

# Linking the 1940 U.S. Census to Five Modern Aging Surveys

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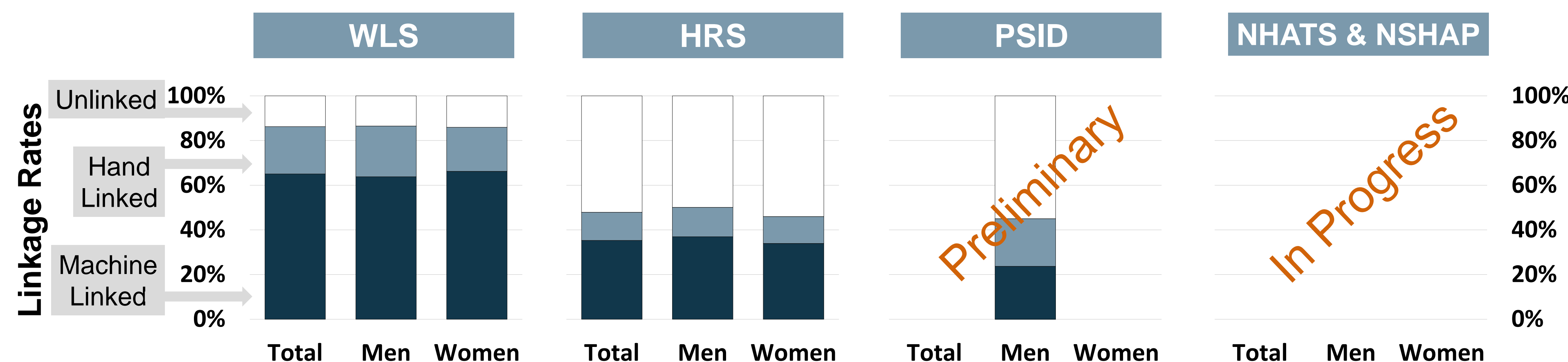
## Background and Objective

- Modern surveys of older people often lack data on early life conditions and exposures.
- Respondents to several modern aging surveys were children or young adults at the time of the 1940 U.S. Census.
- **Goal:** Link the 1940 Census to records from:
  1. Health and Retirement Survey (**HRS**)
  2. Wisconsin Longitudinal Study (**WLS**)
  3. Panel Study of Income Dynamics (**PSID**)
  4. National Social Life, Health, & Aging Project (**NSHAP**)
  5. National Health and Aging Trends Study (**NHATS**)
- **Product:** individual-, family-, and spatial measures of social, economic, familial, and environmental circumstances as of 1940.

## Linking Strategy

- Using information about sample members' names, years and places of birth, and family members' information, we use both automated and hand linking techniques.
- Automated linking uses machine learning algorithms. Hand linking confirms and supplements automated linking.
- Biased methods minimize false positives.

## How Often Are We Able to Link Sample Members to the 1940 U.S. Census?



## Examples of Available 1940 U.S. Census Measures

Measures based on the 100%-count 1940 U.S. Census file are available at IPUMS.org. For example:

### Individual (for panel & family members)

- Education
- Occupation
- Income

### Family/Household

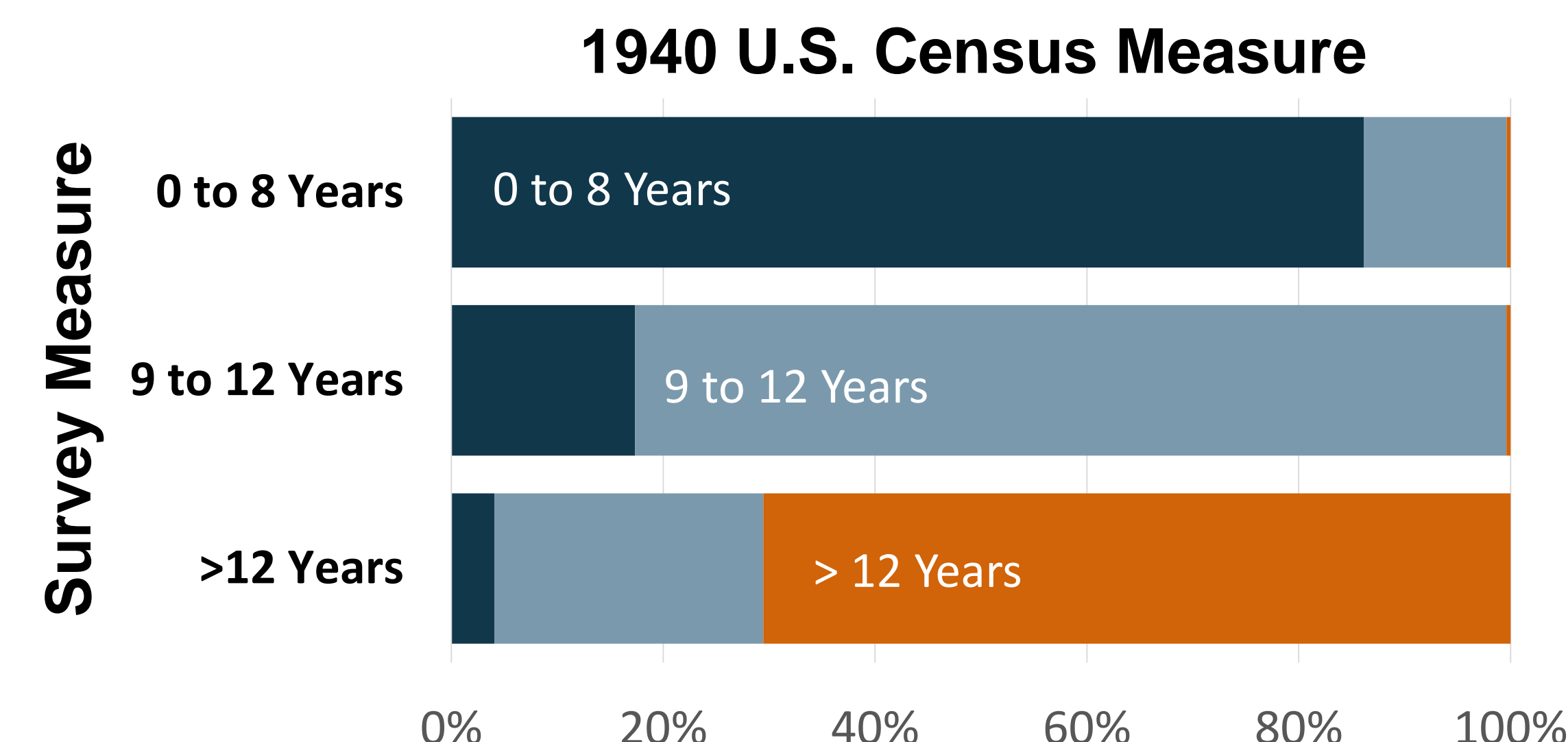
- Nativity
- Marital Status
- Demography
- Family size, composition
- Own vs rent

