



# False Narratives and Missed Opportunities: Black American Adult Attitudes Towards Biomarkers Testing



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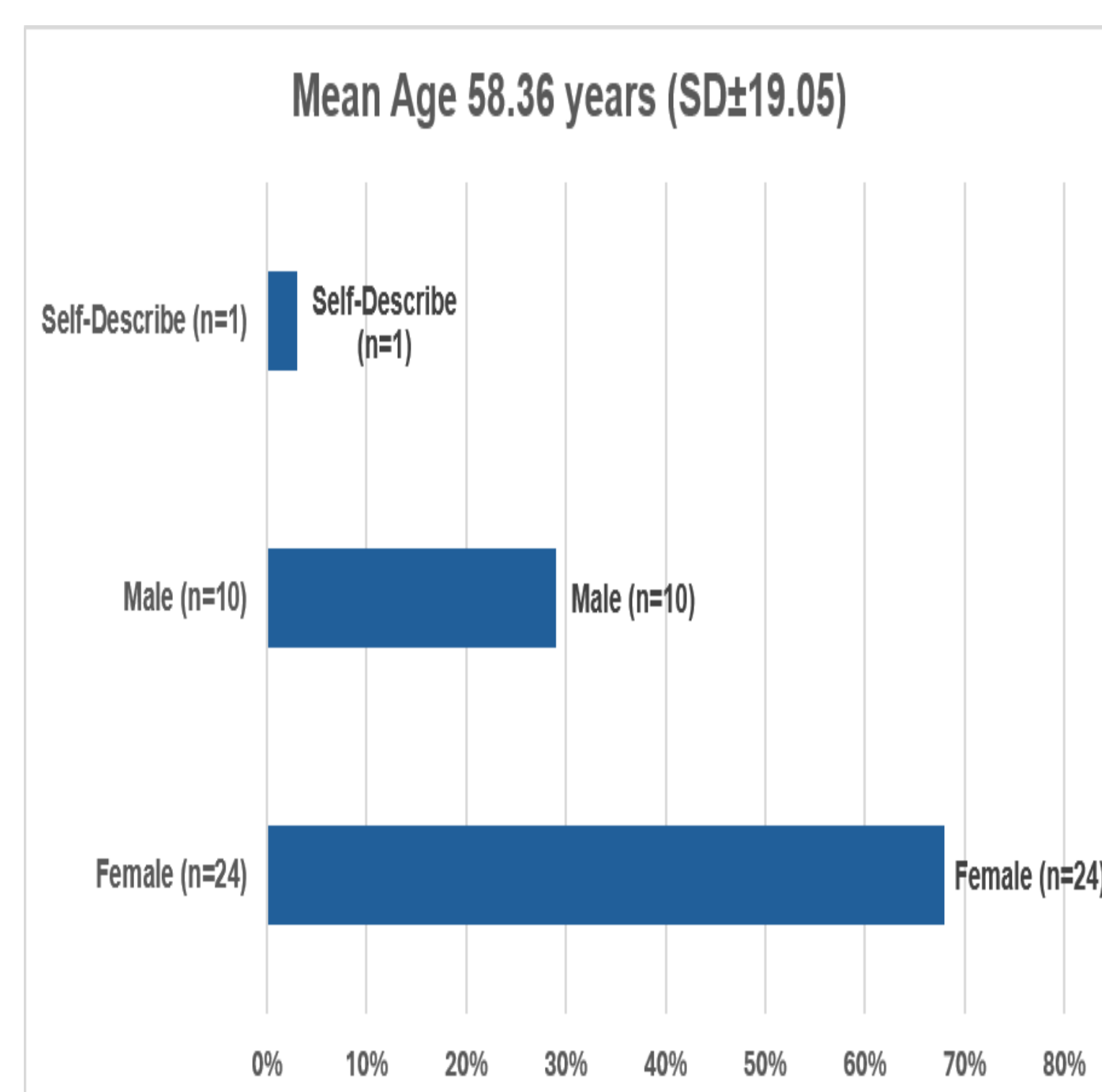
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## Background

- The burden of Alzheimer's Disease (AD) is disproportionately experienced by Black American adults (BAA)
- BAA are diagnosed later with advanced disease and greater symptom severity
- Use of new disease modifying therapies (e.g., lecanemab) has been proven to be effective when used in patients who are amyloid positive and early in the disease process
- Delay in detection and diagnosis could lead to missed therapeutic opportunities
- Early detection is critical in the fight against AD
- Although new therapies are available, research illustrates the disparity in early detection among BAAs widening
- There is negligible representation of racial and ethnic minorities in disease modifying therapies clinical trials
- Little is known about the preferences of BAAs as it relates to participating in biomarker testing

## Participant Demographics

Interviewed Study BAA participants (n=25)



