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INTRODUCING LIFEAFTER90, AN ETHNICALLY DIVERSE COHORT OF OLDEST-OLD INDIVIDUALS

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Background: Information about dementia, cognition, and brain aging in the oldest-old (people aged 90 and older) comes almost

exclusively from cohorts of highly educated Caucasian individuals. To fill epidemiological and clinical gaps in the available information about dementia in oldest-old ethnic minorities, we established *LifeAfter90*. The goal of this newly established longitudinal cohort study, is to investigate lifecourse determinants of dementia incidence, cognitive decline, neuropathologic changes, and brain imaging markers in an ethnically diverse cohort of individuals aged 90 years and older (recruitment goal=800). Here we present descriptive information of the first 370 participants enrolled in the *LifeAfter90* Study. **Methods:** *LifeAfter90* participants are long-time members of the Kaiser Permanente Northern California Health Care System without a dementia diagnosis in their medical record at the time of recruitment. Evaluations in *LifeAfter90* are every six months and include among others, the Everyday Cognition (ECog, a self-rated questionnaire about the ability to perform cognitive tasks), and the Geriatric Depression Scale (GDS, a self-rated questionnaire about depressive symptoms). We describe demographics and scores on the ECog and GDS by racial/ethnic groups. **Results:** The first 370 participants are on average 92.6 years of age (range=90-104 years) and 64% are women. 30% have a high-school education or less but that percentage is higher for African Americans and Latinos (Table). The racial distribution is: 24% African American, 17% Asian, 8% Latino, 8% other/multiracial, and 43% Caucasian. In the ECog, Latinos had a lower percentage who were concerned about memory problems (Table), but had the highest average score (indicative of more impaired ability), although scores were similar across groups. In the GDS, Latinos had the highest average score and were the group with the highest proportion having a score >4 (indicative of depression). **Conclusions:** We introduce *LifeAfter90*, a first-of-its kind cohort study of oldest-old individuals where most participants are ethnic minorities. Although too early to test for differences, we have indications of potential future disparities in the way the racial ethnic/groups are reporting on their cognitive abilities and depressive symptoms, which we will explore once recruitment is complete on this lifecourse cohort of ethnically diverse oldest-old individuals.

Table. Characteristics of Participants by Race/Ethnic Group: The *LifeAfter90* Study

Characteristic	Total	African American	Asian	Latino	Other/Multiracial	Caucasian
No. of Participants (%)	370	90 (24.3)	62 (16.8)	30 (8.1)	30 (8.1)	158 (42.7)
Demographics						
Average Age, y (range)	92.6 (90-104)	93.0 (90-100)	92.0 (90-98)	92.4 (90-104)	91.9 (90-98)	92.9 (90-103)
No. of Women (%)	237 (64.1)	64 (71.1)	30 (48.4)	21 (67.7)	21 (77.8)	99 (62.7)
Education, N (%)						
<High School	111 (30.3)	40 (44.9)	15 (24.2)	13 (41.9)	8 (29.6)	34 (21.8)
Some College	77 (21.0)	17 (19.1)	12 (19.4)	7 (22.6)	9 (33.3)	32 (20.5)
Associate Degree/College	98 (26.7)	21 (23.6)	21 (33.9)	7 (22.6)	5 (18.5)	44 (28.2)
Graduate School	81 (22.1)	11 (12.4)	14 (22.6)	4 (12.9)	5 (18.5)	46 (29.5)
ECog-15 item						
Concerned that have memory problems, N (%)	151 (41.3)	38 (42.7)	29 (46.8)	8 (25.8)	9 (34.6)	65 (41.7)
Average score (range)	1.46 (1.0-3.5)	1.49 (1.0-3.5)	1.50 (1.0-2.8)	1.56 (1.0-2.8)	1.35 (1.0-1.9)	1.44 (1.0-3.1)
GDS-15 item						
Average score (range)	3.12 (0-14)	2.92 (0-14)	3.18 (0-13)	4.20 (0-13)	3.22 (0-10)	2.98 (0-11)
Total Score >4, N (%)	87 (24.2)	19 (21.8)	12 (19.7)	11 (37.9)	7 (25.9)	38 (24.4)

Abbreviations: ECog=Everyday Cognition; GDS=Geriatric Depression Scale