

Author list:

- First: Timothy B Plante
- Stephen P Juraschek [sjurasch@bidmc.harvard.edu](mailto:sjurasch@bidmc.harvard.edu)
- Analyst/additional C4R team:
  - Pallavi Balte [ppb2119@cumc.columbia.edu](mailto:ppb2119@cumc.columbia.edu)
  - Akshaya Krishnaswamy [ak4681@cumc.columbia.edu](mailto:ak4681@cumc.columbia.edu)
- ARIC (not yet included in this analysis):
  - Yejin Mok [ymok2@jhu.edu](mailto:ymok2@jhu.edu)
- CARDIA (not yet included in this analysis):
  - Nori Allen [norrina-allen@northwestern.edu](mailto:norrina-allen@northwestern.edu)
  - Kelley Gabriel [gabrielk@uab.edu](mailto:gabrielk@uab.edu)
- FHS:
  - Vanessa Xanthakis [vanessax@bu.edu](mailto:vanessax@bu.edu)
- JHS (not yet included in this analysis):
  - Arnita F. Norwood [afnorwood@umc.edu](mailto:afnorwood@umc.edu)
  - (Nancy) Yuan-I Min [ymin@umc.edu](mailto:ymin@umc.edu)
- HCHS/SOL:
  - Sara Gonzalez ([sara.gonzalez@einsteinmed.edu](mailto:sara.gonzalez@einsteinmed.edu))
  - Daniela Sotres-Alvarez ([dsotres@email.unc.edu](mailto:dsotres@email.unc.edu))
  - Gregory Talavera ([gatalavera@sdsu.edu](mailto:gatalavera@sdsu.edu))
  - Martha Daviglus ([daviglus@uic.edu](mailto:daviglus@uic.edu))
- MASALA:
  - Sameera Talegawkar [stalega1@email.gwu.edu](mailto:stalega1@email.gwu.edu)
  - Yichen Jin [yjin@email.gwu.edu](mailto:yjin@email.gwu.edu)
- MESA (not included in this analysis):
  - Don Lloyd Jones [djj@northwestern.edu](mailto:djj@northwestern.edu)
- NOMAS (not currently included in this analysis):
  - Mitchell S. V. Elkind [mse13@columbia.edu](mailto:mse13@columbia.edu)
  - Tatjana Rundek [TRundek@med.miami.edu](mailto:TRundek@med.miami.edu)
  - Jose D Gutierrez [jg3233@cumc.columbia.edu](mailto:jg3233@cumc.columbia.edu)
- REGARDS (note: this originated as a REGARDS-only analysis before C4r began and we had an approved proposal with this coauthor group, which is why there are so many REGARDS coauthors)
  - Emily Levitan [elevitan@uab.edu](mailto:elevitan@uab.edu)
  - Mary Cushman [Mary.Cushman@uvm.edu](mailto:Mary.Cushman@uvm.edu)
  - Suzanne Judd [sejudd@uab.edu](mailto:sejudd@uab.edu)
  - Henry Wang [henry.wang@osumc.edu](mailto:henry.wang@osumc.edu)
  - Neil Zakai [Neil.Zakai@uvm.edu](mailto:Neil.Zakai@uvm.edu)
  - Virginia Howard [vjhoward@uab.edu](mailto:vjhoward@uab.edu)
  - Nathalie Pamir [pamir@ohsu.edu](mailto:pamir@ohsu.edu)
  - Monika Safford [mms9024@med.cornell.edu](mailto:mms9024@med.cornell.edu)
  - Debora Kamin Mukaz [debora.kamin-mukaz@med.uvm.edu](mailto:debora.kamin-mukaz@med.uvm.edu)
- SHS:
  - Mandy Fretts [amfretts@uw.edu](mailto:amfretts@uw.edu)
- Senior: Elizabeth C Oelsner [eco7@cumc.columbia.edu](mailto:eco7@cumc.columbia.edu)

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## Risk of Covid-19 Hospitalization or Death by the AHA's Life's Essential 8: The Collaborative Cohort of Cohorts for Covid-19 Research (C4R)

### Background:

It is unknown how cardiovascular health (CVH) relates to severe Covid-19 illness in adults without clinical cardiovascular disease (CVD). We hypothesized that more optimal Life's Essential 8 (LE8)-quantified CVH are associated with lower severe Covid-19 risk among US adults without clinical CVD.

