Enhancing Diversity in Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Research Using National, Community-Engaged Recruitment

Olivia Dallas, Faith Stagge, & Alyssa M. Lanzi
University of Delaware, Delaware Center for Cognitive Aging Research

Delaware Center for Cognitive Aging Research

Background

- ❑ Racially and ethnically minoritized groups are **underrepresented** in aging and dementia research despite experiencing a disproportionate burden of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (ADRD) [1, 2].
- ❑ Underrepresentation in ADRD research limits generalizability, undermines scientific rigor, and perpetuates health inequities [3].
- ❑ **DementiaBank** is a shared online database that collects language and cognitive samples from older adults and aims to improve representation of racially and ethnically diverse participants in aging and dementia research [4, 5].
- ❑ Increasing representation in ADRD research requires **intentional recruitment approaches** that emphasize culturally responsive, community-engaged outreach.

Purpose

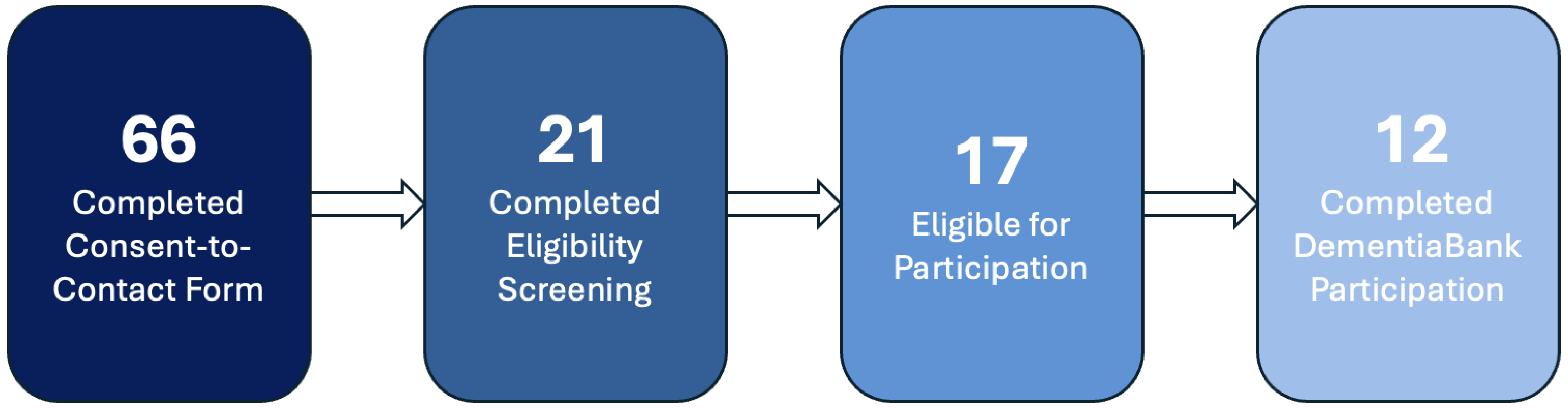
This project aims to evaluate national, community-engaged recruitment strategies to enroll racially and ethnically diverse older adults in DementiaBank.

Methods

- ❑ Recruitment procedures were informed by **national guidelines** for inclusive enrollment of minoritized and underserved populations in ADRD research [1, 5, 6].
- ❑ A national **Advisory Council** supported the development of culturally and linguistically responsive recruitment materials and assisted with identifying local research assistants (RAs).
- ❑ **National RAs** were employed remotely by the University of Delaware and recruited participants through community partnerships, outreach events, educational programming, and culturally responsive engagement strategies.
- ❑ Recruitment efforts included informational sessions, study education, participant support, and distribution of promotional materials.
- ❑ Recruitment metrics and demographic data were tracked across recruitment phases to evaluate diversity outcomes associated with national recruitment efforts.

Results

Figure 1. *DementiaBank Recruitment and Enrollment Progression*



66 Completed Consent-to-Contact Form → **21** Completed Eligibility Screening → **17** Eligible for Participation → **12** Completed DementiaBank Participation

Table 1. *Participant Demographics by Recruitment Stage*

Recruitment Stage	Total N	White n (%)	Black/African American n (%)	Asian n (%)	Race Not Reported n (%)	Hispanic/Latino n (%)	Non-Hispanic/Latino n (%)
Consent-to-Contact (CTC)	66	29 (43.9)	14 (21.2)	11 (16.7)	2 (3.0)	5 (7.6)	49 (74.2)
Completed Eligibility Screening	21	7 (33.3)	7 (33.3)	5 (23.8)	2 (9.5)	3 (14.3)	18 (85.7)
Eligible for Participation	17	7 (41.2)	6 (35.3)	4 (23.5)	—	2 (11.8)	15 (88.2)
Participated in DementiaBank	12	7 (58.3)	3 (25.0)	2 (16.7)	—	2 (16.7)	10 (83.3)

Figure 2 . *Key Facilitators to National Enrollment*

Trusted Referrals

Culturally Responsive Engagement

Telehealth Procedures

Conclusions

- ❑ **National, community-engaged recruitment strategies** that leverage remote research staff, telehealth-based procedures, and culturally responsive outreach are a feasible approach for enrolling racially and ethnically diverse participants in aging and dementia research.
- ❑ Representation of racially and ethnically diverse participants was maintained across recruitment stages, demonstrating sustained engagement throughout the recruitment process.
- ❑ **Increasing representation** in aging and dementia research is critical to improving the generalizability and clinical relevance of research findings across diverse populations.
- ❑ Future efforts will focus on continuing national, community-engaged recruitment strategies and expanding partnerships to further improve diversity and accessibility in aging and dementia research.

References & Acknowledgements

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NIH National Institute on Aging