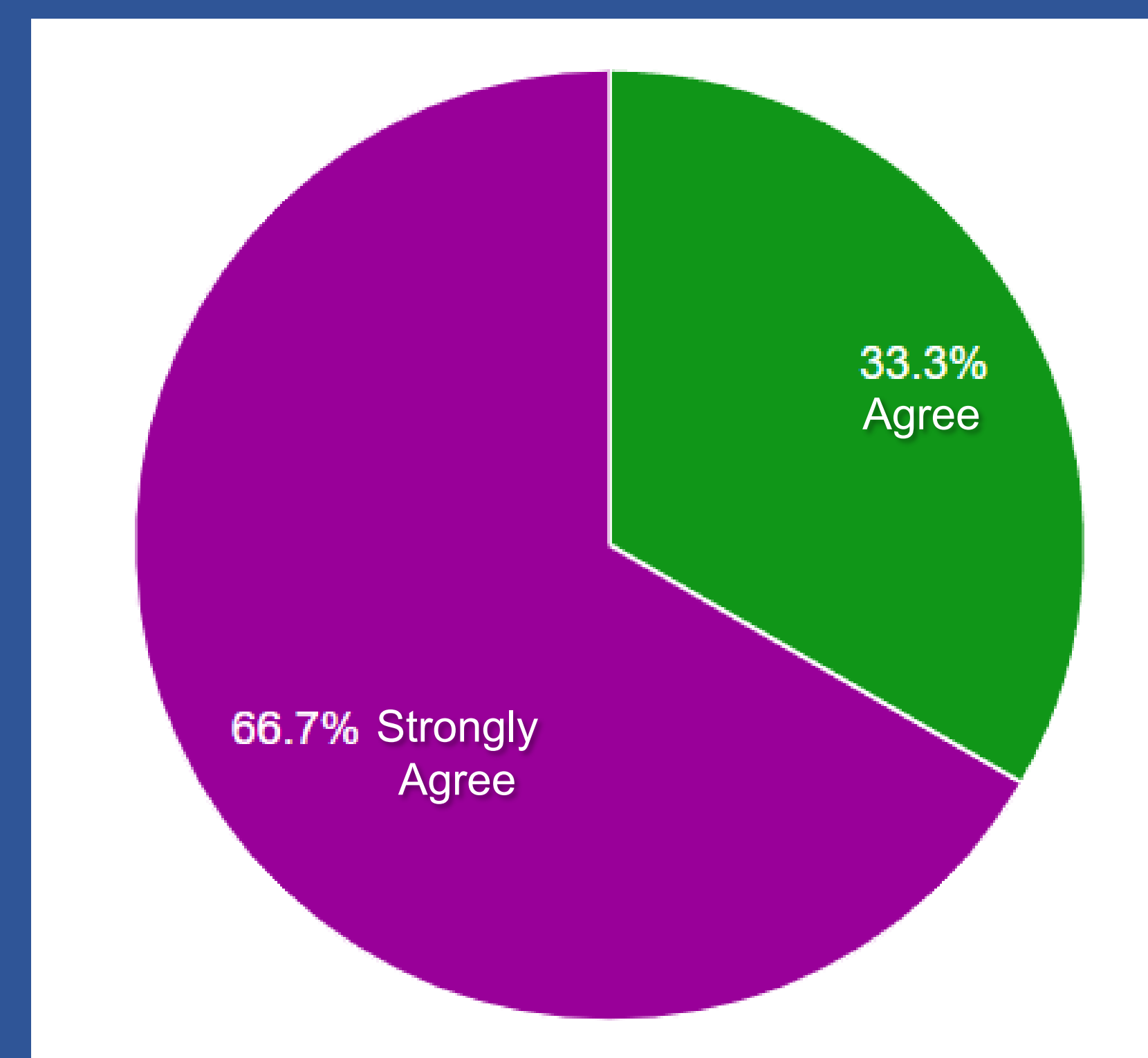
## Parent Study Objectives

1. To develop and disseminate a community-focused narrative campaign that combats stigma around brain health disorders and aging within communities of color in Allegheny County, PA.
2. To lay the groundwork for radically disrupting the mainstream route to early Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (ADRD) detection and to do so at a time, and in a manner, that will position those who have historically been last to access advances in ADRD care to be among the first to benefit from the field's most recent therapeutic breakthroughs.

## Current Analysis Objective

To solicit and highlight the preferences of community-dwelling adults in the Black American community as it relates to biomarker knowledge and agreeability to participating in biomarker testing opportunities.