### Methods:

C4R is ascertaining Covid-19 events in 14 NIH cohorts via questionnaires, serosurvey, and medical record adjudication. We included cohorts with pre-pandemic LE8 measures of body mass index (BMI), blood pressure (BP), lipids, diet, glucose, physical activity, smoking, and sleep in participants without clinical CVD. Covid-19 was defined as severe (hospitalization, death) or non-severe (all other events). Fine-Gray sub-distribution hazard models compared incident Covid-19 by LE8 quartiles, with non-severe and severe Covid-19 as competing risks. Models were censored at first event, stratified by cohort, and adjusted for sociodemographics and vaccinations at time of Covid-19.

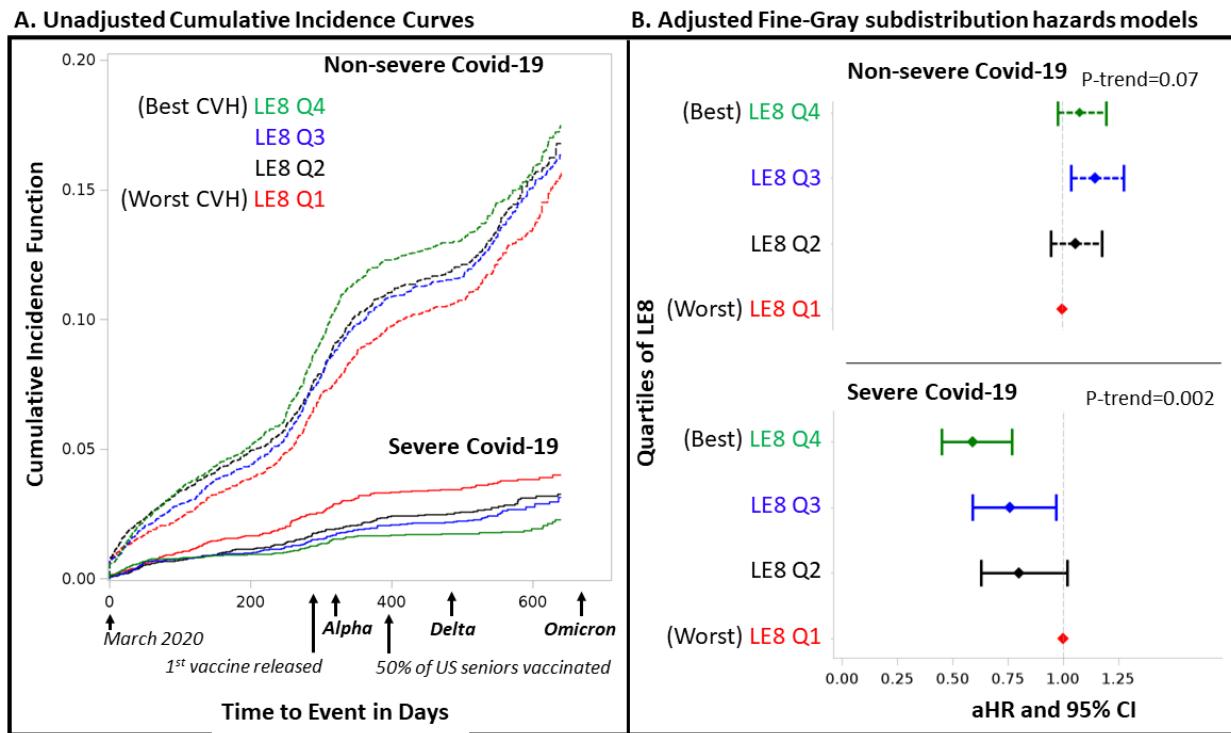
### Results:

