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## Retrospective Ascertainment of Early Life SES

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An association of low socioeconomic status (SES) in childhood with an increased risk of cardiovascular disease (CVD) in adulthood has been reported, but early life SES data have been primarily limited to individual-level variables. In the Life Course SES, Social Context, and Cardiovascular Disease (LCSES) Study, as part of an annual follow-up telephone interview (2000-2001) of members of the Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities (ARIC) Study, we collected historical residential data from 12,716 participants 57-74 years of age. In order to examine early life community-level effects on health across the lifecourse, data collected on childhood residence were linked to county-level sociodemographic data from the 1930, 1940, and 1950 U.S. Censuses. Of 12,384 participants born in the U.S., we were able to link residence and census data for 12,187 (99.4%). Successful linkage did not vary significantly by gender, educational level, or race. Preliminary analyses indicate various childhood county sociodemographic indicators differed significantly by race, by whether a participant grew up in the county he/she currently lives in, and by gender. The Table presents examples of this variation in data on mean individual income (available in the 1950 Census), number of people per dwelling, and percent of people with at least an 8<sup>th</sup> grade education (1940 and 1950 Censuses). The SES data from early U.S. Censuses are less extensive and at a higher level of aggregation than contemporary contextual level data available; their analytic utility must still be determined. Nevertheless, our data are virtually complete and offer a unique opportunity to expand the scope of life course studies to include community-level effects.

Economic, housing, and educational variables in county of childhood residence (standard deviation)

<b>Variable</b>	<b>Group</b>	<b>Mean Income in \$ (SD)</b>	<b>Mean # people/ dwelling (SD)</b>	<b>% w/ 8<sup>th</sup> grade education (SD)</b>
<b>Gender</b>	Male	2639 (879)	3.63 (0.48)	66.3 (14.3)
	Female	2513* (897)	3.63 (0.49)	64.5* (14.4)
<b>Race</b>	Black	1732 (785)	3.67 (0.47)	54.7 (12.2)
	White	2914* (676)	3.60* (0.49)	68.9* (13.2)
<b>Childhood County</b>	Same as adult county	2877 (544)	3.49 (0.41)	68.1 (10.4)
	Other	2319* (1024)	3.71* (0.52)	63.0* (16.5)

\*: p < 0.0001