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Evaluating the impact of social and built environments on health related-quality of life among cancer survivors

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Abstract

Background: With almost 17 million U.S. cancer survivors, understanding multilevel factors impacting health-related quality of life (HRQOL) is critical to improving survivorship outcomes. Few studies have evaluated neighborhood impact on HRQOL among cancer survivors.

Methods: We combined sociodemographic, clinical, and behavioral data from three registry-based studies in California. Using a 3-level mixed linear regression model (participants nested within block groups and study/regions) we examined associations of both independent neighborhood attributes and neighborhood archetypes, which capture interactions inherent among neighborhood attributes, with two HRQOL outcomes, physical (PCS) and mental (MCS) composite scores.

Results: For the 2,477 survivors, 46% were 70+ years, 52% were non-Hispanic White, and 53% had localized disease. In models minimally adjusted for age, stage, and cancer recurrence, HRQOL was associated with neighborhood socioeconomic status (nSES), racial/ethnic composition, population density, street connectivity, restaurant environment index, traffic density, urbanicity, crowding, rental properties, and non-single family units. In fully adjusted models, higher nSES remained associated with better PCS, and restaurant environment index, specifically more unhealthy restaurants, associated with worse MCS. In multivariable-adjusted models of neighborhood archetype, compared to *Upper middle-class suburb*, *Hispanic small town*, and *Inner city* had lower PCS, and *High status* had higher MCS.

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Conclusions: Among survivors, higher nSES was associated with better HRQOL; more unhealthy restaurants were associated with worse HRQOL. As some neighborhood archetypes were associated with HRQOL, they provide an approach to capture how neighborhood attributes interact to impact HRQOL.

Impact: Elucidating the pathways through which neighborhood attributes influence HRQOL is important in improving survivorship outcomes.

Keywords

social and built environments; health related-quality of life; neighborhoods; cancer survivors; archetypes

Introduction

With over 17 million cancer survivors in the United States,(1) understanding factors that impact health-related quality of life (HRQOL) after cancer diagnosis is critical to improving survivorship outcomes for this diverse population with heterogeneous needs.(2,3) HRQOL is a multidimensional survivorship concept that encompasses physical health, mental health, symptoms and social functioning, and spiritual well-being.(4) In a national survey of cancer survivors, about a quarter reported poor physical HRQOL, and 10% reported poor mental HRQOL.(5) Studies have also highlighted disparities in HRQOL with worse HRQOL among racial/ethnic minorities, individuals with low socioeconomic status (SES), or those with comorbidities.(5–8)

Neighborhoods influence health outcomes through access to resources, environmental exposures, health behaviors (e.g., smoking, physical activity, diet), material deprivation (e.g., inadequate housing), and psychosocial mechanisms (e.g., stress).(9,10) There has been a growing body of evidence focused on the impact of neighborhood factors on HRQOL among cancer survivors. An oral cancer study reported that patients residing in more deprived areas had lower survival and worse social-emotional functioning and overall QOL.(11) Other studies have demonstrated the impact of neighborhood racial/ethnic composition on HRQOL. A study of African American and White cancer survivors reported that individuals living in high Black-segregated areas reported poorer HRQOL, regardless of race.(8,12) In addition, a study of breast, colorectal, and prostate cancer survivors demonstrated that racial minorities living in areas with a higher percentage of racial minorities had higher odds of greater illness intrusion (i.e., disruptions in activities/interests due to illness) when compared to White individuals living in areas with a low percentage of racial minorities.(13)

While prior studies have evaluated the impact of either separate social (i.e., social class, community support, crime)(14) or built (i.e., grocery stores, fast food restaurants, walkability)(15,16) environments on HRQOL, few studies have evaluated the impact of a broad set of social and built environment attributes on HRQOL.(9) Further, there have been no studies accounting for the interaction between these neighborhood attributes. In order to address this gap, existing clinical, demographic, social, and behavioral data from three population-based cancer survivorship studies in California [the Assessment

of Patients' Experience of Cancer Care (APECC),(17) Experiences of Care and Health Outcomes of survivors of Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma (ECHOS-NHL),(18) and Follow-up Care Use among Survivors (FOCUS)(19)], were combined with data from the California Cancer Registry (CCR) and the California Neighborhoods Data System (CNDS)(20) and analyzed. We adapted a conceptual framework linking predisposing factors, enabling resources, and mediating factors to HRQOL for cancer survivors, expanding it to incorporate a multilevel perspective by including social and built environment factors as additional enabling resources (Figure 1).(8) We examined the associations between attributes of the neighborhood social and built environments and HRQOL as well as a neighborhood archetype measure that accounts for interactions across the neighborhood attributes and HRQOL.

Materials and Methods

Study population

We pooled data from APECC, ECHOS-NHL, and FOCUS. APECC included 774 bladder, colorectal, and leukemia survivors from the San Francisco Bay Area (BA) who were interviewed between 2003 and 2004.(17) Eligible cases included living adult survivors, 2–5 years after diagnosis, able to read English, had received cancer treatment, had the cancer of interest as their first diagnosis, and without any subsequent tumors. ECHOS-NHL was a study of 408 African-American, Hispanic or Non-Hispanic (NH) White non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma survivors from Los Angeles (LA) County who were interviewed between 2003 and 2005.(8) Eligible cases included living adult survivors of aggressive NHL, 2–5 years after diagnosis, with the NHL diagnosis as their only primary cancer diagnosis. FOCUS was a study of 1,666 breast, colorectal, ovarian, prostate and uterine cancer adult survivors from the San Francisco BA and LA County who were interviewed between 2005 and 2006.(19) Eligible cases were 4–14 years post diagnosis, able to read English, and had completed active treatment. For our study, the analytic sample included 2,477 participants for both PCS and MCS; we excluded participants with missing data for the physical or mental composite score (n=285) and whose residential addresses could not be geocoded (n=86).

Each of these studies collected patient-reported data on sociodemographic, clinical, social, and behavioral factors, allowing us to account for individual-level predisposing, enabling and mediating factors. Individual-level data was harmonized across the three studies and included information from study questionnaires and the CCR. Many of the items on the study questionnaires came from previously validated instruments for cancer survivors.(8) Residential address at the time of interview (2003–2006) was geocoded to latitude and longitude coordinates using address or street locators and matched to corresponding 2000 Census block groups.

The Institutional Review Boards of the Cancer Prevention Institute of California, the University of Southern California, and the University of California, San Francisco, approved this study.

Study measures

HRQOL was calculated using responses to two versions of the Short-Form (SF) health survey (version 2), the SF-12 for FOCUS and the SF-36 for APECC and ECHOS. These instruments have been validated for use in adults (18+) and include eight subscales: physical functioning, physical role limitations, bodily pain, general health, vitality, social functioning, emotional role limitations, and mental health.(21,22) The subscales were combined and standardized to a national norm to provide physical composite score (PCS) and mental composite score (MCS) outcome measures, with higher scores indicating better HRQOL.

Predisposing characteristics were obtained from questionnaires and the cancer registry. Questionnaire items included age at interview, race/ethnicity, gender, individual SES (education, employment, income), marital status, and health insurance as well as treatment, recurrence, comorbidities, and history of depression or anxiety. Clinical characteristics from the CCR included date of diagnosis, cancer site, tumor characteristics (stage, grade, histology), and treatment (surgery, radiation, chemotherapy).

Enabling resources were obtained from study questionnaires and included follow-up care experiences and attitudes. In addition to these individual-level variables, we hypothesized that social and built environment neighborhood features should be considered as enabling resources. The neighborhood data have been compiled from a variety of sources: 2000 Census short and long forms (nSES, racial/ethnic composition, population density, housing, and urbanicity), Dun and Bradstreet (business data), California Department of Food and Agriculture (farmers' markets), NavTeq (street connectivity, parks), and California Department of Transportation (traffic density).(23–27) The Census block group-level measures include SES, racial/ethnic composition, population density (persons/square meter), urbanicity, housing, and street connectivity. Neighborhood SES was measured using an established composite index, Yost SES Index, developed through principal components analysis, and that includes 7 indicator variables, including poverty, income, education, unemployment, blue collar workforce, median home value and rent.(28) For racial/ethnic composition, we created separate indicators of whether the block group population for NH White, NH Black, NH Asian, and Hispanic were each at/above or below the statewide median for that racial/ethnic group. We combined these indicators into a single variable with mutually exclusive categories as follows: if NH Black, NH Asian, or Hispanic were at or above the median and NH White was below the median, the block group was considered minority predominant; if NH Black, NH Asian, and Hispanic were below the median and NH White was at or above the median, the block group was considered White predominant; otherwise, the block group was considered mixed.(29) Urbanicity measured urban/rural status using census defined Urbanized Areas (population > 50,000) and Urban Clusters (population between 2500 and 50,000). Housing characteristics included measures of crowding, defined as percentage of occupied housing units with more than one occupant per room, percentage of rental households, and percentage of total housing units that are not single-family dwellings (i.e., structures with more than 2 units). Street connectivity was measured using Gamma, the ratio of actual number of street segments to maximum possible number of intersections, with a higher ratio indicating more street connectivity/walkability.(30) Selected amenities (parks and recreational facilities), and food

environment was captured based on a 1600m or 1 mile walking distance using pedestrian street networks. Business counts and recreational facility counts were averaged over a 3-year window around interview year. Food environment included the Retail Food Environment Index (ratio of average number of convenience stores, liquor stores, and fast food restaurants to supermarkets and farmers' markets) and the Restaurant Environment Index (ratio of the average number of fast food restaurants to other restaurants).(31) Traffic density was measured within a 500m buffer of each residence, using methods previously described, and was categorized into quintiles based on the sample distribution.(32) Population density, nSES, gamma, percent crowding, percent renting, and percent non-single family unit were categorized into statewide quintiles. We also used a summary neighborhood variable that uses latent class analyses (LCA) to classify each census tract into an archetype, that accounts for the synergistic effects of 39 social and built environment attributes.(33–35) The best fitting LCA models identified 9 distinct archetypes for census tracts in California (see Supplemental Table 1).

