Pilot Project: "*Addressing ADRD Health Disparities between Urban and Rural Populations in South Carolina***"**

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Abstract

Alzheimer's Disease and related dementias (ADRD) are extremely prevalent, currently affecting over 5 million persons within the US. A growing body of research suggests that the prevalence and burden of these conditions vary according to ethnic and racial groups. The primary objective of this pilot project is to determine whether sociodemographic factors (e.g. race, gender, geographic location) contribute to ADRD prevalence across counties within the State of South Carolina. The secondary objective is to examine the variation of health utilization across racial/ethnic groups, between urban and rural counties, and by their associations with ADRD types and health-related outcomes. The South Carolina Alzheimer's Disease Registry data will be used to determine ADRD prevalence, ADRD disease type, and sociodemographic factors. The registry data will also be cross-linked with data from the South Carolina Revenue and Fiscal Affairs to further explore health utilization and disparities of services in urban/rural locations using innovative Geographic Information Systems (GIS) methods.