

# Defining Types of Dementia

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*Second Workshop of the Committee on Developing a Behavioral and  
Social Science Research Agenda on Alzheimer's Disease and  
Alzheimer's Disease-Related Dementias*

*The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine  
Keck Center, Room 208*

*500 5th St NW, Washington D.C.*

*October 17, 2019*

# Disclosures

I have no relevant disclosures.

## The charge is to address four issues:

1. Diagnosis of different types of AD RD
  2. Detection
  3. Review the trajectory of each type of dementia
  4. Racial and ethnic differences
- 
5. Neurobiology of AD RD
  6. Implications for risk factor associations

The diagnosis of dementia due to Alzheimer's disease:

Recommendations from the National Institute on Aging-Alzheimer's Association workgroups on diagnostic guidelines for Alzheimer's disease

**Dementia is diagnosed when there are cognitive or neuropsychiatric symptoms that:**

1. Interfere with the ability to function at work or at usual activities; and
2. Represent a decline from previous levels of functioning and performing; and
3. Are not explained by delirium or major psychiatric disorder

**Cognitive impairment is detected through a combination of:**

1. History the patient and a knowledgeable informant and
2. An objective cognitive assessment

**The cognitive or behavioral impairment involves two or more of the following domains**

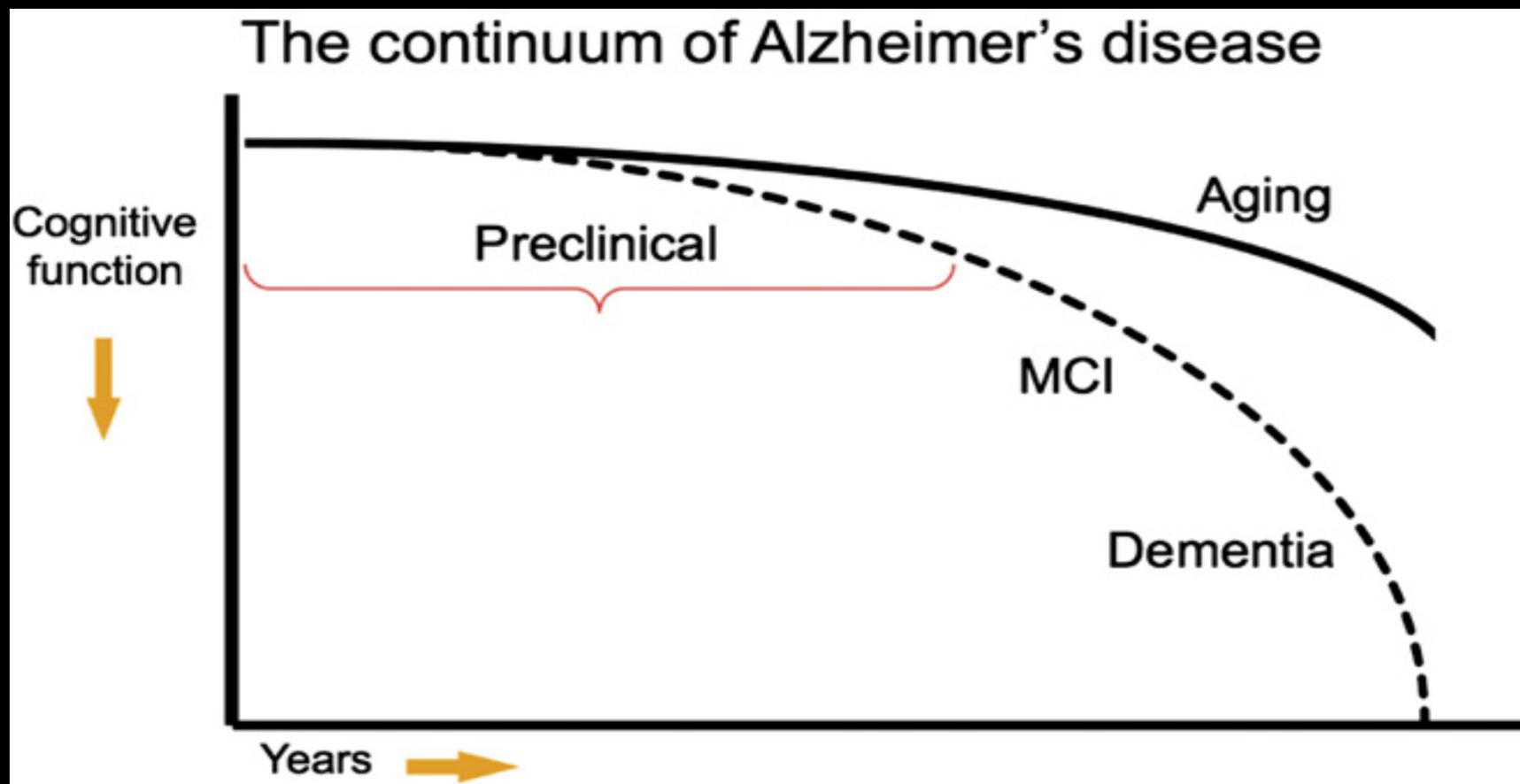
1. impaired ability to acquire and remember new information
2. Impaired reasoning and handling of complex tasks, poor judgment
3. Impaired visuospatial abilities
4. Impaired language functions
5. Changes in personality, behavior, or comportment

The diagnosis of mild cognitive impairment due to Alzheimer's disease:  
Recommendations from the National Institute on Aging-Alzheimer's  
Association workgroups on diagnostic guidelines for  
Alzheimer's disease

## Diagnosis of MCI

1. Cognitive concern reflecting a **change in cognition** reported by patient or informant or clinician.
2. Objective **evidence of Impairment** in one or more cognitive domains.
3. **Preservation of independence** in functional abilities

Toward defining the preclinical stages of Alzheimer's disease:  
Recommendations from the National Institute on Aging-Alzheimer's  
Association workgroups on diagnostic guidelines  
for Alzheimer's disease



The diagnosis of dementia due to Alzheimer's disease:

Recommendations from the National Institute on Aging-Alzheimer's Association workgroups on diagnostic guidelines for Alzheimer's disease

**Meets criteria for dementia and has the following characteristics:**

1. **Insidious onset** over months to years;
2. Clear-cut history of **worsening of cognition** by report or observation; and
3. The initial and most prominent cognitive deficits in one of the following: **a. Amnesia**; b. Non-amnestic presentations: Language, Visuospatial ability, Executive dysfunction

**MCI due to AD Criteria is similar to AD except that it meets criteria for MCI rather than dementia.**

# Vascular Contributions to Cognitive Impairment and Dementia

## Probable VaD

1. Cognitive impairment and imaging evidence of CVD, and
  1. Temporal relationship between a vascular event and onset of cognitive deficits, or
  2. Relationship between the severity and pattern of cognitive impairment and the presence of diffuse, subcortical CVD
2. No history of gradually progressive cognitive deficits before or after the stroke that suggests the presence of a nonvascular neurodegenerative disorder



# Diagnosis and management of dementia with Lewy bodies

Fourth consensus report of the DLB Consortium

McKeith IG, et al. *Neurology*. 2017;89:88-100.

## Sensitivity of revised diagnostic criteria for the behavioural variant of frontotemporal dementia

Rascovsky K, et al. *Brain*. 2011;134:2456-2477.

# Diagnosis and Management of Dementia: A Review.

	DISEASE*			
	Alzheimer's disease (AD)	Cerebrovascular Disease***	Lewy body disease	Frontotemporal dementia
PATHOLOGIC CHARACTERISTICS	Brain atrophy especially of the mesial temporal lobe; histologic hallmarks of neuritic plaques containing $\beta$ amyloid and neurofibrillary tangles containing phosphorylated tau	Small, often cystic chronic infarcts (lacunar infarcts), multiple microinfarcts, or large infarcts including intracerebral hemorrhage; age of infarcts may be variable in the same person, including chronic and acute; cerebral vessel pathology such as atherosclerosis and arteriolosclerosis; white matter gliosis; focal brain atrophy	Brain atrophy, often generalized; <del>intraneuronal</del> Lewy body inclusions containing $\alpha$ synuclein, including in the neocortex (as opposed to inclusions restricted to the substantia <del>nigra</del> , as seen in Parkinson disease)	Focal brain atrophy affecting frontal**** and/or anterior temporal lobes, histologic hallmarks of phosphorylated Transactive response DNA-binding Protein 43 (TDP-43), microtubule-associated protein tau (MAPT), or fused-in-sarcoma (FUS) protein
ONSET AND COURSE	Slow onset and gradual progression over months or years	Temporal relation between acute vascular event (stroke) and onset of cognitive impairment, within minutes or days; stepwise course	Slow onset and gradual progression over months or years; fluctuations in levels of alertness and cognition	Slow onset and gradual progression over months or years
HISTORY, EXAM, AND COGNITIVE FEATURES IN THE EARLY STAGE**	History: presenting symptoms is typically short-term memory loss  Exam and/or cognitive testing: episodic memory impairment accompanied by other subtle cognitive deficits, such as visuospatial problems and anomia	History: vascular risk factors (e.g., hypertension, diabetes) or prior stroke or other vascular events (myocardial infarction)  Exam: focal neurologic deficits consistent with stroke such as unilateral weakness and hyperreflexia, Babinski sign  Neuroimaging: evidence of cerebrovascular disease, such as infarcts or significant white matter changes (unilateral or bilateral) on magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)	History: Rapid Eye Movement (REM) Behavior Disorder (RBD) for years preceding the cognitive impairment; visual and other hallucinations  Exam and/or cognitive testing: marked visuospatial problems with relative preservation of memory; parkinsonism, especially with bradykinesia and rigidity, but also stooped posture and slow and shuffling gait	History: marked changes in behaviors such as in personality (e.g., disinhibition, apathy)  Exam and/or cognitive testing documenting disinhibition and inappropriate behaviors; in language variant, impaired fluency in speech, semantic <del>paraphrasias</del> ; other significant executive or language problems, with relative preservation of memory

Arvanitakis Z, et al. *JAMA*. 2019;in press.