Mediating factors were health behaviors obtained from study questionnaires. These included moderate and vigorous physical activity at least once a week in the last four weeks (no, yes), smoking status (never, former, current), alcohol use in the last 14 days (not current, current—low, current—high), and body mass index (BMI) (underweight, normal, overweight, obese). Physical activity, smoking, alcohol, and BMI were not included on the APECC study questionnaire, and thus was missing for 28.1% of the total sample.

Statistical Analysis

We used multivariable 3-level mixed linear regression models to estimate least square means and 95% confidence intervals (CI) for associations with outcomes of physical and mental composite scores. We used a 3-level model with a random effect for study/region (defined as APECC-BA, ECHOS-LA, FOCUS-BA, and FOCUS-LA) and a random effect for block groups nested within study/region. Using study/region as a random effect assumes that participants in different studies/regions were from populations with different characteristics and with different effects. This modeling estimates the fixed effects for each of the four studies/regions and then averages across them while accounting for true variation in effect size.(36–38) To examine associations with neighborhood archetypes, we used a random effect of census tract nested within study/region, as the archetypes were defined at the census tract level. For all models, census block groups or tracts with participants from two different studies (8.5% of block groups and 20.7% of census tracts), were artificially split into two different census block groups or tracts to allow for neighborhoods to uniquely nest within studies/regions. As a sensitivity analysis for models with archetypes, we used a 2-level model with census tract as a random effect instead of using a 3-level model, and results were similar.

Separately for each of the two outcomes (PCS and MCS), we defined a series of models in which groups of variables were entered together. We started with a minimally adjusted model that considered age at diagnosis, tumor stage, and recurrence, as these have been shown to be associated with HRQOL; stage was not associated with MCS so was not included as an adjustment. Each neighborhood attribute was then included separately in

a minimally adjusted model (Model 1). Next, nSES was added to the models with each neighborhood attribute separately (Model 2). For the multivariable models, we included neighborhood attributes that were significant in a multivariable model, adjusted for patient and clinical characteristics (Model 3) and health-related behaviors (Model 4) that were associated with both HRQOL in a multivariable model and the retained neighborhood attribute. Final multivariable models were adjusted as follows: PCS: age, stage, recurrence, race/ethnicity, employment, income, marital status, ever depression/anxiety, moderate and strenuous physical activity, smoking, alcohol, and BMI; MCS: age, race/ethnicity, education, income, marital status, insurance, and alcohol.

As sensitivity analyses, we reran the final multivariable models separately for APECC and FOCUS (both LA and BA sites combined) which showed similar results; however, we did not perform separate analyses for ECHOS-NHL due to small sample size. For sensitivity analyses by region (Los Angeles: ECHOS-NHL and FOCUS-LA combined; and BA: APECC and FOCUS-BA combined) findings were driven by BA. See Supplemental Tables 2 and 3.

Neighborhood archetypes were added to the minimal and final multivariable models, in place of the neighborhood attributes.

Analyses were performed in SAS Software v.9.4 (SAS Institute; Cary, NC).

Results

Table 1 shows the mean PCS and MCS scores by sociodemographic, clinical, and behavioral characteristics of the 2,477 survivors (see Supplemental Table 4 for distributions by study/region). Over half of study participants were over 60 years of age at the time of interview (72%), married (64%), and had at least some college education (75%). Most were female (54%), retired (55%), or made less than \$60,000 (53%). Fifty-two percent identified as NH White, 13% as Hispanic, 16% as African American, and 17% as Asian/Pacific Islander. Colorectal cancer was the most common type of cancer among study participants (33%), followed by prostate (16%) and breast (14%) cancers. A majority had localized cancer (53%) and were diagnosed within six years of participating (55%).

Table 2 shows the distribution of neighborhood characteristics for the study sample. Thirty-six percent of participants lived in lower SES (quintiles 1–3) neighborhoods. About half of participants resided in the two highest quintiles of population density (46%). Forty-three percent resided in minority predominant neighborhoods, and almost half in racially/ethnically-mixed neighborhoods (48%). A majority of participants lived in neighborhoods with low street connectivity (62%). Three-fourths of participants lived near at least one park and 86% were within 1 mile walking distance of at least 1 recreational facility. About 40% lived in neighborhoods where the number of unhealthy food outlets outnumbered healthy ones.

HRQOL: physical and mental composite scores

Differences in the PCS and MCS were seen for both sociodemographic (Table 1) and neighborhood factors (Table 2). With regards to sociodemographic factors, younger patients had the highest PCS, with PCS decreasing with increasing age, whereas older patients had higher MCS. African American participants and those with Other race/ethnicity had the lowest PCS; Hispanic participants had the lowest MCS. Females had lower PCS but higher MCS than males. Participants who had more education had higher PCS and MCS. Those with more advanced disease and recurrence reported lower PCS and MCS. In terms of neighborhood factors, participants who lived in neighborhoods with lower SES, minority-predominant neighborhoods, highest population density, higher street connectivity, more recreational facilities, more parks, more unhealthy restaurants, more crowding, more rental households, and more non-single family units had lower PCS and MCS.

Neighborhood attributes associated with HRQOL

In models minimally adjusted for age, cancer stage, and cancer recurrence (Table 3, Model 1), residing in neighborhoods with higher nSES was associated with higher PCS [mean 45.5, 95% CI (43.7–47.3) for quintile 5 vs. mean 39.3, 95% CI (37.0–41.5) for quintile 1, p-trend <0.001]. Neighborhood racial/ethnic composition was also associated with PCS; NH White-predominant [mean 44.0, 95% CI (41.7–46.3)] and mixed racial/ethnic composition [(mean 43.9, 95% CI (42.0–45.7))] neighborhoods had higher PCS compared to predominantly minority neighborhoods [mean 41.4, 95% CI (39.5–43.2)]. Those residing in rural areas [mean 45.5, 95% CI (42.0–49.0)], suburbs [mean 43.5, 95% CI (41.6–45.5)], or cities [mean 42.2, 95% CI (40.1–44.3)] had higher PCS than those residing in metropolitan areas [mean 40.7, 95% CI (38.6–43.2)]. In addition, those residing in neighborhoods with the following characteristics were associated with lower PCS scores: high population density (p-trend <0.001); high street connectivity (p-trend=0.003); more recreational facilities (p-trend=0.028); higher ratio of unhealthy restaurants to healthy (p-trend=0.011); higher traffic density (p-trend=0.010); more crowding (p-trend <0.001); higher percent of rental properties (p-trend <0.001); and higher percent of non-single family unit (p-trend <0.001). However, when additionally adjusting for nSES, only those residing in rural areas [mean 44.5, 95% CI (41.1–47.9)] was significantly associated with PCS (Table 3, Model 2). In fully-adjusted models adjusting for clinical, sociodemographic (Table 3, Model 3), and behavioral factors (Table 3, Model 4), only nSES remained statistically significantly associated with PCS (p-trend<0.001).

In models minimally adjusted for age, and cancer recurrence (Table 4, Model 1), residing in neighborhoods with higher nSES was associated with higher MCS [mean 51.2, 95% CI (49.9–52.5) for quintile 5 vs. mean 48.5, 95% CI (46.7–50.3) for quintile 1, p-trend <0.001]. Neighborhood racial/ethnic composition was associated with MCS: NH White-predominant [mean 51.4, 95% CI (49.7–53.1)] and mixed racial/ethnic composition [mean 50.6, 95% CI (49.3–51.8)] neighborhoods had higher MCS compared to minority neighborhoods [mean 49.3, 95% CI (48.0–50.5)]. Those residing in towns [mean 52.3, 95% CI (47.5–57.2)], rural areas [mean 51.3, 95% CI (48.6–54.1)], cities [mean 50.6, 95% CI (49.2–52.0)], or suburbs [mean 50.4, 95% CI (49.2–51.6)] had higher MCS than those residing in metropolitan areas [mean 48.4, 95% CI (47.1–49.8)], though this was not statistically

significant. In addition, those residing in neighborhoods with the following characteristics were associated with lower MCS scores: high population density (p-trend <0.001), high street connectivity (p-trend<0.001), more parks (p-trend=0.002), higher ratio of unhealthy restaurants to healthy restaurants (p-trend 0.003), more traffic density (p-trend=0.039), more crowding (p-trend<0.001), higher percent of rental properties (p-trend <0.001), and higher percent of non-single family unit (p-trend <0.001). When additionally adjusted for nSES, all of these neighborhood attributes remained significantly associated with MCS except for neighborhood racial/ethnic composition, traffic density, and crowding (Table 4, Model 2). However, in fully-adjusted multivariable models adjusted for clinical and sociodemographic (Table 4, Model 3), and behavioral factors (Table 4, Model 4), only the ratio of more unhealthy to healthy restaurants remained significantly associated with lower MCS.

