

# **Resting Heart Rate and Associations with Clinical Measures from the Project Baseline Health Study: An Observational Study**

Kent Y Feng, Sarah A Short, Sohrab Saeb, Megan K Carroll, Christoph B Olivier, Edgar P Simard, Susan Swope, Donna Williams, Julie Eckstrand, Neha Pagidipati, Svati H Shah, Adrian F Hernandez, Kenneth W Mahaffey

Submitted to: Journal of Medical Internet Research  
on: May 13, 2024

**Disclaimer:** © The authors. All rights reserved. This is a privileged document currently under peer-review/community review. Authors have provided JMIR Publications with an exclusive license to publish this preprint on its website for review purposes only. While the final peer-reviewed paper may be licensed under a CC BY license on publication, at this stage authors and publisher expressly prohibit redistribution of this draft paper other than for review purposes.

*Table of Contents*

**Original Manuscript..... 5**  
**Supplementary Files..... 47**  
    Multimedia Appendixes ..... 48  
        Multimedia Appendix 0..... 48



# Resting Heart Rate and Associations with Clinical Measures from the Project Baseline Health Study: An Observational Study

Kent Y Feng<sup>1\*</sup> MD; Sarah A Short<sup>2\*</sup> MPH; Sohrab Saeb<sup>2\*</sup> PhD; Megan K Carroll<sup>2</sup> MS; Christoph B Olivier<sup>3</sup> MD; Edgar P Simard<sup>2</sup> MPH, PhD; Susan Swope<sup>1</sup>; Donna Williams<sup>1</sup> MPH, MSN; Julie Eckstrand<sup>4</sup> RPh; Neha Pagidipati<sup>4</sup> MD, MPH; Svati H Shah<sup>4</sup> MD, MHS; Adrian F Hernandez<sup>4</sup> MD; Kenneth W Mahaffey<sup>1</sup> MD

<sup>1</sup>Stanford Center for Clinical Research Department of Medicine Stanford University School of Medicine Stanford US

<sup>2</sup>Verily Life Sciences South San Francisco US

<sup>3</sup>Cardiovascular Clinical Research Center, Department of Cardiology and Angiology, University Heart Center Freiburg Bad Krozingen, Faculty of Medicine University of Freiburg Freiburg DE

<sup>4</sup>Duke University School of Medicine Durham US

\*these authors contributed equally

## Corresponding Author:

Sarah A Short MPH  
Verily Life Sciences  
269 E Grand Ave  
South San Francisco  
US

## Abstract

**Background:** Though widely used, resting heart rate (RHR) as measured by a wearable device has not been previously evaluated in a large cohort against a variety of important baseline characteristics.

**Objective:** This study aimed to assess the validity of the RHR measured by a wearable device compared against the gold standard of ECG, and assess the relationships between device-measured RHR and a broad range of clinical characteristics.

**Methods:** The Project Baseline Health Study (PHBS) captured detailed demographic, occupational, social, lifestyle, and clinical data to generate a deeply phenotyped cohort. We selected an analysis cohort within it, which included participants who had RHR determined by both electrocardiogram (ECG) and by the Verily Study Watch (VSW). We examined the correlation between these simultaneous RHR measures, and assessed the relationship between VSW RHR and a range of baseline characteristics including demographic, clinical, laboratory, and functional assessments.

**Results:** From the overall PBHS cohort (N=2502), 875 (35%) participants entered the analysis cohort, 519 (59%) female and 356 (41%) male participants. The mean and standard deviation of VSW RHR was  $66.6 \pm 11.2$  beats per minute (bpm) for female participants, and  $64.4 \pm 12.3$  bpm for male participants. There was excellent reliability between the two measures of RHR (ECG and VSW) with an intraclass correlation coefficient of 0.946. By univariate analyses, female and male participants had similar baseline characteristics that trended with higher VSW RHR: lack of healthcare insurance (both  $p < 0.05$ ), higher BMI (both  $p < 0.0001$ ), higher C-reactive protein (both  $p < 0.0001$ ), presence of type 2 diabetes mellitus (both  $p < 0.0001$ ), and higher World Health Organization Disability Assessment Schedule (WHODAS) 2.0 score (both  $p < 0.0001$ ) were associated with higher RHR. By regression analyses, within each domain of baseline characteristics, different characteristics were most associated with VSW RHR in female compared to male participants: demographics and socioeconomic status (unemployment vs. lack of health insurance), medical conditions (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease with emphysema vs. type 2 diabetes mellitus), laboratory assessments (C-reactive protein vs. blood glucose), and patient reported outcomes (eWHO Disability Assessment Schedule 2.0 score vs. Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance System score). Diastolic blood pressure was the most associated characteristic with higher VSW RHR for both sexes within the vitals and physical function domain.

**Conclusions:** RHR determined by the VSW had excellent correlation with RHR determined by ECG. Participants with higher VSW RHR had similar trends in socioeconomic status, medical conditions, vitals, laboratory assessments, physical function, and patient reported outcomes irrespective of sex. However, within each domain of baseline characteristics, different characteristics were most associated with VSW RHR in female versus male participants. Clinical Trial: clinicaltrials.gov identifier NCT03154346

(JMIR Preprints 13/05/2024:60493)

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.2196/preprints.60493>

## Preprint Settings

1) Would you like to publish your submitted manuscript as preprint?

✓ **Please make my preprint PDF available to anyone at any time (recommended).**

Please make my preprint PDF available only to logged-in users; I understand that my title and abstract will remain visible to all users.

Only make the preprint title and abstract visible.

No, I do not wish to publish my submitted manuscript as a preprint.

2) If accepted for publication in a JMIR journal, would you like the PDF to be visible to the public?

✓ **Yes, please make my accepted manuscript PDF available to anyone at any time (Recommended).**

Yes, but please make my accepted manuscript PDF available only to logged-in users; I understand that the title and abstract will remain visible to all users.

Yes, but only make the title and abstract visible (see Important note, above). I understand that if I later pay to participate in <http://www.jmir.org/>

## Original Manuscript

## Title Page

### Resting Heart Rate and Associations with Clinical Measures from the Project Baseline Health Study: An Observational Study

Kent Y. Feng, MD<sup>1\*</sup>; Sarah A. Short, MPH<sup>2\*</sup>; Sohrab Saeb, PhD<sup>2\*</sup>; Megan K. Carroll, MS<sup>2</sup>; Christoph B. Olivier, MD<sup>3</sup>; Edgar P. Simard, PhD, MPH<sup>2</sup>; Susan Swope<sup>1</sup>; Donna Williams, RN, MSN, MPH<sup>1</sup>; Julie Eckstrand, RPh<sup>4</sup>; Neha Pagidipati, MD, MPH<sup>4</sup>; Svati H. Shah, MD, MHS<sup>4</sup>; Adrian F. Hernandez, MD<sup>4</sup>; Kenneth W. Mahaffey, MD<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Stanford Center for Clinical Research, Department of Medicine, Stanford University School of Medicine; Stanford, CA

<sup>2</sup>Verily Life Sciences; South San Francisco, CA

<sup>3</sup> Cardiovascular Clinical Research Center, Department of Cardiology and Angiology, University Heart Center Freiburg - Bad Krozingen, Faculty of Medicine, University of Freiburg; Freiburg, Germany

<sup>4</sup>Duke University School of Medicine; Durham, NC

\*Contributed equally to this work

#### Corresponding

#### author:

Sarah A. Short, MPH  
Verily Life Sciences  
269 E Grand Ave. South San Francisco, CA 94080  
P. 650-495-7100  
E. sarahshort@verily.com

Word count: Abstract, 422; main text, 3232



## ABSTRACT

**Background:** Though widely used, resting heart rate (RHR) as measured by a wearable device has not been previously evaluated in a large cohort against a variety of important baseline characteristics.

**Objective:** This study aimed to assess the validity of the RHR measured by a wearable device compared against the gold standard of ECG, and assess the relationships between device-measured RHR and a broad range of clinical characteristics.

**Methods:** The Project Baseline Health Study (PBHS) captured detailed demographic, occupational, social, lifestyle, and clinical data to generate a deeply phenotyped cohort. We selected an analysis cohort within it, which included participants who had RHR determined by both electrocardiogram (ECG) and by the Verily Study Watch (VSW). We examined the correlation between these simultaneous RHR measures, and assessed the relationship between VSW RHR and a range of baseline characteristics including demographic, clinical, laboratory, and functional assessments.

**Results:** From the overall PBHS cohort (N=2502), 875 (35%) participants entered the analysis cohort, 519 (59%) female and 356 (41%) male participants. The mean and standard deviation of VSW RHR was  $66.6 \pm 11.2$  beats per minute (bpm) for female participants, and  $64.4 \pm 12.3$  bpm for male participants. There was excellent reliability between the two measures of RHR (ECG and VSW) with an intraclass correlation coefficient of 0.946. By univariate analyses, female and male participants had similar baseline characteristics that trended with higher VSW RHR: lack of healthcare insurance (both  $p < 0.05$ ), higher BMI (both  $p < 0.0001$ ), higher C-reactive protein (both  $p < 0.0001$ ), presence of type 2 diabetes mellitus (both  $p < 0.0001$ ), and higher World Health Organization Disability Assessment Schedule (WHODAS) 2.0 score (both  $p < 0.0001$ ) were associated with higher RHR. By regression analyses, within each domain of baseline characteristics, different characteristics were most associated with VSW RHR in female compared to male



participants: demographics and socioeconomic status (unemployment vs. lack of health insurance), medical conditions (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease with emphysema vs. type 2 diabetes mellitus), laboratory assessments (C-reactive protein vs. blood glucose), and patient reported outcomes (eWHO Disability Assessment Schedule 2.0 score vs. Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance System score). Diastolic blood pressure was the most associated characteristic with higher VSW RHR for both sexes within the vitals and physical function domain.

**Conclusion:** RHR determined by the VSW had excellent correlation with RHR determined by ECG. Participants with higher VSW RHR had similar trends in socioeconomic status, medical conditions, vitals, laboratory assessments, physical function, and patient reported outcomes irrespective of sex. However, within each domain of baseline characteristics, different characteristics were most associated with VSW RHR in female versus male participants.

**Keywords:** resting heart rate; wearable devices; remote monitoring; physiology; PBHS; Project Baseline Health Study; Verily Study Watch

## INTRODUCTION

Resting heart rate (RHR) has been extensively studied in healthy individuals and those with specific disease states such as cardiovascular disease (CVD) [1,2]. Increasing RHR is linked to the development of CVD risk factors such as diabetes mellitus and hypertension and is implicated as an important prognostic factor in those with CVD and cancer [3,4]. Because of these links with important clinical outcomes such as the development of disease and mortality, RHR and RHR trends are of high interest to clinicians and patients alike and have become highly accessible, particularly with the recent ubiquity of wearable devices capable of recording heart rate (HR) and even detecting concerning arrhythmias such as atrial fibrillation [5].

Traditionally, RHR is determined through clinical measurements during physical exams as well as electrocardiography (ECG), and ambulatory devices. In the recent decade, wearable devices have become increasingly popular; many have the capability to track fitness levels with a variety of metrics including steps, HR, and sleep. Commercially available devices have been shown to be accurate in measuring HR and steps and studies suggest that wearable devices may improve physical activity [6-8].