Cochrane Review Summary:  
Mini-Mental State Examination  
(MMSE) for the detection of dementia  
in clinically unevaluated people  
aged 65 and over in community and  
primary care populations

## Community Studies

**MMSE\* at cut point 24 (indicating normal); 15 studies**

sensitivity 0.85

specificity 0.90

dementia prevalence 7.4%

**MMSE at cut point 25; 10 studies**

sensitivity 0.87

specificity 0.82

dementia prevalence 8.4%

**When adjusted for education; 7 studies (2 high risk of bias)**

specificity was 0.70

sensitivity 0.97

dementia prevalence 13.8%

**MMSE is proprietary**

# Cognitive Tests to Detect Dementia

## A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis

Clinic patients

11 screening tests were identified among 149 studies with 49,000+ participants

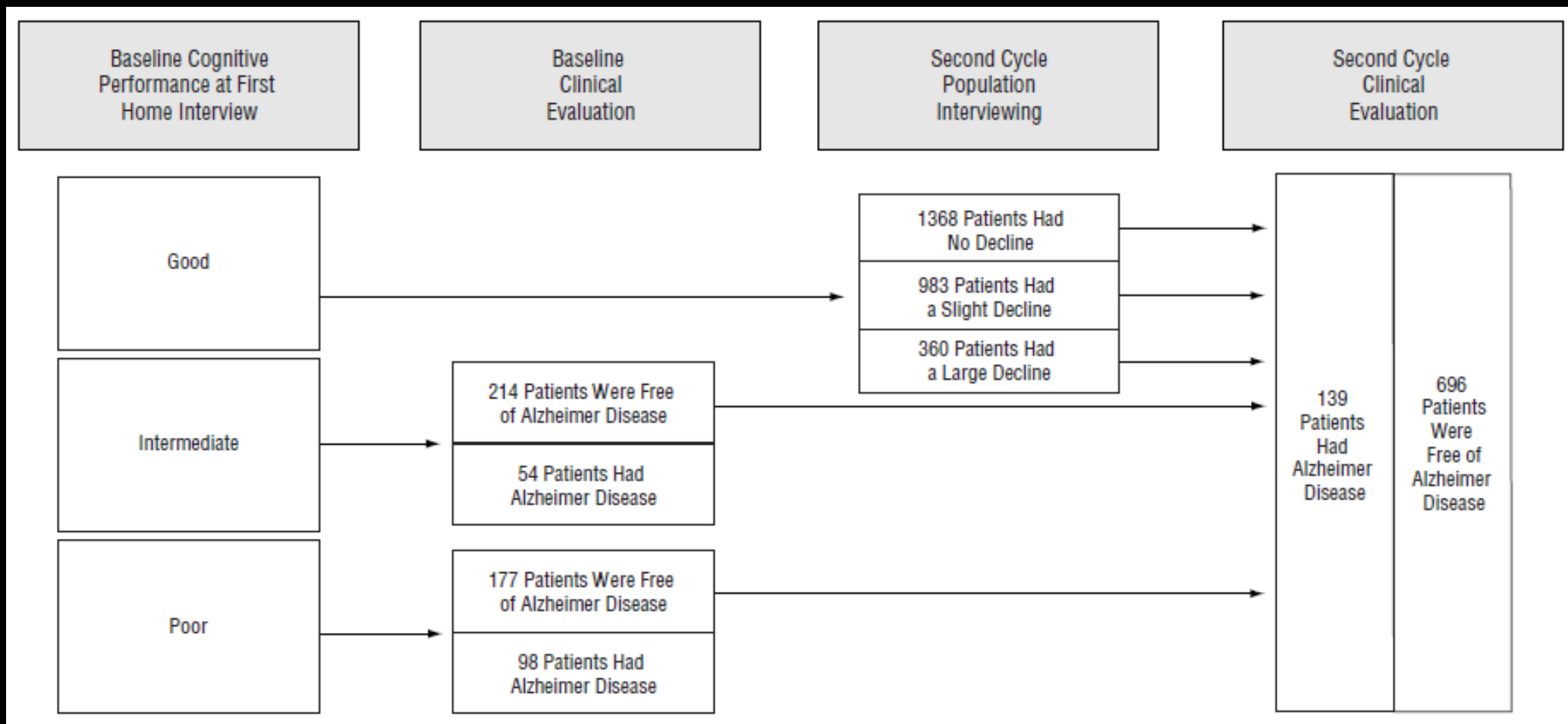
**MMSE** (n = 102) and included 10,000+ patients with dementia.  
sensitivity and specificity were 0.81 and 0.89

**Mini-Cog**, 0.91 sensitivity and 0.86 specificity for dementia

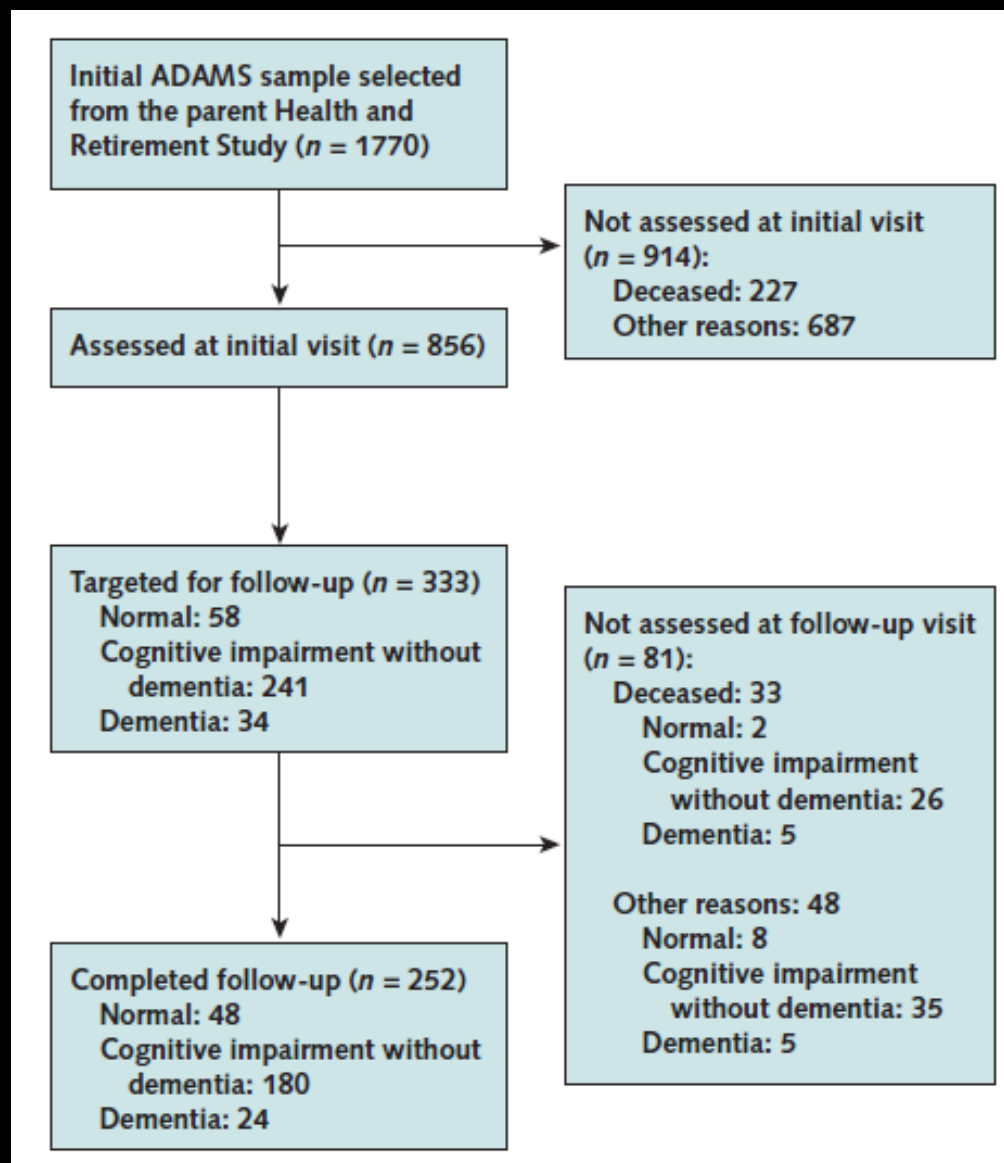
**Addenbrooke's Cognitive Examination–Revised (ACE-R)** 0.92  
sensitivity and 0.89 specificity) for dementia

**Montreal Cognitive Assessment (MoCA)** 0.89 sensitivity and 0.75  
specificity for MCI

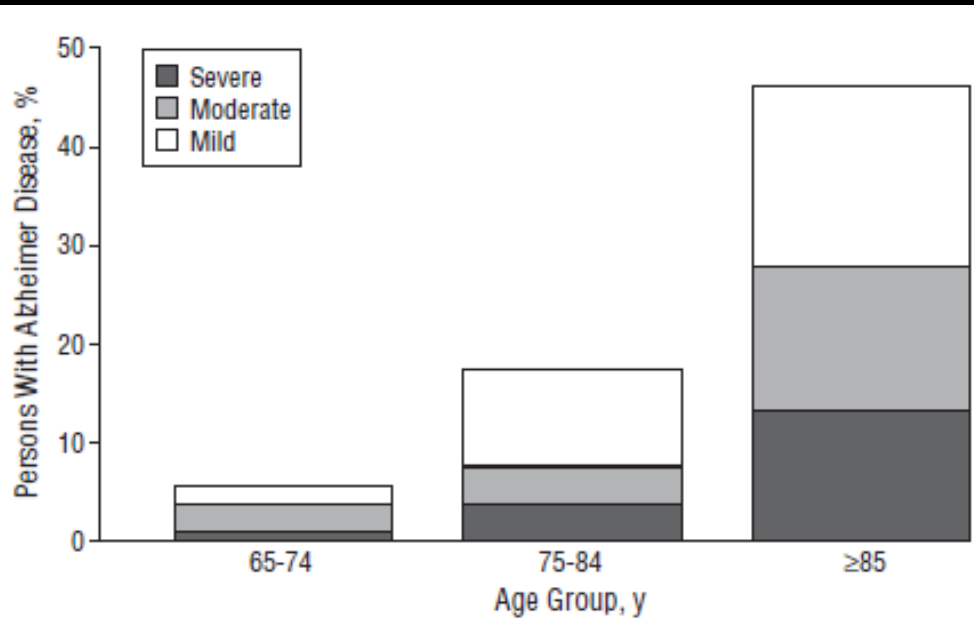
# Incidence of Alzheimer Disease in a Biracial Urban Community



# Prevalence of Cognitive Impairment without Dementia in the United States



# Alzheimer Disease in the US Population



Hebert LE, et al. *Arch Neurol.* 2003;60:1119-1122.

In 2000 4.5 million with AD  
age 65+  
(half with mild dementia)

Dementia prevalence age 71+ = 13.9%, 3.4 million individuals in the USA

In 2002 AD was 9.7% and 2.4 million individuals

Prodromal AD (CIND) 2 million

Other CIND 3.4 million

Dementia prevalence increased from  
5.0% 71–79 years to 37.4% 90+

**Prevalence of Dementia in the  
United States: The Aging, Demographics,  
and Memory Study**

Plassman BL, et al. *Neuroepidemiol.* 2007;29:125-132.

