

ANNIE E. CASEY FOUNDATION
MAKING CONNECTIONS INITIATIVE

**SOCIAL NETWORKS AND CIVIC
PARTICIPATION IN MAKING CONNECTIONS
NEIGHBORHOODS: CROSS-SITE BRIEF**

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Cross-site brief submitted to the
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1. Introduction

A large literature has established that households often devise various cooperative strategies to deal with poverty and uncertainty (Stacks 1922, McKinley 1973, Portes 1992). We know that households form networks and develop various other strategies to pool risk, and that access to informal sources of credit can play a crucial role in income smoothing (Udry, 1994). In areas with limited assets, social collateral and reputation can play an important role in determining access to credit (Coate and Ravallion, 1993). Households devise various strategies of collaborating with other households, both within and outside the family to pool risk (Rosenzweig and Stark, 1989). This pooling of risk can be a particular benefit in resource poor communities characterized by limited access to and/or overwhelmed public services; health risks and/or limited health services; exposure to crime, drugs, and violence and risks of unemployment and/or vulnerability to the adverse effects of macro-economic shocks.

However, networks can be more than assets for coping with shocks; they can also be seen as a source of mobility. Networks play a central role as mechanisms to facilitate employment, affordable housing opportunities, or even to share information on how to navigate local bureaucracies. These mechanisms can be most significant for new residents, whether they come from other areas of a city or recent immigrants. Knowing a friend or relative who can help you find a job or connect you to other people who can help with a personal problem can mean the difference between staying in a community and moving on.

In the sections that follow we explore the extent to which residents draw upon one another and/or local institutions by examining the various connections residents themselves have identified. The MC survey while not designed as a social network study per se does allow us to examine when and where various social connections take place. The information we glean from the survey about the connections people make to family, friends, local services and for civic participation can provide a broader context for understanding how residents use their social networks. From these items we can determine which households reach out and for what purpose. Items in the survey help us determine how likely residents are to find out about job opportunities from a friend and whether or not poor households access a variety of services and the extent to which they participate in community affairs.

By analyzing questions that highlight different types of community interactions we can begin to understand the variety of ways in which residents are engaged with one another and the institutions in their community. This type of inquiry may provide guidance for in future program planning. It could also provide a point of departure for a more detailed qualitative examination of social network activation in Making Connections sites. Examining the types of neighborhood connections different households make is a logical precedent to a detailed qualitative analysis that seeks to better understanding the reasons why households activate certain ties, what it is they hope to gain (or impart) from these community ties and what it is they actually transmit. Detailed network questions like these may only be satisfied with more focused, in-depth interviews of select households. However, this survey does provide a first glimpse at the nature of social connections – an important first step to understanding how residents relate to one another and their communities.

2. The Data

The *Making Connections Survey* is the collaborative effort of many organizations: the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Urban Institute, Local Learning Partners, and the National Opinion Research Center (NORC). Data was collected from respondents in ten Making Connections neighborhoods that are a part of the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Making Connections (MC) initiative: Denver, Des Moines, Hartford, Indianapolis, Louisville, Milwaukee, Oakland, Providence, San Antonio, and Seattle via face-to-face interviews, as well as respondents of the corresponding metropolitan areas via the telephone. This analysis is based on the cross-site baseline survey conducted by the Foundation between spring of 2002 and fall 2004.

The survey's unique design allows for a comparison of social interaction on various levels. First, it allows for a comparison across 10 different cities and counties municipalities. This comparison allows us to examine the extent to which social interaction is a regional phenomenon. Second, it allows for a compare the social interaction of inner-city residents to residents in the broader county of which they are a part. Within each of these communities we can further examine the extent to which social interaction is conditioned by household characteristics. The survey will allow us to compare households connections based on a broad set of socio-demographic characteristics such as race/ethnicity, poverty, employment and household composition.

