

Background information about the ARIC217 data set

The ARIC217 data set consists of data from one participant visit in a longitudinal study of over 15,000 people, designed to try to understand factors that affect occurrence of heart disease. This study has been the basis for hundreds of papers that contribute to our scientific knowledge. Because the ARIC217 data comes from the data collected at a single participant visit, it can be considered cross-sectional data. The specific focus of ARIC217 is on how the mineral magnesium – both in the diet and in the blood – affects hypertension, diabetes, and carotid artery wall thickness, since these all contribute to heart disease.

In each participant's visit to the clinic, blood was drawn, many measurements were taken, and several forms were filled out in an interview. The ARIC217 data set includes only a small fraction of the data collected at one visit. Variable ID contains the study participant ID, and only one record per ID is contained in ARIC217. Any variables besides ID, Gender, Race, and Age might have missing values.