

Comparing Hispanic and Non-Hispanic Adults with Subjective Cognitive Impairment across Demographic and Clinical Factors

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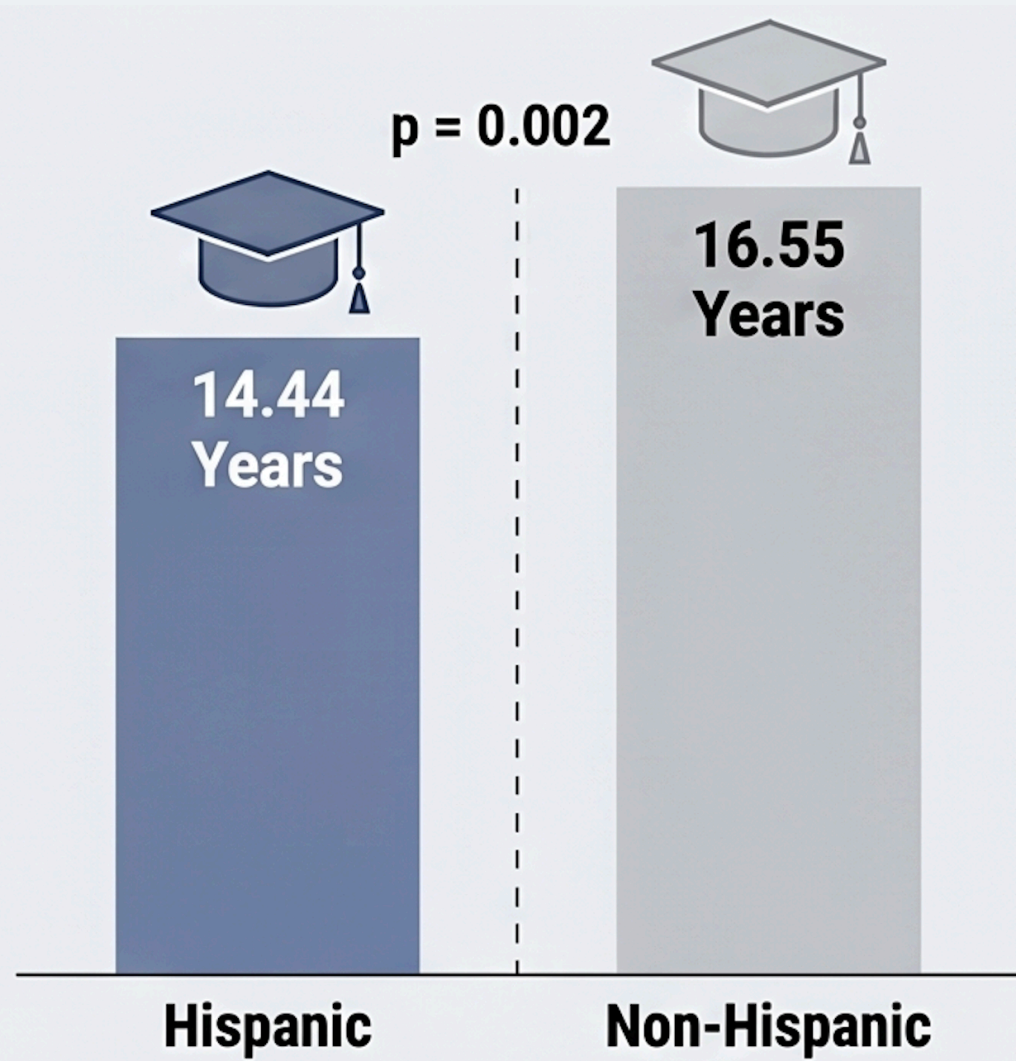
BACKGROUND

- Subjective cognitive impairment (SCI) refers to self-reported worsening in cognitive abilities despite normal performance on objective testing and may be a risk factor for future cognitive decline¹⁻².
- Population surveys report higher SCI prevalence among Hispanic adults compared to non-Hispanic White adults with sociocultural, medical, and psychological factors varying by ethnicity³⁻⁴.
- It remains unclear if these patterns persist in well-characterized research cohorts.
- AIM:** Examine differences between Hispanic and non-Hispanic adults with consensus-diagnosed SCI from the South Texas Alzheimer's Disease Research Center (STAC) across demographic, dementia risk, medical, and psychological factors.

