

Decentralized outreach model for Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementia research and community engagement in Peru

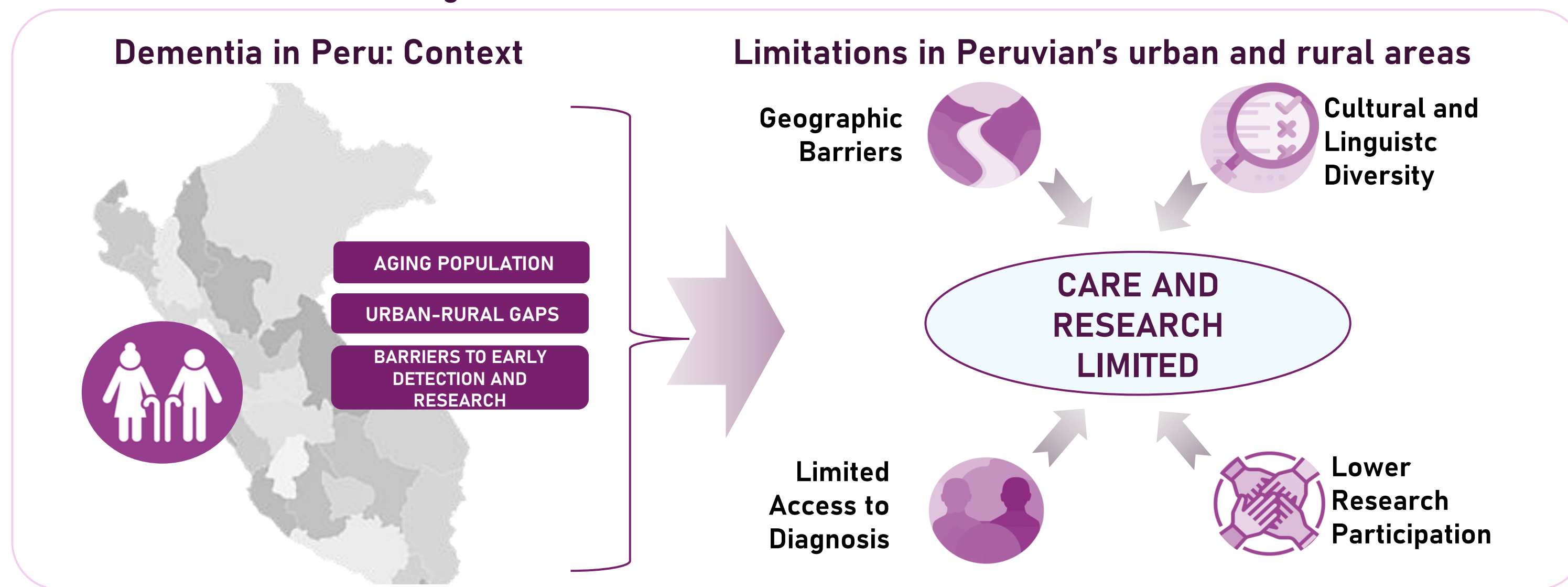
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BACKGROUND

- Access to specialized clinical care, diagnostic services, and research opportunities for neurodegenerative disorders, including dementia, remains limited in Peru, particularly outside the capital city of Lima. (Figure 1)
- The Peruvian Alzheimer's Disease Initiative (PeADI) and the Global Latino Alzheimer's Disease Study (GLASS) aim to advance the genetic understanding of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (ADRD) in Hispanic/Latino populations, which remain markedly underrepresented in dementia research despite experiencing a disproportionately high disease burden.
- To expand equitable access to specialized dementia care and facilitate nationwide recruitment into genetic research studies, we established a decentralized outreach model integrating eight regional sites across Peru.
- Aim:** To describe the implementation and early outcomes of a nationwide decentralized network for dementia care and genetic research recruitment in Peru.

Figure 1. Contextual Barriers to Dementia Care in Peru



METHOD

- A comprehensive model was implemented to strengthen dementia detection, care, and research across diverse regions of Peru, reducing access barriers through three complementary strategies.



STRATEGY 1 : CAPACITY BUILDING AND TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION

Enhanced regional research and clinical capacity through training, teleconsultations, remote assessments, and centralized data systems.



STRATEGY 2 : COMMUNITY-BASED MULTIDISCIPLINARY OUTREACH

Conducted community health campaigns providing cognitive screening, clinical assessments, and specialized care in underserved populations.



STRATEGY 3 : CARE LINKAGE AND RESEARCH ENGAGEMENT

Facilitated referrals to healthcare services and promoted participation in observational and genetic research studies.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



RESULTS

- Since 2019, eight regional research teams have been established across Peru, creating a nationwide network for community engagement and dementia research (Figure 2 and 3)
- Community outreach activities identified individuals at risk for dementia, promoted awareness of cognitive health and healthy aging, and facilitated referrals for clinical evaluation and long-term follow-up
- As a result, **the network successfully recruited 416 individuals with ADRD and 503 cognitively unimpaired controls**, providing a valuable resource for genetic and epidemiological research in diverse Peruvian populations (Figure 4).

