

## ARIC MANUSCRIPT PROPOSAL FORM

Manuscript #226

### 1. Title:

Validation of Socioeconomic status (SES) on Death Certificates

### 2. Writing Group:

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### 3. Timeline:

Analysis to begin immediately. Draft completed in 3 months.

### 4. Rationale:

Socioeconomic status disparities in CVD mortality, morbidity and risk factors have been evolving and are the focus of several recent publications (1-4). Educational status is a commonly used measure of socioeconomic status and has been routinely recorded on death certificates in the U.S. since 1989. National Death statistics incorporating death certificate information are being used to evaluate the SES coronary heart disease mortality relationship. However, the validity of educational status as recorded on the death certificate is not well established across geographically and racially diverse groups. The ARIC study provides an excellent opportunity to validate socioeconomic status on death records with information obtained directly from cohort participants. The authors view this analysis as a brief report.

### 5. Main Hypotheses:

- (1) The agreement on educational status between death certificate data and direct participant interview is substantial.
- (2) Validation rates of educational status on death records differ by race and gender groups.
- (3) Validation rates of educational status on death records differ by geographic region.

### 6. Data:

Death tapes for 1989-1991 from surveillance and cohort interview data will be used. This proposal does not overlap with Ms. #111 which focuses on validation of death certificate diagnoses.

### 7. References:

1. Hallstrom A, Boutin P, Cobb L, Johnson E: Socioeconomic status and prediction of ventricular fibrillation survival. *American Journal of Public Health* 1993;83:245-248.
2. Burstin H, Lipsitz S, Brennan T: Socioeconomic status and risk for substandard medical care. *JAMA* 1992;268:2383-2387.
3. Adler NE, Boyce WT, Chesney MA, Folkman S, Syme SL: Socioeconomic inequalities in health. *JAMA* 1993;269:3140-3145.
4. Luepker RL, Rosamond WD, Murphy R, et al. Socioeconomic status and coronary heart disease risk

factors: the Minnesota Heart Survey. *Circulation* 1993  
(in press).