



The Child and Family's Neighborhood

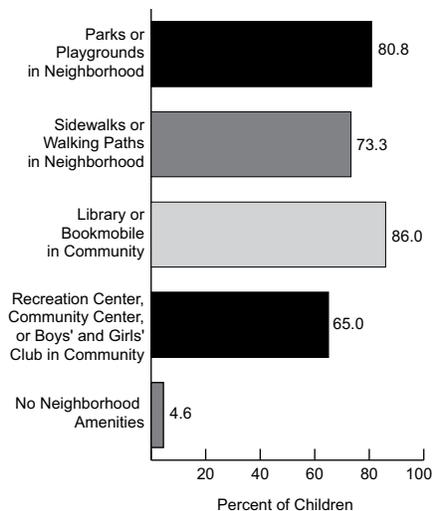
A child's safety in the neighborhood and at school, the amount of support families feel they receive from their neighbors, the amenities offered in and the physical condition of the neighborhood, and the availability of child care all affect a family's comfort in their community and in the child's freedom within the neighborhood. A number of questions within the survey were used to develop indicators that reflect the family-friendliness of the child and family's neighborhood.



Neighborhood Amenities

The availability of neighborhood amenities, such as playgrounds, community centers, and libraries, provide children with opportunities for recreation, education, and socializing without going far from home. Overall, 73.3 percent of children were reported to live in neighborhoods with sidewalks or walking paths; 80.8 percent had a park or playground in their neighborhood; 86.0 percent had a library or bookmobile in the community; and 65.0 percent had a recreation center, community center, or Boys' and Girls' club. Only 4.6 percent of children were reported to live in neighborhoods with none of these amenities, while 48.2 percent of children lived in neighborhoods with all of these amenities (data not shown).

Children's Access to Neighborhood Amenities



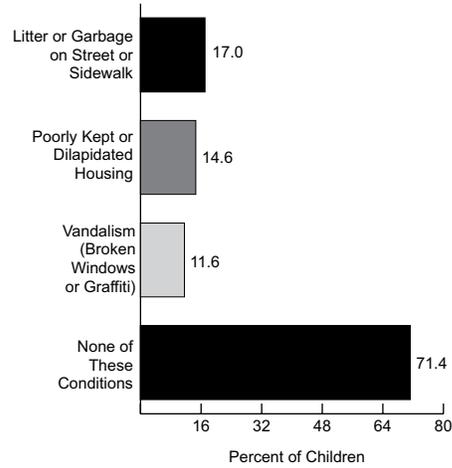


Neighborhood Conditions

The physical environment can affect the physical health, safety, social opportunities, and development of a child. Poor neighborhood conditions, such as dilapidated housing, evidence of vandalism, and litter or garbage on the street may contribute adversely, either directly or indirectly, to a child's overall well-being.

Parents of 17.0 percent of children reported that they lived in neighborhoods with litter or garbage on the street or sidewalk, while 14.6 percent of children were reported to live in neighborhoods with poorly kept or dilapidated housing, and 11.6 percent lived in neighborhoods with evidence of vandalism, such as broken windows or graffiti. Overall, 71.4 percent of children were reported to live in neighborhoods with none of these conditions, while the remaining 28.6 percent lived in neighborhoods with at least one of these conditions (data not shown).

Condition of Children's Neighborhoods





Supportive Neighborhoods

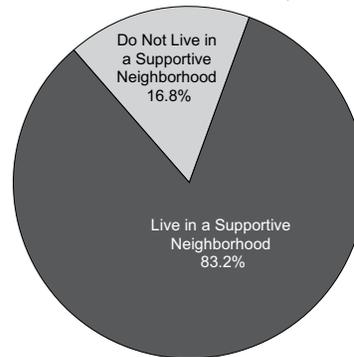
To assess whether or not families and children are supported in their neighborhoods, parents were asked whether they agreed with the following statements:

- People in the neighborhood help each other out.
- We watch out for each other's children.
- There are people I can count on in the neighborhood.
- If my child were outside playing and got hurt or scared, there are adults nearby whom I trust to help my child.

