rate of widowhood through ages 50-54. By 2017, divorce rates were higher for women through ages 55-59 and for men through ages 60-64, coinciding with the growth in gray divorce. We also examine subgroup variation in the 2017 patterns and the sociodemographic correlates of having experienced divorce versus widowhood during the past year using the ACS data.

HOUSEHOLDS AND LIVING ARRANGEMENTS OF OLDER PERSONS AROUND THE WORLD
Yumiko Kamiya,1 Yumiko Kamiya,1 and Sara Hertog1, 1. United Nations, New York, New York, United States

The household living arrangements of older persons – whether living alone, with a spouse or partner, with their children or in multi-generational households – can be an important factor associated with their health, economic status and overall well-being. Understanding the patterns and trends in older persons’ living arrangements is thus relevant for global efforts to achieve the sustainable development goals, in particular those targeting poverty, hunger and health. The United Nations Database on the Households and Living Arrangements of Older Persons 2018 presents evidence drawn from 672 unique data sources, including census and survey microdata samples archived at IPUMS-International and household rosters from Demographic and Health Surveys, among other sources. The resulting dataset describes older persons’ household across 147 countries or areas, representing approximately 97 per cent of persons aged 60 or over globally.

SESSION 4070 (SYMPOSIUM)
NOVEL DATA AND APPROACHES TO THE STUDY OF HEALTH AND AGING IN NSHAP
Chair: Linda J. Waite, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, United States

The National Social Life, Health, and Aging Project (NSHAP) is a longitudinal, population-based study that seeks to improve an understanding of the well-being of older, community-dwelling Americans. It accomplishes this by affording researchers a wide range of high quality measures that enable examining interactions among physical health and illness, medication use, cognitive function, emotional health, sensory function, health behaviors, social connectedness, sexuality, and relationship quality. The panelists in this symposium use NSHAP data to shed light on previously unexplored aspects of health during aging. Kaufman et al. use interviewer ratings of respondents’ skin shade along with respondents’ individual experiences of discrimination, neighborhood racial composition, and other factors to characterize heterogeneity in the racial experience and how heterogeneity relates to health inequities. Riley integrates information on respondents’ residential region at birth in older age to show that older adults who left the South are less healthy than those who stay in the South, and that social embeddedness helps to explain the health benefits for those who stay. Huang et al. take advantage of rich structural and functional social connectedness data to show that self-reported hearing impairment is associated with depth but not breadth of social connections. Huisingh-Scheetz et al. capitalize on performance measures of gait speed and chair stands obtained at each wave to examine whether repeated measures improve the ability to predict loss of independence in activities of daily living. Discussant will discuss the importance, strengths, and weaknesses of these papers, and consider implications for future research.

THE MULTIPLE DIMENSIONS OF THE RACE EXPERIENCE AND ASSOCIATIONS WITH HEALTH IN OLDER ADULTS
Jerry Kaufman1, 1. University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, United States

Race is experienced along a number of dimensions. In the United States, education, family background (e.g., parents’ education), skin shade, experiences of racial discrimination, neighborhood racial composition, state/region of birth, and interracial marriage help to define the “race experience.” Many of these factors have been individually associated with adverse outcomes for African Americans relative to Whites, but little research has examined how these factors cohere within individuals. Using a national survey of African American and White older adults, we employed latent class analysis and, in preliminary analyses, identified three clusters of individuals who were characterized by unique race experiences. We then assessed and determined that these clusters were also unique in their differential associations with health outcomes. This data-driven approach will provide insight into the profiles of individuals whose race experience contributes to health inequities among older Americans.

THE DIFFERENTIAL INFLUENCE OF REGIONAL CONTEXT ON LATER-LIFE HEALTH AND MORTALITY
Alicia Riley1, 1. University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, United States

This study examines regional disparities in later life health from a life course perspective. To sort out when and how region influences health over the life course, I focus on the sharp contrast between the South and the rest of the U.S. in health and mortality. I draw on data from the National Life Health and Aging Project (NSHAP), a nationally representative sample of community-dwelling older adults in the U.S., to estimate the differential risk of multiple health outcomes and mortality by regional trajectory. I find that older adults who leave the South are worse off in multiple outcomes than those who stay. I also find evidence of a protective health effect of community cohesion and dense social networks for the Southerners who stay in the South. My results suggest that regional trajectory influences health in later life through its associations with socioeconomic status, access to healthcare, and social rootedness.

DISTRIBUTION, PREDICTORS, AND CLINICAL RELEVANCE OF 5-YEAR CHANGE IN FRAILTY MEASURES
Megan Huisingh-Scheetz,1 Kristen Wroblewski,1 Mark Ferguson,1 Elbert Huang,1 Linda Waite,1 and L. P. Schumm1, 1. University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, United States

Implementing frailty assessment into routine clinical practice is a priority. Gait speed and performance on 5 repeated