The Project Baseline Health Study (PBHS) was a prospective, multicenter, longitudinal cohort study launched in 2017 to establish a comprehensive reference health state using a wide range of modalities, evaluate different technologies in measuring disease trajectory and participant diversity, and share this information with both scientists and participants. The PBHS enrolled 2502 participants to include a broad range of healthy individuals, with varying disease risk (specifically CVD, breast/ovarian cancer, and lung cancer), as well as those with known disease diagnoses. The PBHS provides an opportunity to describe and assess RHR using a wearable device (Verily Study Watch [VSW]) in a contemporary population and to do so in a comprehensive and more continuous manner than previously done [9]. Prior studies have limited comparisons to clinical measurements or have

small sample sizes focused on specific disease states [10-12]. The design of the PBHS allows for an extensive analysis of RHR as they relate to multimodal clinical data collected from remote and in-person visits in a deeply phenotyped cohort. In this study, we (1) identify an analysis cohort within the PBHS and compare baseline characteristics with the overall study cohort at large, (2) validate the VSW's determination of RHR (VSW RHR) by comparing against the gold standard of RHR by ECG, and (3) assess the relationships between VSW RHR and a broad range of baseline clinical characteristics.

## METHODS

### Overview

The design of the PBHS has been previously described [9]. Informed consent was obtained from all participants enrolled in PBHS and the study was approved by a central institutional review board (IRB; Western IRB) and the IRB at each of the participating institutions (Stanford University, Duke University, and the California Health and Longevity Institute). The PBHS was registered in [clinicaltrials.gov](https://clinicaltrials.gov) (identifier NCT03154346).

### Participants

PBHS participants were selected from an online registry; ultimately, 2502 participants were included. The inclusion criteria for the registry were: age  $\geq 18$  years, residency in the U.S, ability to speak and read English, willingness to provide health information, and ability to interact with certain study activities using a personal smartphone/device. In this study cohort, 60% of the enrolled population in each age strata had ~60% higher risk relative to the participants of the same age and sex for atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease, lung cancer, and/or breast/ovarian cancer.

### Measurements and Definitions

#### *Study Assessments*

PBHS participants underwent a deep phenotyping process, with extensive multimodal assessments during enrollment to measure their health characteristics including demographics, vitals, laboratory, functional testing, imaging, surveys, and wearable sensor data from the VSW, an investigational medical device used in medical research and clinical care. For this study, baseline characteristics, as listed in **Multimedia Appendix Tables 1-3**, were selected for each participant and were chosen due to their ubiquity in clinical practice and physiological relevance to RHR.

## Resting Heart Rate

Baseline RHR measurements were determined with two different techniques: in-clinic ECG RHR and VSW RHR. During the enrollment study site visit, 12-lead ECG was recorded and HR from the computerized interpretation of the ECG was computed as the ECG RHR. An ECG was considered “Excellent” or “Good” when all 12 leads were analyzable and either no noise/artifact or minimal noise/artifact (respectively) were noted; only ECG readings that met these criteria were considered.

VSW RHR was determined using a proprietary study wrist-wearable device which was an integral part of the continuous assessments of PBHS. Participants were encouraged to wear it consistently during the entire study duration. The VSW captures biological signals via several sensors including photoplethysmography (PPG) at 30 hertz and accelerometry at 30Hz. It also provides several derived metrics using proprietary algorithms that process these signals. In this study, we use the following derived metrics:

- PPG Interbeat Intervals (IBI), which measure the time interval between PPG-derived heart beats, in milliseconds. The IBIs are calculated at each heart beat, and each IBI value is also accompanied by a binary quality metric (“good” vs “bad” quality). To determine the quality of IBIs, in this study, we use the “jump distance” metric which is defined as the following for each sample  $i$ :

$$J_i = \sqrt{(I_i - I_{i-1})^2 - (I_{i+1} - I_i)^2}$$

where  $I_i$  is the IBI value in milliseconds at sample  $i$ . When the jump distance is smaller than 100ms, we label that IBI as having “good” quality and otherwise as having “bad” quality. The reason is that very high jump distance values indicate the presence of artifacts or the failure of the PPG peak detection algorithm. The threshold value of 100ms was chosen as the optimal value in a trade-off between heart rate error and coverage on an internally-collected

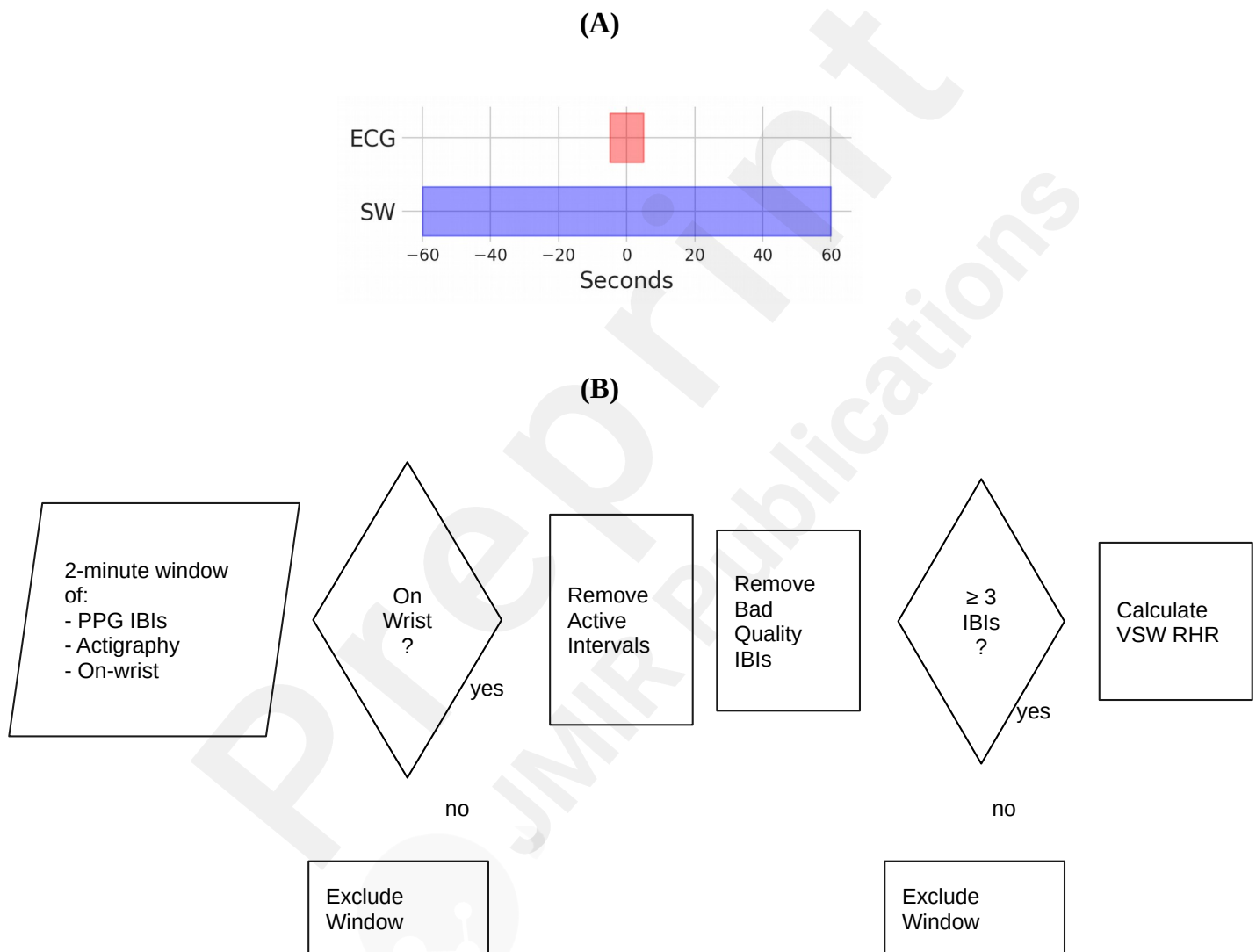
dataset.

- Actigraphy counts, which estimate the level of physical activity and are calculated every 30 seconds.
- On-wrist states, which indicate whether the VSW was worn or not, are computed every 1 minute, and every time the on-wrist state changes.

Since the goal of this analysis was to compare the RHR estimated by VSW to ECG RHR, we used the VSW sensor data captured during the ECG RHR measurement in order to evaluate the performance of the VSW RHR. Thus, we gathered VSW data using a 2-minute measurement window centered at the middle of the ECG acquisition period, as shown in **Figure 1A**.

## Figure 1: VSW RHR Determination

(A) The positioning of the 2-minute VSW data acquisition window relative to the 10-second ECG acquisition window in time. (B) Flowchart showing the processing steps to calculate the VSW RHR for each participant.



Abbreviations: ECG, electrocardiogram; VSW, Verily Study Watch; PPG, photoplethysmography; IBI, interbeat interval; VSW RHR, Verily Study Watch resting heart rate

The processing steps to calculate the VSW RHR for each participant is shown in **Figure 1B**. First, we gathered PPG IBIs, actigraphy counts, and on-wrist states in the 2-minute window mentioned above. Then, we excluded 2-minute windows containing any off-wrist states and we removed the IBIs associated with active intervals from the window (defined as any 30-second interval with a non-zero actigraphy count value, which we define as “Active”). Those intervals for which there was a zero actigraphy count were defined as “Still”. Finally, we removed the “bad” quality IBIs from the 2-minute window. If the remaining number of IBIs was less than 3, we excluded the participant; otherwise, we calculated the VSW RHR from the remaining IBIs as the following:

$$\text{VSW RHR} = \frac{60,000}{\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N I_i}$$

where  $I_i$  is the  $i$ th IBI value (milliseconds) in the 2-minute window, and  $N$  is the number of IBI values in the window.

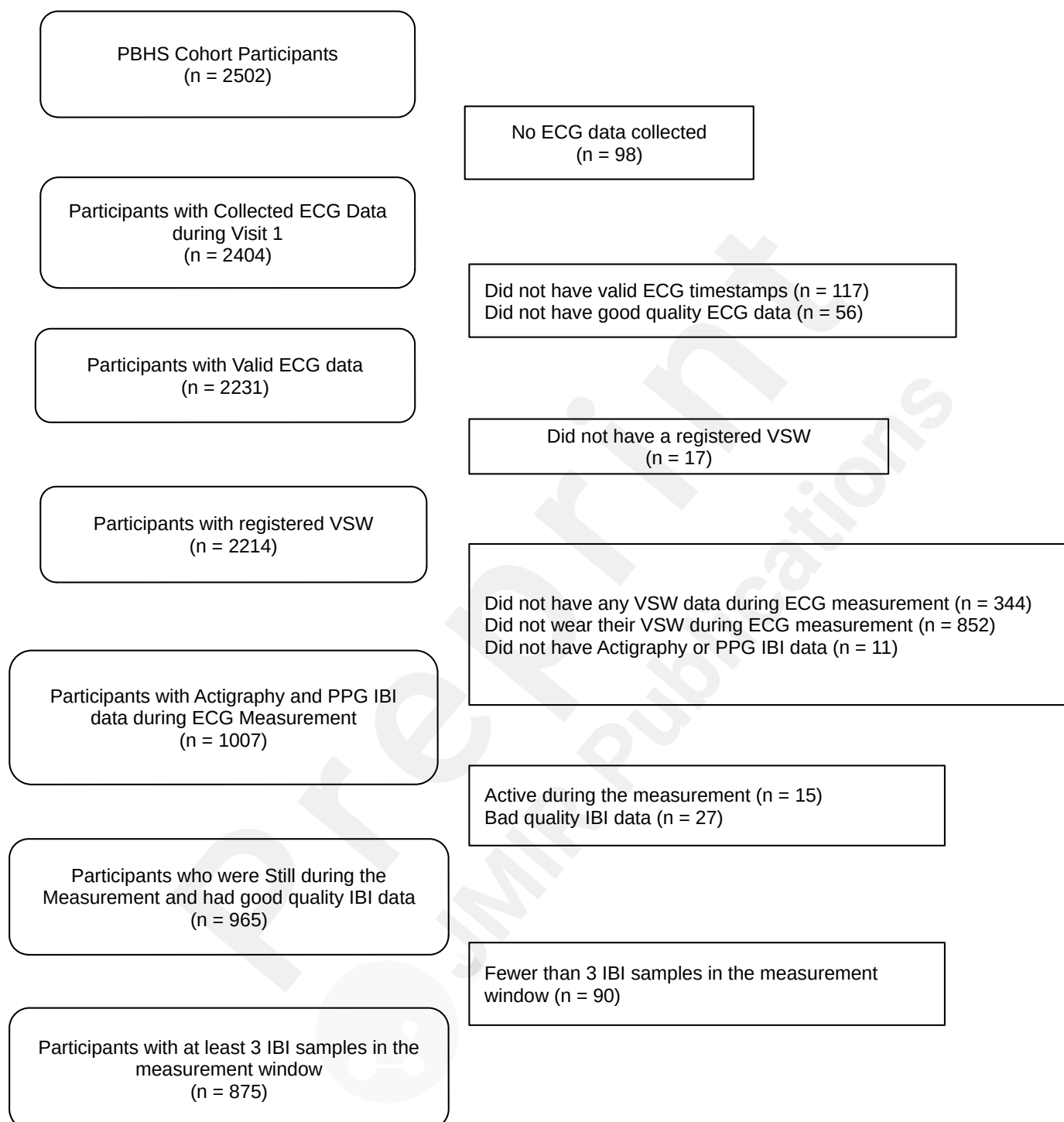
#### *Mean daily steps in first 30 days*

