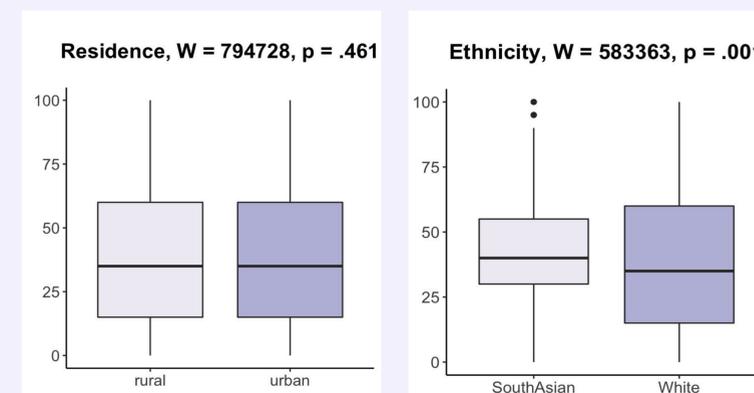
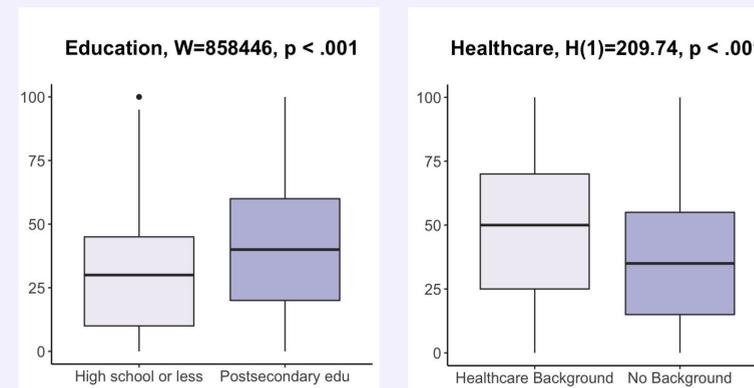
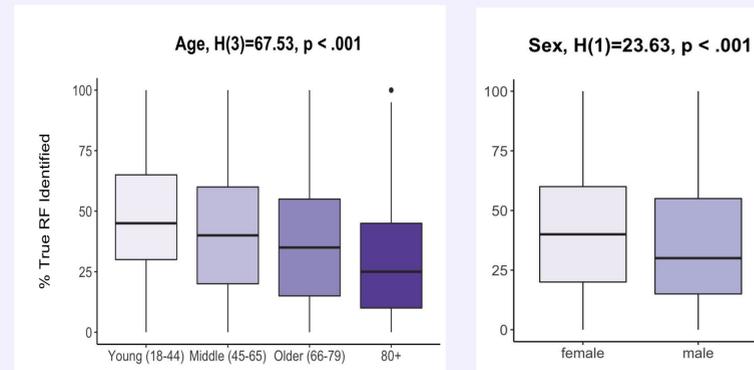
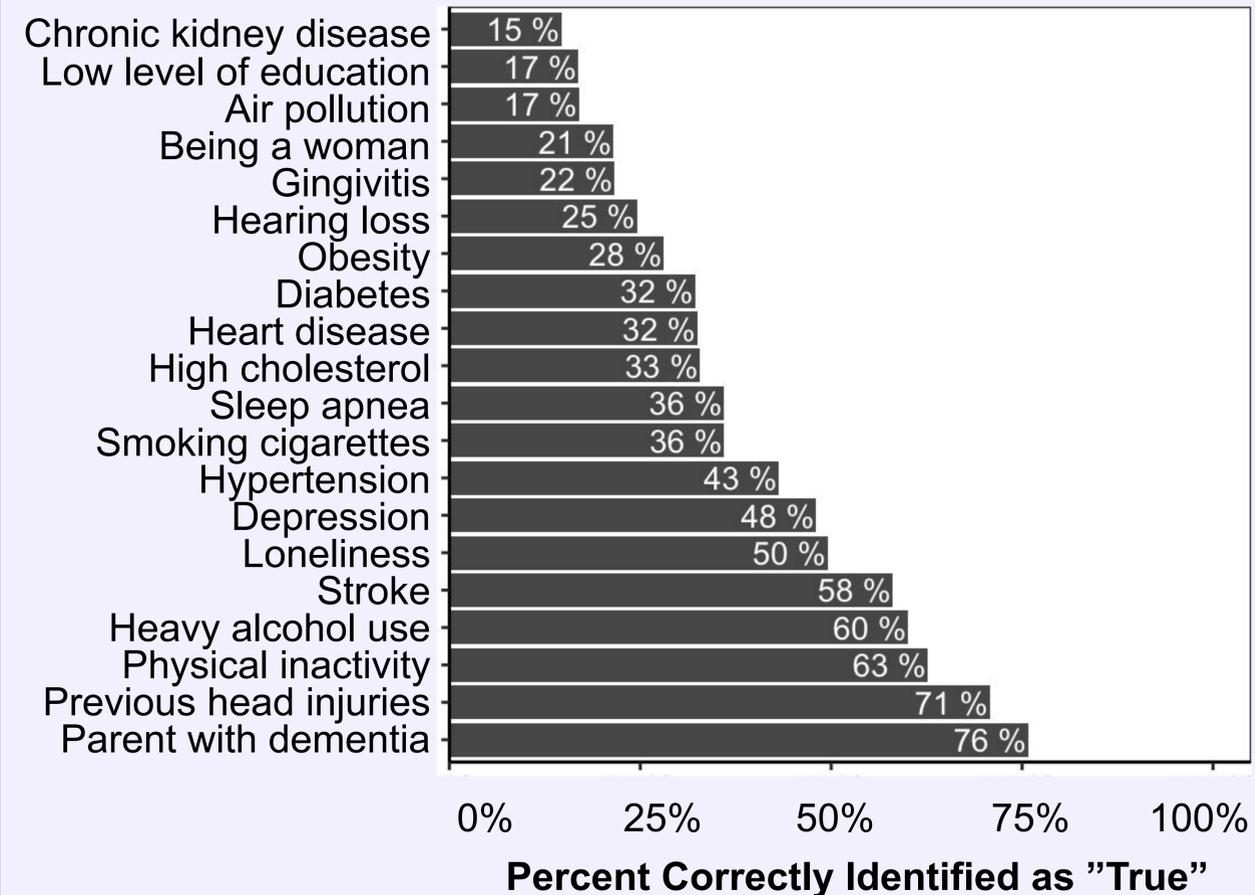


