Socio-Economic Status Data

“Defining” SES parameters

- Objective SES:
  - Individual and/or household income
  - Occupational Prestige
  - Level of Education

- Subjective SES:
  - In United States (MacArthur Ladder)
  - In Community (MacArthur Ladder)

- Other considerations:
  - Social, economic, and psychological variables (“nurture”)
Our Options:

Duncan Socioeconomic Index (SEI)
Socioeconomic Index, Hauser & Warren
The Hollingshead Index

Accounts For:
Level of education and occupational prestige
(Equally weighted)

Does not factor:
Modern professions (outdated)
# of contributors to household income
no acknowledgment of female professionals

Rejected
Socioeconomic Index, Hauser & Warren

Rejected

Accounts for:

Occupational prestige and education
Modern occupations
A lot of information not collected in SES Surveys
Too complicated for our purposes

The Hollingshead Index

Accounts for:

Level of education
Occupational prestige
Nuclear Families (Bread winner + Homemaker)

Provided:

Wider array of occupations allowing for more precise coding (modern and unique occupations easier to code)
Methodology for a multivariable, scalar score
The Data

- Methods
- Findings and Comparisons
- Conclusions

Methods: Coding SES

**Occupational Factor (O.F.)**
1-9 Scale
(Occupational Prestige)

**Educational Factor (E.F.)**
1-7 Scale
(Highest Degree)

\[
(M_{O.F.} \times 5) + (M_{E.F.} \times 3) = M_{Score} \\
(D_{O.F.} \times 5) + (D_{E.F.} \times 3) = D_{Score}
\]
### Methods: Analysis

\[
\text{avg } (M_{\text{Score}} + D_{\text{Score}}) = \text{Total Index Score}
\]

- **No Correlation** (r) between age and total index score

#### Total Score Index vs. IQ

#### Total Score Index vs. Behavioral Data

#### Total Score Index vs. Head Circumference

---

### Table: Score Index vs. Age

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject ID</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Total Score Index</th>
<th>IQ Composite Standard</th>
<th>M Score</th>
<th>D Score</th>
<th>%SES Index</th>
<th>%SES/HIE Index</th>
<th>Head Circumference (cm)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>120</td>
<td>11.42</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>0.92727</td>
<td>0.43248</td>
<td>0.39945237</td>
<td>0.57139075</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>122</td>
<td>10.99</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>0.71667</td>
<td>0.62771</td>
<td>0.33064516</td>
<td>0.47674419</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>124</td>
<td>11.93</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>0.63463</td>
<td>0.47927</td>
<td>0.3862151</td>
<td>0.53339735</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>126</td>
<td>11.43</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>0.64266</td>
<td>0.62426</td>
<td>0.3017527</td>
<td>0.58695502</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>128</td>
<td>12.17</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>0.62778</td>
<td>0.70556</td>
<td>0.6472043</td>
<td>0.70803536</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>130</td>
<td>12.79</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>0.82778</td>
<td>0.3999999</td>
<td>0.28228096</td>
<td>0.70945946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>132</td>
<td>11.87</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>0.78977</td>
<td>0.51199</td>
<td>0.4596742</td>
<td>0.61510791</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>134</td>
<td>9.28</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>0.86517</td>
<td>0.73184</td>
<td>0.49193548</td>
<td>0.99415584</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### No Significant Correlations
Think of this ladder as representing where people stand in their communities. People define community in different ways; please define it in whatever way is most meaningful to you. At the top of the ladder are the people who have the highest standing in their community. At the bottom are the people who have the lowest standing in their community.

Where would you place yourself on this ladder?

Please place a large “X” on the rung where you think you stand at this time in your life, relative to other people in your community.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Verbal Standard Ladder</th>
<th>Nonverbal Standard Ladder</th>
<th>IQ Standard Ladder</th>
<th>Comp Standard Ladder</th>
<th>HVL/oral Ladder</th>
<th>HVL/pen Ladder</th>
<th>HVL/pen/Ladder</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Correl: 0.393025</td>
<td>Correl: 0.393025</td>
<td>Correl: 0.393025</td>
<td>Correl: 0.393025</td>
<td>Correl: 0.393025</td>
<td>Correl: 0.393025</td>
<td>Correl: 0.393025</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
But what does the ladder measure?

**Qualitative study** (MacArthur Network, Snibbe, Steward, & Adler)

**Subject reports of criterion used to decide position** (n=60)

- *United States Ladder* - linked to feelings of financial security
  - 90% Material wealth
  - 72% Occupation
  - 62% Education
  - 20% Altruism
  - 20% Spirituality/Morality
  - 20% Health

- *Community Ladder*
  - 87% “giving activities” (i.e. volunteer, donor, good citizens)
  - relied little on wealth (25%), education (7%), or occupation (22%)

**Need to Address:**

- Use of only one ladder - which criterion applies to our data?
  - Could personal evaluation be reflection of self-esteem?
  - Half parent/half subject reports
  - Evidence of oversimplification? (Raizada paper)
  - Existing connection between source memory and verbal abilities?