3. Examining Social Connections and Civic Participation in Making Connections

To examine social connections in cross-site survey we've identified a series of survey items that reference explicit communication, exchange, and/or affective ties to specific individuals (see Appendix A). These indicators identify a wide variety of relationships, which we have organized into three categories: connections with neighbors and friends; connections with local institutions, and connections for civic action. These particular survey questions were chosen because they identify an event in which the respondent (or another household member) had a personal interaction with someone outside the home, as opposed to a hypothetical interaction given a specific scenario. Below

we've highlighted some of the more significant findings of this analysis, comparing households across the various sites and between households in the Making Connections areas and households in the county sample.

Figure 1 shows the share of all families with children in Making Connections neighborhoods (all 10 cities) across the three categories of indicators.¹ Given the variation in the activities involved, it is not surprising that the range is broad for the various indicators. In general, more families identified connections to local institutions than connections to neighbors/friends or connections for civic action. The two local institutional connections that rated highest were the non-need based institutional connections: making use of a variety of financial institutions (91%) and making use of a variety of community services, such as libraries, parks and recreations centers (81%). At the other extreme, households were less likely to identify connections for civic purposes, particularly when those connections involved formal organizations or leadership. Only 12 percent of the respondents said that someone in their household had served as an officer or on a committee, 14 percent had spoken to a religious leader or minister about a community problem and 18 percent had spoken to a political official about a community problem.

The indicators that identify connections to neighbors and friends address a wide variety of relationships from: knowing the friends of children in the household to helping or receiving help from friends or family in times of financial need to hearing about a current job from a friend. As might be expected, the rates to these indicators vary widely as well. Households were much more likely to respond that they knew "most" of their children's friends (68%) than any other indicators in this category. Responses to need-based indicators in this category, giving or receiving financial help to or from family and friends, suggest that informal financial exchange is a fairly common occurrence in Making Connections neighborhoods, with 40% of the households responding that they have gave financial help to a friend or family member and 28% reporting that they received such help.

Variation Across Making Connections Sites

Across the Making Connections sites differences in the various indicators are modest, but there are a few significant outliers worth noting. Table 1 lists the average scores for all families for each of the 12 indicators across all ten sites. Results for the connections with neighbors and friends indicators:

- Des Moines and Louisville each reported higher numbers of households responding that they knew most of their children's friends than the cross-site average of 67%, 79% for Des Moines and 78% for Louisville. In Oakland significantly fewer households responded that they knew most of their children's friends (51%) compared to the cross-site average.
- Overall, close to 40% families reported giving financial help to family and neighbors in times of financial need. However, two sites, Denver and San Antonio, reported significantly lower numbers than the cross-site average, 27 and 32% respectively.

¹The social network/civic participation indicators displayed were collected from several different sections of the survey.

- Receipt of financial help from neighbors was generally modest across all sites. Overall, less than a quarter of the respondent households reported receipt of financial help in times of need. San Antonio and Providence each reported significantly lower numbers of households receiving financial help from friends and neighbors than the cross-site average of 25%. Louisville reported significantly higher numbers of households receiving financial help from friends and neighbors (38%).
- For this pooled analysis, which included all household types, there was no significant difference across the sites in the number of persons who heard about their job through a friend.

Results for the connections to local services indicators:

- Use of community services such as parks, libraries and recreation centers was quite high across the various sites, averaging 70%. Two sites (Des Moines and Hartford) reported slightly lower use of community services (less than 65%) than the 10-site average.
- The need-based social service use indicator, designating use of either employment/placement counseling, TANF services, or family counseling services, were less likely to have been identified than community or financial services. Slightly less than half of the households reporting use of either one of these three social services. Seattle and Oakland each reported significantly lower use of social services (41 and 35%, respectively) than the 10-site average (46.3%).
- Connections with local financial services, defined broadly as the use of a bank's credit unions, check cashing facilities or money transfer services, had the highest reported use, with 90% of the households reporting use of one of the three services. Denver and Louisville each reported significantly lower use of financial services, 81% and 84% respectively. Seattle reported significantly higher use of financial services (95.5%) than the 10-site average.

