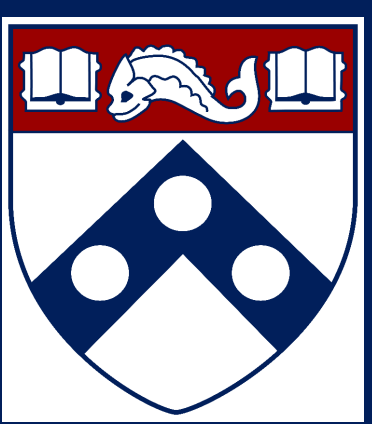
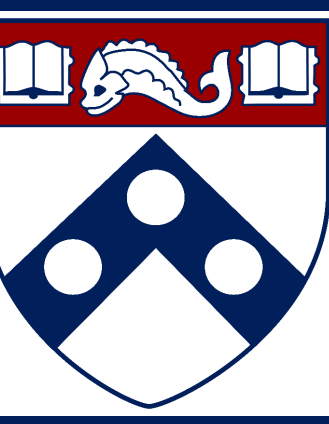




Life-Course Socioeconomic Predictors of Subjective Social Status in Older Adults



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Background

- Late life subjective social status (SSS) is a robust predictor of physical and psychological outcomes and has been linked to cognitive functioning in later life.
- Prior research has reported that SSS can correlate with socioeconomic status (SES).
- This study examined how early and late life SES indicators predict SSS.

Methods

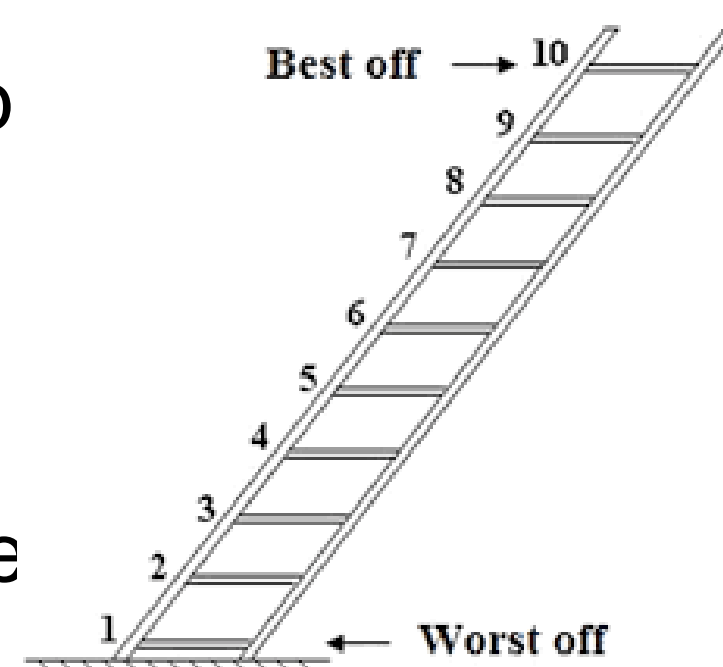
- Participants: N=229 unimpaired older adults from the UPenn ADRC and Aging Brain Cohort Dedicated to Diversity cohorts.

Age (years)	74.7 (5.46)
Sex (female)	152 (66.4%)
Years of Education	16.4 (2.54)
Diagnosis (Unimpaired)	206 (90.0%)

- Outcome: MacArthur Scale of Subjective Social Status: higher score = higher SSS

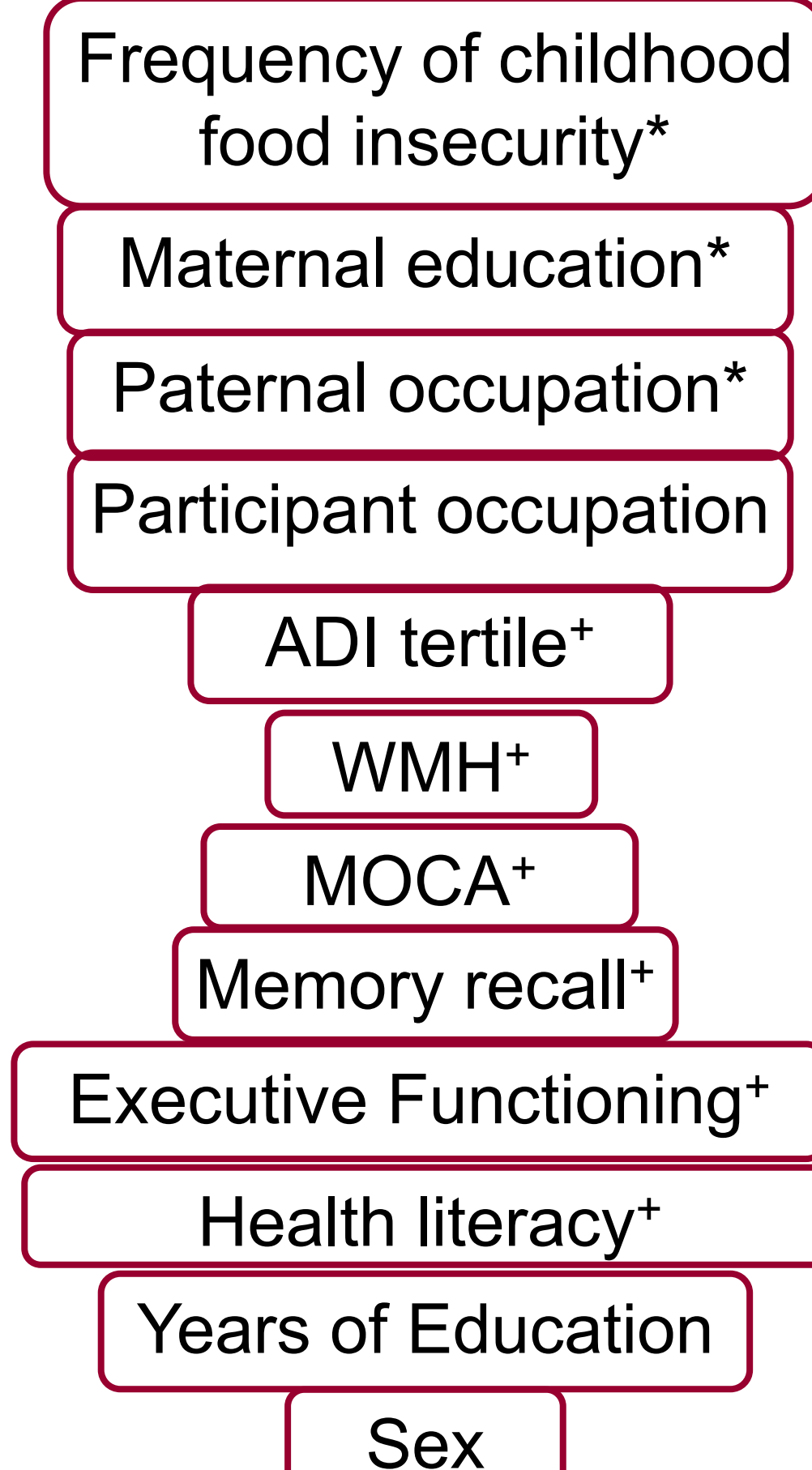
- Covariates:

