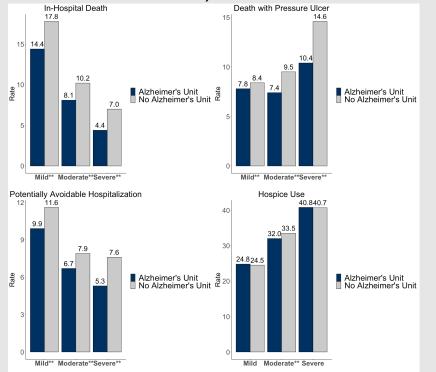
Promoting the "Good Life" among Nursing Home Residents with Dementia through **Special Care Units: A Journey Toward Research Independence**

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This poster describes the lead author's career trajectory and cites results from studies stemming from dissertation and postdoctoral trainings leading to a 5-year K99 grant proposal (in progress) to develop a Pathway to Independence.

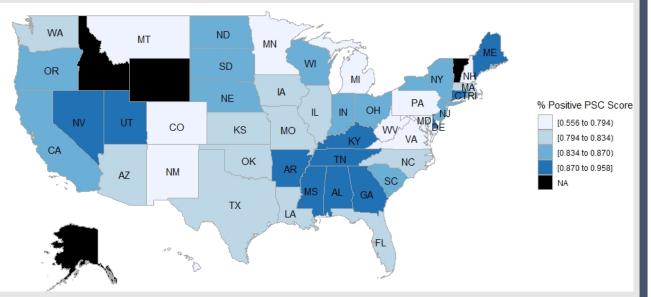
1. Key Dissertation Findings

Figure 1: Predicted rates of dependent measures. Nursing home decedents with mild, moderate, and severe dementia in nursing homes with and without Alzheimer's units (N=191,435 decedents).



Nursing home decedents with dementia residing in nursing homes with Alzheimer's units were consistently more likely to die in nursing homes rather than inhospital, and had fewer pressure ulcers and potentially avoidable hospitalizations at the end-of-life (Figure 1).

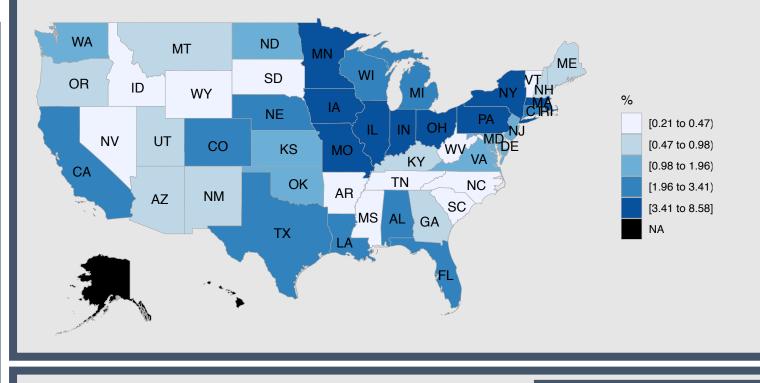
Figure 2: Overall percent positive patient safety culture score (PSC) by state (N=800 nursing homes).



- Nursing home PSC scores were highest in nursing homes located southeastern states (Figure 2).
- Residents with dementia in nursing homes with higher PSC scores for the domain of communication openness had lower odds of in-hospital death; this effect was stronger in nursing homes located in states with higher minimum nursing home nurse staffing requirements.

Dissertation Committee: Helena Temkin-Greener, PhD, Yue Li, PhD, Adam Simning, MD, PhD, Sheryl Zimmerman, PhD

Figure 3: % nursing home Alzheimer's units across the U.S. (N=1,934 nursing homes).



Building off of dissertation and postdoctoral findings, a 5-year K99 Pathway to Independence proposal is being developed with the following Aims:

Aim 1: Characterize perceptions of the "Good Life" among nursing home residents with dementia, families, and staff using mixedmethod interviews, comparing nursing homes with and without Alzheimer's special care units from sample (N=162 national participants).

Aim 2: Guided by an advisory board of stakeholders and experts and informed by Aim 1, develop an evidence-informed "Good Life" model of nursing home care among residents with dementia.

Aim 3: Informed by Aims 1 and 2, implement the evidence-informed "Good Life" model of nursing home residents among with care dementia and evaluate its implementation using the RE-AIM (Reach, Effectiveness, Adoption, Implementation, and Maintenance) framework in a randomized controlled clinical trial with 6 nursing homes.

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2. Postdoctoral Findings

- Nursing homes with Alzheimer's units are more prevalent in the east north central regions of the U.S. (Figure 3).
- Using a robust sample, region, rurality, ownership, and nursing hours significantly predicted nursing home Alzheimer's special care units while the Area Deprivation Index did not. These findings question whether persons with dementia have equitable access to this care setting. Policies and interventions to increase access to specialized nursing home care for persons with dementia should be tailored geographically (Under review).
- Planning stages of conducting a systematic review of special care units in long-term care settings for residents with dementia.

3. Pathway to Independence