Mean daily steps in the first 30 days of the study were calculated for each participant using previously validated step counts captured by the VSW RHR (13)(14). Specifically, daily step count values were averaged across the 30 days following enrollment, only considering days during which the participant wore the VSW for at least ten hours.

#### **Analysis Cohort**

For this analysis, the cohort included only participants who fulfilled the following criteria: (1) recorded ECG RHR during the initial onsite visit and (2) concurrent RHR as recorded by the VSW. Additional exclusion criteria were applied during the VSW RHR calculation procedure, as described in the previous section. Inclusion and exclusion criteria are further described in **Figure 2**.



**Figure 2: Analysis Cohort Flowchart**

Abbreviations: PBHS, Project Baseline Health Study; ECG, electrocardiogram; PPG, photoplethysmography; IBI, interbeat interval; VSW, Verily Study Watch

## Statistical Analysis

Descriptive statistics were calculated for selected demographic and other baseline characteristics. Categorical variables were reported as the number of participants with corresponding percentages, and continuous variables were reported as mean and standard deviation (SD).

In addition to descriptive statistics, tests for trend were used to evaluate the relationship between each characteristic and ordinal categories of VSW RHR, separately for males and females. Three VSW RHR categories were created using sex-specific percentile cutpoints: 0-25th, 25th-75th, and 75th-100th. The Cochran-Armitage Trend Test was used to evaluate binary variables, and Spearman Rank Correlation was used to evaluate categorical variables.

Associations with VSW RHR among candidate baseline characteristics were identified using multivariable linear regression models. Prior to modeling, missing data were imputed using five rounds of multiple imputation using chained equations (MICE) methods with predictive mean matching (PMM). Box-Cox transformations were used to approximate a normal distribution for continuous variables (laboratory values, vitals, and physical function measures). In addition to observed age, age-squared was added to the list of baseline variables to account for the inverted U-shaped relationship between age and VSW RHR.

Baseline characteristics were grouped into domains: (1) demographics and socioeconomic status (SES), (2) medical conditions, (3) vitals and physical function, (4) laboratory assessments, and (5) patient reported outcomes (PROs); separate models were built for each domain and separately for male and female. Elastic net (ENET) regularization methods were used to fit regression models. In order to address the multiply-imputed data, a stacked objective function (sENET) method was employed, with 5-fold cross-validation to penalize and select regression coefficients [15,16]. Due to limitations in computational power, ENET alpha values were restricted to 0.5 or 1, where alpha = 1 equates to a least absolute shrinkage and selection operator (LASSO) regression.

Preprint  
JMIR Publications

## RESULTS

### *Analysis cohort compared with overall PBHS cohort*

Using the criteria as described in **Figure 2**, the analysis cohort consisted of 875 participants: 519 (59%) female and 356 (41%) male. Selected baseline characteristics of the analysis cohort and the PBHS cohort are shown in **Table 1**.

**Table 1. Selected baseline characteristics of the analysis cohort and the PBHS**

		<b>PBHS Cohort (N = 2502)</b>	<b>Analysis Cohort (n = 875)</b>
<b>Demographics</b>	Mean age at enrollment, years (SD)	50 (17.2)	50.9 (16.5)
	Female, n (%)	1375 (55.0)	519 (59.3)
	Race, n (%)	White	1582 (63.2)
		Black	400 (16.0)
		Asian	260 (10.4)
		Other	259 (10.4)
<b>Socioeconomic status, n (%)</b>	Hispanic, n (%)	290 (11.6)	98 (11.2)
	Married	1116 (44.6)	433 (49.5)
	Employed	1523 (60.9)	528 (60.3)
	Current or former smoker	881 (35.2)	331 (37.8)
<b>Medical conditions, n (%)</b>	Asthma	371 (14.8)	124 (14.2)
	Diabetes, type 2	276 (11.0)	112 (12.8)
	Generalized anxiety disorder	327 (13.1)	121 (13.8)
	GERD	424 (16.9)	176 (20.1)
	Hypertension	675 (27.0)	262 (29.9)
	Hypercholesterolemia	314 (12.5)	118 (13.5)
	Major depressive disorder	354 (14.1)	142 (16.2)
	Migraines	306 (12.2)	116 (13.3)
	Osteoarthritis	477 (19.1)	179 (20.5)
	Sleep apnea	245 (9.8)	88 (10.1)
<b>Vitals</b>	Mean systolic BP (SD)	123.4 (16)	125 (15.5)
	Mean diastolic BP (SD)	75.9 (9.9)	77.4 (9.9)
	Mean BMI (SD)	28.4 (6.9)	29.4 (7.1)
	Mean 6-minute walk distance, m (SD)	474.5 (82.7)	475.4 (88.2)

<b>Physical performance</b>	Mean Left ventricular ejection fraction (SD)	58.7 (4.2)	58.6 (4.5)
	Mean hemoglobin A1C (SD)	5.7 (1.0)	5.8 (1.1)
	Mean hemoglobin, g/dL (SD)	14.2 (1.3)	14.1 (1.3)
<b>Labs</b>	Mean white blood cell count, thousand/mcl (SD)	6.4 (1.9)	6.6 (1.9)
	Mean MDRD (eGFR) (SD)	88.3 (20.4)	87.5 (21.1)
	Mean C-reactive protein, mg/L (SD)	2.9 (5.9)	3.4 (7.2)
<b>Patient-reported outcomes</b>	Mean PHQ-9 score (SD)	3.7 (4.2)	3.9 (4.3)
	Mean GAD-7 score (SD)	3.2 (4.1)	3.3 (4.2)

BMI = body mass index; BP = blood pressure; eGFR = estimated glomerular filtration rate; GAD-7 = general anxiety disorder -7; GERD = gastro-esophageal reflux disease; MDRD = modification of diet in renal disease ; PBHS = Project Baseline Health Study; PHQ-9 = patient health questionnaire -9; SD = standard deviation

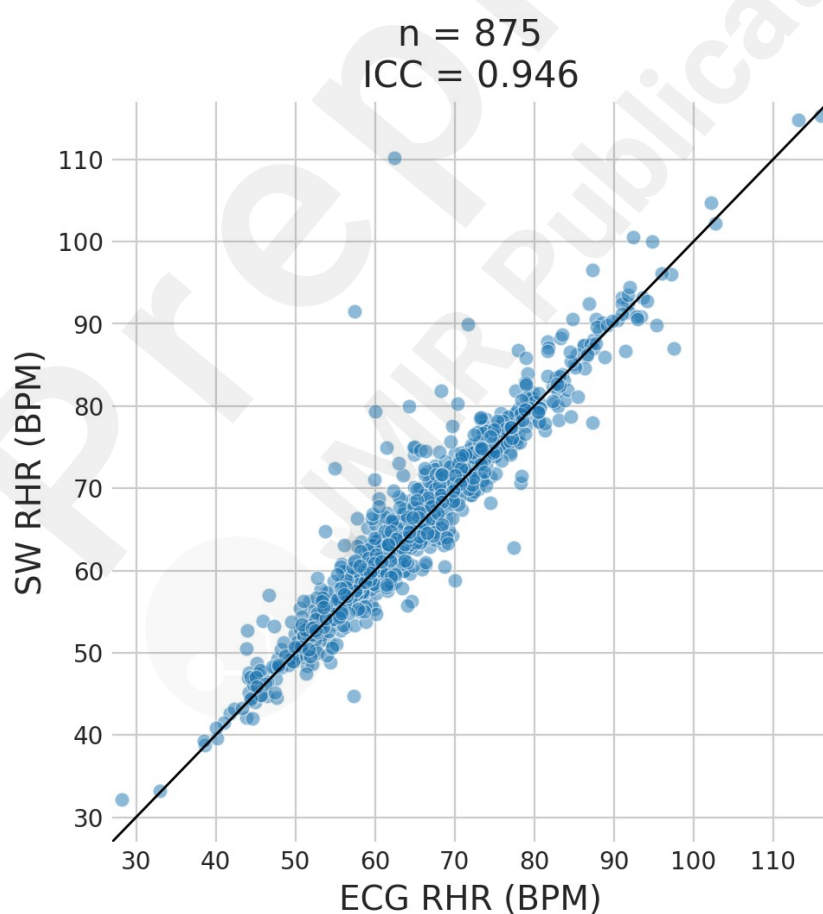
## Study watch validity

The comparison of the RHR by ECG with VSW is shown in **Figure 3**. There was excellent reliability between the two measures with an intraclass correlation coefficient of 0.946. An agreement plot between RHR by ECG and VSW of all participants also showed high consistency between the two measures (**Multimedia Appendix Figure 1**).

### Figure 3. Correlation between baseline ECG-based and Study Watch measured RHR.

Each dot corresponds to one participant. There is excellent reliability between ECG RHR and VSW RHR (intraclass correlation coefficient of 0.946).

