



The Child and Family's Neighborhood

The neighborhood in which a child lives can positively impact their development and overall health. A child's safety in their neighborhood and at school, as well as the amenities available and the physical condition of the neighborhood can all influence a family's comfort with outdoor activities and the child's freedom within the community. A number of questions within the survey were used to develop indicators that reflect aspects of the child and family's neighborhood that may impact a child's health and well-being.

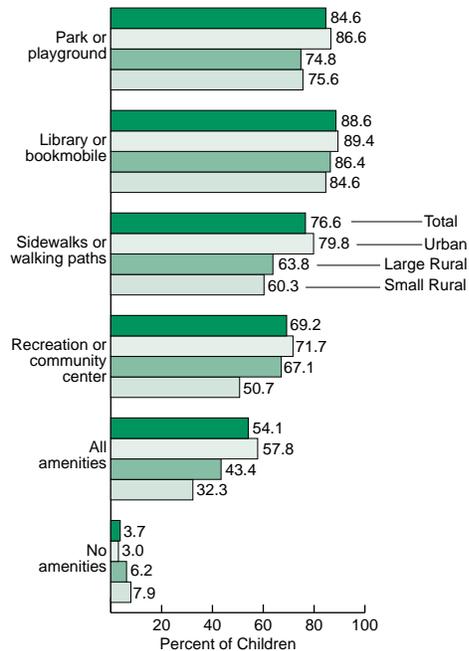


Neighborhood Amenities

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 & 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 urban areas were more likely to have access to neighborhood amenities than rural children, and children in small rural areas were less likely than those in large rural areas to have access. More than half of urban children (57.8 percent) had access to all four amenities, compared to 43.4 percent of children in large rural areas and 32.3 percent of those in small rural areas. Very few children in urban areas (3.0 percent) had access to none of the amenities assessed, compared to 6.2 percent of children in large rural areas and 7.9 percent of those in small rural areas. However, rural communities might have other features, such as swimming holes or

Children's Access to Neighborhood Amenities, by Location



hiking trails that were not included in the survey.

Libraries and bookmobiles were most likely to be available in all locations; more than 80 percent of children in both urban and rural areas have access to a library. Children in small rural areas were least likely to

have access to a recreation center or community center; this was reported to be available to only 50.7 percent of children in these areas. Among children in large rural areas, the amenity least often reported was sidewalks or walking paths, available to 63.8 percent of children.



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.

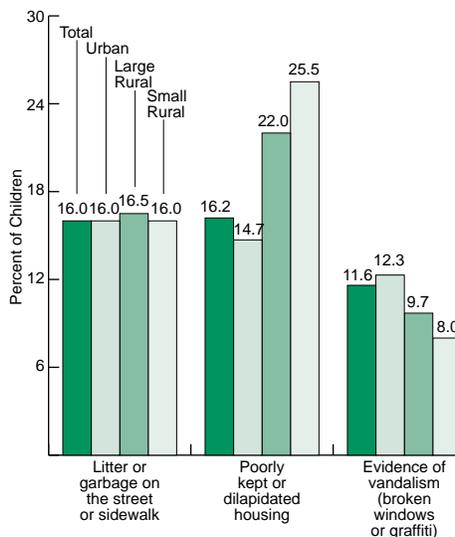
Approximately 16 percent of children in all locations were reported to live in neighborhoods with litter or garbage on the street or sidewalk. Children in small rural areas were most likely to live in neighborhoods with poorly kept or dilapidated housing (25.5 percent), followed by those in large rural areas (22.0 percent), while only 14.7 percent of urban children did so. Children in urban areas were the most likely to live in neighborhoods with evidence of vandalism (12.3 percent), compared to 9.7 percent of children in large rural areas and 8.0 percent of those in small rural areas.

The number of detracting elements in children's neighborhoods varied by location, with urban children more likely to report none of these conditions, as well as all three conditions than their rural peers. Overall, 72.3 percent of children in urban areas were reported to live in neighborhoods with none of these conditions, compared to 67.3 percent of children in large rural areas and 65.5 percent

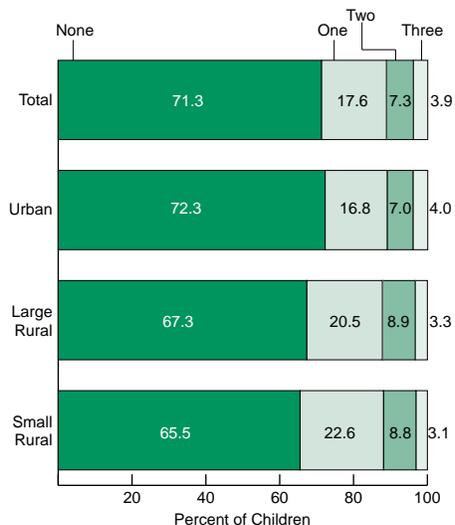
of those in small rural areas. A small percentage of children (3.9 percent) lived in areas with all three of these conditions, and this was more common among children in urban areas.

