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Constructed SES Variables

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Data Dictionary

**Social Origins Score** \(^1\) (SESPC_AL)

We measured social origins of Add Health Study members from information about their families collected from Add Health participants’ parents at the Wave I interview, when participants were still in middle or high school. We examined reports of parental education, parental occupation, household income, and household receipt of public assistance. These four measures were correlated \((r>0.19)\). We conducted principal components analysis of the measures to produce a factor score \(^2\). The first principal component explained 53% of the variance. We used loadings on this component to compute the Social Origins Factor Score. Values were Z-transformed to have \(M=0\) \(SD=1\) for analysis.

**Occupational Prestige Score** \(^1\) (WARHAUS)

We measured social attainments of Add Health Study members from their occupations reported on the Wave IV survey, when participants were in their late 20s and early 30s. *Occupational attainment* was coded using the Hauser and Warren Occupational Income and Occupational Education scales \(^3\). The scale scores were averaged to compute a total socioeconomic index. At the Wave IV interview in 2007-8, Add Health respondents reported their current or most recent occupation, which was coded by Add Health using the SOC2000 coding scheme. We converted SOC2000 codes to Occupational Income and Occupational Education scale values using the cross-walk provided by the Wisconsin Center for Demography and Ecology \(^4\). Values were Z-transformed to have \(M=0\) \(SD=1\) for analysis.


Acknowledgment

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Data Dictionary

**W1 and W4 Neighborhood Socioeconomic Disadvantage** \(^5\) (NHOOD1_D & NHOOD4_D)

We measured neighborhood-level socioeconomic disadvantage using Census-tract-level data linked to Add Health participants’ addresses when they were first interviewed in 1994-1995 and when they were most recently followed-up in 2007-8. Participants’ 1994-1995 addresses were linked with tract-level data from the 1990 Decennial Census \(^6\). Participants’ addresses in 2007-2008 were linked with tract-level data from the 2005-2009 panels of the American Community Survey \(^7\). For each tract, we coded proportions of female-headed households, individuals living below the poverty threshold, individuals receiving public assistance, adults with less than a high school education, and adults who were unemployed using the
following system: We computed tract deciles based on the full set of tracts from which Add Health participants were sampled at Wave 1. We then scored each tract on a scale of 1-10 corresponding to the Wave 1 decile containing the tract’s value on the variable. We calculated neighborhood deprivation as the sum of decile scores across the five measures resulting in a score ranging from 0 to 50. Values were Z-transformed to have M=0 SD =1 for analysis.


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References


