Community Cohesion Scale

[Several current studies integrated and simplified for informal discussion by Yvonne Merrill, Ph.D.]

Though community cohesion scales vary widely in the phenomena they assess, two factors discussed most frequently were perceptions of trust and mutual-reliance among community members based on the quality, frequency and variety of their communications and social contacts.

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| 5      | • Residents have multiple, diverse contacts with each other (interpersonal, phone, email, meetings).  
        • Residents have an active neighborhood organization and multiple smaller social networks that do group projects for mutual benefit.  
        • Residents feel part of a community and trust they can turn to several friends in neighborhood for assistance and advice. |
| 4      | • Neighbors feel other residents are generally honest and share some lifestyle or demographic things in common.  
        • Residents often have one or two neighbors they consider friends, and converse with them regularly.  
        • Residents communicate well enough to band together to solve a common problem, e.g. crime, vandalism, derelict properties, disturbances, etc. |
| 3      | • Residents recognize most neighbors on their block, but don’t necessarily know their names or greet them regularly.  
        • Residents trust neighbors until they suspect dishonesty or meanness and probably do not have a formal organization.  
        • Residents consider some neighbors acquaintances, but probably not friends and don’t want to be bothered by neighbors under normal conditions. |
| 2      | • Residents keep to themselves, know 3 or fewer names, and communicate with neighbors only when disturbed or annoyed by them.  
        • Residents feel they have little in common with other residents and wouldn’t invite them in because they feel they’re not friendly.  
        • Residents would only seek assistance from neighbors in life threatening circumstances. |
| 1      | • Residents rarely see their neighbors and can’t recognize them outside the neighborhood.  
        • Residents don’t deliberately communicate with each other.  
        • Residents distrust neighbors and tend to be suspicious of strangers, relying on family or friends they may have in some other context. |

Sources and Note Space over⇒
**Sources Consulted:**


**NOTES:**