



OMB#: 0925-0281
Exp. 3/31/2014

PERSONAL HISTORY FORM

ID NUMBER:

FORM CODE

P	H	X
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DATE: 06/01/2011
Version 1.0

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

0a. Completion Date: / /
Month Day Year

0b. Staff ID:

A. HOUSEHOLD SOCIODEMOGRAPHICS

“Now I’d like to take a few minutes to ask questions that will update information about your household.”

1. Please look at this card. Which of these income groups represents your total combined family income for the past 12 months? Include income from all sources such as wages, salaries, social security, retirement benefits, help from relatives, rent from property and so forth. Please tell me the letter only.

[USE RESPONSE CARD]

- Under \$5,000 A
- \$5,000 - \$7,999 B
- \$8,000 - \$11,999 C
- \$12,000 - \$15,999 D
- \$16,000 – \$24,999 E
- \$25,000 – \$34,999 F
- \$35,000 - \$49,999 G
- \$50,000 – \$74,999 H
- \$75,000 – \$99,999 I
- \$100,000 and over J

2. How many people are supported by this income?

SES Ladders

Here is a picture of a ladder. Think of this ladder as representing where people stand in the United States. At the **top** of the ladder are the people who are the best off – those who have the most money, the most education and have or had (before retirement) the most respected jobs. At the **bottom** are the people who are the worst off – who have the least money, least education, and have or had the least respected jobs or no job (if not retired). The higher up you are on this ladder, the closer you are to the people at the very top; the lower you are, the closer you are to the people at the very bottom.

3. Where would you place yourself on this ladder? Please show the step where you think you stand at this time in your life, relative to other people in the United States.



Now, 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.

4. Where would you place yourself on this ladder? Please show the step where you think you stand at this time in your life, relative to other people in your community.





INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE PERSONAL HISTORY (PHX) FORM

I. General Instructions

The Personal History Form (PHXC) collects current information on the participant's socio-demographic characteristics. The exact wording and order of the questions are followed to ensure standardization. Questions are skipped only when indicated by the skip pattern instructions.

Interviewers are certified in general clinic interviewing and familiar with the ARIC data entry system (DES) and the "General Instructions for Completing Paper Forms" (in case the computer is down) prior to administering this form. Items in BRACKETS and/or CAPITAL LETTERS are instructions to the interviewer and are not read to the participant.

The HEADER (paper form) is completed by scanning (or affixing if collect data on paper first) participant ID label. THE QUESTIONS ARE READ CLEARLY USING THE EXACT WORDING ON THE FORM. The introductory and transitional scripts may deviate from the prototypes provided, but must include the same information.

II. Detailed Instructions for each Item

- 0a. Enter the date on which the participant was seen in the clinic.
- 0b. Enter the staff ID for the person who completed this form.
- 1. The question covers the entire family's income, not just what is earned by the individual. Give RESPONSE CARD TO THE PARTICIPANT. Ask the participant to select the letter which best represent his or her total family income. READ ALL RESPONSES (only if necessary).
- 2. The purpose of this question is to determine how many people are supported by the annual family income. If the number of persons varied over the past year, assist the respondent in determining the average number of persons supported.

The following four questions will provide supplementary information concerning the study participants overall wealth.

- 3. Socioeconomic status ladder. The purpose of this question is to determine where the participant ranks himself or herself relative to others living in the United States. Read the text as written and then please ask the study participant to place an **X** on one of the rungs of the ladder that best reflects his or her position relative to other people living in the US. The rungs are counted on a scale of 1 to 10 in ascending order from the bottom up. For each study participant, please count the number of rungs from the bottom to the **X** mark and enter that number into the DMS.

Note that the classification of individuals according to their job refers to the job that the study participants had before retirement (if retired). Lack of a job due to retirement age should not lower a person's placement on the ladder, but low prestige of the current job or involuntary unemployment (i.e., the person would like to be working) would be reasons for a person to select a position lower on the ladder.

4. Community ladder. The purpose of this question is to determine where the participant ranks himself or herself relative to others living in their communities. Read the text as written and then please ask the study participant to place an **X** on one of the rungs of the ladder that best reflects his or her position relative to other people living in their community. The rungs are counted on a scale of 1 to 10 in ascending order from the bottom up. For each study participant, please count the number of rungs from the bottom to the **X** mark and enter that number into the DMS. The choice of the “community” is left to the participant and it can mean family, church members, friends, neighbors.