BPM = beats per minute; ECG=electrocardiogram; ICC=Intraclass correlation coefficient; RHR=resting heart rate; SW=study watch

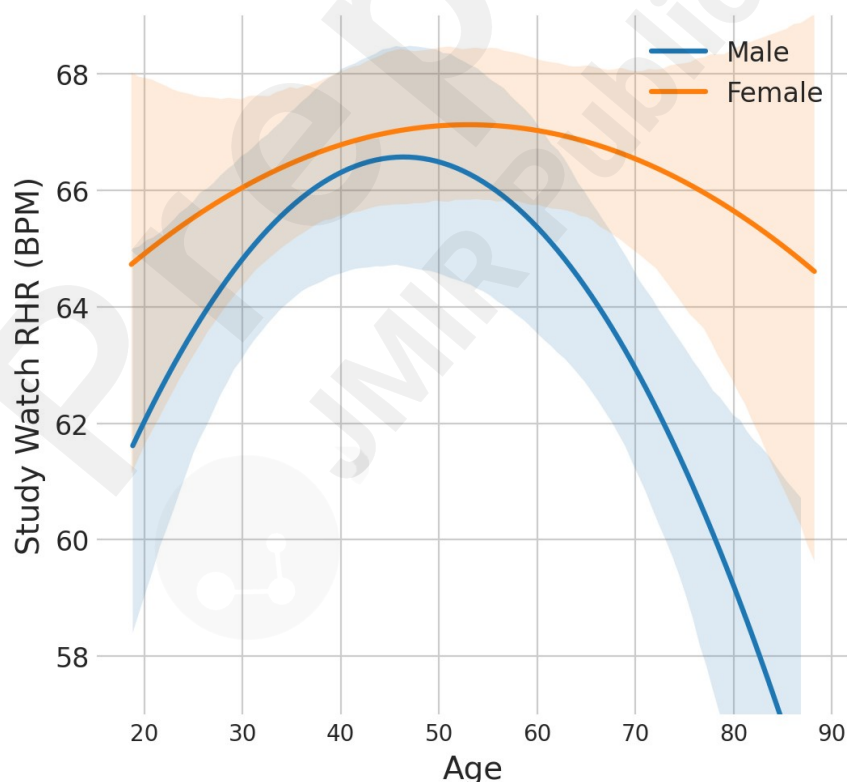


### *Analysis cohort baseline characteristics by sex and resting heart rate (age-adjusted)*

The VSW RHR as a function of age and sex is shown in **Figure 4**, with both curves demonstrating the expected upside-down U-shaped relationship (10). The mean and standard deviation of VSW RHR was  $66.6 \pm 11.2$  beats per minute (bpm) for female participants, and  $64.4 \pm 12.3$  bpm for male participants. For ECG RHR, the mean and standard deviation were  $65.8 \pm 10.9$  bpm for females, and  $63.7 \pm 12.0$  bpm for males.

**Figure 4. Baseline SW RHR by age and sex.** A U-shaped curve was observed for both female and male participants when VSW RHR was plotted against age. The lines show fitted quadratic models to female and male data, separately. The shaded areas show the 95% confidence intervals of the models.

BPM = beats per minute; RHR=resting heart rate



The study cohort was then separated by sex and stratified by VSW RHR to assess for trends of selected baseline characteristics: demographics and SES (**Tables 2a-b**); vitals, physical function, and

laboratory assessments (**Tables 3a-b**); and medical conditions and participant reported outcomes (PROs) (**Tables 4a-b**). Full variable comparison lists are included in **the Multimedia Appendix Tables 1-3**.

**Table 2. Analysis cohort: Selected demographics and socioeconomic status at baseline.**

**a. female participants**

		VSW RHR percentile*			p-value
		0-25th (n = 130)	25-75th (n = 259)	75-100th (n = 130)	
Mean age, years (SD)		48.7 (16.3)	51.1 (16.1)	49.3 (15.8)	0.7635
Race, n (%)	White	93 (71.5)	164 (63.3)	83 (63.8)	0.1924
	Black	18 (13.8)	44 (17.0)	26 (20.0)	0.1865
	Asian	10 (7.7)	27 (10.4)	6 (4.6)	0.3686
	Other (NHPI, AIAN, Other)	9 (6.9)	24 (9.3)	15 (11.5)	0.1994
Hispanic ethnicity, n (%)		14 (10.8)	40 (15.4)	17 (13.1)	0.5886
Education, n (%)	High school or less	11 (9.7)	21 (9.5)	24 (20.9)	0.0107
	Any college	65 (57.5)	143 (64.7)	66 (57.4)	0.9761
	Graduate degree or higher	37 (32.7)	57 (25.8)	25 (21.7)	0.0604
Income, n (%)	< \$100,000	58 (51.3)	123 (55.7)	82 (71.3)	0.0022
	> \$100,000	46 (40.7)	82 (37.1)	25 (21.7)	0.0025
Marital status, n (%)	Married	63 (55.8)	131 (59.3)	50 (43.5)	0.0614
	Divorced or separated	21 (18.6)	36 (16.3)	22 (19.1)	0.9103
	Single	24 (21.2)	43 (19.5)	33 (28.7)	0.1738
	Widowed	3 (2.7)	7 (3.2)	10 (8.7)	0.0267
Employment status, n (%)	Employed or homemaker	92 (74.2)	164 (68.3)	69 (57.5)	0.0057
	Unemployed	6 (4.8)	17 (7.1)	24 (20.0)	<0.0001



	Retired	19 (15.3)	52 (21.7)	23 (19.2)	0.4399
	Student	5 (4.0)	4 (1.7)	2 (1.7)	0.2119
Insured (health insurance, yes), n (%)		109 (96.5)	202 (91.4)	101 (89.4)	0.0479
Smoking status, n (%)	Current smoker	12 (9.2)	41 (15.8)	31 (23.8)	0.0014
	Former smoker	27 (20.8)	54 (20.8)	24 (18.5)	0.6436
	Never smoker	91 (70.0)	164 (63.3)	75 (57.7)	0.0394

\* Percentile cutpoints for females: 25th = 59.38 bpm; 75th = 73.66 bpm. Shading for significant observations. AIAN=American Indians and Alaska Natives ; NHPI=Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander ; RHR=resting heart rate; SD=standard deviation; VSW=Verily study watch

## b. male participants

		VSW RHR percentile*			p-value
		0-25th (n = 89)	25-75th (n = 178)	75-100th (n = 89)	
Mean age, years (SD)		55.5 (16.6)	50.7 (18.5)	51.6 (14.3)	0.1055
Race, n (%)	White	71 (79.8)	107 (60.1)	57 (64.0)	0.027
	Black	11 (12.4)	24 (13.5)	15 (16.9)	0.3889
	Asian	4 (4.5)	24 (13.5)	9 (10.1)	0.2201
	Other (NHPI, AIAN, Other)	3 (3.4)	23 (12.9)	8 (9.0)	0.2029
Hispanic ethnicity, n (%)		6 (6.7)	12 (6.7)	9 (10.1)	0.3964
Education, n (%)	High school or less	7 (9.7)	16 (10.7)	12 (15.4)	0.2757
	Any college	34 (47.2)	74 (49.7)	48 (61.5)	0.076
	Graduate degree or higher	31 (43.1)	59 (39.6)	18 (23.1)	0.01
Income, n (%)	< \$100,000	34 (47.2)	80 (53.7)	41 (52.6)	0.5256
	> \$100,000	35 (48.6)	64 (43.0)	28 (35.9)	0.1152
Marital status, n (%)	Married	57 (79.2)	86 (57.7)	46 (59.0)	0.0124
	Divorced or separated	5 (6.9)	11 (7.4)	7 (9.0)	0.6378

Employment status, n (%)	Single	9 (12.5)	49 (32.9)	22 (28.2)	0.0358
	Widowed	0 (0.0)	1 (0.7)	2 (2.6)	0.2768
	Employed or homemaker	43 (53.8)	103 (65.6)	57 (67.1)	0.0806
	Unemployed	9 (11.2)	9 (5.7)	11 (12.9)	0.6738
	Retired	28 (35.0)	40 (25.5)	16 (18.8)	0.0185
	Student	0 (0.0)	4 (2.5)	1 (1.2)	0.7997
Insured (health insurance, yes), n (%)		69 (95.8)	137 (91.9)	67 (85.9)	0.0304
Smoking status, n (%)	Current smoker	16 (18.0)	22 (12.4)	17 (19.1)	0.8359
	Former smoker	21 (23.6)	41 (23.0)	25 (28.1)	0.486
	Never smoker	52 (58.4)	115 (64.6)	47 (52.8)	0.4447

\* Percentile cutpoints for males: 25th = 55.50 bpm; 75th = 72.25 bpm. Shading for significant observations. AIAN=American Indians and Alaska Natives; NHPI=Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander ; RHR=resting heart rate; SD=standard deviation; VSW=Verily study watch

**Table 3. Analysis cohort: Selected vitals, physical function, and labs at baseline.**

**a. female participants**

		VSW RHR percentile*			p-value
		0-25th (n = 130)	25-75th (n = 259)	75-100th (n = 130)	
Vitals	Mean systolic blood pressure (SD)	119.5 (15.2)	122.6 (15.5)	126.5 (15.6)	0.0002
	Mean diastolic blood pressure (SD)	73.2 (8.3)	76.0 (9.2)	81.1 (10.0)	<0.0001
	Mean waist circumference, cm (SD)	85.3 (14.4)	89.8 (15.9)	98.5 (18.0)	<0.0001
	Mean BMI (SD)	27.1 (6.4)	28.5 (6.7)	32.9 (8.4)	<0.0001
Phys. function	Mean 6-minute walk (SD)	498.1 (82.7)	469.3 (81.9)	433.8 (93.0)	<0.0001
	Mean 10-meter walk speed (SD)	2.0 (0.6)	1.9 (0.4)	1.8 (0.5)	0.0086
	Mean handgrip (SD)	28.9 (6.9)	28.1 (6.9)	27.4 (7.0)	0.2264

	Mean leg balance time (SD)	44.3 (20.6)	39.8 (22.1)	37.8 (23.1)	0.0159
	Mean sit-rise score (SD)	7.5 (2.3)	6.9 (2.5)	7.0 (2.4)	0.1137
	Mean 30-second chair stand (SD)	14.8 (4.7)	13.9 (5.0)	12.9 (4.3)	0.0016
	Mean ejection fraction at rest (SD)	59.0 (3.6)	59.4 (4.3)	58.5 (5.4)	0.3258
	Mean coronary calcium score (SD)	66.6 (214.3)	60.9 (250.0)	76.6 (249.1)	0.0289
	Ankle brachial index abnormal, n (%)	4 (3.1)	10 (3.9)	3 (2.5)	0.7888
	Mean FEV1/FVC (SD)	0.8 (0.1)	0.8 (0.1)	0.8 (0.1)	0.2469
	Mean daily steps in first 30 days (SD)	8360 (2990)	8040 (3187)	6865 (3243)	0.0001
Labs	Mean hemoglobin, g/dL (SD)	13.5 (1.0)	13.5 (1.2)	13.7 (1.2)	0.099
	Mean serum creatinine, mg/dL (SD)	0.8 (0.1)	0.8 (0.2)	0.8 (0.2)	0.1922
	Mean HDL, mg/dL (SD)	66.4 (18.4)	64.3 (20.5)	57.2 (14.4)	<0.0001
	Mean LDL, mg/dL (SD)	96.0 (29.1)	105.5 (33.9)	105.8 (30.4)	0.0175
	Mean HbA1c, % (SD)	5.4 (0.7)	5.6 (0.8)	6.0 (1.5)	<0.0001
	Mean C-reactive protein, mg/L (SD)	2.3 (4.1)	3.3 (5.1)	5.6 (8.2)	<0.0001
	Mean blood glucose, mg/dL (SD)	88.7 (19.0)	94.1 (27.2)	108.9 (54.6)	<0.0001
	Mean hematocrit, % (SD)	41.2 (2.9)	41.2 (3.4)	42.0 (3.5)	0.0465
	Mean platelets, per uL (SD)	249,836 (56,779)	259,269 (61,124)	278,790 (61,889)	0.0002
	Mean WBC count, thousand/uL (SD)	6.2 (1.6)	6.5 (1.8)	7.5 (2.2)	<0.0001
	Mean sodium, mEq/L (SD)	139.0 (1.8)	138.8 (2.1)	138.6 (2.2)	0.1538
	Mean GFR MDRD, ml/min (SD)	86.2 (19.2)	87.5 (20.1)	91.0 (24.9)	0.1876
	Mean TSH, mIU/L (SD)	1.5 (0.8)	1.6 (1.2)	1.6 (0.9)	0.3462

\* Percentile cutpoints for females: 25th = 59.38 bpm; 75th = 73.66 bpm. Shading for significant observations. BMI=body mass index; FEV1/FVC=forced expiratory volume in 1 s /forced vital capacity; HbA1c=glycated hemoglobin A1c; HDL=high-density lipoprotein; LDL=low-density lipoprotein; GFR MDRD=glomerular filtration rate, modification of diet in renal disease; RHR=resting heart rate; SD=standard deviation; TSH=thyroid-stimulating hormone; VSW=Verily study watch; WBC=white blood cell.