The percentage of children whose neighborhoods have any of these conditions was highest in small rural areas (34.5 percent) and lowest in urban areas (27.8 percent).

Condition of Child's Neighborhood, by Location



Number of Detracting Elements in Child's Neighborhood, by Location





Supportive Neighborhoods

To assess whether families and children were 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.

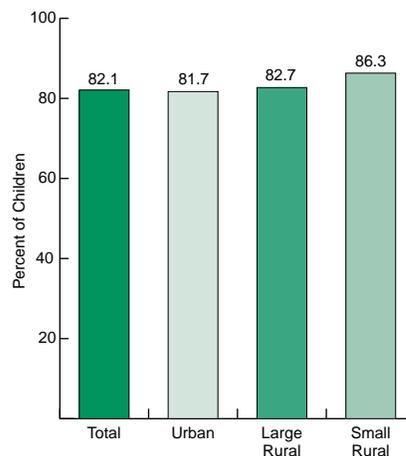
Families were considered to live in supportive neighborhoods if they answered “definitely agree” or “somewhat agree” to each of the four statements. Overall, parents of 82.1 percent of children reported that they lived in supportive neighborhoods. This percentage was higher in small rural areas (86.3 percent) than in urban areas (81.7 percent) or large rural areas (82.7 percent).

In all locations, children with household incomes below 100 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) were less likely than those with household incomes of 200 percent or more of the FPL to live in supportive neighborhoods. Among children with household incomes below 100 percent of the FPL, those in small

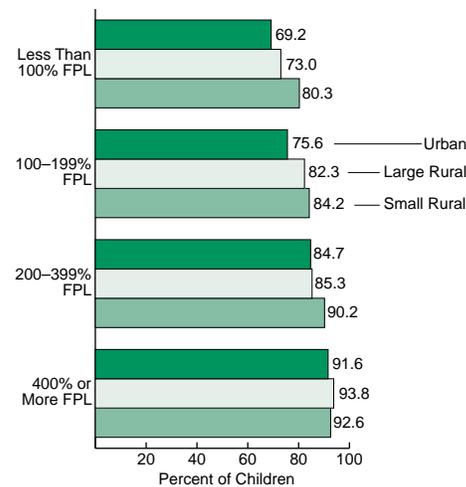
rural areas were more likely than their large rural and urban peers to do so (80.3 versus 73.0 and 69.2 percent, respectively). At all income levels, children in small rural areas

were more likely than those in urban areas to live in supportive neighborhoods with the exception of children in the highest income category, where at least 91 percent lived in supportive neighborhoods.

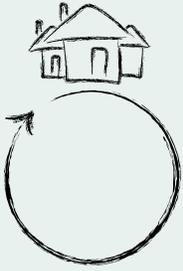
Children Living in Supportive Neighborhoods, by Location



Children Living in Supportive Neighborhoods, by Location and Poverty Level*



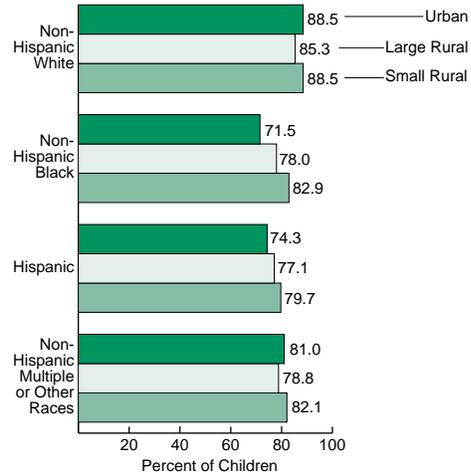
*Federal Poverty Level (FPL) is based on the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services poverty guidelines; poverty was \$23,050 for a family of four in 2012.



Supportive Neighborhoods (continued)

In all locations, non-Hispanic White children were more likely than children of other races and ethnicities to live in supportive neighborhoods. Among non-Hispanic Black children, those in rural areas were more likely than children in urban areas to live in a supportive neighborhood: 82.9 and 78.0 percent of non-Hispanic Black children in small and large rural areas, respectively, did so compared to 71.5 percent of those in urban areas. There were no statistically significant differences across locations for Hispanic and non-Hispanic children of multiple or other races.