Figure 2. Regional Research Teams



Figure 3. Timeline of regional research teams expansion

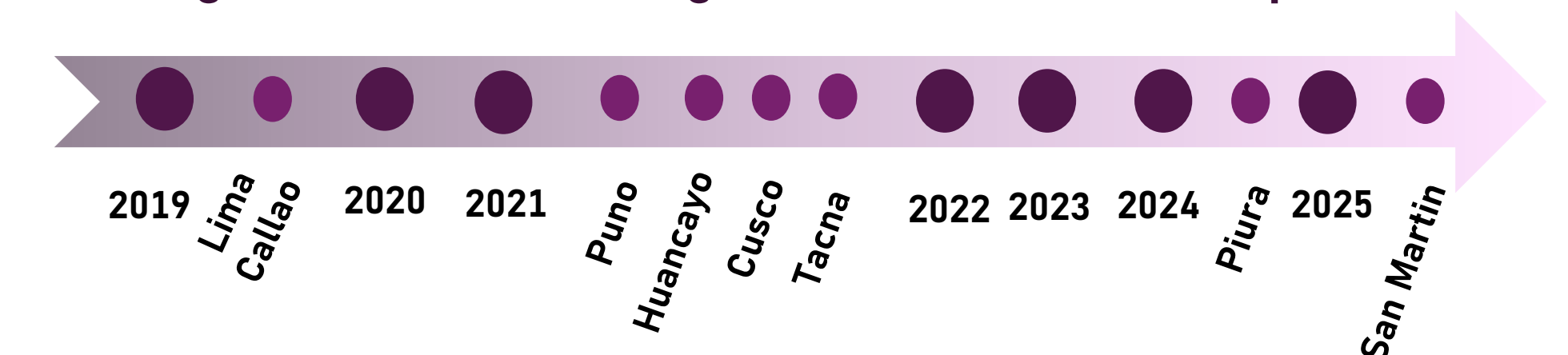
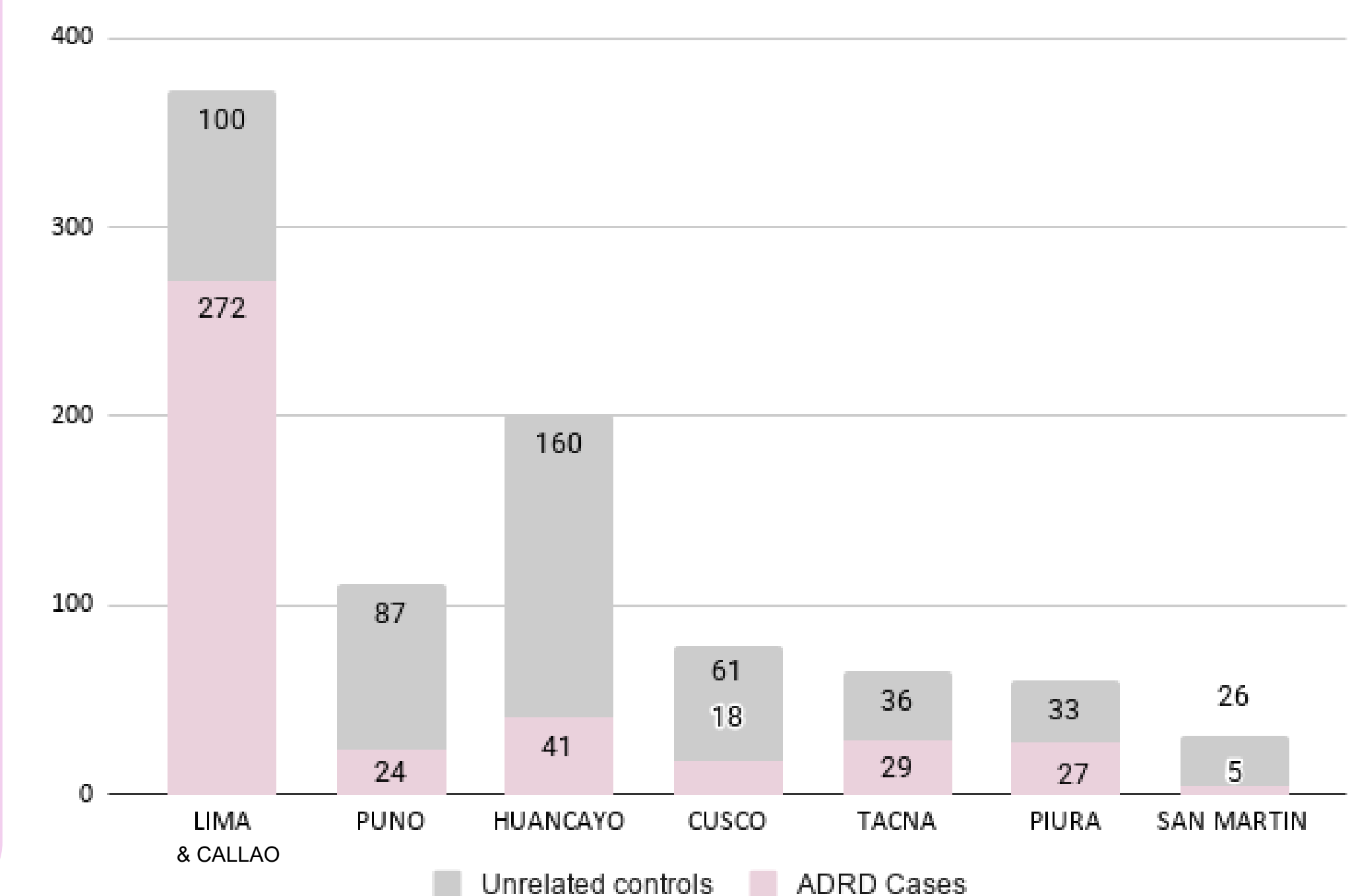


Figure 4. Recruitment ADRD and unrelated controls



CONCLUSION



- A community-engaged, decentralized research **network can effectively expand access to specialized dementia care while increasing the inclusion of historically underrepresented populations in ADRD research.**



- Beyond participant recruitment, this model **strengthens local clinical and research capacity, fosters regional collaboration** and has demonstrated **scalability to other neurodegenerative and rare neurological disorders** across Peru.



- Decentralized research networks represent a **sustainable and equitable framework for advancing neurodegenerative disease research and improving access to specialized care in resource-limited settings.**

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