**b. male participants**

		VSW RHR percentile*			
		0-25th (n = 89)	25-75th (n = 178)	75-100th (n = 89)	p-value
Vitals	Mean systolic blood pressure (SD)	127.7 (16.2)	128.1 (14.1)	129.3 (14.3)	0.3677
	Mean diastolic blood pressure (SD)	76.1 (10.4)	78.3 (9.7)	81.2 (10.1)	0.0015
	Mean waist circumference, cm (SD)	95.5 (12.3)	98.7 (15.7)	108.4 (18.5)	<0.0001
	Mean BMI (SD)	27.6 (4.5)	29.3 (5.7)	32.5 (8.5)	<0.0001
Phys. Function	Mean 6-minute walk (SD)	501.5 (83.1)	490.2 (89.8)	465.2 (84.6)	0.0017
	Mean 10-meter walk speed (SD)	2.1 (0.6)	2.1 (0.6)	1.9 (0.5)	0.0211
	Mean handgrip (SD)	46.0 (9.4)	44.5 (10.6)	42.4 (10.3)	0.0879
	Mean leg balance time (SD)	38.4 (22.8)	37.7 (23.1)	30.6 (22.6)	0.0117
	Mean sit-rise score (SD)	7.5 (2.1)	7.0 (2.3)	6.7 (2.3)	0.0152
	Mean 30-second chair stand (SD)	15.4 (5.3)	14.9 (5.5)	13.4 (4.4)	0.0015
	Mean ejection fraction at rest (SD)	58.2 (3.7)	57.7 (4.7)	58.7 (4.4)	0.7558
	Mean coronary calcium score (SD)	361.8 (1012.1)	254.6 (653.9)	209.5 (632.9)	0.9963
	Ankle brachial index abnormal, n (%)	3 (3.5%)	7 (3.9%)	2 (2.3%)	0.6548
	Mean FEV1/FVC (SD)	0.7 (0.1)	0.8 (0.1)	0.8 (0.1)	0.0034
	Mean daily steps in first 30 days (SD)	8970 (3994)	8565 (3537)	7869 (4120)	0.0746
	Mean hemoglobin, g/dL (SD)	14.8 (0.9)	14.9 (1.0)	15.1 (1.1)	0.0247
Labs	Mean serum creatinine, mg/dL (SD)	1.0 (0.2)	1.0 (0.3)	1.1 (0.5)	0.9464
	Mean HDL, mg/dL (SD)	54.3 (17.4)	48.3 (15.4)	43.9 (12.8)	<0.0001
	Mean LDL, mg/dL (SD)	93.3 (36.3)	95.0 (33.1)	101.6 (38.5)	0.2222
	Mean HbA1c, % (SD)	5.5 (0.5)	5.7 (1.0)	6.5 (1.9)	0.0034
	Mean C-reactive protein, mg/L (SD)	3.0 (14.4)	2.5 (4.5)	4.6 (7.3)	<0.0001
	Mean blood glucose, mg/dL (SD)	92.2 (12.4)	102.0 (35.9)	130.1 (72.8)	<0.0001

Mean hematocrit, % (SD)	44.7 (2.9)	45.2 (3.1)	45.8 (3.2)	0.0126
Mean platelets, per uL (SD)	212,529 (48,991)	228,567 (53,411)	248,264 (68,746)	0.0001
Mean WBC count, thousand/uL (SD)	6.2 (1.9)	6.2 (1.5)	6.9 (1.9)	0.0095
Mean sodium, mEq/L (SD)	139.4 (1.7)	138.9 (2.1)	138.6 (2.4)	0.0218
Mean GFR MDRD, ml/min (SD)	84.3 (16.5)	88.2 (20.7)	86.6 (25.2)	0.3824
Mean TSH, mIU/L (SD)	1.8 (1.0)	1.9 (1.1)	1.7 (0.9)	0.7056

\* Percentile cutpoints for males: 25th = 55.50 bpm; 75th = 72.25 bpm. Shading for significant observations. BMI=body mass index; FEV1/FVC=forced expiratory volume in 1 s /forced vital capacity; HbA1c=glycated hemoglobin A1c; HDL=high-density lipoprotein; LDL=low-density lipoprotein; GFR MDRD=glomerular filtration rate, modification of diet in renal disease; RHR=resting heart rate; SD=standard deviation; TSH=thyroid-stimulating hormone; VSW=Verily study watch; WBC=white blood cell.

**Table 4. Analysis cohort: Selected medical conditions and participant-reported outcomes (PROs) at baseline**

**a. female participants**

	VSW RHR percentile*			
	0-25th (n = 130)	25-75th (n = 259)	75-100th (n = 130)	p-value
Asthma	16 (12.3%)	35 (13.5%)	23 (17.7%)	0.2148
Cataracts	12 (9.2%)	38 (14.7%)	22 (16.9%)	0.0731
Colon polyps	7 (5.4%)	26 (10.0%)	10 (7.7%)	0.5001
Major depressive disorder	15 (11.5%)	43 (16.6%)	29 (22.3%)	0.0202
Diabetes type 2	6 (4.6%)	27 (10.4%)	26 (20.0%)	<0.0001
GERD	20 (15.4%)	42 (16.2%)	36 (27.7%)	0.0113
Hypertension	27 (20.8%)	70 (27.0%)	40 (30.8%)	0.0677
Hypercholesterolemia	14 (10.8%)	40 (15.4%)	13 (10.0%)	0.8534
Osteoarthritis	25 (19.2%)	49 (18.9%)	32 (24.6%)	0.282

Medical history,

n (%)

PROs, mean (SD)	Sleep apnea	6 (4.6%)	16 (6.2%)	11 (8.5%)	0.2042
	Sheehan Disability Scale	2.9 (4.5)	2.7 (4.8)	5.0 (7.6)	0.0971
	PHQ-9	3.4 (3.6)	3.6 (4.0)	5.4 (4.8)	0.0002
	GAD-7	3.2 (3.9)	3.4 (4.1)	4.1 (4.9)	0.2798
	WHODAS 2.0	2.2 (3.3)	3.0 (4.4)	5.0 (6.7)	<0.0001
	BRFSS ACE	2.2 (2.2)	2.4 (2.3)	2.7 (2.6)	0.2394
	PROMIS pain intensity	6.0 (2.3)	6.1 (2.3)	7.0 (2.8)	0.0152
	PROMIS pain interference	10.2 (5.1)	10.5 (5.2)	12.2 (6.3)	0.0295
	PANAS positive affect	34.7 (6.4)	34.8 (7.0)	33.0 (7.3)	0.0792
	PANAS negative affect	15.6 (6.7)	15.5 (6.5)	15.0 (6.1)	0.4481
	Subjective Happiness	21.6 (4.8)	21.7 (4.8)	20.9 (4.3)	0.1264
	Satisfaction with Life	26.1 (6.6)	25.9 (6.3)	24.2 (7.4)	0.0437
	Perceived Social Support	70.1 (11.8)	66.8 (15.2)	66.9 (13.9)	0.0811
	AUDIT-C	2.0 (1.5)	2.0 (1.9)	1.9 (1.8)	0.3505

\* Percentile cutpoints for females: 25th = 59.38 bpm; 75th = 73.66 bpm. Shading for significant observations. AUDIT-C=Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test-Concise; BRFSS ACE=Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Adverse Childhood Experience ; GAD-7 = general anxiety disorder -7; GERD = gastro-esophageal reflux disease; PHQ-9 = patient health questionnaire -9; PANAS=Positive and Negative Affect Schedule ; PROMIS=Patient-Reported Outcomes Measurement Information System; RHR=resting heart rate; SD = standard deviation; VSW= Verily study watch; WHODAS=World Health Organization Disability Assessment Schedule

## b. male participants

		VSW RHR percentile*			p-value
		0-25th e (n = 89)	25-75th (n = 178)	75-100th (n = 89)	
Medical history, n (%)	Asthma	12 (13.5)	22 (12.4)	16 (18.0)	0.3889
	Cataracts	14 (15.7)	28 (15.7)	5 (5.6)	0.0466
	Colon polyps	14 (15.7)	23 (12.9)	6 (6.7)	0.0661
	Major depressive disorder	8 (9.0)	28 (15.7)	19 (21.3)	0.0227
	Diabetes type 2	3 (3.4)	23 (12.9)	27 (30.3)	<0.0001
	GERD	21 (23.6)	37 (20.8)	20 (22.5)	0.8564

	Hypertension	29 (32.6)	61 (34.3)	35 (39.3)	0.3468
	Hypercholesterolemia	15 (16.9)	27 (15.2)	9 (10.1)	0.1999
	Osteoarthritis	21 (23.6)	33 (18.5)	19 (21.3)	0.7108
	Sleep apnea	9 (10.1)	29 (16.3)	17 (19.1)	0.0976
	Sheehan Disability Scale	3.3 (6.6)	3.1 (5.6)	4.2 (5.7)	0.0587
	PHQ-9	3.2 (4.1)	3.8 (4.4)	4.6 (4.4)	0.0149
	GAD-7	2.1 (3.2)	2.9 (4.0)	3.9 (4.8)	0.0207
	WHODAS 2.0	2.2 (4.5)	3.2 (5.2)	4.4 (5.4)	<0.0001
	BRFSS ACE	1.6 (1.9)	1.9 (2.2)	2.7 (2.6)	0.0115
	PROMIS pain intensity	6.1 (2.7)	6.4 (2.3)	6.5 (2.5)	0.1839
PROs, mean scores (SD)	PROMIS pain interference	10.0 (5.7)	10.6 (4.7)	12.4 (6.1)	0.0025
	PANAS positive affect score	35.5 (7.7)	33.7 (7.6)	32.1 (8.1)	0.0095
	PANAS negative affect	14.9 (5.7)	15.2 (5.9)	15.1 (5.8)	0.9349
	Subjective Happiness	22.0 (4.3)	20.7 (4.8)	18.9 (4.6)	<0.0001
	Satisfaction with Life	26.1 (6.6)	24.7 (6.7)	22.5 (6.2)	0.0001
	Perceived Social Support	65.8 (13.8)	61.6 (16.7)	59.3 (14.5)	0.0025
	AUDIT-C	2.3 (1.7)	2.1 (1.8)	1.8 (1.8)	0.0222

\* Percentile cutpoints for males: 25th = 55.50 bpm; 75th = 72.25 bpm. Shading for significant observations. AUDIT-C=Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test-Concise; BRFSS ACE=Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Adverse Childhood Experience ; GAD-7 = general anxiety disorder -7; GERD = gastro-esophageal reflux disease; PHQ-9 = patient health questionnaire -9; PANAS=Positive and Negative Affect Schedule ; PROMIS=Patient-Reported Outcomes Measurement Information System; RHR=resting heart rate; SD = standard deviation; VSW= Verily study watch; WHODAS=World Health Organization Disability Assessment Schedule

There were similar trends seen in female and male participants. For instance, from a SES standpoint, those with higher baseline VSW RHR were more likely to have lower household income, less likely to be married, less likely to have healthcare insurance, and more likely to be smokers.