- Adverse Childhood Exp Scale (ACES)
 - frequency of food insecurity
- Maternal education level
- Paternal occupation
- Participant occupation
- Area disparity index (ADI)
- White matter hyperintensity (WMH) – log transformed by intracranial volume (ICV)
- MOCA total score
- Health literacy questionnaire (range =0-20, higher = more health literacy)
- NACC UDS 3.0 battery: z-scores adjusted for age, sex, and education
 - Two measures for executive functioning and memory recall.



Analytic Approach

Bivariate Regressions



Multivariable Forward Stepwise Selection

Model 1

Early life SES variables with alpha-to-keep=0.20

Model 2

Late life SES variables with alpha-to-keep=0.20

Model 3

Full model with all retained predictors

Alpha to keep=0.20
* Early life SES variables
+ Late life SES variables

Results

Table 1. Multivariable analysis of early life SES using Forward Stepwise Selection

Early Life SES	β	p
Food insecurity	-.05	.558
Paternal occupation		
Professional and related occupations	—	—
Farming/fishing/forestry/production/service/transportation/material moving occupations	-.23	.310
Maternal education		.151
< High school	—	—
High school/GED	-.16	
> High school	.31	
Years of education	.17	<.001
Sex		
Male	—	—
Female	-.34	.112

Table 2. Multivariable analysis of current SES using Forward Stepwise Selection

Current SES	β	p
ADI		.100
Low deprivation	—	—
High deprivation	-.52	
Mid deprivation	-.47	
Years of education	.19	<.001
Occupation		.684
Professional	—	—
Manager / clerical	.09	
Service and blue collar/Not in the Labor Force/Unknown	-.18	
WMH	-.06	.477
Sex		.387
Male	—	—
Female	-.17	.425

Table 3. Multivariable analysis of associated early life and current SES predictors

	β	p
Years of education	.13	<.001
ADI		.051
Low deprivation	—	—
High deprivation	-.61	
Mid deprivation	-.43	
Maternal education		.156
< High school	—	—
High school/GED	-.14	
> High school	.33	
Sex		
Male	—	—
Female	-.24	.277

Results

- In bivariate analyses, higher SSS =
 - Greater educational attainment ($\beta = .21$, $p < .001$)
 - Male sex ($\beta = .50$, $p = .016$)
 - Professional and related paternal occupation ($\beta = .52$, $p = .024$)
 - > High school maternal education ($\beta = .70$, $p = .017$)
 - Lower childhood food insecurity ($\beta = -.20$, $p = .026$)
 - Living in high-resourced vs. middle- ($\beta = .58$, $p = .013$) or low-resourced areas ($\beta = 1.1$, $p < .001$)
 - Professional vs. non-professional participant occupations ($\beta = .70$, $p = .008$).
 - WMH met alpha to keep ($\beta = -.14$, $p = .100$).
- In Model 1, educational attainment was an independent predictors of SSS. Maternal education and sex met alpha-to-keep.
- In Model 2, educational attainment was an independent predictor of SSS. ADI met alpha-to-keep.
- In Model 3, higher SSS was associated with higher educational attainment. SSS was marginally predicted by living in higher-resourced areas compared to middle- or low-resourced areas.

Conclusions

- These findings underscore the impact of current living environment and education on subjective social rank.
- Current SES appeared to have a superior effect on older adults' subjective social rank than early life social positioning.
- Understanding life-course influences on SSS may help clarify pathways linking lifespan experiences, perceived social standing, and health disparities in aging.