

Pilot Project #2: *“Multi-Morbidity, Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementias (ADRD) Types, and Mortality in South Carolina”*

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Abstract

Increasing numbers of older adults are living with and managing multi-morbidity. For older adults with Alzheimer’s disease and Related Dementias (ADRD), multi-morbidity is common and may pose complex challenges to care and management. The relationships and patterns of multi-morbidity and mortality in persons living with ADRD have not been well described due to limited racial/ethnic diversity of study samples and lack of consistency across studies in the operationalization of multi-morbidity, also very little research has examined the relationships by specific dementia types. The investigator will use a pilot study of older adults in the South Carolina Alzheimer’s Disease Registry (2014); additional data will be collected from the South Carolina Revenue and Fiscal Office. Baseline measurements include patient demographics, race/ethnicity, clusters of multi-morbidity, ADRD types, Medicaid claims, median survival times, and all-cause mortality risk. The study aims to (1) estimate the prevalence of clusters of multi-morbidity by ADRD type and compare differences by race, and (2) estimate the association between multi-morbidity and mortality focusing on median survival time and all-cause mortality risk (3- and 5-year follow-up periods). This study is important because demographic and epidemiological data gathered are valuable in the planning of public and community health programs and facilities.