Medical conditions such as major depressive disorder, type 2 diabetes mellitus, hypertension, and sleep apnea were also more common in those with higher VSW RHR.

Participants with higher VSW RHR tended to have higher systolic and diastolic blood pressures, body mass index (BMI), and waist circumference.

In terms of laboratory assessments, those with higher VSW RHR tended to have hemoglobin A1c %, C-reactive protein levels, and white blood cell counts.

Participants with higher VSW RHR had shorter 6-minute walk distances and fewer mean daily steps as recorded by the VSW.

From a PRO standpoint, participants with higher VSW RHR had higher PHQ-9 scores and WHODAS 2.0 scores.

#### *Associations with VSW RHRs by domain*

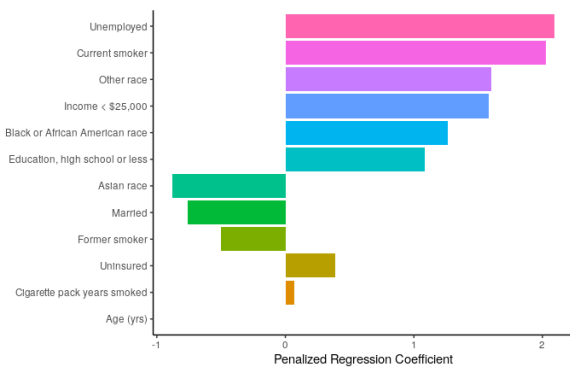
The results of the sex-stratified sENET regression models are presented in **Figure 5**. Penalized regression coefficients reflect the relative strength and direction of each association based on standardized predictors. Within each domain of baseline characteristics (demographics and SES, medical conditions, vitals and physical function, laboratory assessments, and PROs), analyses showed that different characteristics were associated with VSW RHR in females compared with male participants. For instance, in the demographics and SES domain, unemployment had the highest association with VSW RHR in females, whereas lack of health insurance had the highest association in male participants. This was the case in the medical conditions, laboratory assessments, and PRO domains as well. For the vitals and physical function domain, the diastolic blood pressure was the most associated characteristic with VSW RHR for both sexes.



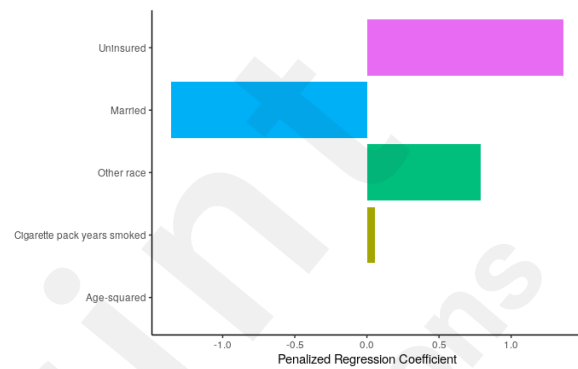
## Figure 5. LASSO regressions

### (A) Demographics and socioeconomic status

#### Female

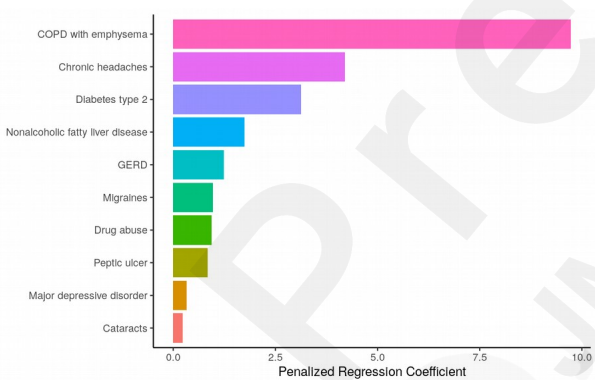


#### Male

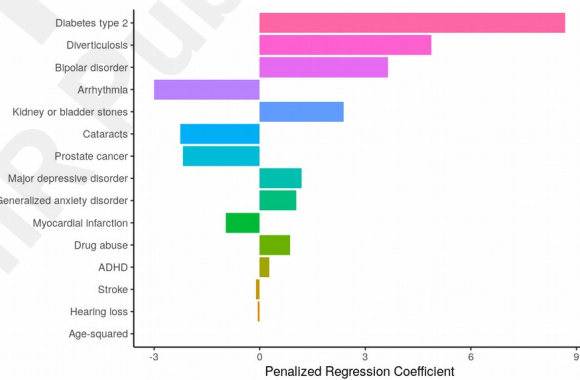


### (B) Medical conditions

#### Female

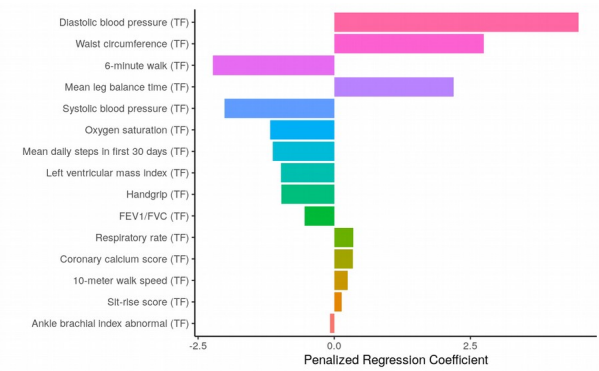


#### Male

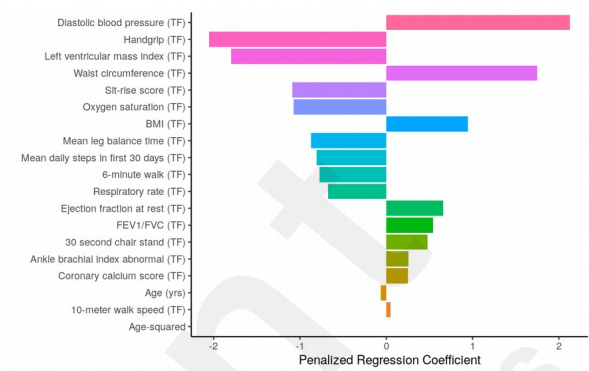


(C) Vitals and physical function

Female

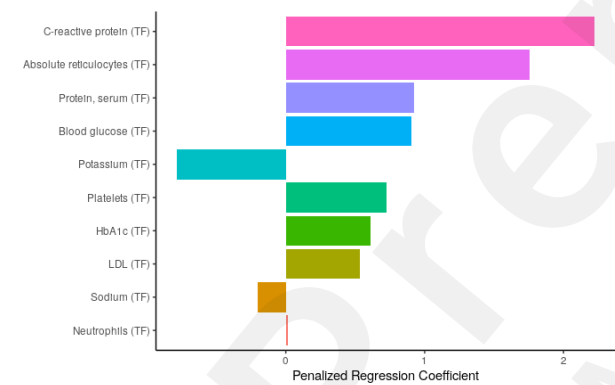


Male

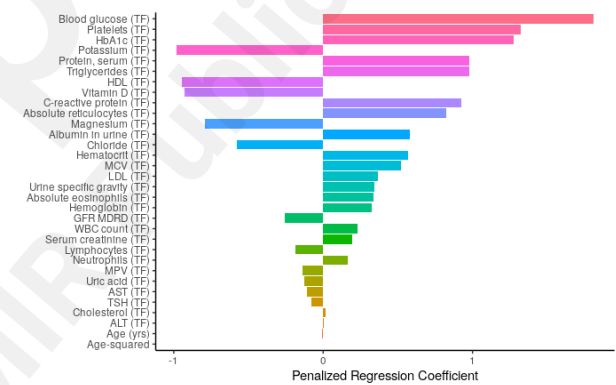


(D) Laboratory assessments

Female

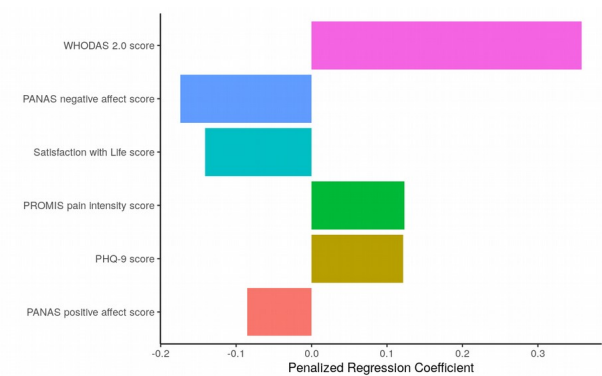


Male

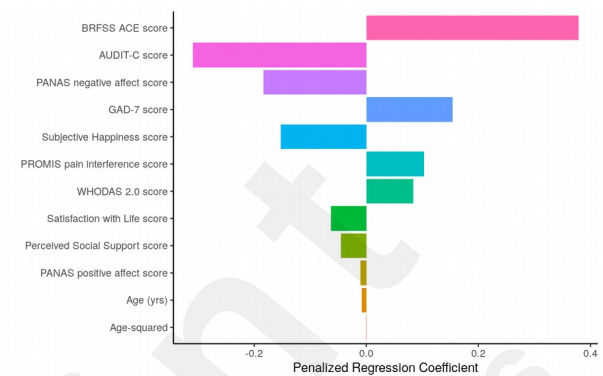


(E) Patient reported outcomes

Female



Male



## DISCUSSION

These analyses from a large deeply phenotyped population show (1) strong agreement between ECG determined RHR and a proprietary VSW determined RHR, (2) significant trends of VSW RHR with clinically important baseline characteristics, and (3) clinical baseline characteristics highly associated with VSW RHR. These findings demonstrate that, in a relatively heterogeneous cohort of participants, RHR can be measured easily and accurately using a wearable device and may have utility in light of strong associations with clinically relevant baseline characteristics.

In the last decade, use of consumer wearables with ability to detect HR and arrhythmias such as atrial fibrillation has become increasingly available [5]. Despite their high accuracy in measuring HR at rest and the ubiquity of these devices in modern life, an in-clinic ECG is still the gold standard method to determine RHR [17]. In clinical research, there are a variety of methodologies used depending on the availability of data and clinical feasibility [10,11,18,19]. In this study, we investigated the viability of the VSW in determining RHR by comparing it with RHR determined by ECG. Using PPG data combined with actigraphy data, we isolated periods of time when the participant wearing the VSW was not in motion during the time of ECG recording, thus allowing us to estimate RHR values from VSW data. With this method, we demonstrated that there is excellent agreement between RHR determined by ECG and VSW, suggesting that the VSW is capable of determining a reliable RHR. In a world where telehealth is increasingly utilized, reliable wearable device-based data such as this may be useful to clinicians, providing them with clinical information that would otherwise be more cumbersome to obtain [20].

