ACCESS: Aging Concerns, Challenges, and Everyday Solution Strategies

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Overview

ACCESS is a large-scale, mixed-method study that will yield a taxonomy of **everyday support needs** for individuals **aging with long-term disabilities**.

Research Questions:
- What is the frequency, nature, and distribution of problems in everyday activities?
- What are the response strategies for these challenges (e.g., technologies, tools, assistance from others, own methods)?
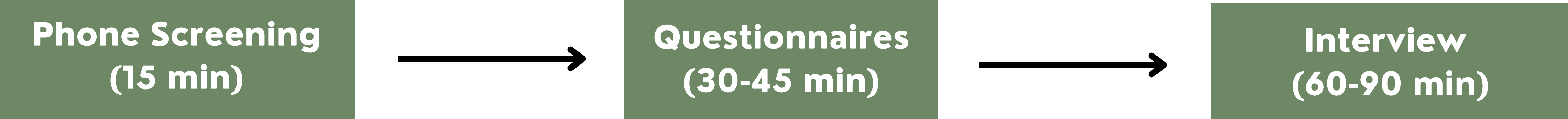
Target Population

Targeting 60 individuals per group who are:
- Aged 60-80
- Fluent in English
- Live in the United States
- Have had condition or impairment for at least 10 years

Phase 1 (N=180)
Low vision/blind
Mobility
Deaf/hard of hearing
[Complete]

Phase 2 (N=180)
Macular degeneration and glaucoma
Multiple sclerosis
Late-deafened
[In progress]

Study Design

Study Components

Phone Screening (15 min) → Questionnaires (30-45 min) → Interview (60-90 min)

Questionnaires
- TechSAge Minimum Battery
- Group Questionnaire (Vision, MS, Late-Deafened)

Interview (via Zoom or phone)
- Rating Activity: Participants rate how difficult it is for them to various activities across 6 broad categories
- In-Depth Questions: Follow-up questions about the activity identified as "most difficult" in each category to assess challenges and response strategies
- Wrap-Up Questions: Assess additional challenges (e.g., self-advocacy; safety & transportation); their most difficulty activity overall; an activity they feel they have dealt with successfully; and advice for others aging with disability

Activities Covered

Healthcare	Social and Interpersonal	Basic Daily Living	Household Management	Work Service & Learning	Leisure & Recreation
Participating in healthcare appointments	Socializing in-person	Bathing, showering, or grooming	Housekeeping & home maintenance	Working	Engaging in entertainment events/activities
Accessing health information	Socializing remotely	Dressing	Cooking, preparing, and/or ordering meals	Volunteering and civic activities	Exercising and physical activity
Managing medications	Group activities	Using the toilet	Obtaining goods & services	Caregiving for others	Engaging in non-active leisure
Managing health, diet, & nutrition	Interacting with new people	Moving around the home	Managing finances	Continuing education	Traveling for leisure

Progress

- The technical report detailing the Phase 2 study methods is now available.
- Data collection: Complete!
- Data analysis: In-progress. We are currently analyzing the quantitative survey data. We are refining the qualitative coding scheme in preparation for coding interviews.

Phase 2: Enrollment

	Participants Enrolled (n)
Vision	60 (Glaucoma: 38 Macular degeneration: 22)
MS	60
Late-deafened	60

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