## Sources of variability in estimates of the prevalence of Alzheimer's disease in the United States

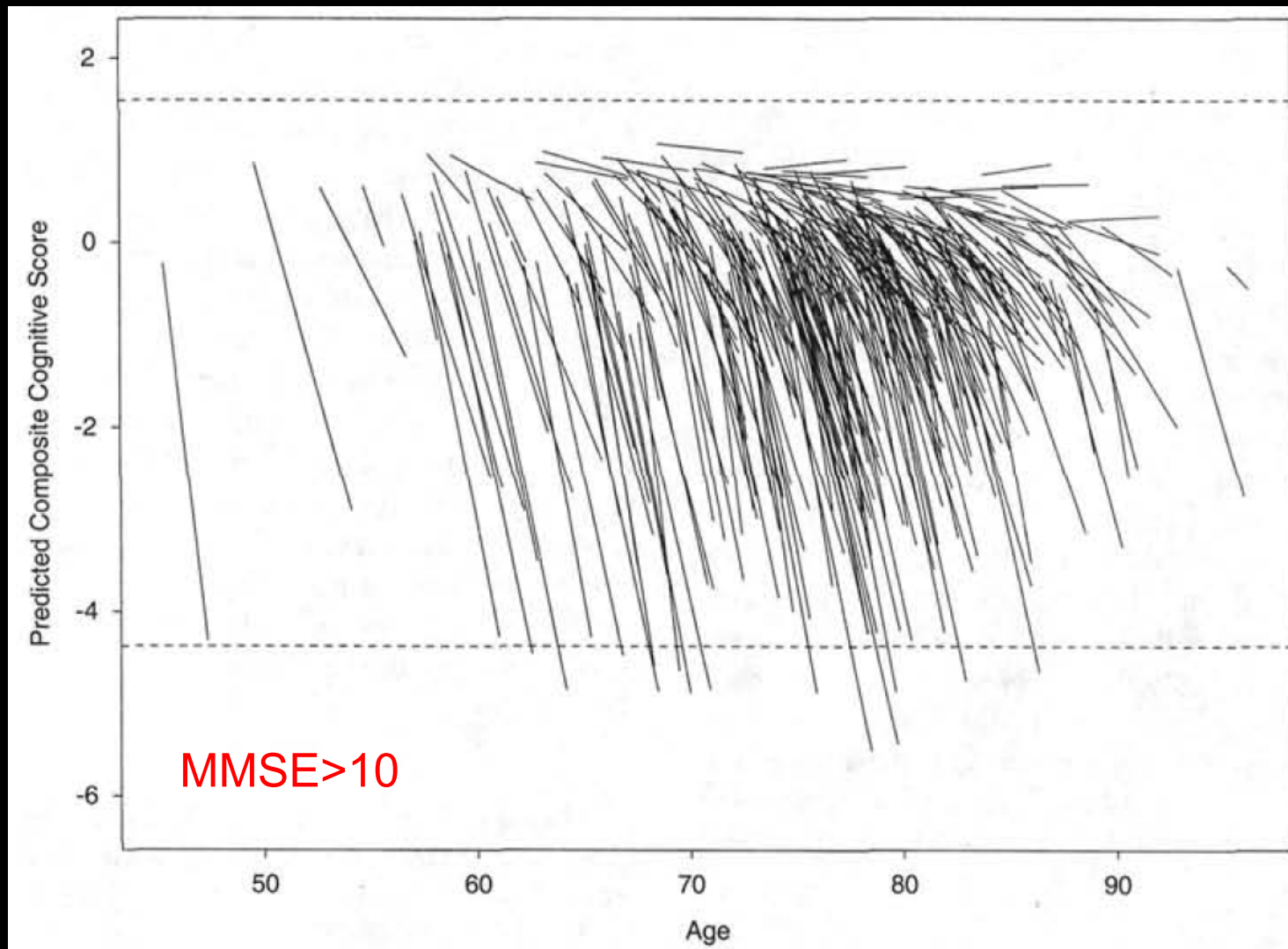
### Conclusion:

“The diagnosis of AD in population studies is a complex process. When a diagnosis of AD excludes persons meeting criteria for vascular dementia, when not all persons with dementia are assigned an etiology, and when a diagnosis of dementia requires an informant report of functional limitations, the prevalence is substantially lower and the diagnosed cases most likely have a relatively higher level of impairment.”



# Person-Specific Paths of Cognitive Decline in Alzheimer's Disease and Their Relation to Age

Clinic AD patients: Younger persons decline faster

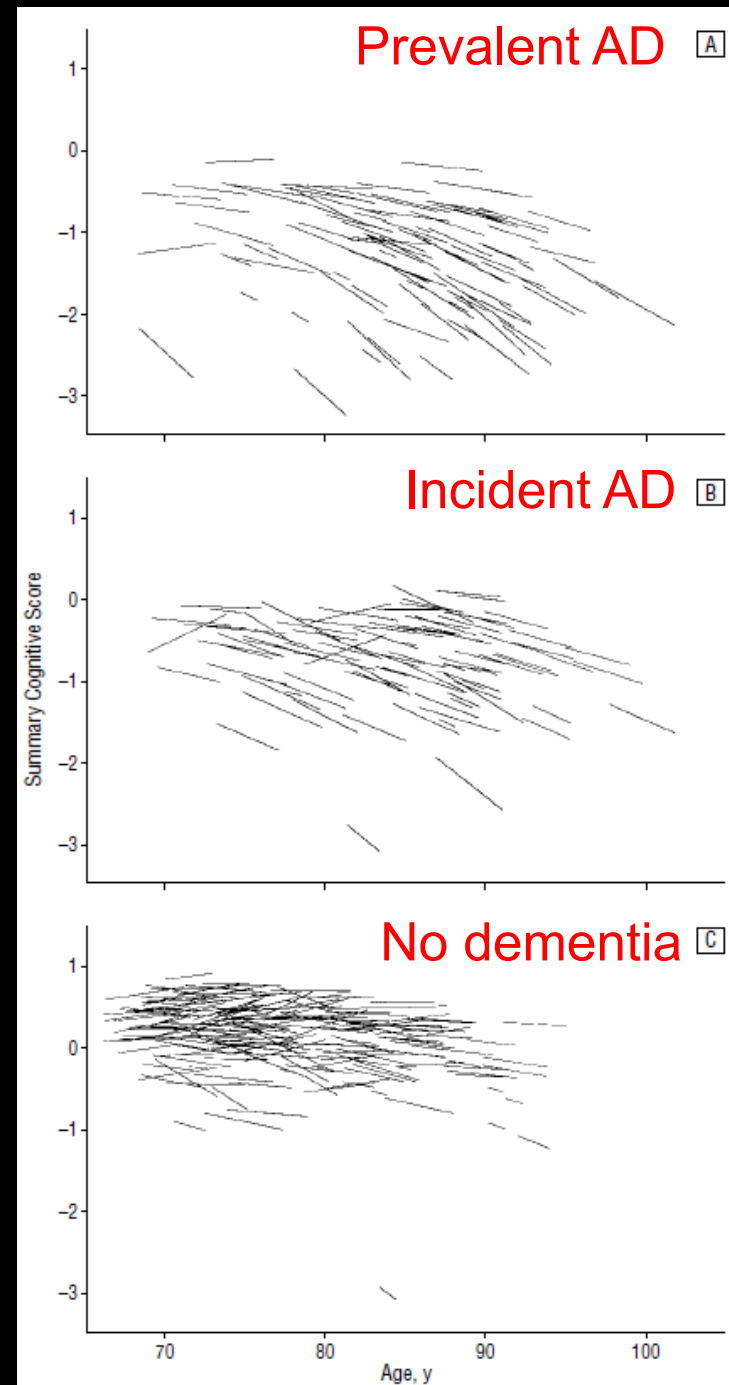


Wilson RS, et al. *Psych & Aging*. 2000;15:18-28.

# Change in Cognitive Function in Older Persons From a Community Population

## East Boston

Community AD participants:  
Older persons decline faster



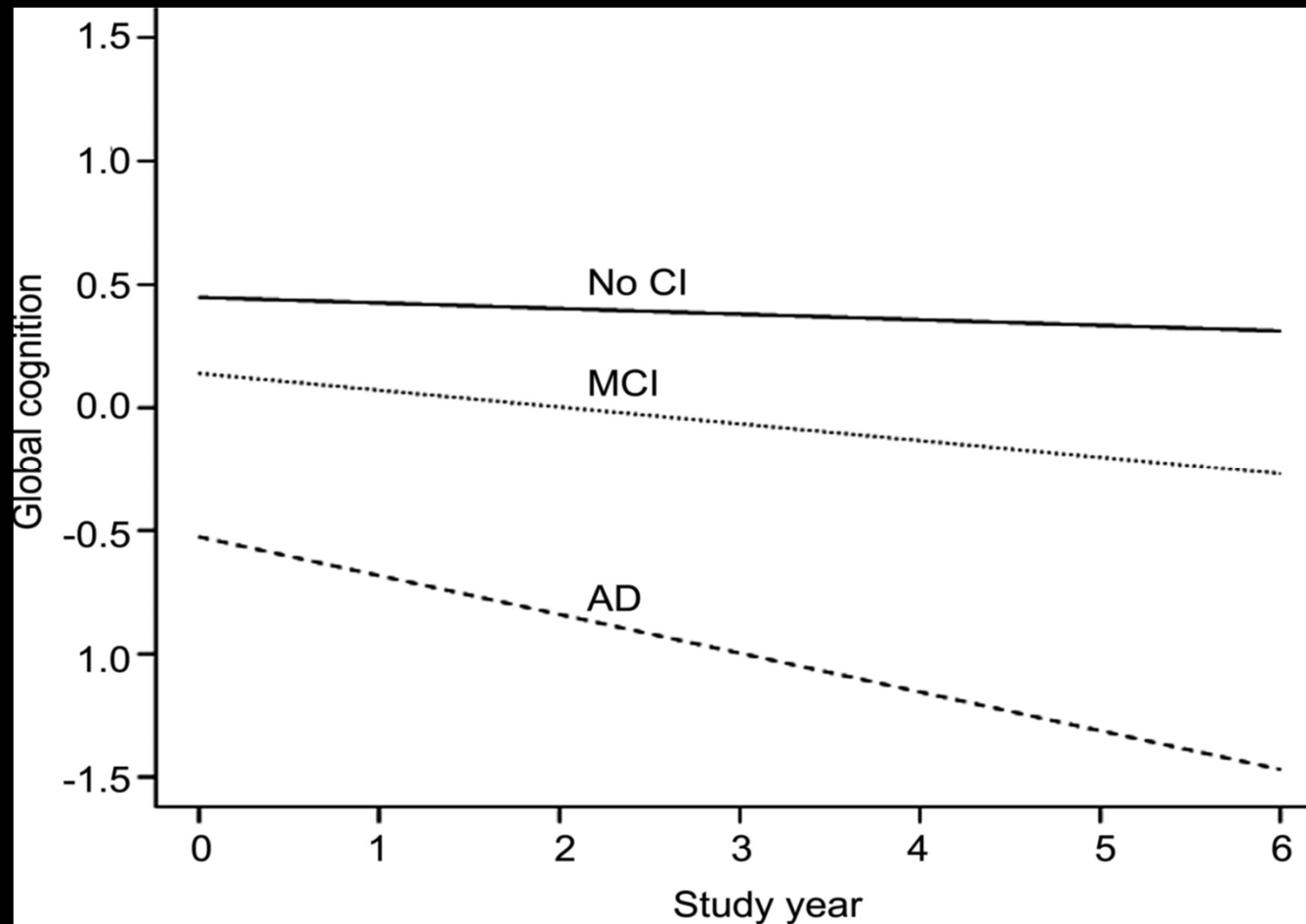
Wilson RS, et al. *Arch Neurol.* 1999;56:1274-1279.

# Cognitive decline in incident Alzheimer disease in a community population

CHAP

## Community AD participants: Older persons decline faster

Comparable effects in African American and white persons.