Preliminary results for connections for civic participation indicators:

- For all sites but one, less than a quarter of the households reported talking to a political leader about a neighborhood problem. San Antonio and Oakland households were two sites where households were less likely to speak with a political official, with 17% of the San Antonio residents reporting having spoken to a political leader about neighborhood problems and 13% for Oakland. The ten-site average was 18 percent.
- Overall, the households were less likely to speak to a religious leader or minister about a community problem (15%) than any of the other three civic participation indicators. Seattle and Oakland were the two sites with the lowest overall rate, with less than 10% of the households in each reporting that they sought help from religious leaders for neighborhood issues.
- Patterns for the last two civic participation indicators, volunteerism in the community and getting together with neighbors to solve a community problem, are quite similar. Across the various sites just over 25% of the households reported engaging fellow community residents in

these types of civic action. This result is fairly consistent across the various Making Connections sites.

Comparisons of Making Connections Neighborhood Households to County Households

Indicators identifying ties to family and friends present a mixed story when comparing the two households in the Making Connections neighborhoods with the county households. Making connections households are less likely to know children's friends than the average county household, regardless of race, poverty or immigrant status. However, residents in the Making Connections households were just as likely as the county residents to activate informal ties for employment. For both areas just under one third of the employed household respondents reported that they had heard about their current job through a friend or neighbor. The one group that does stand out in this comparison are immigrants. Immigrant households are considerably more likely to respond that they heard about their present job from a friend or neighbor than any other household type in both the Making Connections neighborhoods and the city/county areas.

With respect to the connections to local institutions, Making Connections households are much more likely to access social and other community based services than city/county residents. Overall, households in the Making Connections communities are more likely to access the broad range of community and social services and slightly less likely to access financial services than similar households in the city/county sample. However, for both samples the percentage of households connecting to financial services is quite high, hovering around 90%. This is true regardless of poverty, racial/ethnic or immigrant status.

With respect to the last set of indicators, connections for civic participation, city/county areas reported higher rates of civic participation than the MC neighborhood households. However, these differences are not as great as those found in some of the other categories of indicators. For both the Making Connections areas and the city/county areas, households were more likely to have volunteered in their community than to get together with neighbors or speaking to a politician or religious leader about a community problem, speaking to a political official about a neighborhood problem. County households were much more likely to have volunteered in the past twelve months than residents of Making Connections areas (47% vs. 29%). The second most common civic action for households in both samples was getting together with neighbors about a local problem. Just over 25% of the Making Connections resident households and about 36% of the city/county resident households reported having participated in this type of activity in the past 12 months. All immigrant households in both the city and the county and are were less likely to report getting together with neighbors about a community problem than any other household type, including households in poverty. Immigrant households are also less likely to have reported speaking to a religious leader or a political leader about a problem. This pattern holds for the two main ethnic sub groupings of immigrants in the sample (Hispanic and Asian) as well.

4. Broadening the Scope of Social Interaction Indicators

Comparing the social connections of Making Connections households with households in the county sample speaks to a particular concern that some policy makers and researchers have about the social isolation of residents of resource poor communities. Previous studies have identified social isolation as a distinct problem in resource poor communities. However, this preliminary analysis of Making Connections and county survey responses puts an important qualification on this finding. Social isolation, to the extent it is captured by these indicators, is not an all-encompassing phenomenon. The patterns of relationships outlined above suggest that connections between friends and family and local institutions can vary substantially across Making Connections neighborhoods and between Making Connections households and households in the corresponding metropolitan areas. In the first category of connections (connections with neighbors and friends) more than two thirds of the households report knowing most of their children's friends and just under a third report hearing about their current job from a friend or neighbor. Over half of the Making Connections households reported being on the giving or receiving end of a financial loan from a family member or friend in the past 12 months.

