

Global Mapping of the Characteristics and Outcomes of Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementia (ADRD) Clinical Trials

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Only 11.6% of ADRD disease-modifying clinical trials have been conducted in low- and middle-income countries, yet these regions already carry 60% of the world's dementia burden today, rising to a projected 71% by 2050.

INTRODUCTION	METHODS	RESULTS	CONCLUSIONS	REFERENCES
Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (ADRD) affect an estimated 55–57 million people worldwide, a burden projected to nearly triple by 2050. Growth is fastest in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), where 60% of people with dementia already live, rising to 71% by 2050. This review synthesizes 2020–2026 literature on ADRD trial characteristics, geography, participant diversity, and outcomes, mapping disparities across continents and income strata.	We synthesized registry-based landscape analyses (ClinicalTrials.gov, WHO ICTRP), annual drug-development pipeline reports, bibliometric analyses, and systematic/scoping reviews addressing ADRD trial geography, diversity, and outcomes, identified via structured searches of publicly indexed literature (2020–2026). Findings were synthesized narratively across six themes: trial volume, phase/design, therapeutic targets, geographic distribution, participant diversity, and clinical outcomes.	Only 11.6% of 1,237 disease-modifying therapy trials were conducted in emerging economies. Pooled analysis of 12 pivotal anti-amyloid trials (16,055 participants) found enrollment 85.1% White, 7.8% Asian, 1.2% Black, spanning 164 countries of which only 15.2% were LMICs. Among 88 US Phase III trials (1997–2023), two decades of compound failures (2004–2021) show 51% failing in Phase III and 49% in Phase II, while lecanemab and donanemab mark the first disease-modifying approvals in nearly 20 years.	ADRD trials remain concentrated in North America, Western Europe, and high-income Asia-Pacific settings, with systematic under-representation of Africa, Latin America, South Asia, and the Middle East. Even in high-volume settings, racial and ethnic minorities remain under-represented and inconsistently reported.	1. Llibre-Guerra JJ, et al. <i>Alzheimers Dement</i>. 2023;19(7):3210-3221. 2. Cummings J, et al. <i>Alzheimers Dement</i> (N Y). 2024;10:e12465. 3. Ross JS, et al. <i>medRxiv</i>. 2025. doi:10.1101/2025.05.03.25326933. 4. Kim CK, et al. <i>J Alzheimers Dis</i>. 2022;87(1):83-100. 5. Sims JR, et al. <i>JAMA</i>. 2023;330(6):512-527. 6. Kivipelto M, et al. <i>Alzheimers Dement</i>. 2020. PMID 32627328. CONTACT Obiora C. Okoye, MD, MPH, MS Obiora.Okoye@ssabhi.org   