

Detecting Alzheimer’s Disease: Older Adults’ Experiences with Cognitive Screening and Blood Biomarker Testing



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www.healthyagingpoll.org



Q1. How would you rate your memory overall?

- 1. Excellent
- 2. Good
- 3. Fair
- 4. Poor

Q2. How many of your close blood relatives (i.e., parents, siblings, grandparents, aunts/uncles) have been diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease or another type of dementia?

- 1. 0
- 2. 1
- 3. 2 or more
- 4. Not sure

Q3. Please indicate the extent to which you agree/disagree with the following...

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
a. I am concerned that someday I will develop Alzheimer’s disease or a related dementia.					
b. Alzheimer’s disease will one day become a manageable chronic condition like diabetes or heart disease.					



Q4. During cognitive screening (e.g., memory testing), a person is given a brief set of tasks to test their memory and thinking skills, such as remembering a short list of common words or drawing a complex figure.

How familiar are you with cognitive screening (e.g., memory testing)?

1. Very familiar
2. Somewhat familiar
3. Not at all familiar

Q5. Have you ever had cognitive screening?

1. Yes, within the past year
2. Yes, more than a year ago
3. No

If Q5 = 1

Q6. Where was your most recent cognitive screening done?

1. At a visit with a health care provider
2. At a research study visit
3. At a community health fair or other event
4. Through an online/computer test that I took myself
5. Other place

Q7. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements about cognitive screening.

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
a. If my health care provider thought I needed it, they would recommend it for me.					
b. It is not reliable or may give inaccurate results.					
c. Health care providers should offer it annually for all adults age 65 and above.					
d. It is not worth doing until there are better treatment and prevention options for Alzheimer's disease and other dementias.					
e. It can be useful to inform the medical care and advance care planning of older adults.					
f. I would be concerned about the privacy of my test results.					



Q8. If the results of a cognitive screening test suggested concerns about your memory and thinking skills, how likely is it that you would...

	Very likely	Somewhat likely	Not likely
a. Consider changes to your financial or advance care planning (e.g., life or long-term care insurance, or will/trust)			
b. Take steps to improve your "brain health" (e.g., get more exercise, stay mentally and socially engaged)			
c. Believe that you were probably going to develop Alzheimer's disease or another serious brain disorder			
d. Have significant distress			
e. Be concerned that others would view you differently if they found out			

Q9. Biomarker testing is a new way to tell if someone is at risk for memory and thinking problems. Biomarkers for Alzheimer's disease can be detected with a simple blood test that looks for the build-up of abnormal proteins in the brain (e.g., amyloid plaques, tau tangles) that might be an early sign of the disease.

How familiar are you with blood biomarkers for Alzheimer's disease?

1. Very familiar
2. Somewhat familiar
3. Not at all familiar

Q10. Have you ever had a blood biomarker test for Alzheimer's disease?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Not sure

Q11. A blood biomarker test can tell people if they are at higher risk for developing Alzheimer's disease, but it would not give a definite "yes/no" answer.

Would you ever be interested in having a blood biomarker test for Alzheimer's disease?

Select all that apply.

1. Yes, as soon as possible
2. Yes, at some point in the future
3. Yes, if a health care provider recommended it
4. Yes, if I started to develop memory or thinking problems
5. No



Q12. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements about blood biomarker testing for Alzheimer’s disease.

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
a. If my health care provider thought I needed it, they would recommend it for me.					
b. It is not reliable or may give inaccurate results.					
c. Health care providers should offer it annually for all adults age 65 and above.					
d. It is not worth doing until there are better treatment and prevention options for Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias.					
e. It can be useful to inform the medical care and advance care planning of older adults.					
f. I would be concerned about the privacy of my test results.					



Q13. If a blood test found Alzheimer’s disease biomarkers to be present in your brain, how likely is it that you would...

	Very likely	Somewhat likely	Not likely
a. Consider changes to your financial or advance care planning (e.g., life or long-term care insurance, or will/trust)			
b. Take steps to improve your “brain health” (e.g., get more exercise, stay mentally and socially engaged)			
c. Believe that you were probably going to develop Alzheimer’s disease			
d. Have significant distress			
e. Be concerned that others would view you differently if they found out			

Data Source and Methods

This National Poll on Healthy Aging report presents findings from a nationally representative household survey conducted exclusively by NORC at the University of Chicago for the University of Michigan’s Institute for Healthcare Policy and Innovation. National Poll on Healthy Aging surveys are conducted using NORC’s AmeriSpeak probability-based panel. This survey module was administered online and via phone in January 2023 to a randomly selected, stratified group of U.S. adults age 50–80 (n=2,563). The sample was subsequently weighted to reflect population figures from the U.S. Census Bureau. The completion rate was 61% among panel members contacted to participate. The margin of error is ±1 to 3 percentage points for questions asked of the full sample and higher among subgroups.

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