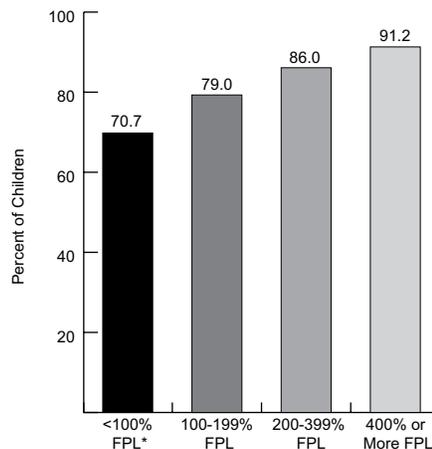
Families were considered to live in supportive neighborhoods if they answered "definitely agree" or "somewhat agree" to each of the four statements. Overall, parents of 83.2 percent of children reported that they live in supportive neighborhoods.

Parents of children in higher-income households are more likely to feel that their neighborhoods are supportive. Among children in households with incomes below 100 percent of the Federal poverty level (FPL), the parents of 70.7 percent reported that their neighborhoods are supportive, compared to 79.0 percent of children in households with incomes between 100 and 199 percent of poverty. Of children with household incomes between 200 and 399 percent of FPL, 86.0 percent lived in supportive neighborhoods, as did 91.2

Children Living in Supportive Neighborhoods

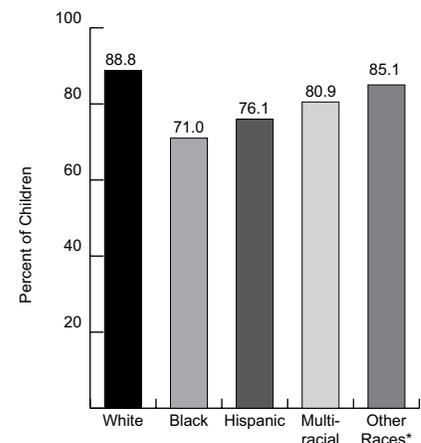


Children in Supportive Neighborhoods, by Poverty Status



*Federal poverty level was \$20,650 for a family of four in 2007.

Children in Supportive Neighborhoods, by Race and Ethnicity



*Includes Asian/Pacific Islanders and American Indian/Alaska Natives.

percent of children with household incomes of 400 percent or more of FPL.

The likelihood of parents reporting that children live in supportive neighborhoods also varied by race and ethnicity. Parents of White children were more likely to perceive neighborhoods as supportive, compared to parents in other racial and ethnic groups. Among White children, 88.8 percent were

reported to live in supportive neighborhoods, followed by 85.1 percent of children of other races and 80.9 percent of multiracial children. More than 76 percent of Hispanic and 71.0 percent of Black children also lived in supportive neighborhoods.



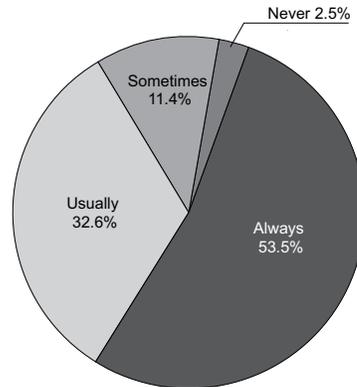
Safety of Child in the Neighborhood

Families are more likely to feel comfortable in a neighborhood if they feel that their children are safe. Parents were asked how often they felt that their child was safe in their community or neighborhood—never, sometimes, usually, or always. Overall, parents of 86.1 percent of children report that they feel that their child is usually or always safe in their neighborhood.

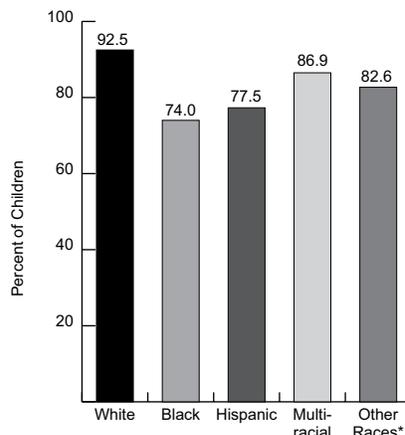
Parents of White and multiracial children were more likely to report that their children are safe in their neighborhoods, compared to parents of children of other racial and ethnic groups. Nearly 93 percent of White children were reported to be usually or always safe in their neighborhoods, as were 86.9 percent of multiracial children. In contrast, parents of 77.5 percent of Hispanic and 74.0 percent of Black children felt that their children are safe in their neighborhoods.