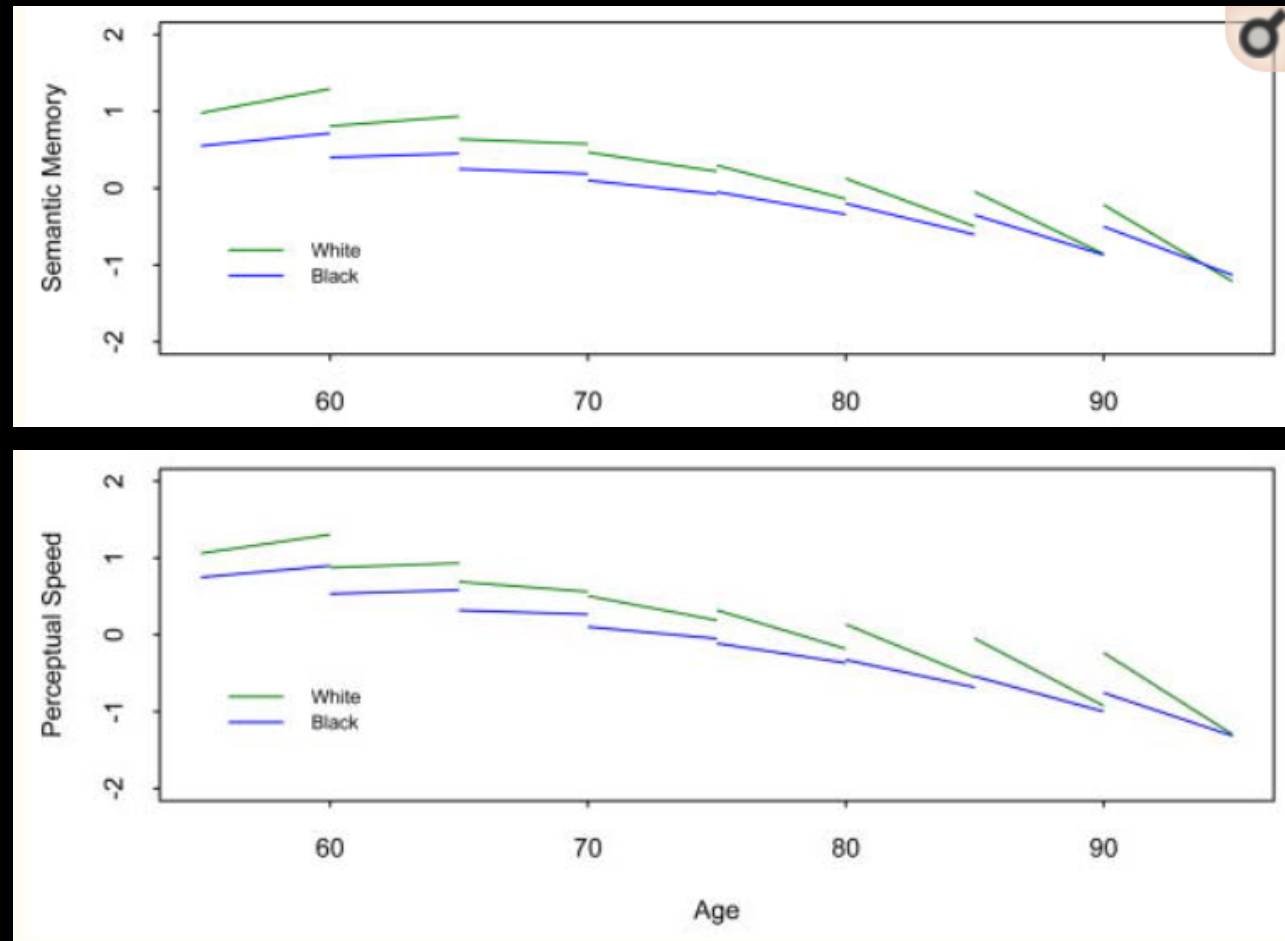


Wilson RS, et al. *Neurol.* 2010;74:951-955.

## Cognitive Aging in Older Black and White Persons

CHAP

Baseline level of each ability lower in Blacks  
Decline in episodic and working memory not related to race  
Decline in semantic memory, perceptual speed, and visuospatial ability was slower in Blacks  
in semantic memory and perceptual speed the effect was stronger in older participants.

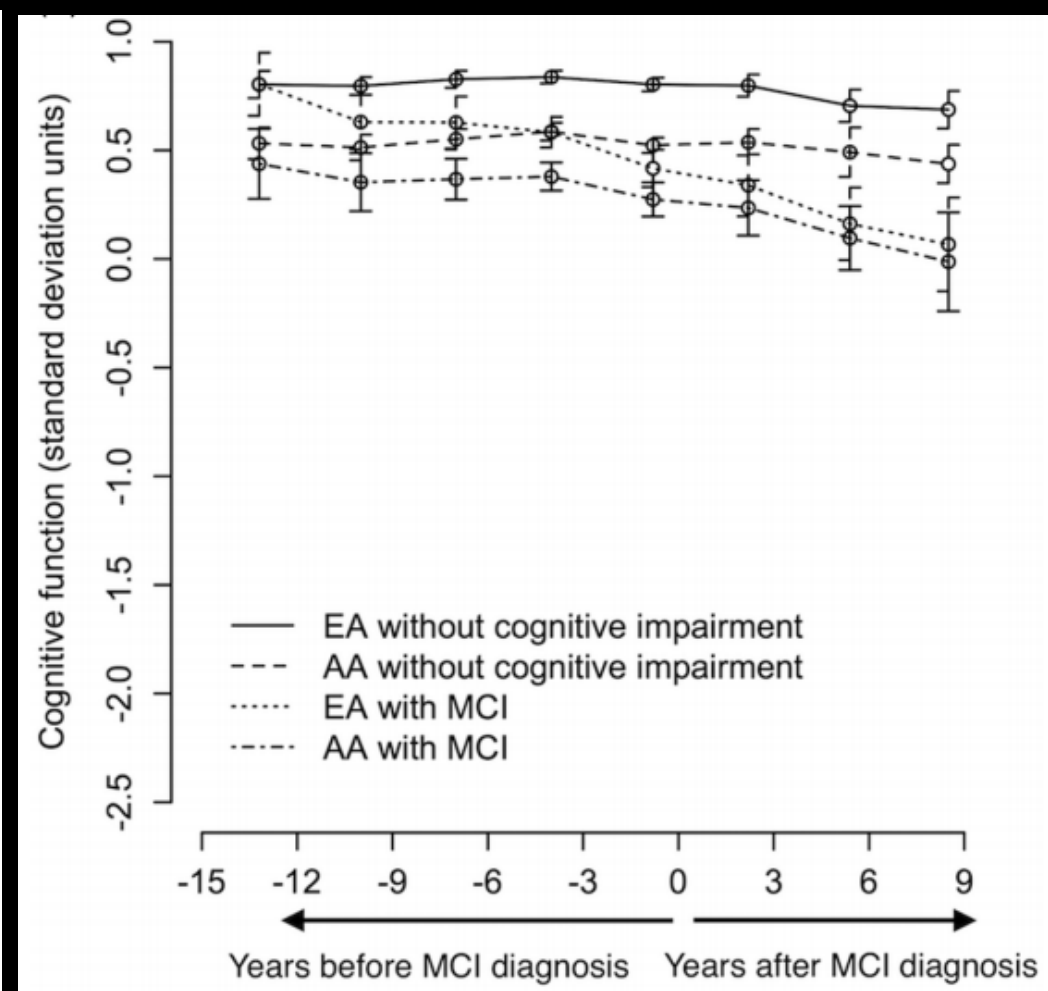
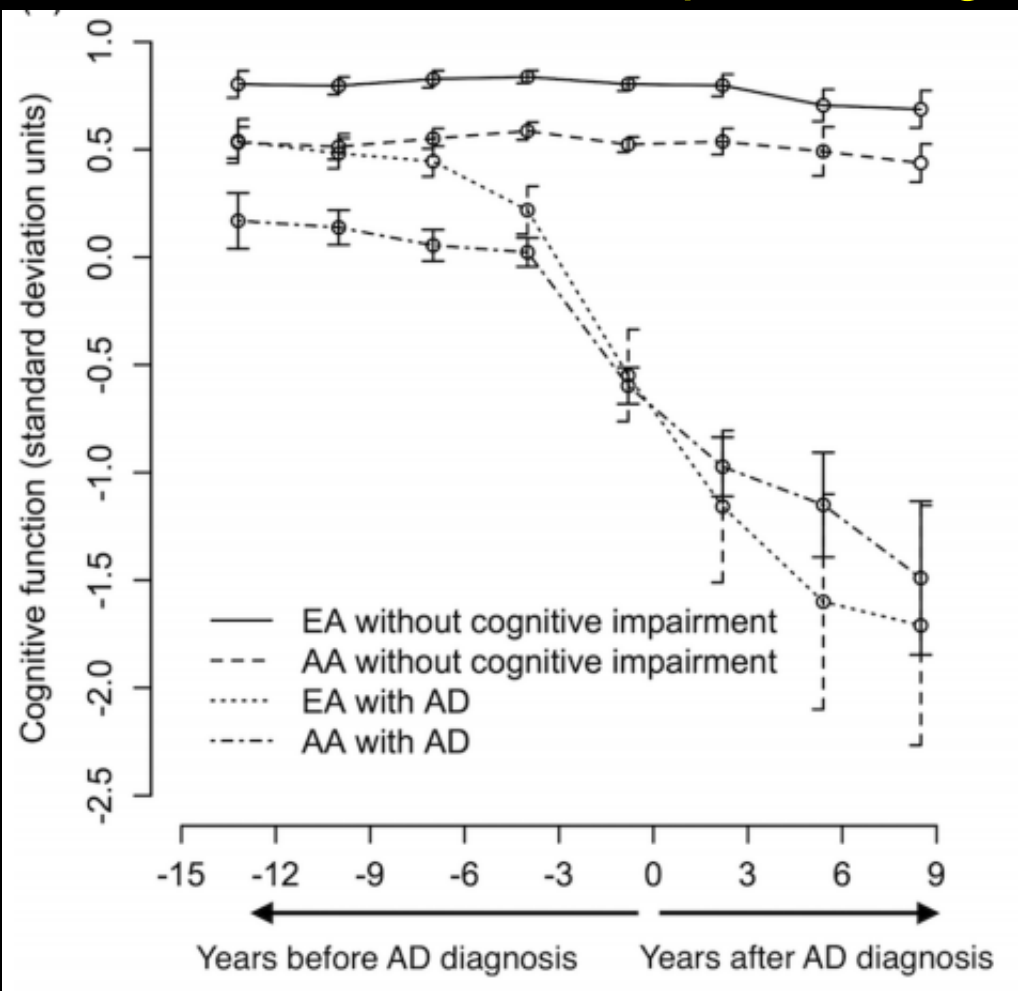


Adjusted for retest effects

A Cognitive Turning Point in Development of Clinical Alzheimer's Disease Dementia and Mild Cognitive Impairment: A Biracial Population Study