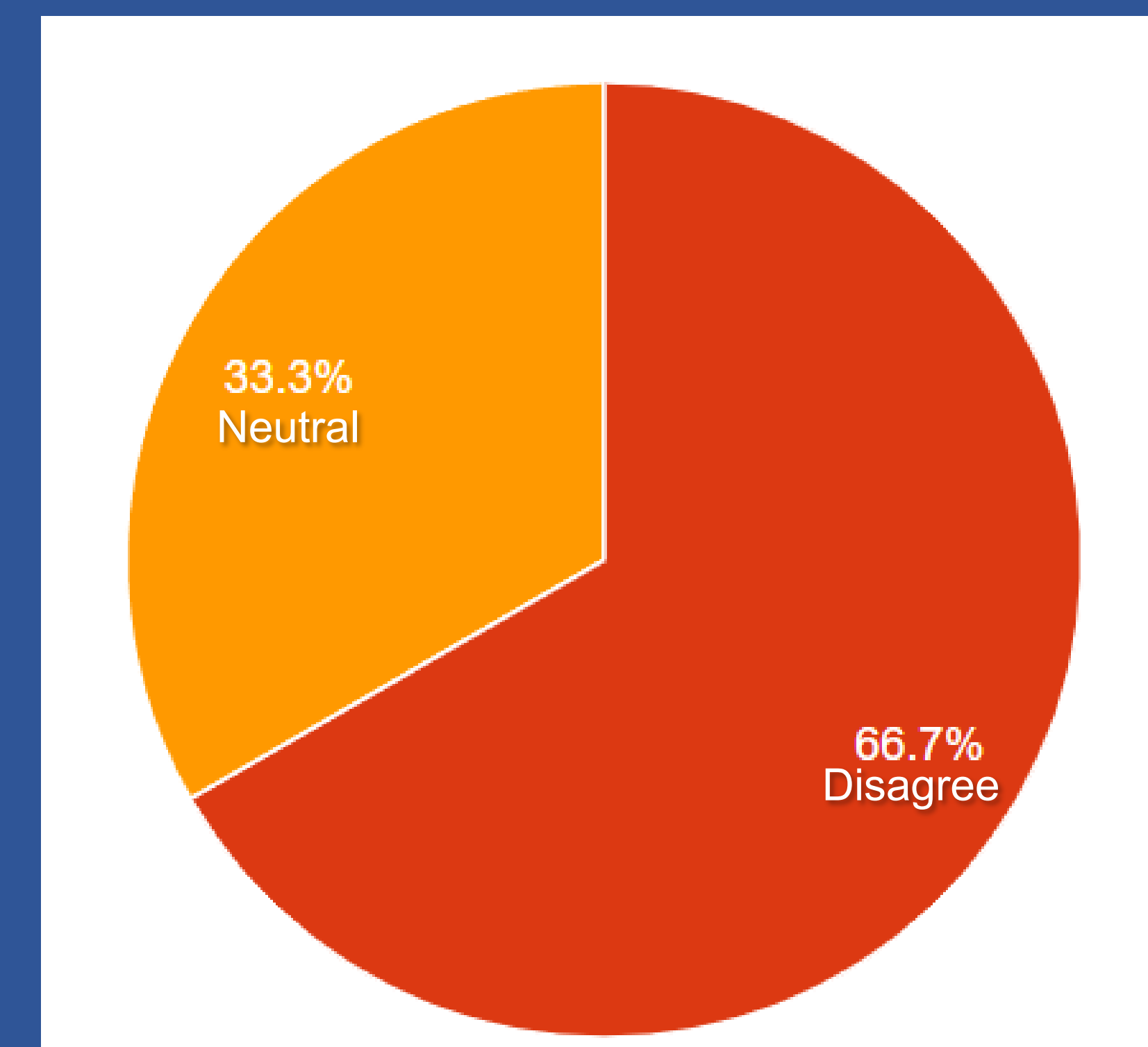
## Findings



SQ28\*. I am willing to participate in dementia related biomarker testing.

SQ29\*. I believe having my biomarker results will help me better understand my health and potential health risks.

SQ = Survey Question: Findings were the same for SQ28-29 (66.7% & 33.3%) and SQ30-31 (33.3% & 66.7%) respectively.  
\*Additional questions added to the end of the health beliefs survey to capture biomarker agreeability data



SQ30\*. I am concerned about how the results of my biomarker test results will impact my health behaviors.

SQ31\*. I am concerned about how I will use the results of my biomarker test.

## Key Take-Away Messages

- Participants expressed a strong desire to learn more about biomarker testing, methods of testing, as well as an openness to participating in biomarker testing.
- Participants also expressed a strong desire to receive individual results of biomarker tests.
- Blood based biomarker testing procedures were preferred by participants compared to other testing procedure options (e.g., lumbar puncture).
- Participants noted concerns related to pain with related lumbar puncture biomarker testing procedures.
- Participants also expressed concern about how clinicians and/or researchers would use biomarker test results.

## Methods

- In addition to collection of ethnographic data from more than 140 BAAs in the Southeast region of Pennsylvania during group discussions (n=14) and individual in-depth semi-structured interviews (n=25), participants were asked to complete an electronic self-administered modified version of the health beliefs survey<sup>1</sup> including customized questions about biomarker
- Purposive sampling was used to ensure that a range of perspectives were represented in the study

## Conclusion

Black American adults that participated in our study (**Brain** and **Cognitive HEalth** Campaign for **Allegheny County** (Brain CHEC-AC) demonstrated a strong appetite to learn more about the uses and benefits of biomarker tests. Our results suggest BAA would like access to biomarker testing opportunities that are culturally inclusive and responsive and support the need for additional research to examine the lived experiences and perceptions of Black American adults as it relates to biomarker testing knowledge and opportunities for participation.

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## Reference

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