Parents' assessments of neighborhood safety vary by income as well. Of children with household incomes below the poverty level, 72.1 percent were reported to be safe in their neighborhoods, compared to 81.8 percent of children with household incomes between 100 and 199 percent of the Federal poverty level (FPL).

Safety of Children in Their Neighborhood

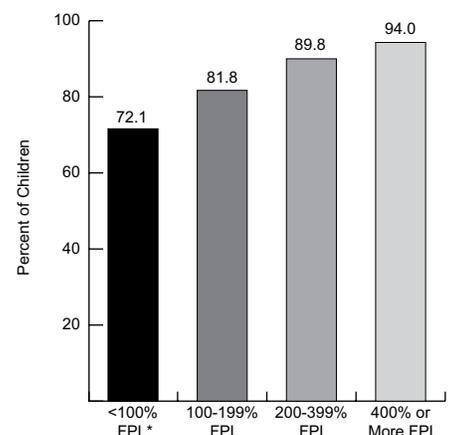


Children Who Are Usually or Always Safe in Neighborhood, by Race and Ethnicity



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Children Who Are Usually or Always Safe in Neighborhood, by Poverty Status



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Of children with household incomes between 200 and 399 percent of FPL, 89.8 percent lived in safe neighborhoods, as did 94.0 percent of children with household incomes of 400 percent or more of FPL.



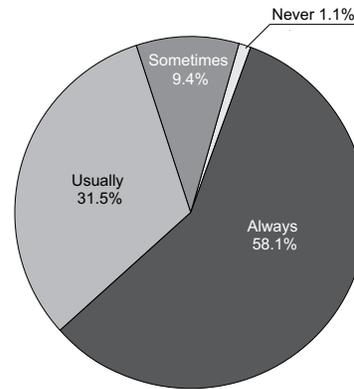
Safety of Child at School

Parents of school-aged children (aged 6-17 years) were also asked how often they felt that their children were safe in school. Overall, parents of 89.6 percent of children reported that their children are usually or always safe in school.

Younger school-aged children (aged 6-11 years) were more likely to be reported to be usually or always safe in school (93.0 percent) than were adolescents aged 12-17 years (86.4 percent).

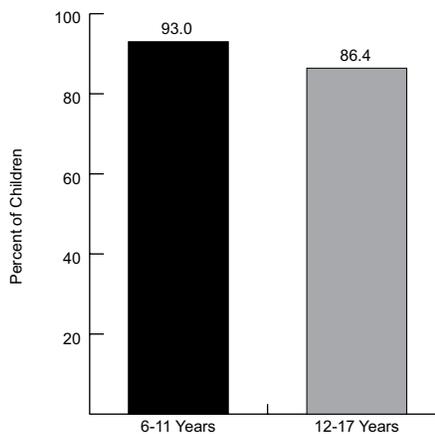
Parents of children in higher-income households were also more likely to report that their children are safe in school. Parents of 79.2 percent of children with household incomes below the poverty level reported that their children were usually or always safe in school, compared to 84.4 percent of children with household incomes between 100 and 199 percent of poverty and more than 92 percent of children in households with incomes above 200 percent of poverty.

Safety of Children Aged 6-17 Years In School

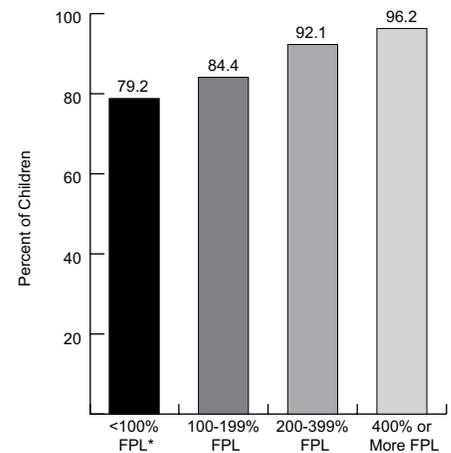


*Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Children Aged 6-17 Years Who Are Usually or Always Safe in School, by Age



Children Aged 6-17 Years Who Are Usually or Always Safe in School, by Poverty Status



*Federal poverty level was \$20,650 for a family of four in 2007.

