

Social Status, Socioeconomic Status, and Sociodemographic Characteristics Relevant for Use in Studies of Health Disparities

Disentangling the role of socioeconomic status (SES) disparities in health and health care is critical to understanding race/ethnic health disparities. Uniformity in collecting SES and other sociodemographic variables would enhance our ability to compare results across studies. The measurement and methods core has developed a multidimensional framework of socioeconomic status (SES), based on a review of survey questions from several external and internal sources. This framework is a "work in progress".

| Concept | Key Domains | Items Available |
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| Race/ ethnicity (self identified) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Main group or multiethnic •If Latino/Hispanic or Asian query which subgroup they identify with •If multiethnic, query which main group they identify with | Yes |
| Place of birth, generation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Country of origin of self •Country of origin of parents and paternal and maternal grandparents For those not born in the U.S.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Years living in the U.S. • Age first immigrated • Main reason for immigrating | Yes |
| Language and language proficiency | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Current English language proficiency •Main language (language spoken growing up) For persons whose main language is not English: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current "other" language proficiency • Literacy • Health literacy • Numeracy | Yes |
| Acculturation and enculturation (for immigrants) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Language acculturation •Language preference for receiving medical care •Identification with old/new culture •Language preference for receiving written health information | Yes |
| Education | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Highest grade or year •Highest degree (including GED) •Vocational or technical training •Location of education •Point in time when education obtained •Age received final education •Quality of education •Lifecourse education (education of parents) | Yes |
| Family and household configuration | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Marital status •Family and household configuration •More than one family within a structure/home | Yes |
| Financial status | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Annual household before taxes •Number of people supported by income •Income instability •Wealth / assets •Poverty – formal receipt of assistance •Poverty – defined by cutoff point of income and family size | Yes |

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| Financial strain | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Global financial strain •Basics financial strain – insufficient money for food, rent/house payment, utilities •Put off medical care due to financial strain •Put off filling prescriptions due to financial strain •Lifecourse financial strain | Yes |
| Subjective social status | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Subjective status compared to community •Subjective status compared to U.S. •Lifecourse: subjective status compared to childhood •For immigrants: subjective status in country of origin | Yes |
| Health Insurance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Type of insurance •Deductible / co-pay •Covered services | Under development |
| Occupation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Current occupation(s) •Typical occupation if >1 •Past occupation(s) •Stability of occupation(s) •Occupational status •Occupational exposure to toxins •Occupational autonomy •Occupational safety (% job related injuries by occupation) | Under development |
| Employment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Employed (full time, part time, unemployed) •Number of jobs •Employment schedule (days, nights, erratic/stable) •Employment stability •Retired/disabled (not in job market) | Under development |