While most studies in the past have focused on analyzing the relationship of RHR with objective, lab-based measurements, we also extensively evaluated the relationship of RHR with participants'

wellbeing and quality of life including psychosocial and socioeconomic aspects. In the univariate analyses, we demonstrated that participants who had higher education, married, had health care insurance, and lower PHQ-9 scores were more likely to have a lower VSW RHR. Furthermore, we found similar and significant associations in our regression models when stratified by sex: lack of healthcare insurance, psychiatric conditions (major depressive disorder, generalized anxiety disorder), and higher WHO-DAS 2.0 scores were significantly associated with higher HR. These findings are consistent with prior studies suggesting that more difficult SES and psychosocial circumstances were associated with higher chronic stress and higher HR [21-27]. However, in our analyses, we also found that there were differences by sex in which baseline characteristics were most associated with RHR. For instance, within the demographics and SES domain, unemployment was most significantly associated with higher RHR for female participants but lack of healthcare insurance was the most significantly associated with higher RHR for male participants. Similarly, within the PRO domain, higher WHODAS 2.0 score was most associated with higher RHR for female participants but the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Adverse Childhood Experience score was most associated with higher RHR for male participants. This may be the result of a multitude of factors including physiological differences between the two sexes, societal influences, and diverse cultural and personal experiences that could impact HR [28-31]. In the laboratory setting, it has been demonstrated that there are sex differences in HR responses to physical and mental stressors [32-34]. A recent study using a contemporary wearable device investigated the effects of occupational stressors in the real world and found that female participants, compared to male participants, had a higher maximum HR and greater changes in HR when confronted with a moderate stressor during a work shift in a retail store [35]. Future studies will be needed to elucidate the relationships and mechanisms underlying how different clinical characteristics affect RHR in females and males.

We observed significant trends of VSW RHR with objective clinical measurements in both our

univariate and regression analyses. Higher VSW RHR was associated with higher blood pressures, BMI, and waist circumference, all previously established in the literature [36,37]. Laboratory findings of higher C-reactive protein and platelet counts in those participants with higher SW RHR was also consistent with the literature [38]. Analyses of physical function showed significant trends with VSW RHR. Lower VSW RHR was significantly correlated with a higher 6-minute walk distance, an important clinical surrogate for fitness [39]. It has been demonstrated previously that HR profiles determined by wrist-worn devices can predict 6-minute walk distances in patients with mitral or aortic valve disease [11]. Another more commonplace measure of physical activity and fitness is step count, a measure that has been associated with mortality [40]. We observed that participants with lower VSW RHR had significantly higher step count, consistent with prior studies demonstrating a negative relationship with VSW RHR and physical fitness [27,41,42]. Though causality cannot be determined from these analyses, the relationship of VSW RHR and step count is of high interest to clinicians and patients alike given step count and other surrogates of physical fitness are integral elements of wearable devices that are often promoted as a method of remote monitoring. Interestingly, the relationship demonstrated in our study was of VSW RHR and *future* step count, suggesting that even a single RHR measurement could be indicative of a person's future physical activity and therefore may identify a population with higher RHR for targeted interventions aimed to improve physical fitness. Future studies will need to longitudinally track both RHR and physical activity levels to determine if their long-term trends are indeed correlated.

There are several limitations to our analysis. Our cohort may have a slight healthy user bias given it was derived from the PBHS registry. The analysis cohort was also more limited in size than expected primarily due to lack of procedural consistency (wearing the VSW at the time of ECG recording) during the participant enrollment visit. In this study, hard clinical outcomes such as mortality and hospitalizations were not assessed but would be highly valuable for future studies, particularly those that evaluate not only associations of RHR with clinical outcomes but also of “free-living” HR with

clinical outcomes. Other studies have examined the validity of using wearable devices to measure HR under free-living conditions which is currently under investigation in the PBHS [43,44].

In conclusion, VSW RHR correlates strongly with RHR obtained using resting ECG. VSW RHR has significant trends with important clinical characteristics that closely mirror those already established in the literature. Further investigations will be needed to inform clinicians and patients alike on how to use wearable technologies that perform noninvasive measurements—not only of RHR—in conjunction with other clinical measurements to potentially detect disease or enhance their shared decision-making process for behavioral change.

## DISCLOSURES/ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**Study funding statement:** The Project Baseline Health Study and this analysis were funded by Verily Life Sciences, South San Francisco, California.

**Role of the sponsor statement:** Verily Life Sciences is the funding source for the PBHS and is responsible for data collection. Authors were fully responsible for the data analysis and interpretation presented herein and the writing of this article. The following individuals SAS, SS, MKC had access to the raw data. Authors had access to the full dataset for the study, reviewed and approved the final manuscript for submission.

**Prior disclosure of these data:** NA

**Data [code/materials] sharing statement:** The deidentified PBHS data corresponding to this study are available upon request for the purpose of examining its reproducibility. Interested investigators should direct requests to jsaiz@verily.com. Requests are subject to approval by PBHS governance.

### Authors' disclosures:

SAS, SS, MKC, EPS report employment and equity ownership in Verily Life Sciences.

KWM reports research grants from Verily, American Heart Association, Apple Inc., Bayer, the California Institute of Regenerative Medicine, Eidos, Gilead, Idorsia, Johnson & Johnson, Luitpold, Pac-12, Precordior, Sanifit; consulting fees from Amgen, Applied Therapeutics, BMS, BridgeBio, Elsevier, Lexicon, Moderna, Sanofi; equity ownership in Precordior, Regencor.

The rest of the authors report no relevant disclosures.

### Authors' contributions:

Study concept and design: KYF, SAS, SS, KWM

Data collection: Verily Life Sciences, Stanford Center for Clinical Research, Duke University

Data analysis and interpretation: KYF, SAS, SS, MKC



Draft writing and review: All

Draft approval for submission: All

**Acknowledgements:**

Authors wish to thank the Project Baseline Health Study investigators, study sites and participants.

## REFERENCES

1. Umetani K, Singer DH, McCraty R, Atkinson M. Twenty-four hour time domain heart rate variability and heart rate: relations to age and gender over nine decades. *J Am Coll Cardiol* [Internet]. 1998;31:593–601. doi: 10.1016/s0735-1097(97)00554-8. Cited: in: : PMID: 9502641.
2. Fox K, Borer JS, Camm AJ, Danchin N, Ferrari R, Lopez Sendon JL, Steg PG, Tardif J-C, Tavazzi L, Tendera M, et al. Resting heart rate in cardiovascular disease. *J Am Coll Cardiol* [Internet]. 2007;50:823–830. doi: 10.1016/j.jacc.2007.04.079. Cited: in: : PMID: 17719466.
3. Aune D, Ó Hartaigh B, Vatten LJ. Resting heart rate and the risk of type 2 diabetes: A systematic review and dose--response meta-analysis of cohort studies. *Nutr Metab Cardiovasc Dis* [Internet]. 2015;25:526–534. doi: 10.1016/j.numecd.2015.02.008. Cited: in: : PMID: 25891962.
4. Aune D, Sen A, ó'Hartaigh B, Janszky I, Romundstad PR, Tonstad S, Vatten LJ. Resting heart rate and the risk of cardiovascular disease, total cancer, and all-cause mortality - A systematic review and dose-response meta-analysis of prospective studies. *Nutr Metab Cardiovasc Dis* [Internet]. 2017;27:504–517. doi: 10.1016/j.numecd.2017.04.004. Cited: in: : PMID: 28552551.
5. Perez MV, Mahaffey KW, Hedlin H, Rumsfeld JS, Garcia A, Ferris T, Balasubramanian V, Russo AM, Rajmane A, Cheung L, et al. Large-Scale Assessment of a Smartwatch to Identify Atrial Fibrillation. *N Engl J Med* [Internet]. 2019;381:1909–1917. doi: 10.1056/NEJMoa1901183. Cited: in: : PMID: 31722151.
6. Fuller D, Colwell E, Low J, Orychok K, Tobin MA, Simango B, Buote R, Van Heerden D, Luan H, Cullen K, et al. Reliability and Validity of Commercially Available Wearable Devices for Measuring Steps, Energy Expenditure, and Heart Rate: Systematic Review. *JMIR Mhealth Uhealth* [Internet]. 2020;8:e18694. doi: 10.2196/18694. Cited: in: : PMID: 32897239.
7. Hannan AL, Harders MP, Hing W, Climstein M, Coombes JS, Furness J. Impact of wearable physical activity monitoring devices with exercise prescription or advice in the maintenance phase of cardiac rehabilitation: systematic review and meta-analysis. *BMC Sports Sci Med Rehabil* [Internet]. 2019;11:14. doi: 10.1186/s13102-019-0126-8. Cited: in: : PMID: 31384474.
8. Brickwood K-J, Watson G, O'Brien J, Williams AD. Consumer-Based Wearable Activity Trackers Increase Physical Activity Participation: Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis. *JMIR Mhealth Uhealth* [Internet]. 2019;7:e11819. doi: 10.2196/11819. Cited: in: : PMID: 30977740.
9. Arges K, Assimes T, Bajaj V, Balu S, Bashir MR, Beskow L, Blanco R, Califf R, Campbell P, Carin L, et al. The Project Baseline Health Study: a step towards a broader mission to map human health. *NPJ Digit Med* [Internet]. 2020;3:84. doi: 10.1038/s41746-020-0290-y. Cited: in: : PMID: 32550652.
10. Quer G, Gouda P, Galarnyk M, Topol EJ, Steinhubl SR. Inter- and intraindividual variability in daily resting heart rate and its associations with age, sex, sleep, BMI, and time of year: Retrospective, longitudinal cohort study of 92,457 adults. *PLoS One* [Internet]. 2020;15:e0227709. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0227709. Cited: in: : PMID: 32023264.
11. Schubert C, Archer G, Zelis JM, Nordmeyer S, Runte K, Hennemuth A, Berger F, Falk V, Tonino PAL, Hose R, et al. Wearable devices can predict the outcome of standardized 6-minute walk tests in heart disease. *NPJ Digit Med* [Internet]. 2020;3:92. doi: 10.1038/s41746-020-0299-2. Cited: in: :

PMID: 32665977.