Neighborhood archetypes associated with HRQOL

Table 5 examines neighborhood archetypes associated with physical and mental composite scores. For PCS, *Upper middle-class suburb* [mean 45.1, 95% CI (43.1–47.1)] and *High status* [mean 44.8, 95% CI (42.9–46.7)] neighborhoods had the highest PCS in minimally adjusted models (Table 5, Model 1). *City pioneer* [mean 42.3, 95% CI (40.3–44.3)], *Suburban pioneer* [mean 40.2, 95% CI (35.1–45.3)], *Hispanic small town* [mean 39.9 (95% CI 36.9–42.9)] and *Inner city* neighborhoods [mean 39.3 (95% CI 37.2–41.4)] had lower PCS compared to *Upper middle-class suburb*. In a multivariable model adjusting for sociodemographic, clinical, and behavioral variables (Table 5, Model 2), *Suburban pioneer* [mean 37.3, 95% CI (34.1–40.6)] and *Inner city* [mean 37.3, 95% CI (34.0–40.6)] remained associated with lower PCS compared to *Upper middle-class suburb* [mean 39.4, 95% CI (36.1–42.6)].

High status and *Upper middle-class suburb* neighborhoods had the highest MCS [mean 52.1, 95% CI (50.7–53.4); mean 50.4, 95% CI (48.9–52.0)], respectively, in minimally adjusted models (Table 5, Model 1), with *High status* significantly higher than *Upper middle-class suburb*. *Suburban pioneer* [mean 48.0, 95% CI (46.4–49.7)] and *Inner city* neighborhoods [mean 48.7, 95% CI (47.1–50.3)] had significantly lower MCS. In a multivariable model adjusting for sociodemographic, clinical, and behavioral variables (Table 5, Model 2), only *High status* [mean 53.4, 95% CI (51.1–55.7)] remained associated with higher MCS compared to *Upper middle-class suburb* [mean 51.7 95% CI (49.2–54.1)].

Discussion

Among a diverse cohort of cancer survivors, we found that select neighborhood social and built environmental factors, including low nSES, high minority composition, increased population density, more street connectivity, more unhealthy restaurants, and more non-single family units, were associated with lower PCS and MCS. However, most of the individual neighborhood associations were no longer significant in multivariable models including nSES, with nSES as the only neighborhood attribute remaining significantly associated with PCS, and only restaurant environment index with MCS. This study highlights the importance of including neighborhood features in studies of HRQOL among

cancer survivors and supports the inclusion of neighborhood features under “enabling resources” in a conceptual framework to improve HRQOL for cancer survivors.

This study highlights the consistent negative impact of low neighborhood SES on HRQOL, even after accounting for patient sociodemographic and clinical factors that also impact HRQOL. This finding is consistent with several prior studies across a range of cancer sites. In a retrospective survey of White and African American cancer survivors, patients living in more disadvantaged neighborhoods (based on an index created based on prevalence of poverty, mother-only households, home ownership, and prevalence of college-educated individuals living in the area) reported lower physical quality of life compared to those in more advantaged places; interestingly, this association was not seen for mental quality of life.(39) Similarly, Pruitt et al. studied female breast cancer survivors, and found that those living in high poverty neighborhoods were more likely to report lower physical functioning.(40) A study of adolescent and young adult survivors of leukemia and lymphoma found that low neighborhood SES was associated with poorer physical health,(41) while a study of African American and Hispanic breast cancer survivors demonstrated that greater neighborhood stress was associated with poorer health, more comorbidities, more depressive symptoms, and more psychological difficulties.(42) In a multiethnic population-based study of breast cancer survivors, Ashing-Giwa and Lim reported that after controlling for demographic and medical characteristics, low SES and high socioecologic stress exacerbate negative QOL.(43) Breast cancer survivors who resided in high-foreclosure-risk areas were at increased odds of reporting poorer health status compared to woman who lived in low-foreclosure-risk areas.(44) Future interventions to improve HRQOL among cancer survivors should consider nSES.

In addition, one study of residential exposure to traffic noise and HRQOL found that a 10 decibel higher road traffic noise was associated with lower MCS; however PCS was not associated with traffic noise.(16) In our analysis, we assessed traffic density and found that it was not associated with either PCS or MCS once we adjusted for nSES. Studies have demonstrated that rural breast cancer survivors had higher overall QOL and reported lower symptom burden compared to urban survivors;(45) another study of head and neck cancer survivors concluded that rural survivors had higher physical and emotional QOL compared to urban survivors, but that social and functional QOL did not differ.(46) Our results showed similar associations of rural with higher PCS and MCS in minimally adjusted models; however, these associates were attenuated in fully adjusted models for both PCS and MCS. Our findings for traffic density and urbanicity differ from prior studies likely because of varying covariates and neighborhood factors included in fully adjusted models as well as for the different HRQOL domains examined. Finally, while one study reported an association between limited service/fast food restaurants and physical and mental distress in a general population, no studies to date have explored the role of the restaurant environment and HRQOL among cancer survivors.(47) Our findings of more unhealthy restaurants being associated with worse MCS needs to be further studied.

Because it is likely that these individual neighborhood attributes do not impact PCS or MCS independently, but rather through the combination of interactions of these attributes, we expanded upon prior work(48) to consider neighborhood archetypes that summarize

the combinations of characteristics from the built environment, migration and commuting, socioeconomic composition, and demographics and household composition (Supplemental Table 1). In our study, we found that the *Upper middle-class suburb* and *High status* neighborhoods had the highest PCS and MCS. These archetypes tended to have residents of high SES or who were predominantly White, midlife or older, and had low street connectivity and higher proportion of greenspace or recreational facilities. *Hispanic small town* and *Inner city* neighborhoods tend to have residents who are lower-middle to low SES, predominantly are Black or Hispanic, and have more rental properties and more unhealthy food options. In our study, residents of these neighborhood archetypes had the lowest PCS and MCS scores. Evaluating neighborhood archetypes may allow us to account for synergistic effects of individual social and built environment attributes and offer insight as to how these attributes in combination may impact HRQOL.

Our study has several limitations. The data for these analyses are cross-sectional so we were not able to assess trends over time. In addition, behavioral data was based on self-report and therefore subject to potential recall bias, particularly in light of a cancer diagnosis. The data are pooled from studies conducted in California conducted in English and thus may not be reflective of cancer survivors who live elsewhere and be limited in generalizability for non-English speaking patient populations. The study also used secondary geospatial data to describe neighborhood environments and therefore may not capture how residents perceive and use their environments. However, capturing social and built environment characteristics in this way is commonly done and validated in other studies; moreover, this approach may better reflect objective characterization of neighborhood environments. A sensitivity analysis indicated that the results from our final multivariable models were driven by BA neighborhoods; however, we do not present stratified findings by region due to limited sample size. Finally, our results were mixed in terms of potential minimally important differences in HRQOL. While SF-12 and SF-36 are less commonly used in studies among diverse cancer patients and across different cancer types, it is unclear what the optimal criteria are for clinically meaningful difference for this population.⁽⁴⁹⁾ Therefore, future studies should explore the optimal criteria for determining minimal important differences and minimal clinically important differences among cancer survivors using these surveys. The strength of the work outweighs the limitations considering the robust set of multilevel data captured by capitalizing on cancer registry data from a population-based sample of cancer survivors, self-reported data for participants' HRQOL, and neighborhood data.

As the first study to evaluate the independent and joint associations between such a comprehensive suite of social and built environment features on HRQOL in a diverse cohort of cancer survivors, we found that certain neighborhood social and built environmental factors were associated with PCS and MCS. The findings from this study may help inform which types of neighborhoods are at risk for adverse HRQOL among cancer survivors, and thus identify where interventions could be prioritized. Future studies need to prospectively examine the interaction between social and built environment characteristics to elucidate more clearly the pathways through which nSES and neighborhood attributes impact HRQOL, with attention to include diverse and non-English speaking populations. This will help inform targeted multilevel interventions to improve cancer survivorship outcomes in underserved patient populations and ameliorate disparities in cancer outcomes.

Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

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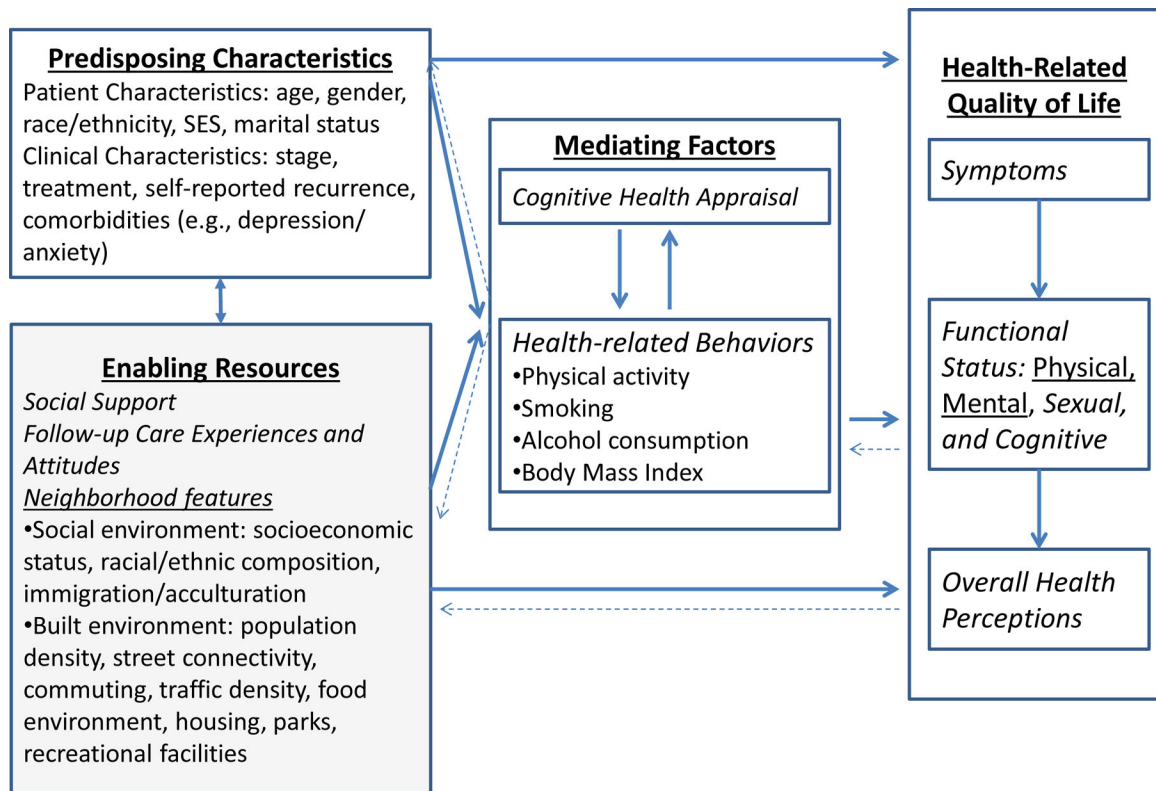


Figure 1. Conceptual framework for the study of health-related quality of life among cancer survivors. Adapted and reprinted in part by permission from Springer Nature Customer Service Center GmbH: Springer Nature. J Cancer Surviv. Arora NK, Hamilton AS, Potosky AL, Rowland JH, Aziz NM, Bellizzi KM, Klabunde CN, McLaughlin W, Stevens J. Population-based survivorship research using cancer registries: a study of non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma survivors, Copyright (2007).

Table 1.

Distribution of sample characteristics and mean physical and mental composite scores (PCS, MCS).

| | n (%) | Mean PCS (SD) | Mean MCS (SD) |
|----------------------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| Total sample | 2477 | 44.7 (11.6) | 50.5 (9.7) |
| Age at interview ^{*†} | | | |
| 18–49 | 266 (10.7%) | 49.5 (10.5) | 47.1 (10.0) |
| 50–59 | 432 (17.4%) | 47.3 (11.5) | 47.8 (11.0) |
| 60–69 | 646 (26.1%) | 45.7 (11.5) | 51.3 (8.8) |
| 70+ | 1133 (45.7%) | 42.0 (11.4) | 51.9 (9.1) |
| Race/Ethnicity ^{*†} | | | |
| NH White | 1284 (51.8%) | 45.3 (11.8) | 50.6 (9.6) |
| Hispanic | 342 (13.1%) | 45.1 (11.6) | 48.6 (10.9) |
| African American | 398 (16.1%) | 42.2 (11.7) | 50.4 (9.7) |
| Asian American/Pacific Islander | 424 (17.1%) | 45.2 (10.7) | 51.4 (8.6) |
| Other | 47 (1.9%) | 41.9 (11.5) | 51.6 (10.1) |
| Gender ^{*†} | | | |
| Male | 1134 (45.8%) | 46.1 (11.0) | 51.2 (9.3) |
| Female | 1343 (54.2%) | 43.5 (12.0) | 49.9 (9.9) |
| Education ^{*†} | | | |
| High school or less | 612 (24.7%) | 41.8 (12.0) | 49.2 (10.5) |
| Some college or college graduate | 1299 (52.4%) | 44.7 (11.6) | 50.7 (9.8) |
| Post graduate | 552 (22.3%) | 47.8 (10.5) | 51.5 (8.3) |
| Employment ^{*†} | | | |
| Full-time/Part-time | 796 (32.1%) | 50.0 (9.3) | 50.4 (9.2) |
| Retired | 1371 (55.3%) | 42.5 (11.5) | 51.6 (9.3) |
| Unemployed | 106 (4.3%) | 38.8 (12.5) | 43.5 (12.0) |
| Income ^{*†} | | | |
| <\$60,000 | 1323 (53.4%) | 41.5 (11.7) | 49.3 (10.4) |
| \$60,000-\$99,999 | 487 (19.7%) | 47.9 (10.4) | 51.3 (8.8) |
| >\$100,000 | 449 (18.1%) | 50.5 (9.3) | 52.4 (7.9) |
| Marital status ^{*†} | | | |
| Married | 1586 (64.0%) | 46.2 (11.0) | 51.2 (8.9) |
| Not married | 882 (35.6%) | 42.0 (12.2) | 49.1 (10.8) |
| Insurance status ^{*†} | | | |
| Private only | 1173 (47.4%) | 47.0 (11.3) | 50.1 (9.6) |
| Public only | 480 (19.4%) | 41.5 (11.8) | 48.9 (10.6) |
| Private and public | 700 (28.3%) | 43.2 (11.3) | 52.3 (8.8) |

| | n (%) | Mean PCS (SD) | Mean MCS (SD) |
|---|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| No insurance | 54 (2.2%) | 42.6 (12.1) | 46.8 (10.7) |
| Cancer site ^{*†} | | | |
| Colorectal cancer | 809 (32.7%) | 45.6 (11.3) | 50.4 (9.3) |
| Bladder | 174 (7.0%) | 46.9 (11.0) | 50.1 (8.7) |
| Leukemia | 80 (3.2%) | 43.2 (13.1) | 49.0 (9.6) |
| Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma | 292 (11.8%) | 44.7 (12.0) | 49.6 (11.1) |
| Breast | 357 (14.4%) | 43.2 (11.9) | 50.5 (9.7) |
| Uterine | 181 (7.3%) | 41.0 (12.3) | 49.9 (10.8) |
| Ovarian | 198 (8.0%) | 44.7 (11.3) | 50.2 (9.7) |
| Prostate | 386 (15.6%) | 45.3 (11.2) | 52.3 (9.0) |
| Stage at diagnosis [*] | | | |
| Localized | 1321 (53.3%) | 44.6 (11.7) | 50.5 (9.6) |
| Regional | 726 (29.3%) | 45.8 (11.2) | 50.6 (9.6) |
| Distant | 269 (10.9%) | 43.5 (11.6) | 50.2 (9.9) |
| Not applicable | 80 (3.2%) | 43.2 (13.1) | 49.0 (9.6) |
| Unknown | 81 (3.3%) | 41.9 (11.8) | 51.9 (10.0) |
| Recurrence ^{*†} | | | |
| No | 2158 (87.1%) | 45.1 (11.5) | 50.7 (9.6) |
| Yes | 280 (11.3%) | 41.3 (12.2) | 49.0 (10.4) |
| Radiation [*] | | | |
| No | 1698 (68.6%) | 45.3 (11.5) | 50.5 (9.5) |
| Yes | 748 (30.2%) | 43.4 (12.0) | 50.5 (10.1) |
| Diagnosis of depression/anxiety ^{*†} | | | |
| No | 1912 (77.2%) | 45.7 (11.2) | 52.4 (8.4) |
| Yes | 534 (21.6%) | 41.5 (12.4) | 43.8 (10.8) |
| BMI ^{*†} | | | |
| Underweight | 32 (1.3%) | 42.9 (13.3) | 50.5 (11.2) |
| Normal | 644 (26.0%) | 45.8 (11.3) | 51.9 (9.0) |
| Overweight | 618 (24.9%) | 44.9 (11.1) | 50.9 (9.7) |
| Obese | 444 (17.9%) | 40.5 (12.0) | 49.7 (10.9) |
| Missing [‡] | 739 (29.8%) | 46.2 (11.5) | 49.4 (9.2) |
| Vigorous physical activity ^{*†} | | | |
| No | 928 (37.5%) | 40.4 (12.2) | 49.7 (10.5) |
| Yes | 825 (33.3%) | 47.8 (9.9) | 52.2 (8.9) |
| Missing [‡] | 724 (29.2%) | 46.5 (11.2) | 49.6 (9.1) |
| Moderate physical activity ^{*†} | | | |

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| | n (%) | Mean PCS (SD) | Mean MCS (SD) |
|-----------------------|--------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| No | 421 (17.0%) | 38.5 (12.5) | 47.5 (11.6) |
| Yes | 1335 (53.9%) | 45.7 (10.9) | 51.9 (9.1) |
| Missing [‡] | 721 (29.1%) | 46.5 (11.3) | 49.7 (9.0) |
| Smoker ^{*‡} | | | |
| Never | 928 (37.5%) | 44.9 (11.6) | 50.9 (9.7) |
| Former | 665 (26.8%) | 42.9 (11.7) | 51.5 (9.5) |
| Current | 120 (4.8%) | 42.2 (11.9) | 47.5 (11.8) |
| Missing | 764 (30.8%) | 46.4 (11.4) | 49.7 (9.3) |
| Alcohol ^{*‡} | | | |
| Not current | 994 (40.1%) | 41.8 (12.2) | 50.3 (10.2) |
| Current, low | 508 (20.5%) | 46.5 (10.4) | 51.3 (9.3) |
| Current, high | 250 (10.1%) | 47.3 (10.8) | 52.6 (9.5) |
| Missing [‡] | 725 (29.3%) | 46.4 (11.2) | 49.5 (9.1) |

* PCS scores statistically significant at p<0.05

‡ MCS scores statistically significant at p<0.05

[‡]Most missing data for BMI, physical activity, smoking status, and alcohol use accounted for by not being available for APECC: Assessment of Patients' Experience of Cancer Care

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Table 2.

