



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 the neighborhood, and the physical condition of the child's surroundings 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, provides children with opportunities for recreation, education, and socializing without going far from home. Overall, 76.6 percent of children were reported to live in neighborhoods with sidewalks or walking paths; 84.6 percent had a park or playground in their neighborhood; 88.6 percent had a library or bookmobile in the community; and 69.2 percent had a recreation center, community center, or Boys' and Girls' club. Only 3.7 percent of children were reported to live in neighborhoods with none of these amenities, while 54.1 percent of children lived in neighborhoods with all of these amenities.

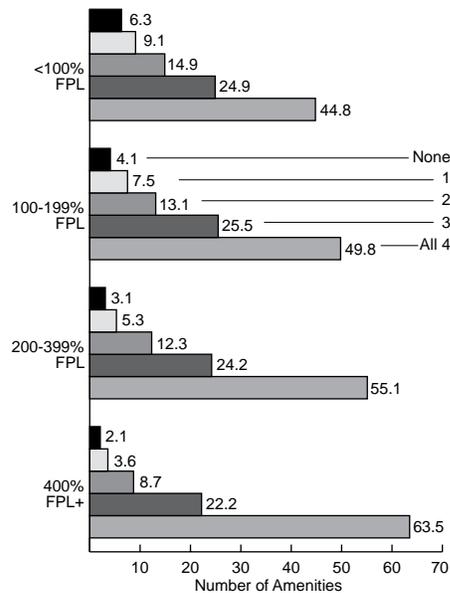
Children in lower-income households are more likely to live in neighborhoods with no amenities, while children in higher-income households are most likely to live in neighborhoods with all 4. Of children with household incomes of 400 percent of the Federal poverty level (FPL) or more, nearly two-thirds (63.5 percent) lived in neighborhoods with all 4 amenities, compared to 44.8 percent of children with household incomes below the FPL. Over 6 percent of children in low-income households lived in neighborhoods with no amenities,

compared to 2.1 percent of children with household incomes of 400 percent of FPL or more.

Children's Access to Neighborhood Amenities



Number of Amenities in Children's Neighborhoods, by Poverty Level



The Federal Poverty Level (FPL) was \$22,350 for a family of 4 in 2011.



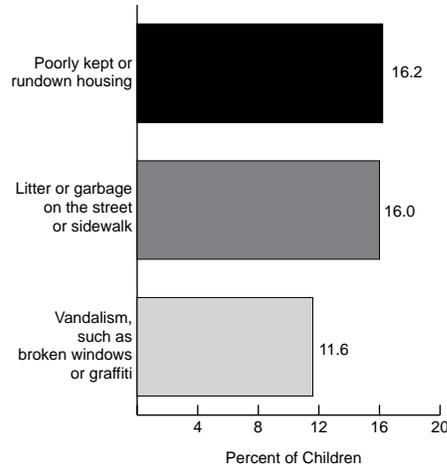
Neighborhood Conditions

The physical environment can affect the physical health, safety, social opportunities, and development of a child. Poor neighborhood conditions, such as rundown 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.

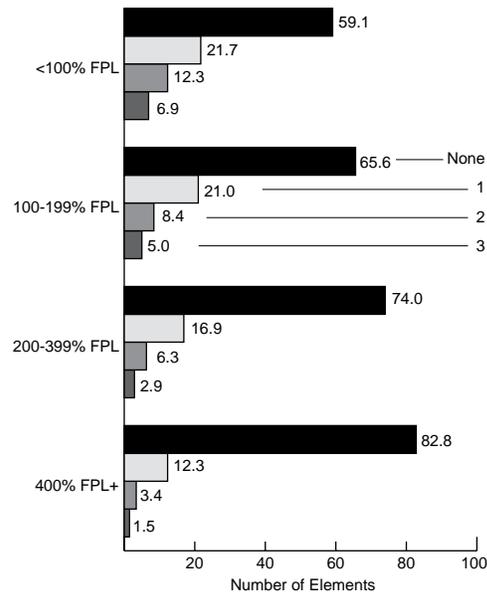
Parents of 16.0 percent of children reported that they lived in neighborhoods with litter or garbage on the street or sidewalk, while 16.2 percent of children were reported to live in neighborhoods with poorly kept or rundown housing, and 11.6 percent lived in neighborhoods with evidence of vandalism, such as broken windows or graffiti. Overall, 71.3 percent of children were reported to live in neighborhoods with none of these conditions, while the remaining 28.8 percent lived in neighborhoods with at least one of these conditions.