12. Gresham G, Hendifar AE, Spiegel B, Neeman E, Tuli R, Rimel BJ, Figlin RA, Meinert CL, Piantadosi S, Shinde AM. Wearable activity monitors to assess performance status and predict clinical outcomes in advanced cancer patients. *NPJ Digit Med* [Internet]. 2018;1:27. doi: 10.1038/s41746-018-0032-6. Cited: in: : PMID: 31304309.
13. Kowahl N, Shin S, Barman P, Rainaldi E, Popham S, Kapur R. Accuracy and Reliability of a Suite of Digital Measures of Walking Generated Using a Wrist-Worn Sensor in Healthy Individuals: Performance Characterization Study. *JMIR Hum Factors* [Internet]. 2023;10:e48270. doi: 10.2196/48270. Cited: in: : PMID: 37535417.
14. Popham S, Burq M, Rainaldi EE, Shin S, Dunn J, Kapur R. An Algorithm to Classify Real-World Ambulatory Status From a Wearable Device Using Multimodal and Demographically Diverse Data: Validation Study. *JMIR Biomedical Engineering* [Internet]. 2023 [cited 2024 Apr 26];8:e43726. doi: 10.2196/43726.
15. Du J, Boss J, Han P, Beesley LJ, Kleinsasser M, Goutman SA, Batterman S, Feldman EL, Mukherjee B. Variable selection with multiply-imputed datasets: choosing between stacked and grouped methods. *J Comput Graph Stat* [Internet]. 2022;31:1063–1075. doi: 10.1080/10618600.2022.2035739. Cited: in: : PMID: 36644406.
16. miselect: Variable Selection for Multiply Imputed Data [Internet]. Github; [cited 2024 Apr 3]. Available from: <https://github.com/umich-cphds/miselect>.
17. Bent B, Goldstein BA, Kibbe WA, Dunn JP. Investigating sources of inaccuracy in wearable optical heart rate sensors. *NPJ Digit Med* [Internet]. 2020;3:18. doi: 10.1038/s41746-020-0226-6. Cited: in: : PMID: 32047863.
18. Lee J-E, Lee DH, Oh TJ, Kim KM, Choi SH, Lim S, Park YJ, Park DJ, Jang HC, Moon JH. Clinical Feasibility of Monitoring Resting Heart Rate Using a Wearable Activity Tracker in Patients With Thyrotoxicosis: Prospective Longitudinal Observational Study. *JMIR Mhealth Uhealth* [Internet]. 2018;6:e159. doi: 10.2196/mhealth.9884. Cited: in: : PMID: 30006328.
19. Jiang C, Faruqi L, Palaniappan L, Dunn J. Estimating Personal Resting Heart Rate from Wearable Biosensor Data. 2019 IEEE EMBS International Conference on Biomedical & Health Informatics (BHI) [Internet]. IEEE; 2019. p. 1–4. Available from: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1109/BHI.2019.8834554>.
20. Shaver J. The State of Telehealth Before and After the COVID-19 Pandemic. *Prim Care* [Internet]. 2022;49:517–530. doi: 10.1016/j.pop.2022.04.002. Cited: in: : PMID: 36357058.
21. McGrath JJ, Matthews KA, Brady SS. Individual versus neighborhood socioeconomic status and race as predictors of adolescent ambulatory blood pressure and heart rate. *Soc Sci Med* [Internet]. 2006;63:1442–1453. doi: 10.1016/j.socscimed.2006.03.019. Cited: in: : PMID: 16733078.
22. Chaix B, Jouven X, Thomas F, Leal C, Billaudeau N, Bean K, Kestens Y, Jëgo B, Pannier B, Danchin N. Why socially deprived populations have a faster resting heart rate: impact of behaviour, life course anthropometry, and biology--the RECORD Cohort Study. *Soc Sci Med* [Internet]. 2011;73:1543–1550. doi: 10.1016/j.socscimed.2011.09.009. Cited: in: : PMID: 22000762.
23. Latvala A, Kuja-Halkola R, Rück C, D'Onofrio BM, Jernberg T, Almqvist C, Mataix-Cols D, Larsson H, Lichtenstein P. Association of Resting Heart Rate and Blood Pressure in Late Adolescence With Subsequent Mental Disorders: A Longitudinal Population Study of More Than 1

- Million Men in Sweden. *JAMA Psychiatry* [Internet]. 2016;73:1268–1275. doi: 10.1001/jamapsychiatry.2016.2717. Cited: in : PMID: 27784035.
24. Califf RM, Wong C, Doraiswamy PM, Hong DS, Miller DP, Mega JL, Baseline Study Group. Biological and clinical correlates of the patient health questionnaire-9: exploratory cross-sectional analyses of the baseline health study. *BMJ Open* [Internet]. 2022;12:e054741. doi: 10.1136/bmjopen-2021-054741. Cited: in : PMID: 34983769.
  25. Kim G, Lee Y-H, Jeon JY, Bang H, Lee B-W, Kang ES, Lee I-K, Cha B-S, Kim CS. Increase in resting heart rate over 2 years predicts incidence of diabetes: A 10-year prospective study. *Diabetes Metab* [Internet]. 2017;43:25–32. doi: 10.1016/j.diabet.2016.09.002. Cited: in : PMID: 27745827.
  26. Aladin AI, Al Rifai M, Rasool SH, Keteyian SJ, Bawner CA, Michos ED, Blaha MJ, Al-Mallah MH, McEvoy JW. The Association of Resting Heart Rate and Incident Hypertension: The Henry Ford Hospital Exercise Testing (FIT) Project. *Am J Hypertens* [Internet]. 2016;29:251–257. doi: 10.1093/ajh/hpv095. Cited: in : PMID: 26112864.
  27. Jensen MT, Suadicani P, Hein HO, Gyntelberg F. Elevated resting heart rate, physical fitness and all-cause mortality: a 16-year follow-up in the Copenhagen Male Study. *Heart* [Internet]. 2013;99:882–887. doi: 10.1136/heartjnl-2012-303375. Cited: in : PMID: 23595657.
  28. Agelink MW, Malessa R, Baumann B, Majewski T, Akila F, Zeit T, Ziegler D. Standardized tests of heart rate variability: normal ranges obtained from 309 healthy humans, and effects of age, gender, and heart rate. *Clin Auton Res* [Internet]. 2001;11:99–108. doi: 10.1007/BF02322053. Cited: in : PMID: 11570610.
  29. McCrory C, Finucane C, O'Hare C, Frewen J, Nolan H, Layte R, Kearney PM, Kenny RA. Social Disadvantage and Social Isolation Are Associated With a Higher Resting Heart Rate: Evidence From The Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing. *J Gerontol B Psychol Sci Soc Sci* [Internet]. 2016;71:463–473. doi: 10.1093/geronb/gbu163. Cited: in : PMID: 25481923.
  30. Colangelo LA, Yano Y, Jacobs DR Jr, Lloyd-Jones DM. Association of Resting Heart Rate With Blood Pressure and Incident Hypertension Over 30 Years in Black and White Adults: The CARDIA Study. *Hypertension* [Internet]. 2020;76:692–698. doi: 10.1161/HYPERTENSIONAHA.120.15233. Cited: in : PMID: 32783760.
  31. Hill LK, Hoggard LS, Richmond AS, Gray DL, Williams DP, Thayer JF. Examining the association between perceived discrimination and heart rate variability in African Americans. *Cultur Divers Ethnic Minor Psychol* [Internet]. 2017;23:5–14. doi: 10.1037/cdp0000076. Cited: in : PMID: 28045306.
  32. Tracy LM, Koenig J, Georgiou-Karistianis N, Gibson SJ, Giummarra MJ. Heart rate variability is associated with thermal heat pain threshold in males, but not females. *Int J Psychophysiol* [Internet]. 2018;131:37–43. doi: 10.1016/j.ijpsycho.2018.02.017. Cited: in : PMID: 29505850.
  33. Adjei T, Xue J, Mandic DP. The Female Heart: Sex Differences in the Dynamics of ECG in Response to Stress. *Front Physiol* [Internet]. 2018;9:1616. doi: 10.3389/fphys.2018.01616. Cited: in : PMID: 30546313.
  34. Hnatkova K, Šišáková M, Smetana P, Toman O, Huster KM, Novotný T, Schmidt G, Malik M. Sex differences in heart rate responses to postural provocations. *Int J Cardiol* [Internet]. 2019;297:126–134. doi: 10.1016/j.ijcard.2019.09.044. Cited: in : PMID: 31611089.

35. Lucas B, Grayson S, Hamidu H, Han A, No S, Varghese A, Campisi J. Sex differences in heart rate responses to occupational stress. *Stress* [Internet]. 2020;23:13–18. doi: 10.1080/10253890.2019.1621282. Cited: in: : PMID: 31144579.
36. Gillum RF. The epidemiology of resting heart rate in a national sample of men and women: associations with hypertension, coronary heart disease, blood pressure, and other cardiovascular risk factors. *Am Heart J* [Internet]. 1988;116:163–174. doi: 10.1016/0002-8703(88)90262-1. Cited: in: : PMID: 2969182.
37. Khan H, Kunutsor S, Kalogeropoulos AP, Georgiopoulou VV, Newman AB, Harris TB, Bibbins-Domingo K, Kauhanen J, Gheorghiade M, Fonarow GC, et al. Resting heart rate and risk of incident heart failure: three prospective cohort studies and a systematic meta-analysis. *J Am Heart Assoc* [Internet]. 2015;4:e001364. doi: 10.1161/JAHA.114.001364. Cited: in: : PMID: 25589535.
38. Whelton SP, Narla V, Blaha MJ, Nasir K, Blumenthal RS, Jenny NS, Al-Mallah MH, Michos ED. Association between resting heart rate and inflammatory biomarkers (high-sensitivity C-reactive protein, interleukin-6, and fibrinogen) (from the Multi-Ethnic Study of Atherosclerosis). *Am J Cardiol* [Internet]. 2014;113:644–649. doi: 10.1016/j.amjcard.2013.11.009. Cited: in: : PMID: 24393259.
39. Rikli RE, Jessie Jones C. The Reliability and Validity of a 6-Minute Walk Test as a Measure of Physical Endurance in Older Adults. *J Aging Phys Act* [Internet]. 1998 [cited 2024 Mar 29];6:363–375. doi: 10.1123/japa.6.4.363.
40. Saint-Maurice PF, Troiano RP, Bassett DR Jr, Graubard BI, Carlson SA, Shiroma EJ, Fulton JE, Matthews CE. Association of Daily Step Count and Step Intensity With Mortality Among US Adults. *JAMA* [Internet]. 2020;323:1151–1160. doi: 10.1001/jama.2020.1382. Cited: in: : PMID: 32207799.
41. Rennie KL, Hemingway H, Kumari M, Brunner E, Malik M, Marmot M. Effects of moderate and vigorous physical activity on heart rate variability in a British study of civil servants. *Am J Epidemiol* [Internet]. 2003;158:135–143. doi: 10.1093/aje/kwg120. Cited: in: : PMID: 12851226.
42. Avram R, Tison GH, Aschbacher K, Kuhar P, Vittinghoff E, Butzner M, Runge R, Wu N, Pletcher MJ, Marcus GM, et al. Real-world heart rate norms in the Health eHeart study. *NPJ Digit Med* [Internet]. 2019;2:58. doi: 10.1038/s41746-019-0134-9. Cited: in: : PMID: 31304404.
43. Gorny AW, Liew SJ, Tan CS, Müller-Riemenschneider F. Fitbit Charge HR Wireless Heart Rate Monitor: Validation Study Conducted Under Free-Living Conditions. *JMIR Mhealth Uhealth* [Internet]. 2017;5:e157. doi: 10.2196/mhealth.8233. Cited: in: : PMID: 29055881.
44. Bai Y, Tompkins C, Gell N, Dione D, Zhang T, Byun W. Comprehensive comparison of Apple Watch and Fitbit monitors in a free-living setting. *PLoS One* [Internet]. 2021;16:e0251975. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0251975. Cited: in: : PMID: 34038458.

## ABBREVIATIONS

AIAN=American Indians and Alaska Natives  
AUDIT-C=Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test-Concise  
BMI = body mass index  
BP = blood pressure  
BRFSS ACE=Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Adverse Childhood Experience  
ECG=electrocardiogram  
eGFR = estimated glomerular filtration rate  
FEV1/FVC=forced expiratory volume in 1 s /forced vital capacity  
GAD-7 = general anxiety disorder -7  
GERD = gastro-esophageal reflux disease  
HbA1c=glycated hemoglobin A1c  
HDL=high-density lipoprotein  
IBI=interbeat interval  
LDL=low-density lipoprotein  
MDRD = modification of diet in renal disease  
NHPI=Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander  
PANAS=Positive and Negative Affect Schedule  
PBHS = Project Baseline Health Study  
PHQ-9 = patient health questionnaire -9  
PPG=photoplethysmography  
PROMIS=Patient-Reported Outcomes Measurement Information System  
RHR=resting heart rate  
SD = standard deviation  
TSH=thyroid-stimulating hormone  
VSW=Verily Study Watch  
VSW RHR=Verily Study Watch resting heart rate  
WBC=white blood cell  
WHODAS=World Health Organization Disability Assessment Schedule

## Supplementary Files

## Multimedia Appendixes

Untitled.

URL: <http://asset.jmir.pub/assets/a930c1029c229c8c1287fb17048e24da.docx>