Children Living in Supportive Neighborhoods, by Location and Race/Ethnicity



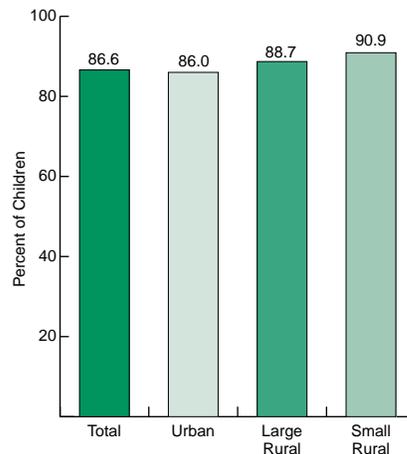


Safety in the Neighborhood

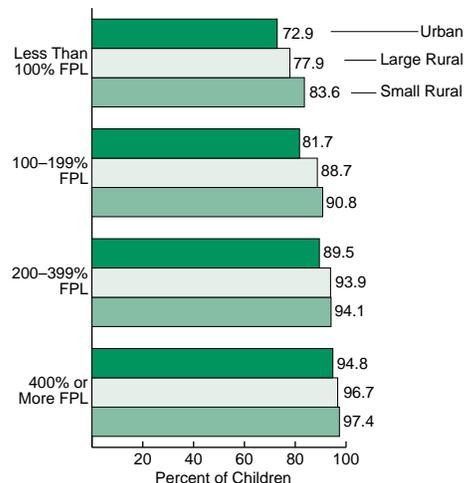
Families are more likely to feel comfortable in a neighborhood if they feel that their children are safe. Parents were asked how often they felt that their child was safe in their community or neighborhood—never, sometimes, usually, or always. Overall, parents of 86.6 percent of children reported that they felt that their child was usually or always safe in their neighborhood. This percentage was highest in small rural areas (90.9 percent), followed by large rural areas (88.7 percent), and lowest in urban areas (86.0 percent).

In all locations, children with higher household incomes were more likely than lower-income children to live in safe neighborhoods. This difference was greatest among urban children: 72.9 percent of those with household incomes below 100 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) were reported to usually or always be safe in their neighborhoods, compared to 94.8 percent of children with household incomes of 400 percent or more of the FPL. In all income groups, children living in rural areas were more likely to be reported to be safe in their neighborhoods than their urban peers. The greatest differences were seen among children in the lowest income category: among children with household incomes below 100

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



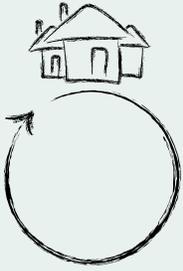
Children Who Are Usually or Always Safe in Their Neighborhoods, by Location and Poverty Level*



*Federal Poverty Level (FPL) is based on the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services poverty guidelines; poverty was \$23,050 for a family of four in 2012.

percent of the FPL, 83.6 percent of children in small rural areas and 77.9 percent of those in large rural areas

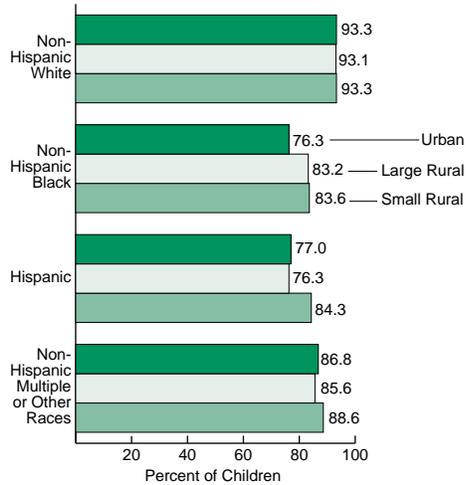
were reported to be safe in their neighborhoods, compared to 72.9 percent of those in urban areas.

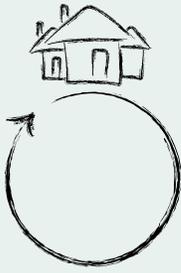


Safety in the Neighborhood (continued)

Within each racial and ethnic group, the likelihood that a child lives in a safe neighborhood varied by location only for non-Hispanic Black and Hispanic children. Among non-Hispanic Black children, those in rural areas were more likely to live in a safe neighborhood compared to their urban peers (more than 83 percent versus 76.3 percent, respectively). With regard to Hispanic children, those in small rural areas were more likely to live in a safe neighborhood than those in urban areas (84.3 versus 77.0 percent, respectively). Within each location, a higher percentage of non-Hispanic White children lived in safe neighborhoods than non-Hispanic Black, Hispanic, and non-Hispanic children of multiple or other races.

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



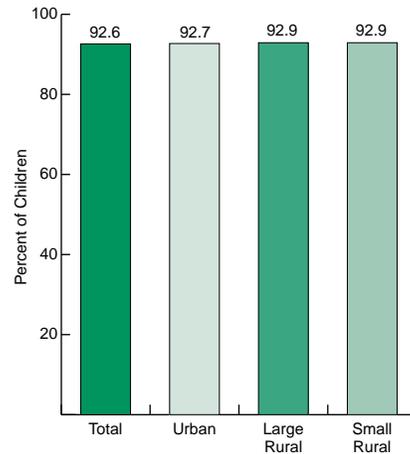


Safety at School

Parents of school-aged children (aged 6-17 years) were asked how often they felt that their children were safe in school. Overall, parents of 92.6 percent of children reported that their children were usually or always safe in school. This percentage does not vary significantly by location.

While there were no differences in the proportions of children considered to be safe at school across locations by age group, children aged 6-11 years were more likely to be considered safe at school than adolescents aged 12-17 in both urban and large rural areas. About 95 percent of children aged 6-11 in both urban and large rural areas were reported to be safe at school, compared to less than 91 percent of those aged 12-17 years.

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



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