Among 21,300 participants in 7 cohorts (mean [SD] age 67 years [14], 61% female, 2% American Indian, 4% Asian, 16% Black, 33% White, 43% Hispanic), mean (SD) LE8 was 65 (14). In 3/2020-9/2022, there were 3,034 non-severe and 488 severe Covid-19 cases. The best CVH quartile (Q) 4 had more non-severe and fewer severe Covid-19 events. The Q4 vs. Q1 aHR was 1.08 (95% CI 0.98, 1.20) for non-severe Covid-19 and 0.59 (0.45, 0.77) for severe Covid-19. Examining LE8 components separately, better status on 5 LE8 components (BMI, BP, glucose, physical activity, smoking) was significantly associated with lower risk of severe Covid-19, whereas 3 were not associated (cholesterol, diet, sleep; data not shown).

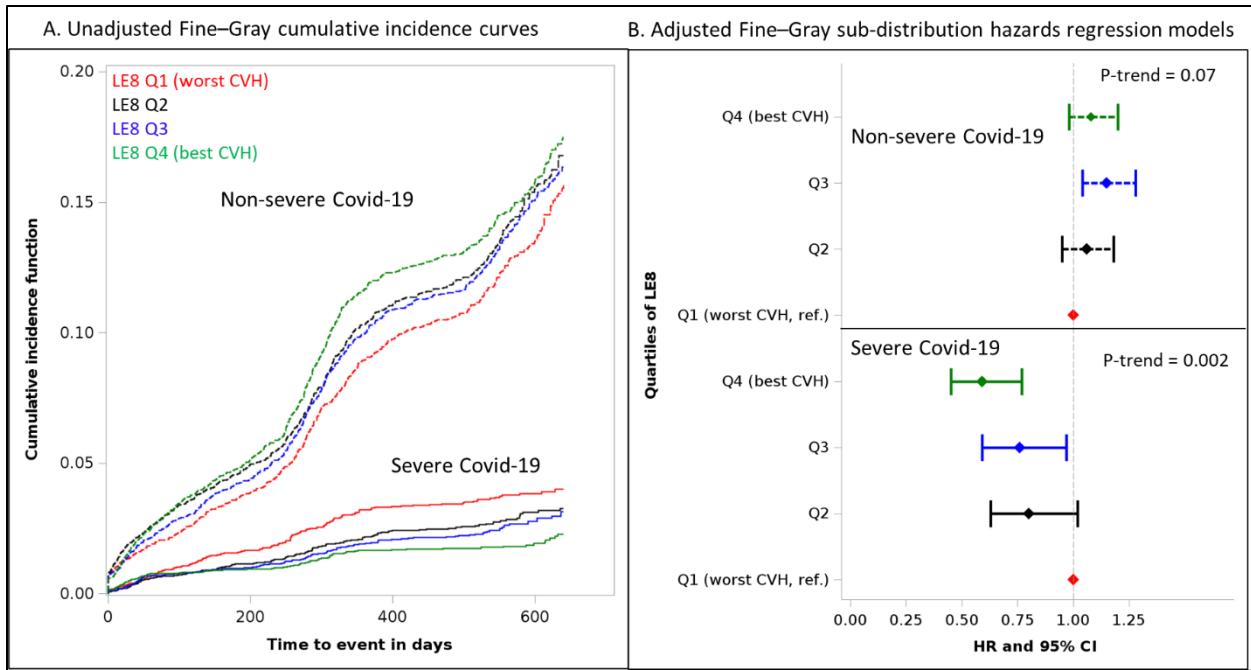
### Conclusions:

Better LE8-quantified CVH was associated with 41% lower risk of severe Covid-19 events among adults without clinical CVD. Further research is needed to elucidate mechanisms of Covid-19 resilience and the role of CVH-directed interventions to reduce risks of severe Covid-19.

**Figure:**



A. Observed cumulative incidence curves showing cumulative failure rates due to Non-severe Covid-19 infections and Severe Covid-19 infections. B. Associations of quartiles of LE8 with incident Non-severe and Severe Covid-19 infections were analyzed using Fine-Gray proportional sub-distribution hazards models. Models were adjusted for baseline age, sex, race/ethnicity, educational attainment, and region. Cohort was treated as a stratum term to allow for different baseline hazards.



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