

UCLA

On-Line Working Paper Series

Title

The Associations between Socioeconomic Status, Allostatic Load, and Measures of Health in Older Taiwanese Persons: Taiwan Social Environment and Biomarkers of Aging Study.

Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/6xx6j5pc>

Authors

Hu, Peifeng F.
Wagle, Naveed
Goldman, Noreen
et al.

Publication Date

2006

The Associations between Socioeconomic Status, Allostatic Load, and Measures of Health in Older Taiwanese Persons: Taiwan Social Environment and Biomarkers of Aging Study.

Peifeng Hu
University of California Los Angeles

Naveed Wagle

Noreen Goldman
Princeton University

Maxine Weinstein
Georgetown University

Teresa Seeman.
University of California, Los Angeles

Abstract

Data from a national representative sample of 1023 elderly and near-elderly Taiwanese were used to explore whether allostatic load is associated with health outcomes and mediates the association between socioeconomic status and health in a non-Western population. The information collected included demographic characteristics; allostatic load scores; socioeconomic status, measured by education and income; health behaviors; health-related variables, including self-rated health, basic activities of daily living difficulties, instrumental activities of daily living difficulties, and physical activity difficulties. The adjusted prevalent odds ratios of higher allostatic load level were 1.25 (95% CI: 1.00, 1.56) for reporting one level worse in self-rated health and 1.43 (95% CI: 1.14, 1.82) for reporting one more physical activity difficulty. There were significant associations of lower education or less income with worse self-rated health and more difficulties with physical functioning. The associations between education, income, and health status are not mediated by the conventional 10-point measure of allostatic load in older Taiwanese adults.

Forthcoming in Journal of Biosocial Science