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Despite high education levels and healthcare backgrounds among participants, there is a notable lack of awareness of true dementia risk factors.



Background

- Up to 40% of dementia cases may be attributed to modifiable dementia risk factors, such as high blood pressure, obesity, physical inactivity, and hearing loss.¹
- This suggests prevention and intervention strategies could significantly reduce the overall burden of dementia.
- To effectively implement these actions, the public must be aware of the conditions that can increase dementia risk.
- Data from other countries suggest that the general population has limited knowledge about dementia risk factors.²

Objective

- To examine knowledge of true and false dementia risk factors in Canadians**
- By characterizing the knowledge gaps and misconceptions surrounding dementia risk factors in Canada, this research aims to lay the groundwork for targeted educational campaigns and public health initiatives.

Methods

Procedure: Participants completed an online survey assessing knowledge of dementia risk factors.

Knowledge of dementia risk factors: Participants indicated whether 33 conditions were associated with an increased risk of developing dementia. Response options included: "True", "False" or "Don't Know".

- 20 were true risk factors (e.g., hypertension, smoking, physical inactivity, depression, diabetes)
- 13 were false risk factors, known to not be associated with dementia (e.g., use of painkillers, arthritis, chickenpox).

Analyses: Descriptive statistics were used to summarize performance. Mann-Whitney U-test, and Kruskal-Wallis H-tests were used to assess demographic group differences. To calculate percent correct, "Don't Know" responses were considered incorrect.

Participant characteristics (N=4411)

Age, mean ± SD, range	62.10 ± 15.41, 18-102
Sex, N (%)	Female: 3107 (70.4%). Male: 1292 (29.3%). Other: 12 (0.3%).
Ethnicity, N (%)	White: 3510 (79.6%). South Asian: 299 (6.8%). Other: 602 (13.6%).
Highest level of education, N (%)	Post-Secondary: 3826 (86.7%). High School or less: 576 (13.1%). Unknown: 9 (0.2%).
Province, N (%)	Ontario: 4090 (94.2%). B.C.: 75 (1.7%). Alberta: 51 (1.2%). Other: 128 (2.9%).
Background in healthcare, N (%)	1101 (25.0%)
Residence, N (%)	Urban: 3974 (90.7%). Rural: 409 (9.3%).
Percent correct identification of risk factors, mean ± SD, range	True risk factors: 39.08 ± 25.78, 0-100. Sham risk factors: 61.40 ± 28.17, 0-100