METHODS

- 74 STAC participants diagnosed with SCI based on neuropsychological testing and consensus
 - Hispanic $n = 41$; 64.9% female
 - Age $M = 69.3$; Education $M = 15.4$ years
 - STAC Cohort SCI prevalence** = 8.4%
 - SCI frequency:** Hispanic = 7.7%, non-Hispanic = 9.4%
- Measures:** Plasma p-tau217 assays (positive >0.47 pg/mL based on NCRAD recommendation) and Uniform Data Set v3 questionnaires assessing demographics, medical history, depressive symptoms, and neuropsychiatric symptoms.
- Hispanic and non-Hispanic participants with SCI were compared using Wilcoxon rank-sum tests for continuous variables and Pearson's chi-square tests for categorical variables.

RESULTS



Hispanic participants with SCI had **fewer years of education** compared to non-Hispanic participants with SCI.

Groups **did not differ** in age, sex, marital status, living situation, or family history of dementia.



There were **no group differences** in p-tau217 positivity or APOE ε4 status.



Groups showed **comparable rates** of hypertension, hypercholesterolemia, and diabetes.



No significant differences were found in depressive or neuropsychiatric symptoms.

TABLE 1. GROUP COMPARISONS

Characteristic	Non-Hispanic N = 33 ¹	Hispanic N = 41 ¹	p ²
Age	70 (11)	69 (8)	0.2
Sex			0.10
Female	18 (55%)	30 (73%)	
Male	15 (45%)	11 (27%)	
Years of Education	16.55 (2.49)	14.44 (2.92)	0.002
Marital Status – Married	24 (73%)	25 (61%)	0.3
Living Situation – Lives with Others	26 (79%)	29 (71%)	0.4
Family History of Dementia	24 (80%)	25 (63%)	0.11
p-tau217 Positive (>0.47 pg/mL)	10 (34%)	6 (19%)	0.2
APOE ε4 Carrier	9 (30%)	10 (32%)	0.8
Hypertension	21 (64%)	24 (59%)	0.7
Hypercholesterolemia	23 (70%)	23 (59%)	0.3
Diabetes	4 (13%)	8 (20%)	0.4
Geriatric Depression Scale (GDS) Total	1.78 (1.95)	2.23 (3.17)	>0.9
Neuropsychiatric Inventory (NPI) Total	1.27 (1.32)	0.82 (1.39)	0.12

¹Mean (SD); n (%) ²Wilcoxon rank-sum test; Pearson's chi-square test

CONCLUSIONS

- Within STAC, Hispanic and non-Hispanic participants with SCI showed comparable clinical profiles.
- Educational differences are likely shaped by recruitment source, education access, and schooling context within South Texas rather than clinical presentation.**
- Similarities may reflect standardized evaluation and diagnostic procedures across clinic- and community-recruited participants.
- Longitudinal follow-up will determine whether group differences emerge and influence progression to cognitive impairment.
- Limitations include small sample size and use of years of education, which does not capture quality or differences in schooling systems.

¹Munro CE, et al. Recent contributions to the field of subjective cognitive decline in aging: A literature review. *Alzheimer's Dement* 2023;15:e12475.
²Parfenov VA, et al. Subjective cognitive decline as a predictor of future cognitive decline: a systematic review. *Dement Neuropsychol* 2020;14:248.
³Wooten KG, et al. Racial and Ethnic Differences in Subjective Cognitive Decline — United States, 2015–2020. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep* 2025;72:249–55.
⁴Gupta S. Racial and ethnic disparities in subjective cognitive decline: a closer look, United States, 2015–2018. *BMC Public Health* 2021;21:1173.