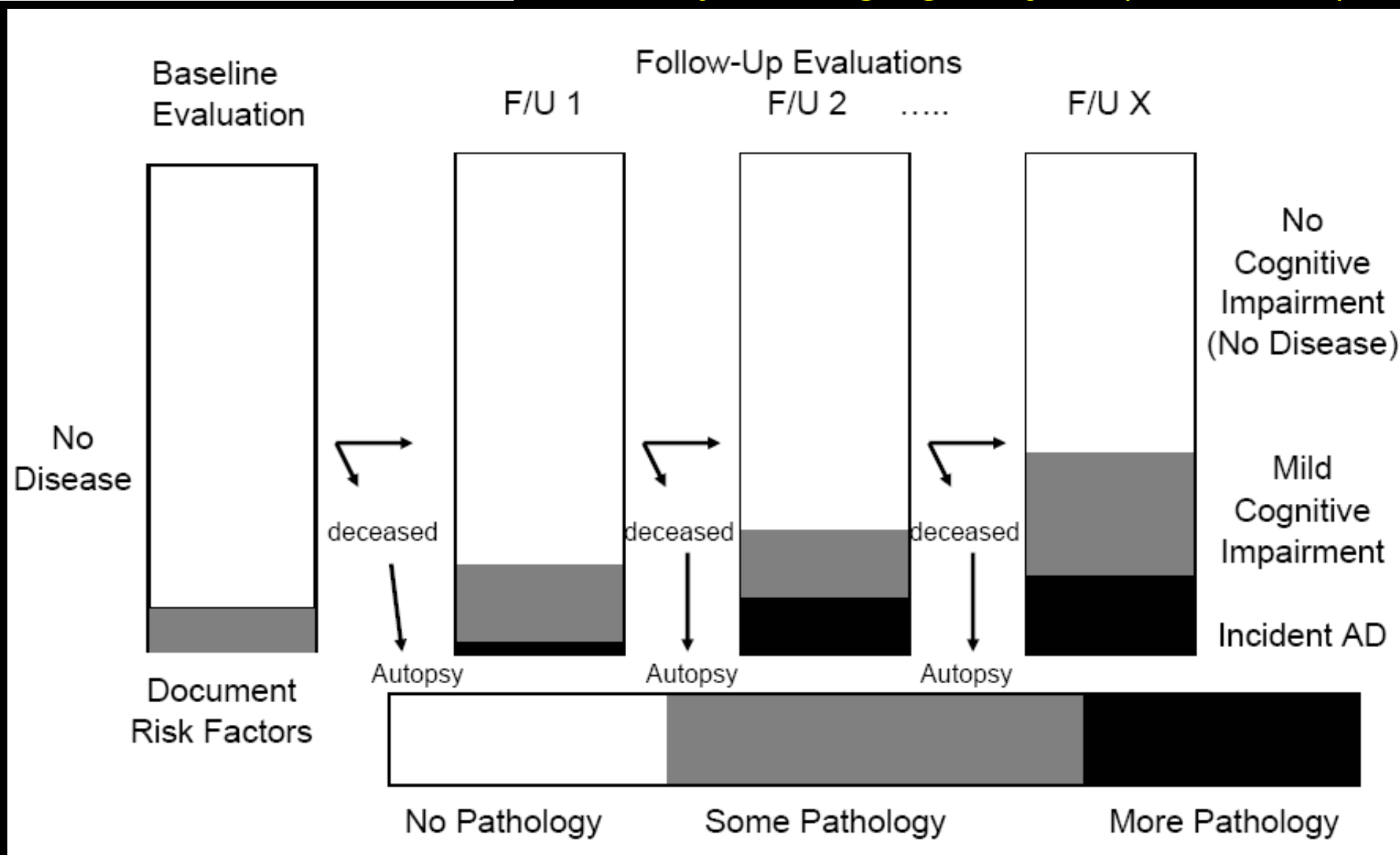
CHAP

Slope of cognitive decline after the change point is steeper among EAs than AAs.



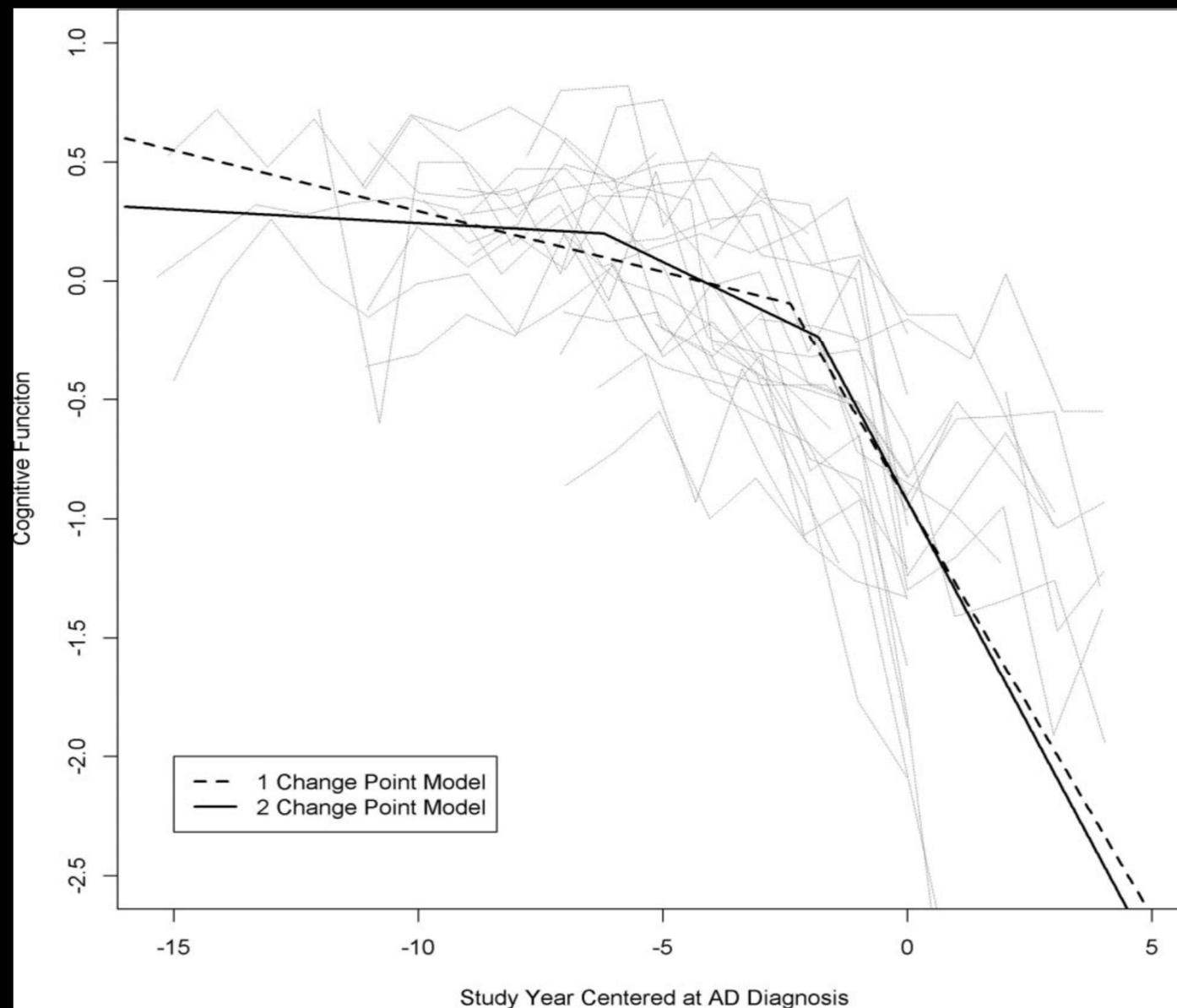
**The Rush Memory and Aging Project: Study Design and Baseline Characteristics of the Study Cohort**

**Religious Orders Study and Rush Memory and Aging Project (ROSMAP)**



Bennett DA, et al. *Neuroepidemiology*. 2005;25:163–175.

# The Natural History of Cognitive Decline in Alzheimer's Disease



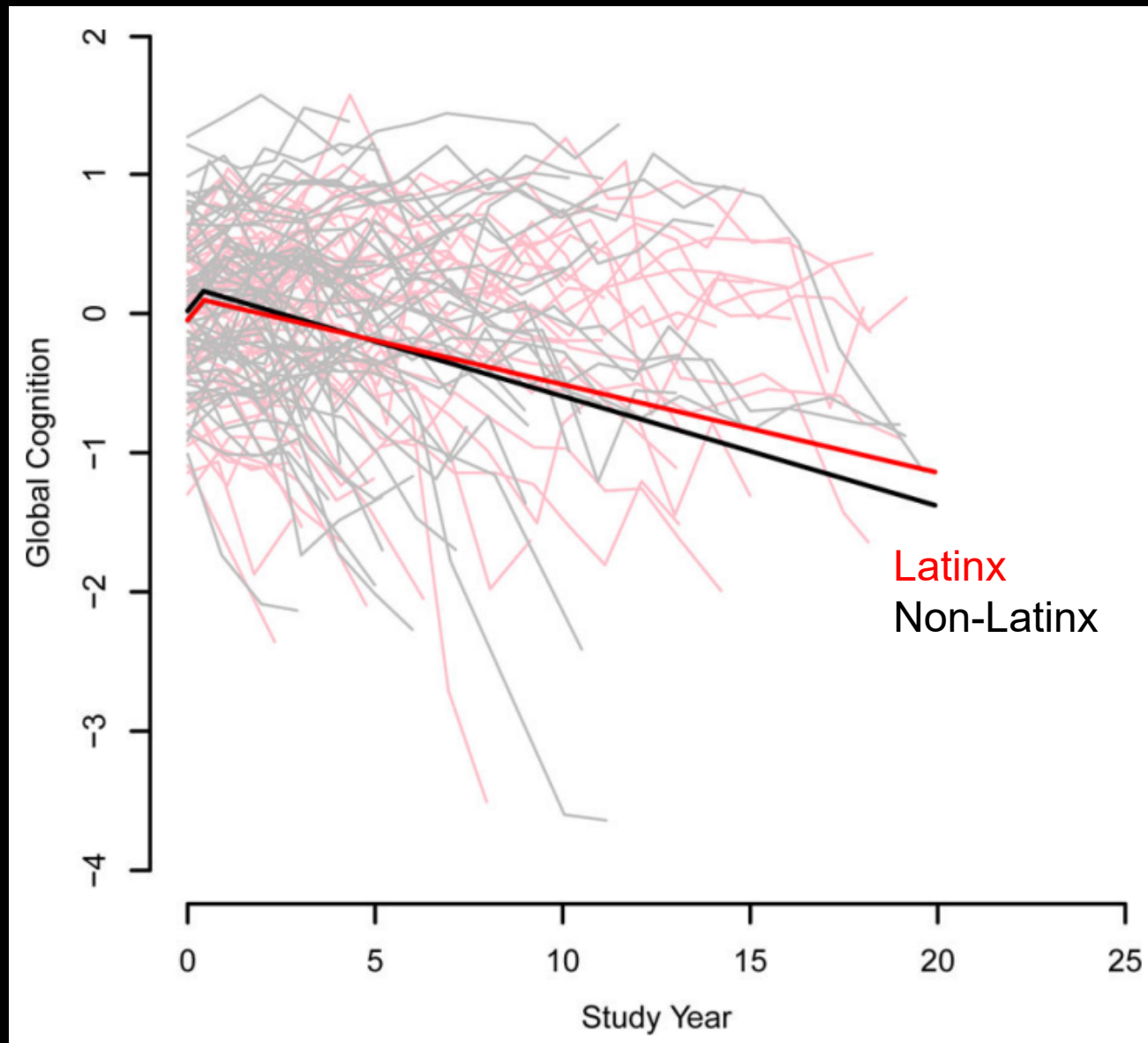
No change in cognitive function until 7.5 years before dementia diagnosis

