

NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY

Elementary & Middle Student Report

Neighborhood Safety is a short version of the *Self-Care Checklist—Child*, a measure of children's emotional readiness for self-care and perceptions of neighborhood safety. The *Self-Care Checklist—Child* was created by Posner & Vandell for the Ecological Study of After-School Care, a 3-year study of low-income urban children, based on the parent version of the measure (Posner & Vandell, 1994). The *Self-Care Checklist—Child* contains two subscales, Home Safety Feelings and Neighborhood Safety; we used the Neighborhood Safety scale only. The response scale was modified for the Study of Promising After-School Programs (original: 1 = definitely no, 4 = definitely yes).

Citation

Posner, J. K., & Vandell, D. L. (1994). Low-income children's after-school care: Are there beneficial effects of after-school programs? *Child Development*, 65, 440-456.

Administration

Spring 2005

Items

1. It is safe to walk around my neighborhood
2. There are people in my neighborhood who might hurt me
3. I feel safe playing outside at my house
4. Drug dealers are a problem in my neighborhood
5. It is safe in my neighborhood
6. I am scared of some of the people in my neighborhood
7. I worry about people with guns and knives in my neighborhood

Response scale

- 1 = not at all true
 2 = a little true
 3 = somewhat true
 4 = really true

Scoring

Mean item score; items 2, 4, 6, 7 are reverse coded

Psychometrics

| | <i>N</i> | <i>M</i> | <i>SD</i> | Range | Alpha |
|-------------------------|----------|----------|-----------|-------|-------|
| Elementary: Spring 2005 | | | | | |
| Neighborhood safety | 1240 | 2.98 | 0.71 | 1-4 | .75 |
| Middle: Spring 2005 | | | | | |
| Neighborhood safety | 752 | 3.34 | 0.62 | 1-4 | .82 |