Distribution of neighborhood attributes and mean physical and mental composite scores (PCS, MCS).

| | n (%) | Mean PCS (SD) | Mean MCS (SD) |
|---|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| Neighborhood SES (Yost Index) ^{a*†} | | | |
| Q1 - Low SES: -4.3 – -0.90 | 184 (7.4%) | 40.6 (12.1) | 49.1 (11.4) |
| Q2: -0.90 – -0.31 | 290 (11.7%) | 40.3 (12.2) | 49.4 (10.3) |
| Q3: -0.31 – 0.22 | 422 (17.0%) | 44.5 (11.4) | 49.7 (10.1) |
| Q4: 0.22 – 0.84 | 579 (23.4%) | 44.2 (11.7) | 50.5 (9.7) |
| Q5 - High SES: 0.84 – 3.5 | 1002 (40.5%) | 47.1 (10.8) | 51.4 (8.8) |
| Neighborhood Racial/Ethnic Composition ^{b*†} | | | |
| Minority predominant | 1072 (43.3%) | 43.2 (11.8) | 49.8 (10.2) |
| Mixed | 1188 (48.0%) | 45.9 (11.3) | 50.9 (9.3) |
| White predominant | 217 (8.8%) | 45.7 (11.8) | 51.8 (9.1) |
| Urbanicity ^{c*†} | | | |
| Metropolitan | 483 (19.5%) | 42.3 (12.0) | 48.9 (10.1) |
| Suburb | 1510 (61.0%) | 45.4 (11.3) | 50.8 (9.5) |
| City | 414 (16.7%) | 44.5 (12.0) | 50.9 (9.8) |
| Town | 16 (0.6%) | 41.8 (12.1) | 52.4 (11.1) |
| Rural | 54 (2.2%) | 48.5 (10.2) | 51.5 (8.4) |
| Population Density ^{a*†} | | | |
| Q1 - Low population density: 0 – 0.00073 | 312 (12.6%) | 46.2 (11.2) | 50.9 (9.6) |
| Q2: 0.00073 – 0.0020 | 513 (20.7%) | 46.2 (11.3) | 51.5 (8.8) |
| Q3: 0.0020 – 0.0031 | 509 (20.5%) | 45.4 (11.5) | 51.4 (9.5) |
| Q4: 0.0031 – 0.0049 | 552 (22.3%) | 43.6 (11.8) | 49.6 (10.0) |
| Q5 - High population density: 0.0049 – 0.067 | 591 (23.9%) | 43.0 (11.8) | 49.5 (10.1) |
| Street Connectivity/Gamma ^{d*†} | | | |
| Q1 - Low street connectivity: 0.064 – 0.39 | 539 (21.8%) | 45.6 (11.4) | 50.9 (9.4) |
| Q2: 0.39 – 0.42 | 519 (21.0%) | 45.5 (11.3) | 51.3 (9.5) |
| Q3: 0.42 – 0.46 | 477 (19.3%) | 45.1 (11.5) | 50.9 (9.0) |
| Q4: 0.46 – 0.50 | 465 (18.8%) | 43.8 (11.9) | 49.8 (10.0) |
| Q5 - High street connectivity: 0.50 – 1 | 477 (19.3%) | 43.3 (12.0) | 49.4 (10.5) |
| Recreational Facilities (per 1,000 residents) ^{e*} | | | |
| 0 | 338 (13.6%) | 46.8 (10.9) | 50.3 (9.4) |
| 1–2 | 513 (20.7%) | 45.1 (11.8) | 51.0 (9.1) |
| 3–4 | 418 (16.9%) | 43.6 (12.0) | 50.8 (9.9) |
| 5+ | 1208 (48.8%) | 44.3 (11.6) | 50.2 (9.9) |
| Parks (per 1,000 residents) ^{f†} | | | |
| 0 | 598 (24.1%) | 45.4 (11.1) | 51.2 (9.3) |

| | n (%) | Mean PCS (SD) | Mean MCS (SD) |
|---|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1-2 | 1191 (48.1%) | 44.3 (11.9) | 50.6 (9.6) |
| 3-4 | 492 (19.9%) | 45.1 (11.7) | 49.9 (9.8) |
| 5+ | 196 (7.9%) | 44.3 (11.6) | 48.9 (10.7) |
| Restaurant Environment Index (REI) ^{g*†} | | | |
| REI=0: No unhealthy restaurants | 518 (20.9%) | 45.8 (11.3) | 51.5 (8.8) |
| REI<1: Unhealthy<Healthy restaurants | 1660 (67.0%) | 44.0 (11.7) | 50.2 (10.0) |
| REI 1: Unhealthy Healthy restaurants | 62 (2.5%) | 45.1 (12.7) | 48.3 (10.9) |
| No restaurants | 237 (9.6%) | 46.9 (11.1) | 51.1 (8.8) |
| Retail Food Environment Index (RFEI) ^h | | | |
| RFEI=0: No unhealthy outlets | 171 (6.9%) | 45.3 (11.4) | 51.8 (8.7) |
| RFEI<1: Unhealthy<Healthy outlets | 1111 (44.9%) | 44.0 (11.8) | 50.0 (10.0) |
| RFEI 1: Unhealthy Healthy outlets | 973 (39.3%) | 44.6 (11.7) | 50.7 (9.7) |
| No food outlets | 222 (9.0%) | 48.1 (10.4) | 51.1 (8.2) |
| Traffic Density (vehicle kilometers traveled) ^{i*} | | | |
| Q1-Low density: 0 – 13,073 | 475 (19.2%) | 46.3 (11.0) | 51.0 (9.3) |
| Q2: 13,074 – 28,617 | 476 (19.2%) | 44.9 (11.6) | 50.6 (9.4) |
| Q3: 28,619 – 45,171 | 476 (19.2%) | 43.1 (12.0) | 50.3 (9.9) |
| Q4: 45,175 – 83,642 | 476 (19.2%) | 44.4 (11.5) | 50.5 (9.8) |
| Q5-High density: 83,691 – 508,873 | 476 (19.2%) | 44.1 (12.0) | 49.8 (10.2) |
| Percent Crowding (>1 occupant/room) ^{a*†} | | | |
| Q1-Low crowding: 0 – 0.026 | 635 (25.6%) | 46.9 (11.3) | 51.6 (8.3) |
| Q2: 0.026 – 0.067 | 505 (20.4%) | 45.5 (11.4) | 50.5 (9.9) |
| Q3: 0.067 – 0.14 | 547 (22.1%) | 44.5 (11.2) | 50.3 (10.3) |
| Q4: 0.14 – 0.29 | 472 (19.1%) | 43.1 (11.8) | 50.0 (10.0) |
| Q5-High crowding: 0.29 – 1 | 318 (12.8%) | 41.7 (12.2) | 49.4 (10.3) |
| Percent Rental Households ^{a*†} | | | |
| Q1-Low renting: 0 – 0.15 | 674 (27.2%) | 46.6 (10.8) | 52.2 (8.6) |
| Q2: 0.15 – 0.28 | 510 (20.6%) | 44.7 (11.7) | 50.6 (9.1) |
| Q3: 0.28 – 0.46 | 451 (18.2%) | 44.0 (11.9) | 50.1 (10.0) |
| Q4: 0.46 – 0.68 | 474 (19.1%) | 43.7 (11.9) | 49.5 (10.1) |
| Q5-High renting: 0.68 – 1 | 368 (14.9%) | 43.2 (12.0) | 49.2 (10.9) |
| Percent Non-Single Family Units ^{a*†} | | | |
| Q1-Low non-single family units: 0 – 0.025 | 563 (22.7%) | 45.8 (11.1) | 51.5 (8.6) |
| Q2: 0.025 – 0.15 | 524 (21.2%) | 46.1 (10.9) | 51.0 (9.1) |
| Q3: 0.15 – 0.33 | 440 (17.8%) | 44.1 (12.1) | 50.4 (9.9) |
| Q4: 0.33 – 0.59 | 487 (19.7%) | 43.5 (12.1) | 50.0 (10.5) |
| Q5-High non-single family units: 0.59 – 1 | 463 (18.7%) | 43.7 (12.0) | 49.3 (10.2) |

| | n (%) | Mean PCS (SD) | Mean MCS (SD) |
|--|-------------|---------------|---------------|
| Neighborhood Archetypes ^{j*†} | | | |
| Upper middle class suburb | 347 (14.0%) | 46.5 (11.2) | 50.9 (8.9) |
| High status | 604 (24.4%) | 46.6 (10.9) | 52.4 (8.2) |
| New urban/Pedestrian | 527 (21.3%) | 45.7 (11.6) | 50.3 (10.0) |
| Mixed SES suburbs | 86 (3.5%) | 45.1 (11.7) | 50.2 (9.6) |
| Rural/Micropolitan | 20 (0.8%) | 40.6 (13.3) | 50.0 (9.9) |
| City pioneer | 341 (13.8%) | 44.1 (11.5) | 49.6 (9.4) |
| Suburban pioneer | 236 (9.5%) | 41.3 (11.8) | 48.7 (11.5) |
| Hispanic small town | 72 (2.9%) | 40.8 (12.7) | 48.9 (11.8) |
| Inner city | 244 (9.9%) | 40.7 (11.6) | 49.4 (10.7) |

^aCensus 2000 block group-level measures, quintiles based on state distributions.