Global cognitive measure declined 0.09-unit per year until 2.0 years before the diagnosis when it increased more than 4-fold to a mean loss of 0.37-unit per year



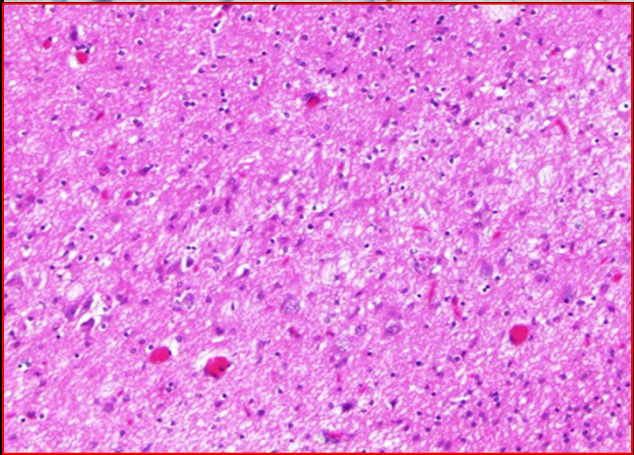
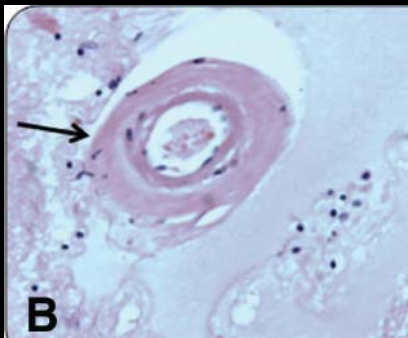
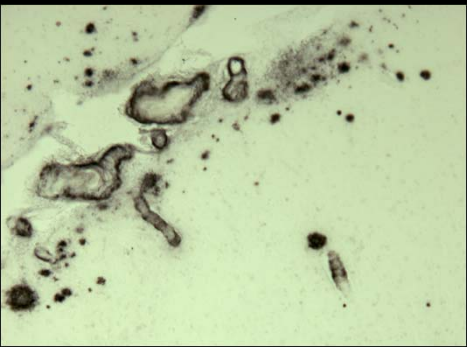
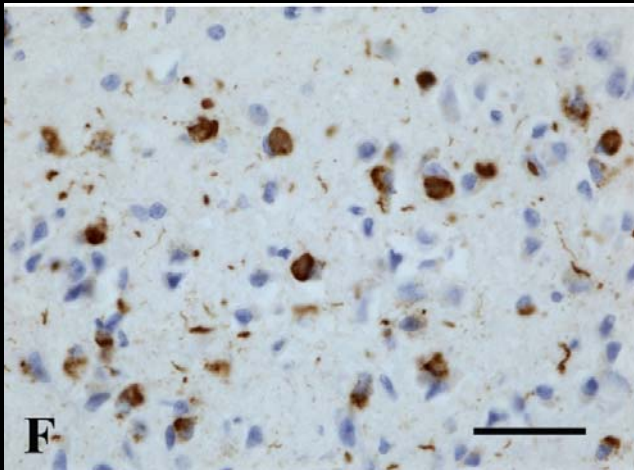
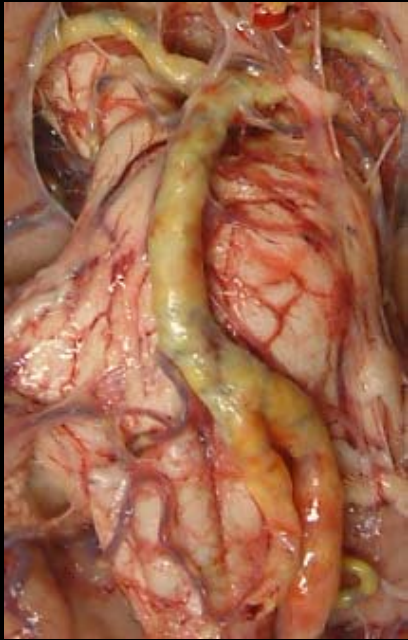
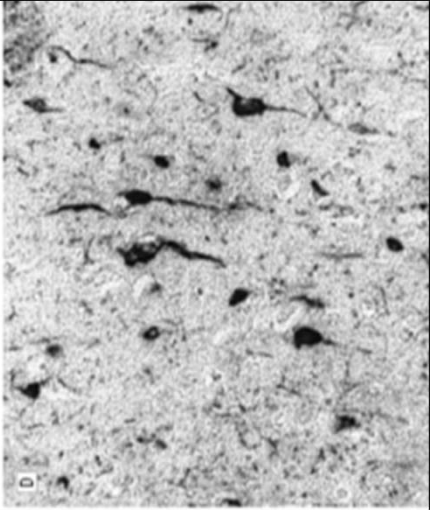
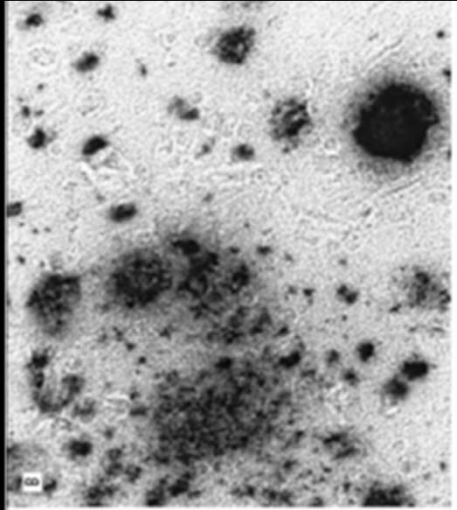
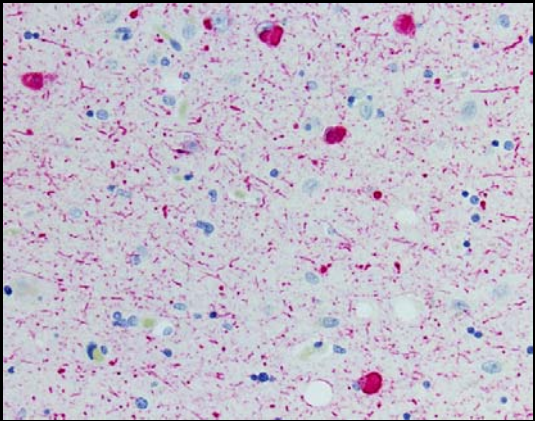
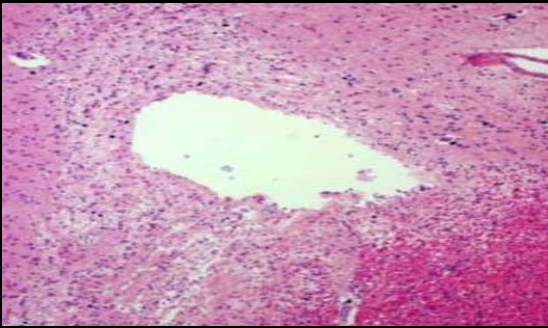
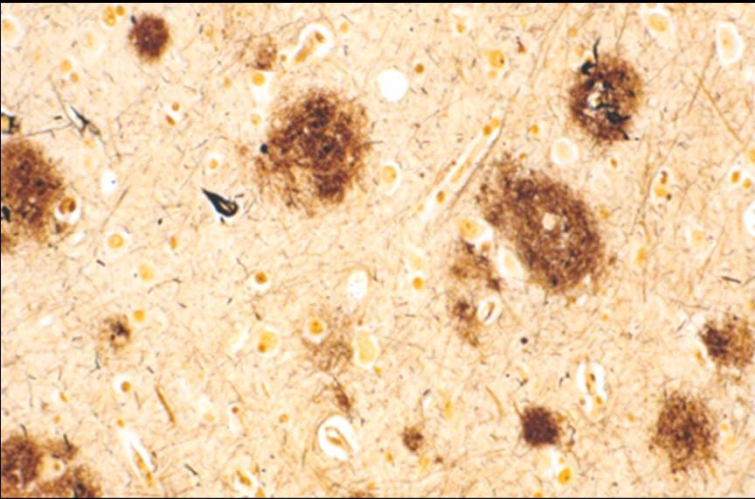
## Change in Cognitive Abilities in Older Latinos

ROSMAP



Wilson RS, et al. *JINS*. 2016;22:58-65.

