1. Title:
Black-White Difference in Antecedents of Weight Gain in Women

2. Writing Group:
(lead) Arnett            Burke            Folsom              Higgins
                                 Tyroler                  Heiss          Hutchinson         Carpenter

3. Timeline:
Preliminary analyses could begin immediately (if approved, anticipating abstract submission to AHA in May, 1993). Final analyses for publication purposes could not be completed until closure of visit 2 data.

4. Rationale:
Epidemiologic studies consistently report a higher prevalence of overweight in African-American women related to their white counterparts. Although black-white differences in the correlates of overweight are reported for young adult women (Burke et al., AJPH 1992,82:1621), black-white differences in the determinants of increases in body weight in middle-age women are essentially unknown. Although a decrease in overweight prevalence with increasing socioeconomic status is reported in white women, no association between socioeconomic status and overweight has been observed in black women (Kumanyika S., Epidemiol Rev 1987,9:31). Reproductive history is associated with an excess obesity in young black compared to white women participating in CARDIA (e.g. earlier menarche, increased parity); limited information is available regarding black-white differences in weight change relative to changes in menopausal status (Wing R., Arch Int Med 1991,151:97).

5. Main Hypothesis/Goals:
a) Describe the change in weight after three year follow-up in women.
b) An inverse association between weight gain after three years of follow-up and SES (e.g. educational level or income) will be observed in white women; no (or a weaker) association between weight gain and SES will be observed in black women.
c) Menopause will be associated with weight gain similarly in black and white women.

6. Data (variables, time window, source, inclusions/exclusions):
Visit one and two data.
Variables: Weight, height, BMI, WHR, skinfolds, education, family income, physical activity score, total caloric intake, age, marital status, menopausal status (RHXA variables, including date of LMP, type of menopause, currently using hormones).