

Introduction

- Older adults living alone with dementia represent a growing segment of the dementia population globally.
- Little is known about life course pathways of older adults who live alone with dementia.
- Older adults living alone with dementia may be due to changes in cognitive status, changes in living arrangement, or a combination of these factors.

Objective

Describe the pathways to living alone with dementia in the U.S. population and risk different risk profiles of older adults from different pathways.

Methods

Data Source

- Health and Retirement Study – Nationally representative dataset of older adults in the United States
- Sample – Older adults over age 55 from 2002-2018, respondents can appear multiple times, weighted, n=163,744 person waves, 32,088 unique respondents

Main Outcome: Living Alone with Dementia

- Dementia/Cognitive impairment- Based on the Langa Wier algorithm, cognitive impairment and dementia combined compared to no cognitive impairment

- Living alone based on reported household size

Statistical Analysis

- Multivariate logistic regression to first episode of living alone with dementia.

Results

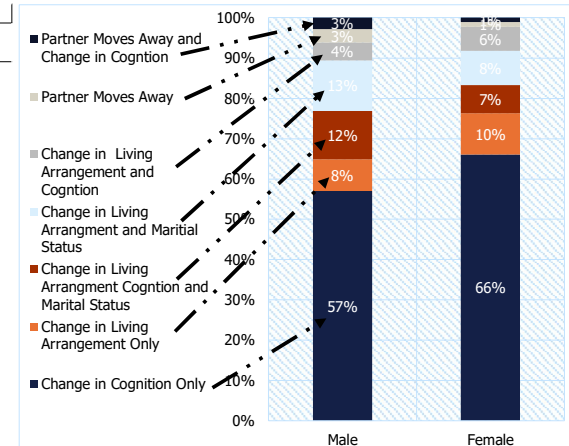
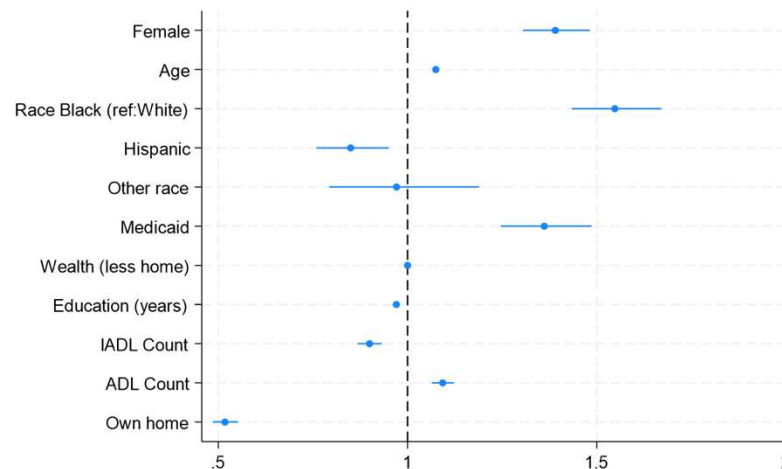
Table 1: Transitions in Living arrangements (n=131,656)

Origin	Destination Married Only	Married with Others	Single with Others	Alone no CI	Alone CI/Dementia
Married Only	54,598(41.47%)	3,658(2.78%)	548(0.42%)	2,405(1.83%)	883(0.67%)
Married with Others	5,024(3.82%)	16,430(12.48%)	935(0.71%)	253(0.19%)	135(0.10%)
Single with Others	168(0.13%)	254(0.19%)	13,259(10.07%)	1,868(1.42%)	733(0.56%)
Alone no CI	660(0.50%)	109(0.08%)	1,905(1.45%)	16,954(12.88%)	3,164(2.40%)
Alone CI/Dementia	151(0.11%)	31(0.02%)	912(0.69%)	2,043(1.55%)	4,576(3.48%)

Figure 1: Relative Proportion of Transitions to Living Alone with Dementia



Figure 2: Odds Ratio for transition into living alone



Conclusions

- The most common transition in living arrangements between waves is stability.
- 60% of transitions to living alone with dementia are as result of changes in cognitive status.
- People on Medicaid, older adults who have few financial resources, were overrepresented in transitions due to changes in household composition.

Acknowledgements

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