### Spatial/Neighborhood

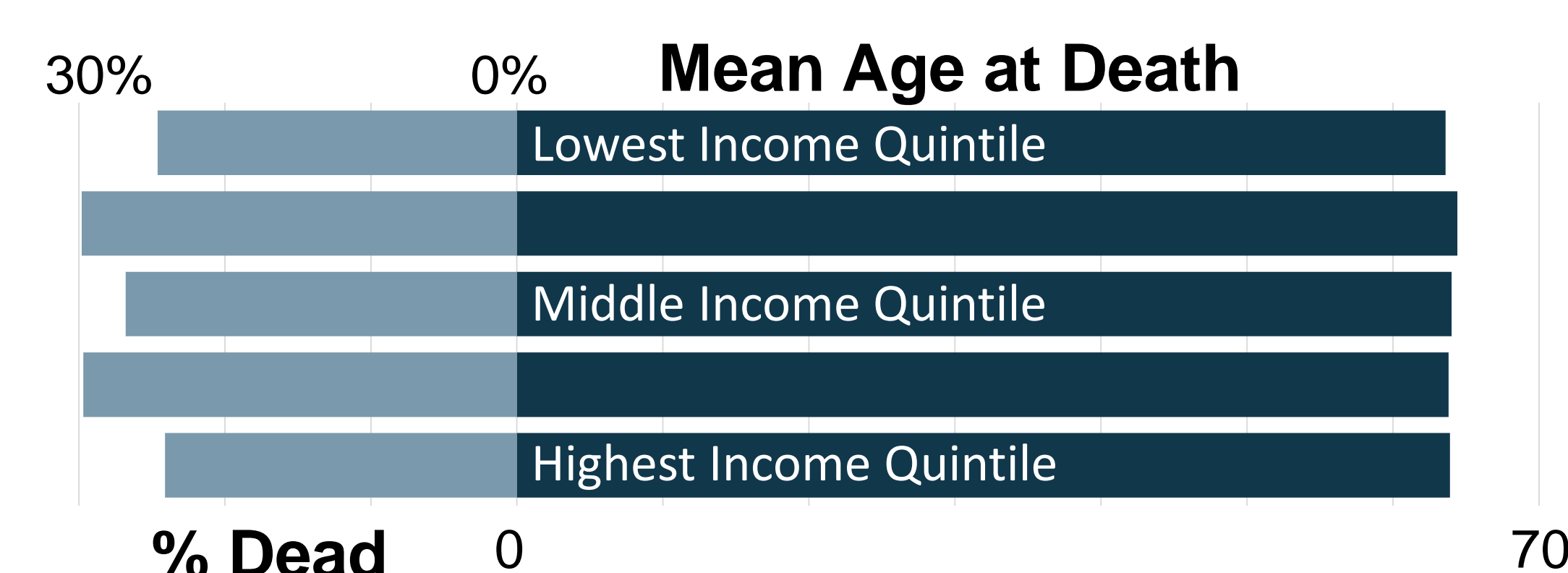
- Household size
- Home value
- Spatial Coordinates
- County
- Neighborhood attributes
- State

## Illustrative Analyses

### WLS: Mother's Education



### WLS: 1940 Household Income & Mortality



## Potential Uses of the Linked Data

- Analyses of the **effects of early-life social and economic circumstances** on later-life health, cognition, labor market behaviors, economic outcomes, and mortality.
- Analyses of the **effects of environmental and spatial exposures** on such outcomes.
- Analyses of social and economic **mobility across multiple generations.**

## How to Access the Linked Data

Data linked to the 1940 Census will be available via each project's restricted-use data system:



## Acknowledgements

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