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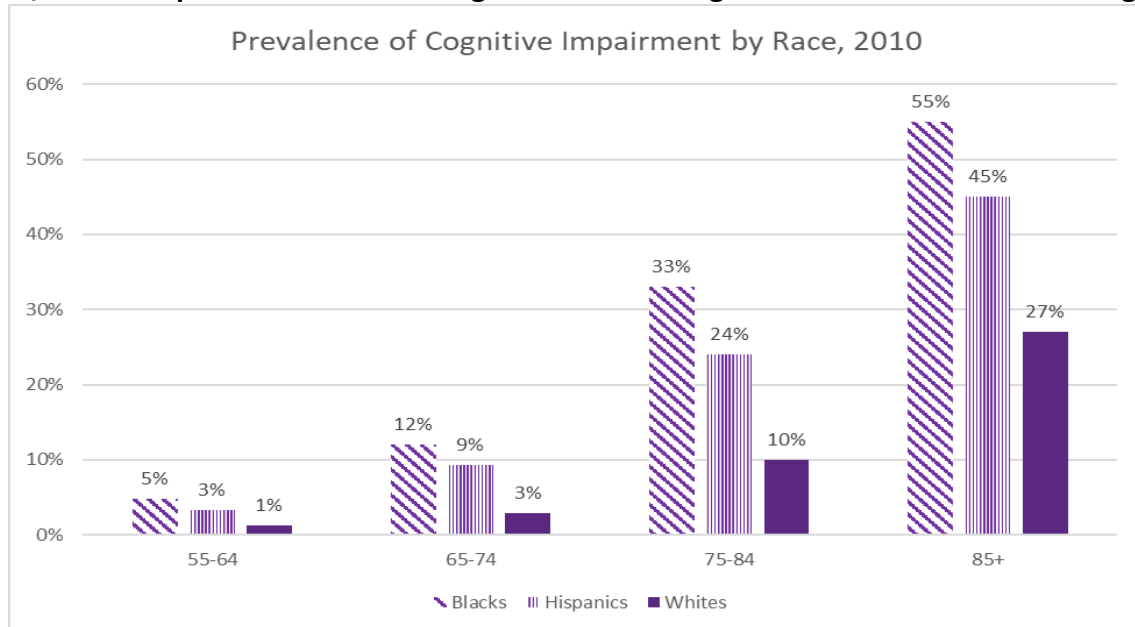


Alzheimer's in Missouri

- 120,000 people aged 65+ in Missouri
- 10.4% of people aged 45+ have subjective decline
- 194,000 family caregivers experience care burden
- \$4.7 billion in unpaid care
- \$973 million cost to state Medicaid program

Data from the Missouri Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association

Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Late-Life Cognitive Functioning are Stark and Persist across Age



Data from the American Alzheimer's Association

Extensive research utilizing NIH funded research studies has found a number of social factors that are linked to Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (ADRDs).

Population surveys are key to understanding the patterns and distributions of ADRDs.

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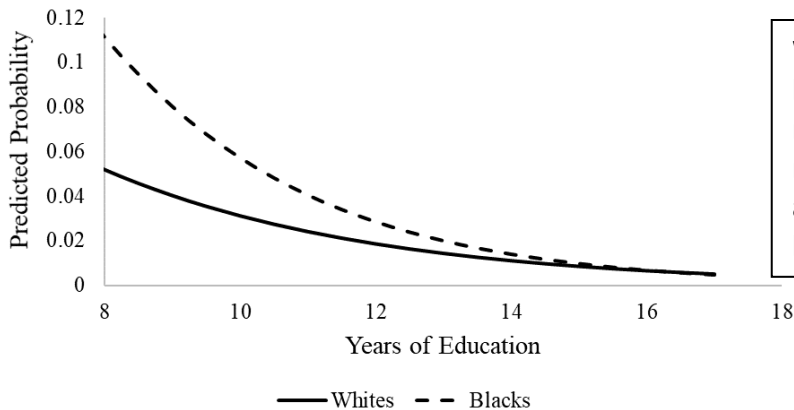
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Currently, I am relying on the federally supported Health and Retirement Study to address three central questions:

1. ***What is the extent of racial/ethnic inequality in late-life cognitive functioning?***
2. ***Do neighborhood characteristics impact later life cognitive functioning?***
3. ***What role does education play in shaping inequality in cognitive functioning?***

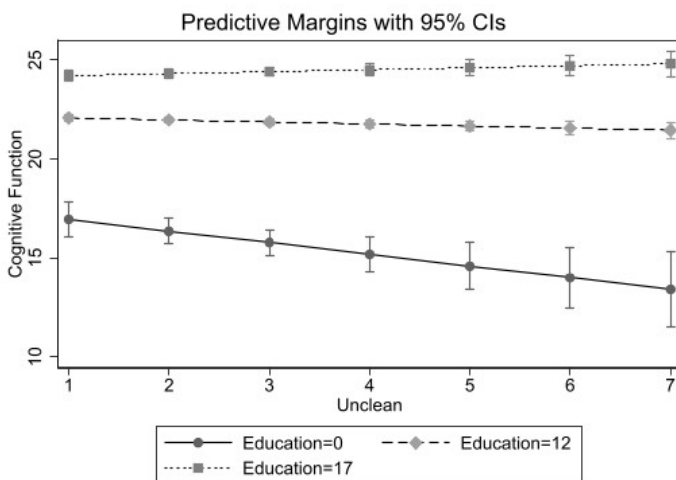
Education Shapes Cognitive Functioning Differently across Racial/Ethnic Groups

Figure 1. Race by Education Interaction Predicting Cognitive Impairment, HRS 2012



When it comes to cognitive impairment, blacks reap a larger return to education relative to whites suggesting that lessening racial inequality in education may help to ameliorate gaps in cognitive functioning in later life.

Figure 2. Perceived Unclean Neighborhood by Years of Education Predicting Cognitive Functioning among Non-Hispanic White Older Adults (n=6,616).



For older White Americans with lower levels of education, the perception that one's neighborhood is unclean has a stronger negative effect on cognitive functioning

Sources:

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Thierry, A.D., Sherman-Wilkins, K.J., Armendariz, M., Sullivan, A., & Farmer, H.R. In Press. "Perceived neighborhood characteristics and cognitive functioning among diverse older adults: An intersectional approach." *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*

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