^bCensus 2000 block group-level measures. Minority predominant if percent of NH Black, NH Asian, or Hispanic were above the statewide median and percent of NH White was below the statewide median; White predominant if percent of NH White was above the statewide median and percent of NH Black, NH Asian, and Hispanic were below the statewide median; Mixed otherwise.

^cUrban/rural status using census defined Urbanized Areas (population > 50,000) and Urban Clusters (population between 2500 and 50,000).

^dCensus 2000 block group-level measures, quintiles based on state distributions. Ratio of actual number of street segments to maximum possible number of intersections; a higher ratio indicates more street connectivity.

^eTotal number of recreational facilities that were active during the 3-year window around year of interview within a 1600-meter network distance.

^fTotal number of parks within a 1600-meter network distance.

^gResidential buffer measure within a 1600-meter network distance: ratio of the average number of fast food restaurants to other restaurants. If denominator=0 and numerator>0, classified as REI>=1.

^hResidential buffer measure within a 1600-meter network distance: ratio of the average number of convenience stores, liquor stores, and fast food restaurants to supermarkets and farmers' markets. If denominator=0 and numerator>0, classified as RFEI>=1.

ⁱVehicle kilometers traveled (VkmT) within a 500-meter distance, quintiles based on sample distribution.

^jCensus 2000 tract-level summary neighborhood measure that accounts for the synergistic effects of 39 social and built environment attributes.

* PCS scores statistically significant at p<0.05.

† MCS scores statistically significant at p<0.05.

Table 3.

Associations between neighborhood attributes and physical composite score (PCS).

| | Model 1: Neighborhood variable only^a LS Mean PCS (95% CI) | Model 2: Neighborhood variable+ nSES^a LS Mean PCS, (95% CI) | Model 3: Multivariable model^b LS Mean PCS, (95% CI) | Model 4: Multivariable model + health-related behaviors^c LS Mean PCS, (95% CI) |
|---|--|--|--|---|
| Neighborhood SES (Yost Index) ^d | | | | |
| Q1 - Low SES: -4.3 – -0.90 | 39.3 (37.0–41.5) | | 36.3 (32.9–39.8) | 37.8 (34.4–41.2) |
| Q2: -0.90 – -0.31 | 38.9 (36.8–40.9) | | 35.5 (32.3–38.7) | 36.7 (33.4–39.9) |
| Q3: -0.31 – 0.22 | 42.9 (41.0–44.9) | | 38.8 (35.7–42.0) | 39.4 (36.2–42.6) |
| Q4: 0.22 – 0.84 | 42.5 (40.7–44.4) | | 38.1 (35.0–41.3) | 38.4 (35.2–41.6) |
| Q5 - High SES: 0.84 – 3.5 | 45.5 (43.7–47.3) | | 39.9 (36.7–43.0) | 39.9 (36.7–43.1) |
| p-trend | <0.001 | | <0.001 | <0.001 |
| Neighborhood racial/ethnic composition ^e | | | | |
| Minority predominant | 41.4 (39.5–43.2) | 41.7 (39.9–43.5) | | |
| Mixed | 43.9 (42.0–45.7) | 42.0 (40.2–43.8) | | |
| White predominant | 44.0 (41.7–46.3) | 41.5 (39.2–43.8) | | |
| Urbanicity ^f | | | | |
| Metropolitan | 40.7 (38.6–42.7) | 41.1 (39.3–43.0) | | |
| Suburb | 43.5 (41.6–45.5) | 42.3 (40.6–44.1) | | |
| City | 42.2 (40.1–44.3) | 41.4 (39.4–43.3) | | |
| Town | 40.5 (34.7–46.3) | 40.1 (34.5–45.7) | | |
| Rural | 45.5 (42.0–49.0) | 44.5 (41.1–47.9) | | |
| Population Density ^e | | | | |
| Q1 - Low population density: 0 – 0.00073 | 43.9 (41.7–46.0) | 42.1 (40.0–44.3) | | |
| Q2: 0.00073 – 0.0020 | 44.2 (42.3–46.2) | 42.5 (40.5–44.4) | | |
| Q3: 0.0020 – 0.0031 | 43.5 (41.6–45.5) | 42.2 (40.2–44.1) | | |
| Q4: 0.0031 – 0.0049 | 41.5 (39.6–43.5) | 41.0 (39.1–42.9) | | |
| Q5 - High population density: 0.0049 – 0.067 | 41.2 (39.3–43.2) | 41.7 (39.9–43.6) | | |
| p-trend | <0.001 | 0.12 | | |
| Street Connectivity/Gamma ^g | | | | |
| Q1 - Low street connectivity: 0.064 – 0.39 | 43.1 (41.0–45.1) | 41.2 (39.2–43.1) | | |
| Q2: 0.39 – 0.42 | 43.4 (41.4–45.4) | 42.2 (40.2–44.1) | | |

| | Model 1: Neighborhood variable only ^a LS Mean PCS (95% CI) | Model 2: Neighborhood variable+ nSES ^a LS Mean PCS, (95% CI) | Model 3: Multivariable model ^b LS Mean PCS, (95% CI) | Model 4: Multivariable model + health-related behaviors ^c LS Mean PCS, (95% CI) |
|--|--|--|--|---|
| Q3: 0.42 – 0.46 | 43.3 (41.3–45.4) | 42.6 (40.6–44.5) | | |
| Q4: 0.46 – 0.50 | 41.9 (39.8–43.9) | 41.7 (39.8–43.6) | | |
| Q5 - High street connectivity: 0.50 – 1 | 41.4 (39.4–43.5) | 41.3 (39.4–43.3) | | |
| p-trend | 0.003 | 0.91 | | |
| Recreational Facilities (per 1,000 residents) ^h | | | | |
| 0 | 44.0 (41.9–46.2) | 42.9 (40.8–44.9) | | |
| 1–2 | 43.2 (41.2–45.2) | 42.3 (40.4–44.2) | | |
| 3–4 | 41.8 (39.8–43.8) | 41.2 (39.3–43.1) | | |
| 5+ | 42.5 (40.6–44.4) | 41.7 (40.0–43.5) | | |
| p-trend | 0.028 | 0.068 | | |
| Parks (per 1,000 residents) ⁱ | | | | |
| 0 | 43.4 (41.3–45.4) | 42.1 (40.2–44.0) | | |
| 1–2 | 42.3 (40.4–44.2) | 41.6 (39.8–43.3) | | |
| 3–4 | 42.9 (40.8–45.0) | 42.2 (40.3–44.1) | | |
| 5+ | 41.9 (39.5–44.3) | 41.5 (39.2–43.8) | | |
| p-trend | 0.22 | 0.73 | | |
| Restaurant Environment Index (REI) ^j | | | | |
| REI=0: No unhealthy restaurants | 43.9 (42.0–45.9) | 42.3 (40.3–44.2) | | |
| REI<1: Unhealthy<Healthy restaurants | 42.2 (40.4–44.0) | 41.7 (40.0–43.4) | | |
| REI 1: Unhealthy Healthy restaurants | 42.8 (39.5–46.0) | 41.7 (38.6–44.9) | | |
| p-trend | 0.011 | 0.39 | | |
| No restaurant | 44.2 (41.9–46.4) | 42.4 (40.2–44.6) | | |
| Retail Food Environment Index (RFEI) ^k | | | | |
| RFEI=0: No unhealthy outlets | 43.3 (40.9–45.8) | 41.4 (39.0–43.8) | | |
| RFEI<1: Unhealthy<Healthy outlets | 42.2 (40.4–44.0) | 41.9 (40.1–43.6) | | |
| RFEI : Unhealthy Healthy outlets | 42.6 (40.8–44.4) | 41.6 (39.8–43.3) | | |
| p-trend | 0.99 | 0.77 | | |
| No food outlets | 45.3 (43.0–47.6) | 43.4 (41.2–45.7) | | |
| Traffic Density (vehicle kilometers traveled) ^l | | | | |
| Q1-Low density: 0 – 13,073 | 44.0 (42.0–46.1) | 42.5 (40.6–44.5) | | |
| Q2: 13,074 – 28,617 | 42.6 (40.6–44.7) | 41.5 (39.6–43.4) | | |
| Q3: 28,619 – 45,171 | 41.6 (39.6–43.6) | 41.1 (39.2–43.0) | | |
| Q4: 45,715 – 83,642 | 42.6 (40.6–44.5) | 42.0 (40.2–43.9) | | |