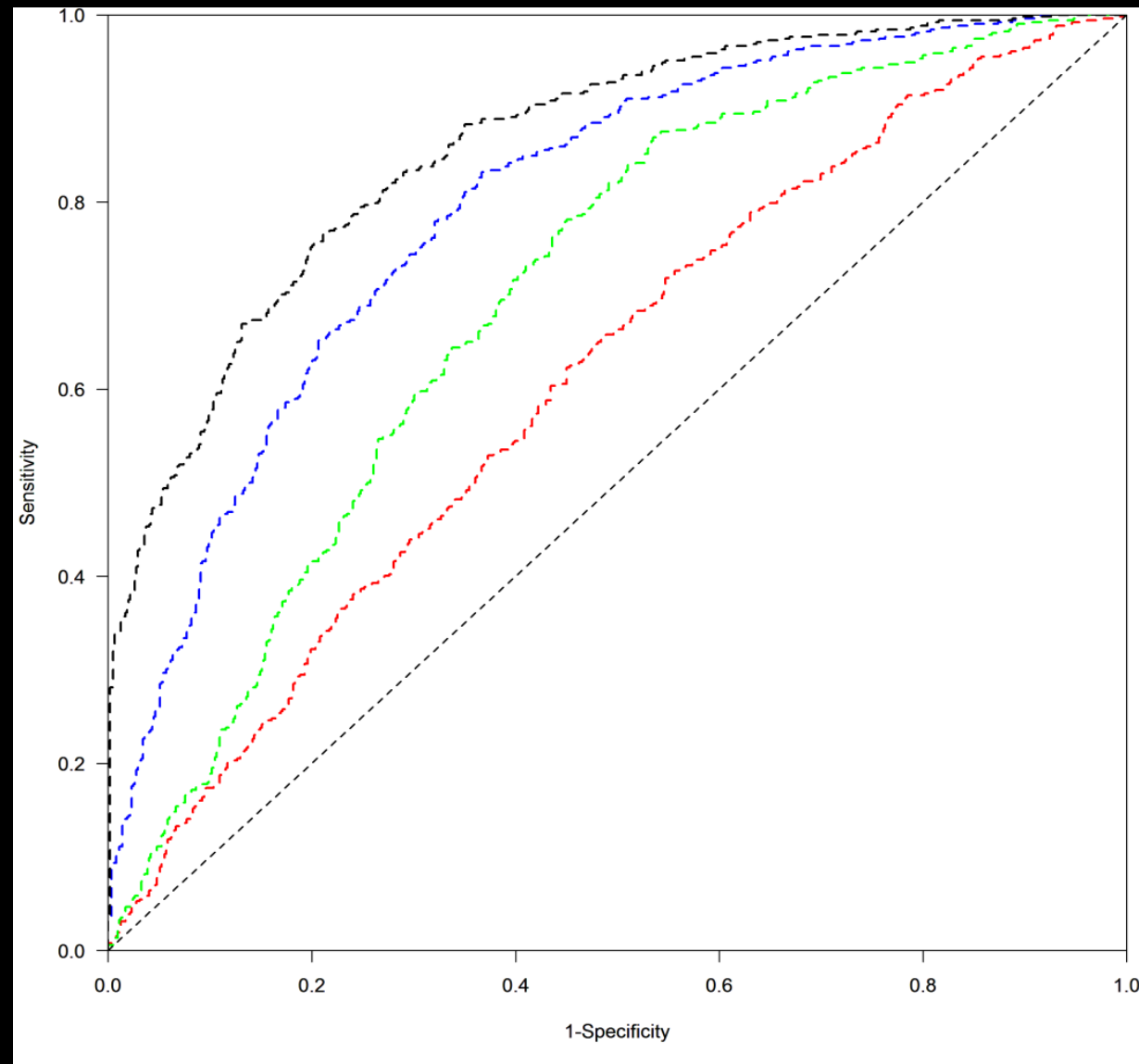




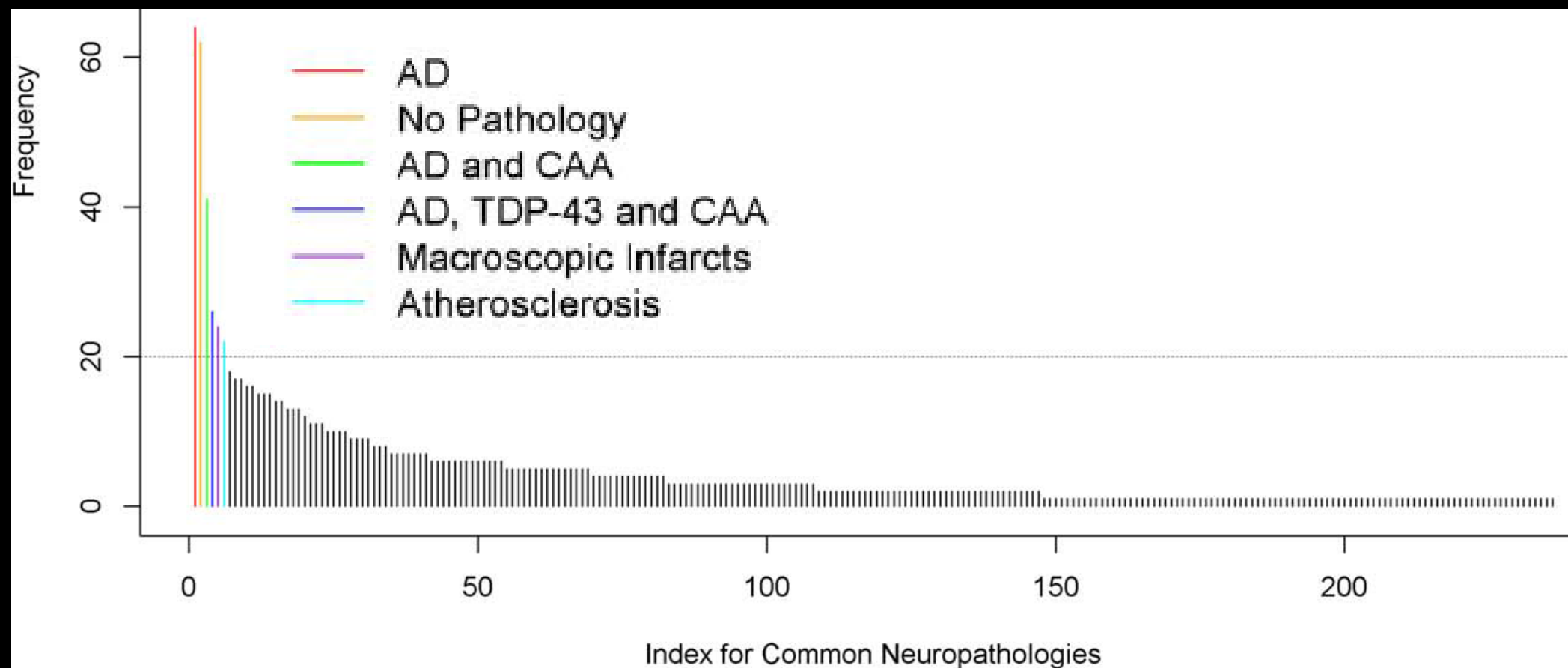
# Attributable risk of Alzheimer's dementia attributed to age-related neuropathologies

**Demographics**  
**And Pathologic AD**  
**And 7 other**  
**pathologies**  
**And an indicator for**  
**unaccounted AD**  
**dementia cases**

