



CHILDHOOD RESILIENCE

Neighborhood Safety (Parent Perception)

INDICATOR

Percent of children who usually feel safe in their community or neighborhood.

Numerator Number answering "Definitely Agree"

Denominator Children aged 0-17

DESCRIPTION

This question asks parents if they believe their child is safe in their neighborhood. Parents provides a response between "Definitely agree" and "Definitely disagree" to the statement, "This child is safe in our neighborhood."

IMPORTANCE

A persistent feeling of safety decreases the likelihood of exposure to toxic stress and violence, supporting a child's well-being and helping to prevent mental illness through building resilience (Cutrona, 2006). This measure reveals information about the communities in which children grow up, including a child's potential risk of witnessing or experiencing violence, and the child's ability to live and play in his or her community, free of fear. This measure is also important for its ability to separate out the feeling of fear of crime from actual crime (as measured in other OCMH indicators), which has its own, lasting effects on social and emotional development (Fowler & Mangione, 1986).

LIMITATIONS

- "Neighborhood" may be defined differently by each respondent, leading to differences by demographic group or region.
- This metric changed both response choices and question wording from the 2011/2012 survey question, "How often do you feel [child name] is safe in your community or neighborhood?"

ADDITIONAL ANALYSES

Wisconsin Analyses

Federal Poverty Level	% Children in Safe Neighborhood
Under 100% FPL	Unavailable
100-200% FPL	62%
200-400% FPL	76%
Over 400% FPL	83%

National Analyses

Federal Poverty Level	% Children in Safe Neighborhood
Under 100% FPL	54%
100-200% FPL	57%
200-400% FPL	64%
Over 400% FPL	76%

SOURCE

Cutrona, Carolyn E., Gail Wallace, and Kristin A. Wesner. (2006). Neighborhood characteristics and depression an examination of stress processes. *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 15(4), 188-192.

Fowler, F. J., Jr., & Mangione, T. W. (1986). A three-pronged effort to reduce crime and fear of crime: The Hartford experiment. In D. P. Rosenbaum (Ed.), *Community crime prevention: Does it work?* (pp. 87-108). Newbury Park, CA: Sage.

National Survey of Children's Health. (2016). Data query from the Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative, Data Resource Center for Child and Adolescent Health website. Retrieved from www.childhealthdata.org.

YEAR:		2016	
WI	US	Best	Worst
73.2%*	63.8%	78.4%	48.3%
		SD	DC
PAST YEAR:		2011/2012	
WI	US		
89.5%*	86.6%		

* Indicates a statistically significant difference from the US value at $p < 0.05$.