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| | Model 1: Neighborhood variable only ^a LS Mean PCS (95% CI) | Model 2: Neighborhood variable+ nSES ^a LS Mean PCS, (95% CI) | Model 3: Multivariable model ^b LS Mean PCS, (95% CI) | Model 4: Multivariable model + health-related behaviors ^c LS Mean PCS, (95% CI) |
|--|--|--|--|---|
| Q5-High density: 83,691 – 508,873 | 41.9 (39.9–44.0) | 41.7 (39.8–43.6) | | |
| p -trend | 0.010 | 0.44 | | |
| Percent Crowding (>1 occupant/room) ^d | | | | |
| Q1-Low crowding: 0 – 0.026 | 45.1 (43.2–47.0) | 42.2 (40.1–44.2) | | |
| Q2: 0.026 – 0.067 | 43.6 (41.7–45.6) | 41.5 (39.4–43.5) | | |
| Q3: 0.067 – 0.14 | 42.7 (40.8–44.6) | 41.4 (39.5–43.4) | | |
| Q4: 0.14 – 0.29 | 41.1 (39.2–43.1) | 41.5 (39.6–43.4) | | |
| Q5-High crowding: 0.29 – 1 | 40.3 (38.3–42.4) | 42.4 (40.3–44.5) | | |
| p-trend | <0.001 | 0.59 | | |
| Percent Rental Households ^d | | | | |
| Q1-Low renting: 0 – 0.15 | 44.6 (42.6–46.5) | 42.3 (40.4–44.3) | | |
| Q2: 0.15 – 0.28 | 42.8 (40.8–44.8) | 41.6 (39.6–43.5) | | |
| Q3: 0.28 – 0.46 | 42.2 (40.2–44.3) | 41.6 (39.7–43.6) | | |
| Q4: 0.46 – 0.68 | 41.9 (39.9–43.9) | 41.9 (40.0–43.8) | | |
| Q5-High renting: 0.68 – 1 | 41.1 (39.0–43.2) | 41.5 (39.5–43.5) | | |
| p-trend | <0.001 | 0.41 | | |
| Percent Non-Single Family Units ^f | | | | |
| Q1-Low non-single family units: 0 – 0.025 | 43.8 (41.8–45.8) | 41.7 (39.7–43.6) | | |
| Q2: 0.025 – 0.15 | 44.0 (42.0–46.1) | 42.7 (40.7–44.6) | | |
| Q3: 0.15 – 0.33 | 42.3 (40.3–44.3) | 41.8 (39.9–43.7) | | |
| Q4: 0.33 – 0.59 | 41.7 (39.7–43.7) | 41.6 (39.7–43.5) | | |
| Q5-High non-single family units: 0.59 – 1 | 41.7 (39.7–43.8) | 41.6 (39.7–43.5) | | |
| p-trend | <0.001 | 0.43 | | |

LS, least square; PCS, physical composite score; CI, confidence interval

Note: Bold indicates p-value<0.05 compared to the first category (reference level).

^aNeighborhood variables entered into models separately, minimally adjusted for age at interview (years), stage, and self-reported recurrence, using a 3-level model with a random effect for study/region and a random effect for block group nested within study/region.

^bSame 3-level model as in footnote a. Model included neighborhood attributes that were significantly associated with PCS in a multivariable model, adjusted for patient and clinical characteristics that were associated with both PCS (in a multivariable model) and neighborhood SES. The model shown here was adjusted for age, stage, recurrence, race/ethnicity, employment, income, marital status, and ever depression/anxiety.

^cAdditionally added to multivariable model in footnote b health-related behavior covariates that were associated with both PCS and neighborhood SES: moderate and strenuous physical activity, smoking, alcohol, and BMI.

^dCensus 2000 block group-level measures, quintiles based on state distributions.

^eCensus 2000 block group-level measures. Minority predominant if percent of NH Black, NH Asian, or Hispanic were above the statewide median and percent of NH White was below the statewide median; White predominant if percent of NH White was above the statewide median and percent of NH Black, NH Asian, and Hispanic were below the statewide median; Mixed otherwise.

^fUrban/rural status using census defined Urbanized Areas (population > 50,000) and Urban Clusters (population between 2500 and 50,000).

^gCensus 2000 block group-level measures, quintiles based on state distributions. Ratio of actual number of street segments to maximum possible number of intersections; a higher ratio indicates more street connectivity.

^hTotal number of recreational facilities that were active during the 3-year window around year of interview within a 1600-meter network distance.

ⁱTotal number of parks within a 1600-meter network distance.

^jResidential buffer measure within a 1600-meter network distance: ratio of the average number of fast food restaurants to other restaurants. If denominator=0 and numerator>0, classified as REI>=1. P-trend did not include No restaurants.

^kResidential buffer measure within a 1600-meter network distance: ratio of the average number of convenience stores, liquor stores, and fast food restaurants to supermarkets and farmers' markets. If denominator=0 and numerator>0, classified as RFEI>=1. P-trend did not include No food outlets.

^lVehicle kilometers traveled (VkmT) within a 500-meter distance, quintiles based on sample distribution.

Table 4.

Associations between neighborhood attributes and mental composite score (MCS).

| | Model 1: Neighborhood variable only^a LS Mean MCS (95% CI) | Model 2: Neighborhood variable+ nSES^a LS Mean MCS, (95% CI) | Model 3: Multivariable model^b LS Mean MCS, (95% CI) | Model 4: Multivariable model + health-related behaviors^c LS Mean MCS, (95% CI) |
|---|--|--|--|---|
| Neighborhood SES (Yost Index) ^d | | | | |
| Q1 - Low SES: -4.3 – -0.90 | 48.5 (46.7–50.3) | | | |
| Q2: -0.90 – -0.31 | 48.9 (47.3–50.4) | | | |
| Q3: -0.31 – 0.22 | 49.3 (47.8–50.7) | | | |
| Q4: 0.22 – 0.84 | 50.2 (48.8–51.6) | | | |
| Q5 - High SES: 0.84 – 3.5 | 51.2 (49.9–52.5) | | | |
| p-trend | <0.001 | | | |
| Neighborhood racial/ethnic composition ^e | | | | |
| Minority predominant | 49.3 (48.0–50.5) | 49.4 (48.1–50.7) | | |
| Mixed | 50.6 (49.3–51.8) | 49.9 (48.5–51.2) | | |
| White predominant | 51.4 (49.7–53.1) | 50.4 (48.6–52.3) | | |
| Urbanicity ^f | | | | |
| Metropolitan | 48.4 (47.1–49.8) | 48.5 (47.1–50.0) | | |
| Suburb | 50.4 (49.2–51.6) | 49.9 (48.6–51.2) | | |
| City | 50.6 (49.2–52.0) | 50.3 (48.8–51.8) | | |
| Town | 52.3 (47.5–57.2) | 52.1 (47.3–57.0) | | |
| Rural | 51.3 (48.6–54.1) | 50.9 (48.1–53.7) | | |
| Population Density ^e | | | | |
| Q1 - Low population density: 0 – 0.00073 | 50.6 (49.0–52.1) | 49.9 (48.3–51.6) | | |
| Q2: 0.00073 – 0.0020 | 51.1 (49.7–52.4) | 50.5 (49.0–51.9) | | |
| Q3: 0.0020 – 0.0031 | 51.0 (49.6–52.3) | 50.5 (49.0–51.9) | | |
| Q4: 0.0031 – 0.0049 | 49.2 (47.9–50.6) | 49.0 (47.6–50.4) | | |
| Q5 - High population density: 0.0049 – 0.067 | 49.0 (47.7–50.3) | 49.1 (47.7–50.4) | | |
| p-trend | <0.001 | 0.021 | | |
| Street Connectivity/Gamma ^g | | | | |
| Q1 - Low street connectivity: 0.064 – 0.39 | 50.5 (49.2–51.9) | 49.8 (48.4–51.3) | | |
| Q2: 0.39 – 0.42 | 50.9 (49.6–52.3) | 50.4 (49.0–51.9) | | |
| Q3: 0.42 – 0.46 | 50.4 (49.0–51.8) | 50.1 (48.7–51.5) | | |
| Q4: 0.46 – 0.50 | 49.3 (47.9–50.7) | 49.2 (47.8–50.7) | | |
| Q5 - High street connectivity: 0.50 – 1 | 48.9 (47.5–50.2) | 48.8 (47.4–50.2) | | |

| | Model 1: Neighborhood variable only^a LS Mean MCS (95% CI) | Model 2: Neighborhood variable+ nSES^a LS Mean MCS, (95% CI) | Model 3: Multivariable model^b LS Mean MCS, (95% CI) | Model 4: Multivariable model + health-related behaviors^c LS Mean MCS, (95% CI) |
|--|---|---|---|--|
| p-trend | <0.001 | 0.027 | | |
| Recreational Facilities (per 1,000 residents) ^h | | | | |
| 0 | 50.1 (48.6–51.6) | 49.5 (48.0–51.1) | | |
| 1–2 | 50.6 (49.3–52.0) | 50.2 (48.8–51.6) | | |
| 3–4 | 50.3 (48.9–51.7) | 50.0 (48.5–51.5) | | |
| 5+ | 49.7 (48.5–50.8) | 49.3 (48.0–50.5) | | |
| p-trend | 0.14 | 0.19 | | |
| Parks (per 1,000 residents) ⁱ | | | | |
| 0 | 50.7 (49.4–52.0) | 50.2 (48.8–51.6) | | |
| 1–2 | 50.1 (49.0–51.3) | 49.8 (48.5–51.0) | | |
| 3–4 | 49.5 (48.2–50.9) | 49.2 (47.8–50.6) | | |
| 5+ | 48.4 (46.7–50.1) | 48.1 (46.3–49.9) | | |
| p-trend | 0.002 | 0.006 | | |
| Restaurant Environment Index (REI) ^j | | | | |
| REI=0: No unhealthy restaurants | 51.0 (49.7–52.4) | 50.4 (48.9–51.9) | 52.0 (49.6–54.4) | 52.4 (50.1–54.8) |
| REI<1: Unhealthy<Healthy restaurants | 49.7 (48.5–50.9) | 49.5 (48.2–50.7) | 51.4 (49.1–53.7) | 51.9 (49.6–54.1) |
| REI 1: Unhealthy Healthy restaurants | 48.2 (45.6–50.8) | 47.8 (45.2–50.5) | 49.5 (46.2–52.7) | 49.9 (46.7–53.1) |
| p-trend | 0.003 | 0.027 | 0.090 | 0.078 |
| No restaurant | 51.0 (49.3–52.6) | 50.3 (48.5–52.0) | 51.7 (49.1–54.2) | 52.1 (49.6–54.6) |
| Retail Food Environment Index (RFEI) ^k | | | | |
| RFEI=0: No unhealthy outlets | 51.2 (49.4–53.0) | 50.4 (48.5–52.3) | | |
| RFEI<1: Unhealthy<Healthy outlets | 49.4 (48.2–50.6) | 49.2 (48.0–50.5) | | |
| RFEI : Unhealthy Healthy outlets | 50.3 (49.1–51.6) | 49.9 (48.6–51.3) | | |
| p-trend | 0.52 | 0.59 | | |
| No food outlets | 51.0 (49.4–52.7) | 50.3 (48.5–52.0) | | |
| Traffic Density (vehicle kilometers traveled) ^l | | | | |
| Q1-Low density: 0 – 13,073 | 50.7 (49.4–52.1) | 50.1 (48.6–51.6) | | |
| Q2: 13,074 – 28,617 | 50.2 (48.8–51.5) | 49.7 (48.2–51.1) | | |
| Q3: 28,619 – 45,171 | 49.6 (48.3–51.0) | 49.4 (48.0–50.9) | | |
| Q4: 45,715 – 83,642 | 49.9 (48.6–51.2) | 49.6 (48.2–51.1) | | |
| Q5-High density: 83,691 – 508,873 | 49.4 (48.0–50.8) | 49.3 (47.8–50.7) | | |
| p-trend | 0.039 | 0.24 | | |

