

Community Support
Hamby, Grych, & Banyard, 2015;
Adapted from: Sampson et al., 1997; U.S. Air Force, 2011

It is important to measure strengths at various ecological levels. This scale is a global measure assessing support at the community level – beyond an individual’s close family and friendships. It assesses the degree to which neighbors get along, help one another, and support neighborhood youth. Items 1 and 2 were adapted from Sampson et al.’s Neighborhood Collective Efficacy Index (1997), and items 3-9 were adapted from the U.S. Air Force’s Community Assessment Survey (2011).

Development and validation of measure in pilot study and main sample: To establish reliability and validity for new and adapted items, we conducted a pilot study with 104 participants from the same community as the main sample, recruited through a local email classifieds list and word-of-mouth. In the main sample of over 2500 participants, we conducted domain-level factor analyses for all interpersonal strengths. Items from the different source scales were presented separately but loaded together onto this 9-item factor. Internal consistencies (coefficient alphas) for the pilot and main samples are 0.84 and 0.87, respectively. Validity was established in the main sample with moderate correlations with other interpersonal strengths, such as Social Support – Immediate Family ($r = .43$) and Social Support – Friends and Adults ($r = .35$), as well as Subjective Well-being ($r = .31$).

Scoring: Each answer category was assigned a value from 4 to 1. The total score can be a sum or mean of all the items. We used z-scores of the scale score in our analyses. Higher scores indicate more community support.

Citation: Hamby, S., Grych, J., & Banyard, V. L. (2015). *Life Paths measurement packet: Finalized scales*. Sewanee, TN: Life Paths Research Program. <http://www.lifepathsresearch.org/strengths-measures/>

Adapted from: Sampson, R. J., Raudenbush, S. W., & Earls, F. (1997). Neighborhoods and violent crime: A multilevel study of collective efficacy. *Science, 277*, 918-924.

U.S. Air Force. (2011). 2011 Air Force Community Assessment Survey: Survey data codebook. Lackland Air Force Base, TX: Author.

Also see: Roberts, L. T., Hamby, S., Grych, J., & Banyard, V. (2015). Beyond collective efficacy: New brief measures to assess the outer layers of the social ecology. *American Journal of Psychology and Behavioral Sciences, 2*(2), 14-23.

1. My neighbors would take action if a fight broke out in front of their house.

Mostly true about my community	4
Somewhat true about my community	3
A little true about my community	2
Not true about my community	1
2. People in my neighborhood can be trusted.

Mostly true about my community	4
Somewhat true about my community	3
A little true about my community	2
Not true about my community	1
3. People in my neighborhood offer help to one another in times of need.

Mostly true.....	4
Somewhat true	3
A little true.....	2
Not true.....	1
4. People in my neighborhood talk to or visit with their neighbors.

Mostly true.....	4
Somewhat true	3
A little true.....	2
Not true.....	1
5. Where you live now, are there friends or neighbors who would let you borrow something such as tools, chairs, or food?

Mostly true.....	4
Somewhat true	3

- A little true..... 2
- Not true..... 1
- 6. Where you live now, are there friends or neighbors who would give you a ride if you needed it?
 - Mostly true..... 4
 - Somewhat true 3
 - A little true..... 2
 - Not true 1
- 7. Where you live now, are there friends or neighbors who would take care of someone's children in an emergency?
 - Mostly true..... 4
 - Somewhat true 3
 - A little true..... 2
 - Not true 1
- 8. In this community, youth (between the ages of 10-18) are supported and valued by community leaders.
 - Mostly true..... 4
 - Somewhat true 3
 - A little true..... 2
 - Not true 1
- 9. In this community, youth (between the ages of 10-18) have interesting and meaningful ways to spend their time.
 - Mostly true..... 4
 - Somewhat true 3
 - A little true..... 2
 - Not true 1