While most children at all income levels live in neighborhoods with none of these detracting elements, 40.9 percent of children with household incomes below the Federal poverty level (FPL) lived in areas with at least one of them, compared to 17.2 percent of children with household incomes of 400 percent of FPL or more.

Condition of Children's Neighborhoods



Number of Detracting Elements in Children's Neighborhoods, by Poverty Level



The Federal Poverty Level (FPL) was \$22,350 for a family of 4 in 2011.



Supportive Neighborhoods

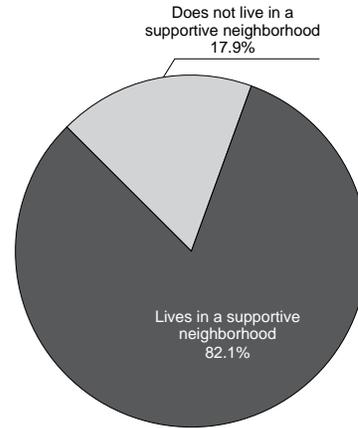
To assess whether or not families and children are supported in their neighborhoods, parents were asked whether they agreed with the following statements:

- 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.

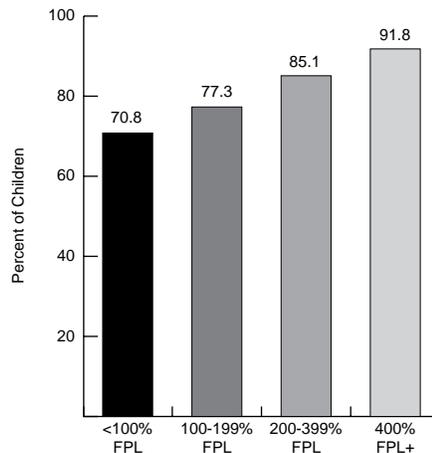
Families were considered to live in supportive neighborhoods if they answered "definitely agree" or "somewhat agree" to each of the four statements. Overall, parents of 82.1 percent of children reported that they live in supportive neighborhoods.

Parents of children in higher-income households are more likely to feel that their neighborhoods are supportive. Among children in households with incomes below the Federal poverty level (FPL), the parents of 70.8 percent reported that their neighborhoods are supportive, compared to 77.3 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, 85.1 percent lived in supportive

Children Living in Supportive Neighborhoods

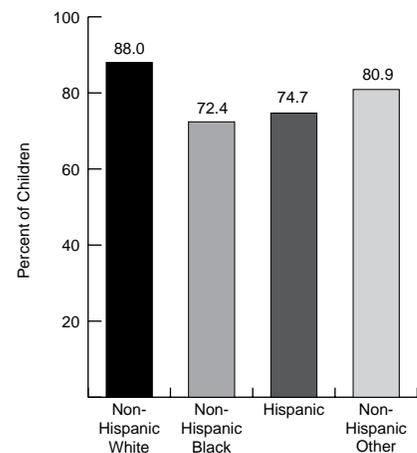


Children Living in Supportive Neighborhoods, by Poverty Level



The Federal Poverty Level (FPL) was \$22,350 for a family of 4 in 2011.

Children Living in Supportive Neighborhoods, by Race/Ethnicity



neighborhoods, as did 91.8 percent of children with household incomes of 400 percent or more of FPL.

Parents' reports of whether their children live in supportive neighborhoods varied by race and ethnicity. Parents of non-Hispanic White children were more likely to perceive neighborhoods as supportive, com-

pared to parents of other races and ethnicities. Among non-Hispanic White children, 88.0 percent were reported to live in supportive neighborhoods, followed by 80.9 percent of non-Hispanic children of other races. More than 74 percent of Hispanic and 72.4 percent of non-Hispanic Black children also lived in supportive neighborhoods.



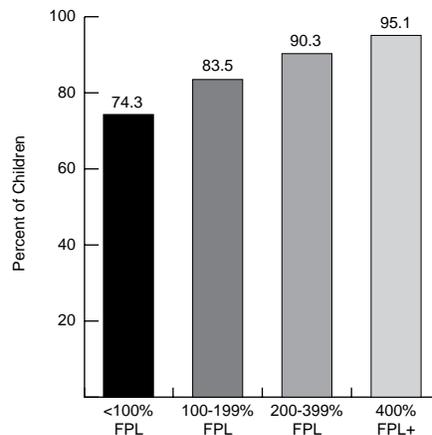
Safety in the Neighborhood

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 86.6 percent of children report that they feel that their child is usually or always safe in their neighborhood.