| | Model 1: Neighborhood variable only^a LS Mean MCS (95% CI) | Model 2: Neighborhood variable+ nSES^a LS Mean MCS, (95% CI) | Model 3: Multivariable model^b LS Mean MCS, (95% CI) | Model 4: Multivariable model + health-related behaviors^c LS Mean MCS, (95% CI) |
|--|--|--|--|---|
| Percent Crowding (>1 occupant/room) ^d | | | | |
| Q1-Low crowding: 0 – 0.026 | 51.2 (49.8–52.5) | 49.9 (48.3–51.4) | | |
| Q2: 0.026 – 0.067 | 50.2 (48.8–51.5) | 49.2 (47.6–50.7) | | |
| Q3: 0.067 – 0.14 | 49.9 (48.5–51.2) | 49.4 (47.9–50.8) | | |
| Q4: 0.14 – 0.29 | 49.7 (48.3–51.1) | 49.9 (48.4–51.4) | | |
| Q5-High crowding: 0.29 – 1 | 48.9 (47.4–50.4) | 49.7 (48.1–51.4) | | |
| p-trend | <0.001 | 0.90 | | |
| Percent Rental Households ^d | | | | |
| Q1-Low renting: 0 – 0.15 | 51.8 (50.5–53.1) | 51.2 (49.8–52.6) | | |
| Q2: 0.15 – 0.28 | 50.2 (48.8–51.5) | 49.9 (48.4–51.3) | | |
| Q3: 0.28 – 0.46 | 49.6 (48.2–51.0) | 49.5 (48.0–50.9) | | |
| Q4: 0.46 – 0.68 | 49.1 (47.7–50.4) | 49.1 (47.7–50.4) | | |
| Q5-High renting: 0.68 – 1 | 48.9 (47.4–50.3) | 48.9 (47.5–50.4) | | |
| p-trend | <0.001 | <0.001 | | |
| Percent Non-Single Family Units ^f | | | | |
| Q1-Low non-single family units: 0 – 0.025 | 51.2 (49.8–52.5) | 50.4 (48.9–51.8) | | |
| Q2: 0.025 – 0.15 | 50.6 (49.3–52.0) | 50.1 (48.7–51.6) | | |
| Q3: 0.15 – 0.33 | 49.9 (48.6–51.3) | 49.7 (48.3–51.2) | | |
| Q4: 0.33 – 0.59 | 49.5 (48.2–50.9) | 49.5 (48.1–50.9) | | |
| Q5-High non-single family units: 0.59 – 1 | 49.0 (47.6–50.3) | 48.9 (47.5–50.3) | | |
| p-trend | <0.001 | 0.013 | | |

LS, least square; MCS, mental composite score; CI, confidence interval

Note: Bold indicates p-value<0.05 compared to the first category (reference level).

^aNeighborhood variables entered into models separately, minimally adjusted for age at interview (years) and self-reported recurrence, using a 3-level model with a random effect for study/region and a random effect for block group nested within study/region.

^bSame 3-level model as in footnote a. Model included neighborhood attributes that were significantly associated with MCS in a multivariable model, adjusted for patient and clinical characteristics that were associated with both MCS (in a multivariable model) and REI. The model shown here was adjusted for age, race/ethnicity, education, income, marital status, and insurance.

^cAdditionally added to multivariable model in footnote b health-related behavior covariates that were associated with both MCS and neighborhood REI: alcohol.

^dCensus 2000 block group-level measures, quintiles based on state distributions.

^eCensus 2000 block group-level measures. Minority predominant if percent of NH Black, NH Asian, or Hispanic were above the statewide median and percent of NH White was below the statewide median; White predominant if percent of NH White was above the statewide median and percent of NH Black, NH Asian, and Hispanic were below the statewide median; Mixed otherwise.

^fUrban/rural status using census defined Urbanized Areas (population > 50,000) and Urban Clusters (population between 2500 and 50,000).

^gCensus 2000 block group-level measures, quintiles based on state distributions. Ratio of actual number of street segments to maximum possible number of intersections; a higher ratio indicates more street connectivity.

^hTotal number of recreational facilities that were active during the 3-year window around year of interview within a 1600-meter network distance.

ⁱTotal number of parks within a 1600-meter network distance.

^jResidential buffer measure within a 1600-meter network distance: ratio of the average number of fast food restaurants to other restaurants. If denominator=0 and numerator>0, classified as REI>=1. P-trend did not include No restaurants.

^kResidential buffer measure within a 1600-meter network distance: ratio of the average number of convenience stores, liquor stores, and fast food restaurants to supermarkets and farmers' markets. If denominator=0 and numerator>0, classified as RFEI>=1. P-trend did not include No food outlets.

^lVehicle kilometers traveled (VkmT) within a 500-meter distance, quintiles based on sample distribution.

Table 5.

Associations between neighborhood archetypes and physical and mental composite scores (PCS, MCS).

| Archetype 9-class CT 2000 | Model 1: Minimally adjusted ^a LS Mean (95% CI) | Model 2: Fully adjusted ^b LS Mean (95% CI) |
|---------------------------------|---|---|
| PCS | | |
| Upper middle class suburb (ref) | 45.1 (43.1–47.1) | 39.4 (36.1–42.6) |
| High status | 44.8 (42.9–46.7) | 39.4 (36.2–42.6) |
| New urban/Pedestrian | 43.9 (42.1–45.8) | 39.5 (36.3–42.7) |
| Mixed SES suburb | 43.0 (40.2–45.9) | 38.9 (35.2–42.7) |
| Rural/Micropolitan | 40.2 (35.1–45.3) | 35.8 (30.4–41.1) |
| City pioneer | 42.3 (40.3–44.3) | 38.8 (35.6–42.0) |
| Suburban pioneer | 40.2 (38.0–42.3) | 37.3 (34.1–40.6) |
| Hispanic small town | 39.9 (36.9–42.9) | 37.1 (33.3–40.9) |
| Inner city | 39.3 (37.2–41.4) | 37.3 (34.0–40.6) |
| MCS | | |
| Upper middle class suburb | 50.4 (48.9–52.0) | 51.7 (49.2–54.1) |
| High status | 52.1 (50.7–53.4) | 53.4 (51.1–55.7) |
| New urban/Pedestrian | 50.1 (48.7–51.5) | 51.9 (49.6–54.3) |
| Mixed SES suburb | 50.0 (47.7–52.3) | 51.9 (48.9–54.8) |
| Rural/Micropolitan | 49.2 (44.9–53.5) | 51.1 (46.4–55.7) |
| City pioneer | 49.4 (47.9–51.0) | 51.9 (49.5–54.3) |
| Suburban pioneer | 48.0 (46.4–49.7) | 50.6 (48.2–53.1) |
| Hispanic small town | 48.2 (45.7–50.6) | 50.9 (47.8–54.0) |
| Inner city | 48.7 (47.1–50.3) | 52.0 (49.5–54.5) |

CT, census tract; LS, least square; CI, confidence interval; PCS, physical composite score; MCS; mental composite score

Note: Bold indicates p-value<0.05 compared to Upper middle class suburb (reference level).

^aPCS: Minimally adjusted for age at interview (years), stage, and self-reported recurrence, using a 3-level model with a random effect for study/region and a random effect for census tract nested within study/region. MCS: Minimally adjusted for age at interview (years) and self-reported recurrence, using a 3-level model with a random effect for study/region and a random effect for census tract nested within study/region.

^bPCS: Same 3-level model as footnote a. PCS but adjusted for age, stage, recurrence, race/ethnicity, employment, income, marital status, report of ever having depression/anxiety, moderate and strenuous physical activity, smoking, alcohol, and BMI. MCS: Same 3-level model as footnote a. MCS but adjusted for age, race/ethnicity, education, income, marital status, insurance, and alcohol.