**67.5% AD dementia cases**  
**attributable all eight**  
**neuropathologic indices**

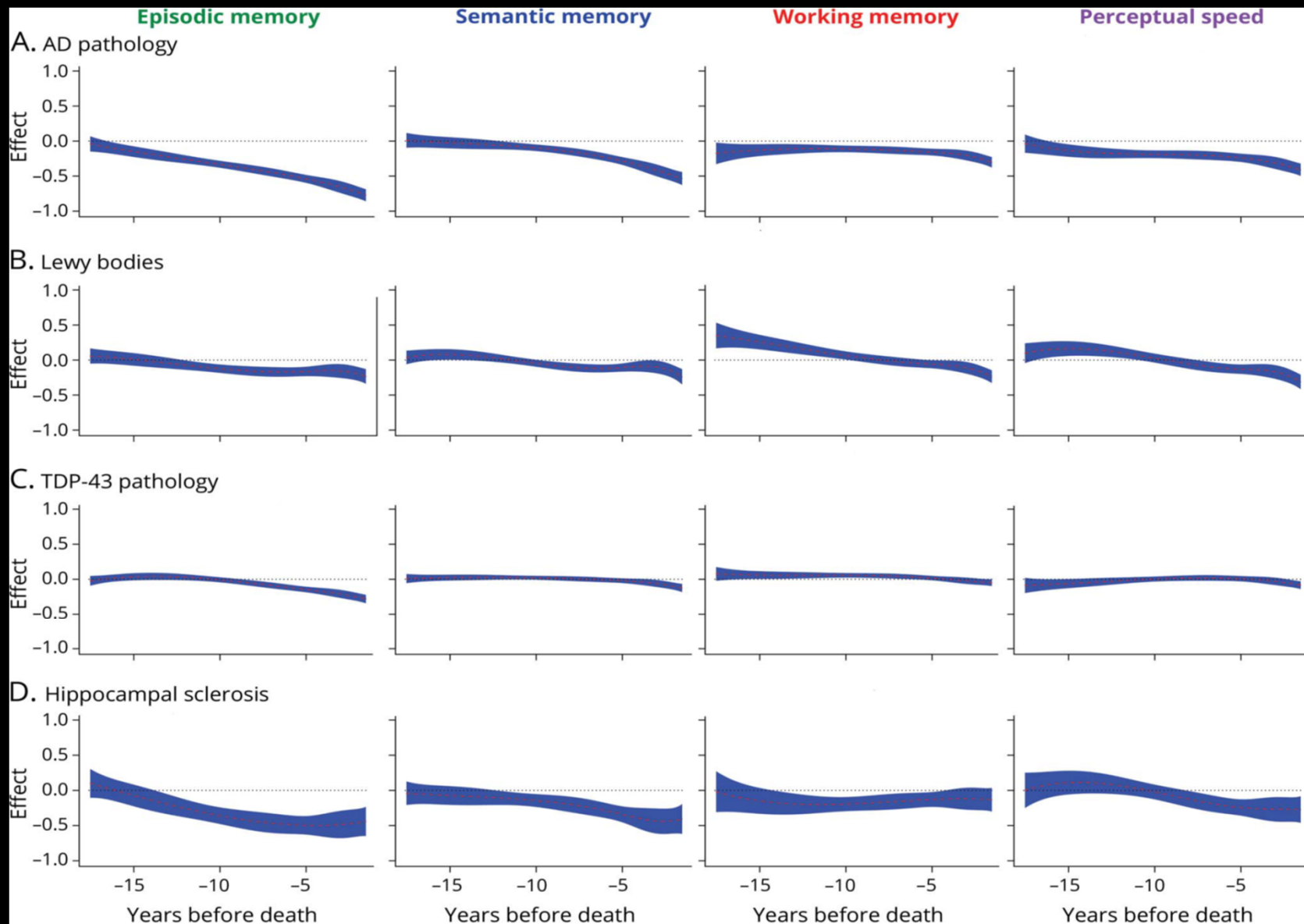


# Person-Specific Contribution of Neuropathologies to Cognitive Loss in Old Age



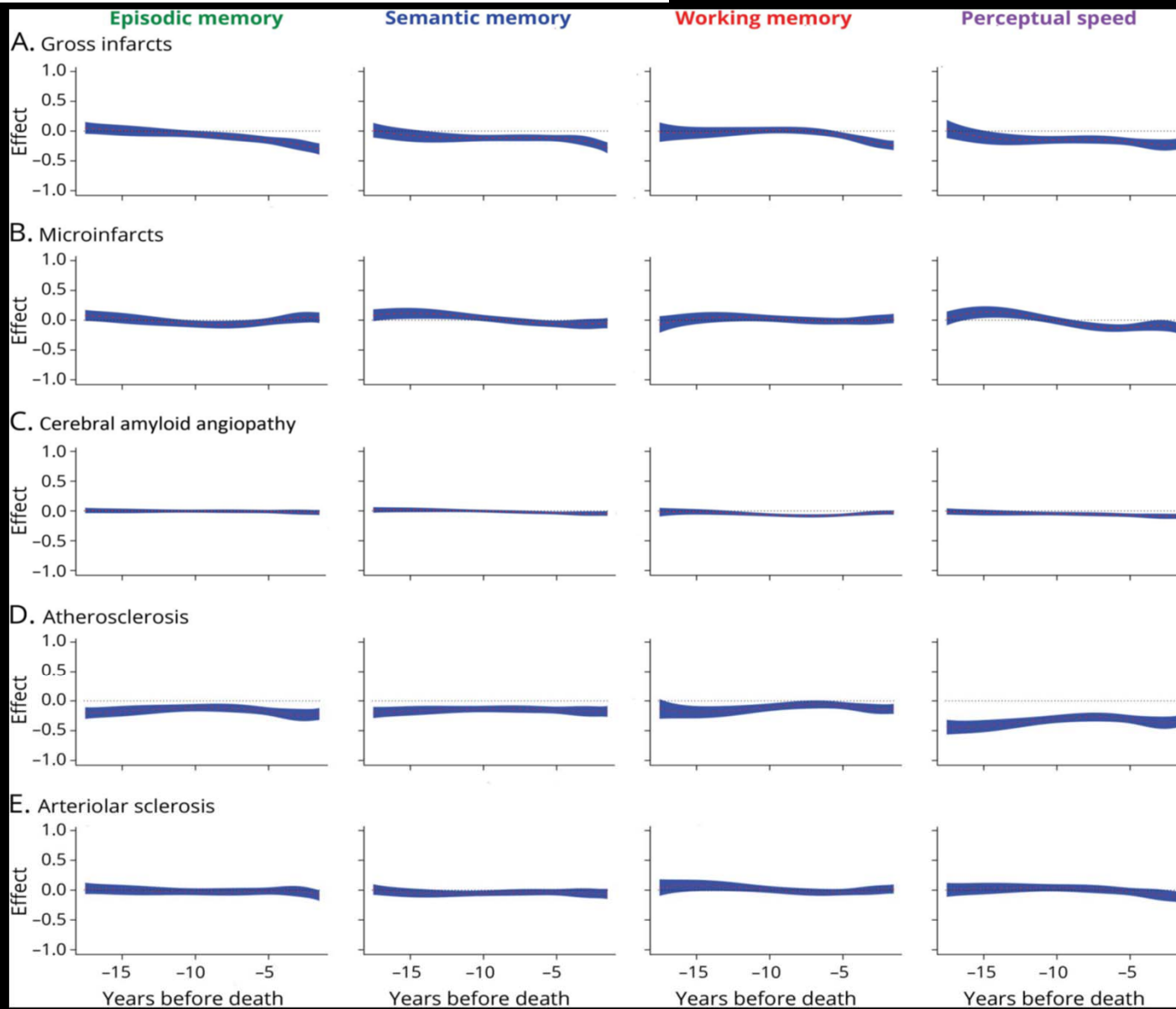


# Postmortem neurodegenerative markers and trajectories of decline in cognitive systems



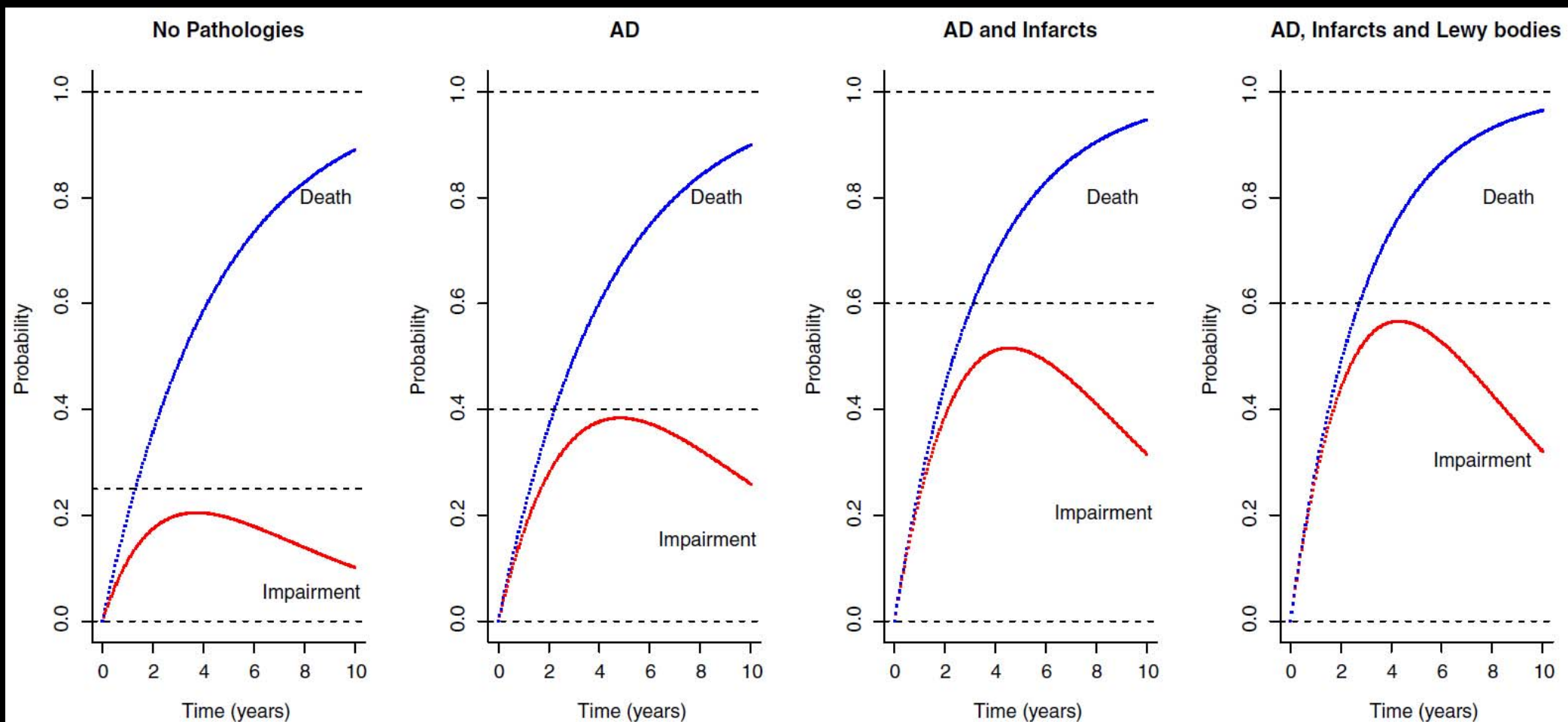
Wilson RS, et al. *Neurol.* 2019;92:e831-e840.

# Postmortem neurodegenerative markers and trajectories of decline in cognitive systems

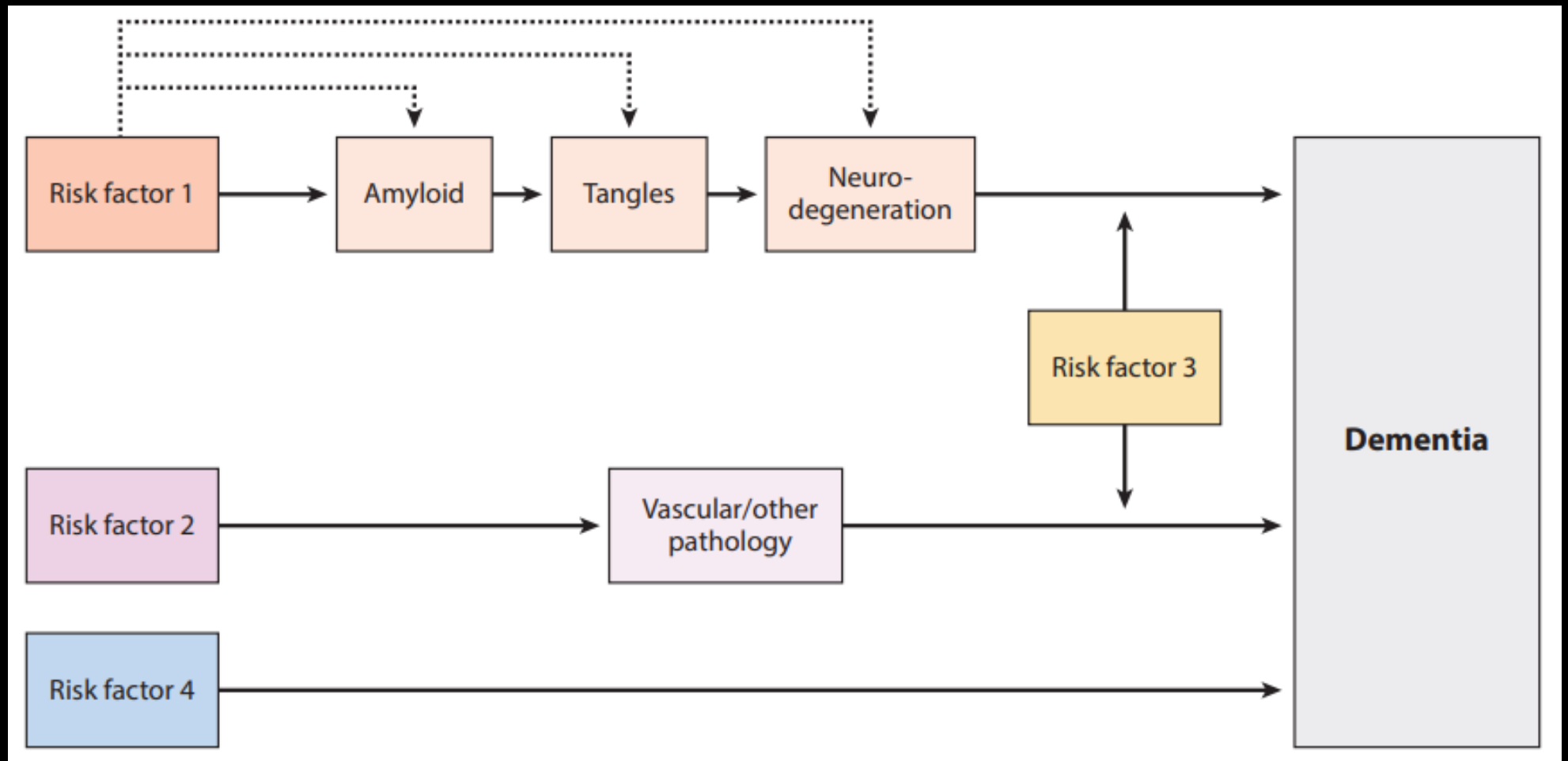


Wilson RS, et al. *Neurol.* 2019;92;e831-e840.

# Effect of common neuropathologies on progression of late life cognitive impairment



# Causes and Patterns of Dementia: An Update in the Era of Redefining Alzheimer's Disease



# Conclusions

- Accepted criteria for the clinical diagnoses of common dementia syndromes are made by and for clinical specialists
  - Need to be adapted for use in community-based studies
- Alzheimer's dementia is on a continuum
  - small differences in cut-points can result in very large differences in estimated prevalence
- Modest to large racial differences in level of performance but Blacks appear to decline more slowly
- Many brain pathologies in different combinations contribute to Alzheimer's dementia
  - yet much of Alzheimer's dementia remains unexplained
- Many brain pathologies contribute to loss of multiple cognitive domains making it impossible at this juncture to reliably distinguish different causes of dementia on a case by case basis
  - Blood biomarkers soon?
- In an era that now distinguishes AD from its clinical consequences, we need to rethink what it means to be a risk factor for AD



# Preliminary Recommendations

- Need more data on regional, sex, racial, and ethnic differences in prevalence of cognitive impairment and dementia across the USA
  - I would not expend the effort at this time for differential diagnosis of AD/AR
  - For political reasons I would diagnose Alzheimer's dementia
- Need to develop simple and inexpensive approaches to diagnoses
  - This will be particularly challenging across race and ethnicity
- Need to monitor trends over time
  - Age-specific incidence and prevalence of dementia may be declining (not discussed)
  - Data not convincing for the relatively short time horizon addressed
  - given other long term health trends it is likely to be true – but not equally true across the USA or in all subgroups (e.g., increasing mortality rates among lower SES whites)
- Need to consider competing risk
- Generalizability and internal validity compete for resources and studies that maximize the former may not be the best place to accomplish risk factor associations beyond select social determinants