Parents of non-Hispanic White children and non-Hispanic children of other races were more likely to report that their children are safe in their neighborhoods, compared to parents of children of other racial and ethnic groups. Over 93 percent of non-Hispanic White children were reported to be usually or always safe in their neighborhoods, as were 86.9 percent of non-Hispanic children of other races. In contrast, parents of 77.2 percent of Hispanic and 77.0 percent of non-Hispanic Black children felt that their children are usually or always safe in their neighborhoods.

Parents' assessments of neighborhood safety vary by income as well. Of children with household incomes below the Federal poverty level (FPL), 74.3 percent were reported to be usually or always safe in their neighborhoods, compared to 83.5 percent

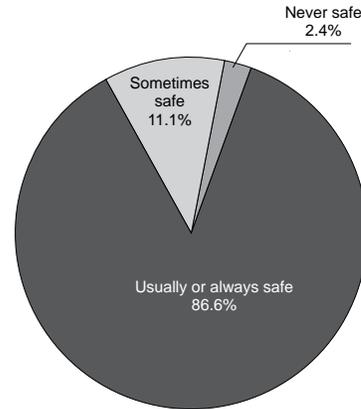
Children Who Are Usually or Always Safe in Their Neighborhoods, by Poverty Level



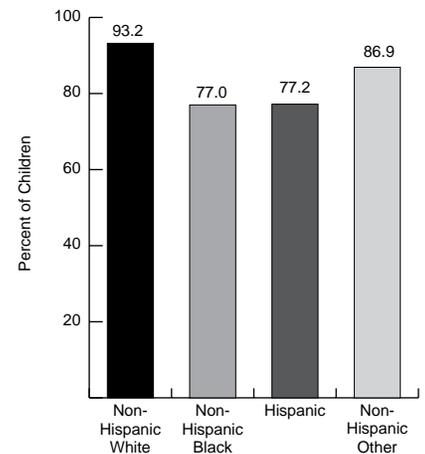
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of children with household incomes between 100 and 199 percent of the FPL. Of children with household incomes between 200 and 399 per-

Children's Safety in Their Neighborhoods



Children Who Are Usually or Always Safe in Their Neighborhoods, by Race/Ethnicity



cent of FPL, 90.3 percent lived in safe neighborhoods, as did 95.1 percent of children with household incomes of 400 percent or more of FPL.



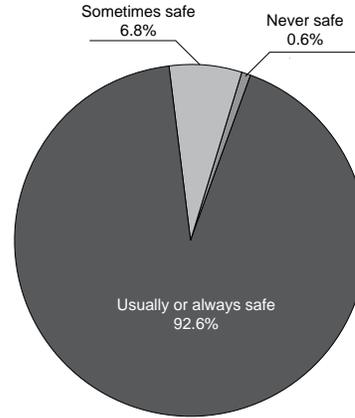
Safety at School

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 reported that 92.6 percent of children are usually or always safe in school.

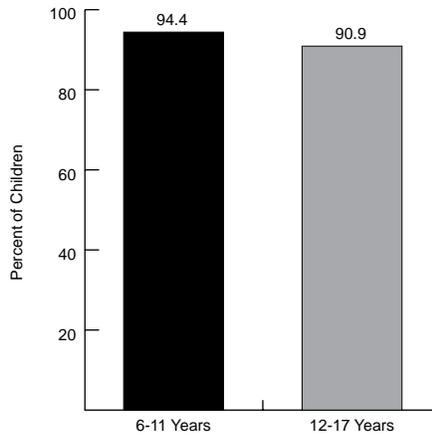
Younger school-aged children (aged 6-11 years) were more likely to be reported to be usually or always safe in school (94.4 percent) than were adolescents aged 12-17 years (90.9 percent).

Parents of children in higher-income households were also more likely to report that their children are usually or always safe in school. Parents of 84.9 percent of children with household incomes below the Federal poverty level (FPL) reported that their children were usually or always safe in school, compared to 89.9 percent of children with household incomes between 100 and 199 percent of FPL and more than 95 percent of children in households with incomes above 200 percent of FPL.

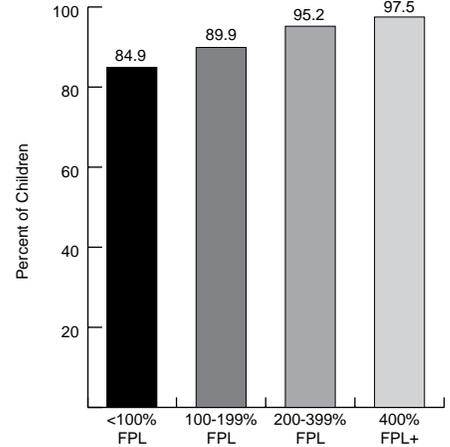
Safety of Children Aged 6-17 Years At School



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



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



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