individuals due, in part, to a long-standing history of distrust in clinical researchers.
- While distrust is a well-established barrier, little is known of which individual-level factors influence trust in researchers among African Americans.

Purpose

- To examine the association between participant characteristics and trust in researchers.

Methods

- Recruitment Innovations for Diversity Enhancement (RIDE) study was conducted to promote diversity in AD research.
- Secondary analysis of data from 500 community-based African American respondents to a cross-sectional, online survey administered as part of RIDE in AD research.
- Multiple regression model was applied to identify factors related to trust in researchers.

Measures

Sociodemographic characteristics were measured by CRCD Sociodemographic Form, including age, gender, income, employment, education, marital status, and AD family history.

Experience with clinical research was measured using a one-item scale "How much experience have you had in participating in research?" 5-point Likert scale from "no experience," to "more than 5 previous studies".

Perceived risk of Alzheimer's Disease was measured using one item "on a scale of 0-100 where 0 means no chance and 100 means absolutely certain, what are the chances that you will develop Alzheimer's disease in the next ten years?"¹

Trust in clinical researchers was measured using the 12-item Trust in Medical Researchers scale². The range is from 0-60. The higher the score, the more trust the respondent has in clinical researchers. Sample items include:

- Medical researchers treat people like "guinea pigs". (reverse coded)
- The only reason doctors do medical research is to help people.

Sample Characteristics (N=500)

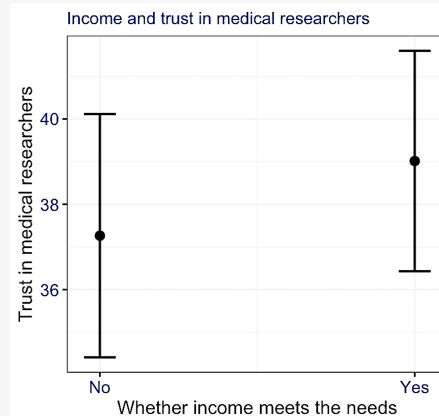
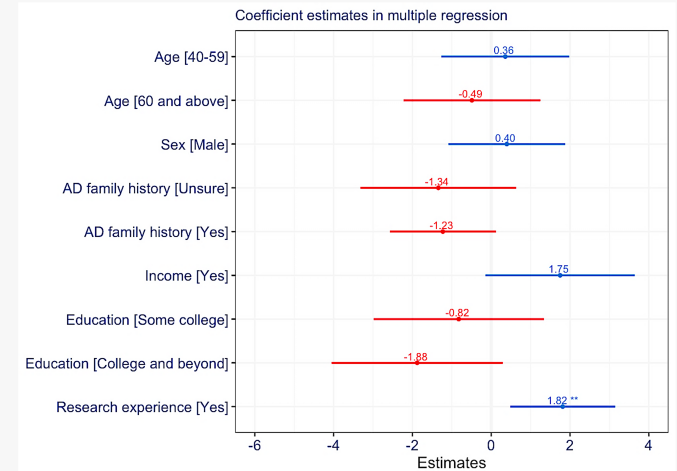
	n	%		n	%
Age			Education		
18-39	106	21%	High school or less	49	10%
40-59	237	48%	Some post-high school education	223	44%
60+	157	31%	College degree and beyond	228	46%
Sex			AD family history		
Female	385	77%	Yes	255	51%
Male	113	23%	No	181	36%
Prefer to self-describe	2	0%	Unsure	64	13%
Race			Income meets basic needs		
Black	464	93%	Yes	437	88%
Black & Multiracial	36	7%	No	63	12%
Ethnicity			Clinical research experience		
Hispanic	10	2%	Yes	344	69%
Non-Hispanic	490	98%	No	156	31%

Results

The average trust score is 39.34 (SD = 6.96) out of 60.

After adjusting for age, sex, education, and AD family history, we found that

- individuals who had previous research experience had higher trust than those who had not ($\beta=1.82$, $P=0.007$)
- participants reporting having enough income to meet their basic needs had higher trust than those who did not ($\beta=1.75$, $P=0.08$).



Conclusions

- Previous participation in research and financial well-being are associated with trust among African Americans.
- Recruitment efforts to enhance diversity in AD research should tailor recruitment with a focus on building trust, particularly with those who have limited research experience or may be financially struggling.

References

- Chung S, Mehta K, Shumway M, Alvidrez J, Perez-Stable EJ. Risk perception and preference for prevention of Alzheimer's disease. Value in Health. 2009;12(4): doi: 10.1111/j.1524-4733.2008.00482.x; PMID: 4383096
- Hall MA, Camacho F, Lawlor JS, DePuy V, Sugarman J, Weinfurt K. Measuring trust in medical researchers. Medical care. 2006;1048-53.

Limitations

- Sample skewed towards high education (46% had a college degree and beyond).
- The project is a cross-sectional study. The direction of the relationship between research experience and trust in clinical researchers is unknown.

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