With respect to the second category of indicators (connections to local institutions) these data suggest that Making Connections resident households are much more likely to make the link to community and social services and slightly less likely to make the link for financial services than city/county households. Indeed, it is only in the third category of connections (civic participation) that a consistent pattern emerges in which Making Connections households report lower rates of participation than the city/county households for the majority of the indicators.

Examining the variation of these social interaction indicators is a useful way to compare Making Connections households and communities, particularly when the activities represented in the questions are fairly close to intended outcomes of program interventions. However, reviewing the ways in which households respond to very specific indicators does little to convey how these activities relate to one another or which types of households are more or less likely to engage in these types of social interactions generally. To better gauge where and how these social interaction indicators form a coherent set of activities for Making Connections households we have analyzed the indicators as a group, reducing the initial set of 12 indicators to three dimensions which imply different types of community engagement.

The first dimension identified across the indicators was labeled the civic engagement dimension as it is made up primarily of positive responses to the civic participation indicators (Appendix B). In other words, household that scored higher in this dimension if they indicated that they reported speaking to a political official, religious leader or minister or getting together with neighbors about a community problem. A second dimension identified was labeled the help-seeking dimension and identifies households that tend to access social services, get financial help from a friend in a time of need, and use community services. These households are also less likely to be involved in civic affairs. A last dimension, labeled the help-giving dimension, identify households that tend to report that they had

helped friends in times of need, helped strangers in the community, and accessed financial services. Help-giving families tended to score lower in some aspects of community change dimension, civic participation, and seeking financial help from friends from social service agencies. Volunteerism is positively associated with the other indicators in this dimension.

Using these three broad dimensions that underlie the various indicators as a basis for comparison we can now identify those household and place-based characteristics that are most closely associated with each. Doing so will help us understand how different household and community characteristics contribute to civic participation, help seeking and help-giving behaviors – three broad forms of engagement that are important in any community. Below we detail the findings for this analysis and discuss the implications for program related planning.

5. Civic Engagement Efforts in Making Connections Neighborhoods

Family Characteristics Related to Civic Engagement

A broad set of demographic variables was used to examine which households were more or less likely to be civically engaged. Race,

household poverty level, level of education, home ownership, tenure in the neighborhood, and household composition were all used to in the analysis to determine who these household characteristics were associated with civic engagement. Of these, the most important determinant of political engagement was the respondents' level of education. The second most important factor appeared to be the respondents' outlook on the future of the neighborhood. People who had strong feelings about their neighborhood (good or bad) were more likely to participate in local activities than individuals who had no strong opinion either way.

Other family characteristics that have a positive impact on the likelihood that a family would engage in civic activities include: the number of children in the household, a respondent's sense that he/she lives in a neighborhood that is closely knit and a respondent's sense that neighbors are willing to step-in to disrupt negative behavior in the neighborhood. Both immigrant and non-Hispanic white households of the Making Connections areas appear to be less likely other households to become involved in neighborhood civic affairs.

Place Based Characteristics and Civic Engagement

Apart from the examining household characteristics often used to explain the degree of civic participation we also hope to determine whether or not your place of residence was associated with

Most Influential Household Characteristics	
<u>Most likely to report civic participation</u>	<u>Least likely to report civic participation</u>
Households with higher levels of education	Immigrant households
Households that have a strong opinions about their neighborhood's a future (positive of negative)	Non-Hispanic White households
Households with more time in the neighborhood	
Households that own their own home	

civic participation as well². For example, are there certain types of neighborhoods that are more or less conducive to civic participation? If so, does the affect of living in this type of neighborhood hold regardless of the household factors associated with civic participation or the city in which you reside? The type of neighborhood a respondent live in does indeed affect their rate of civic engagement, though not necessarily in ways that are typically expected. In this analysis, households from “most

Neighborhood Types used to Assess Social Interaction in Making Connections Neighborhoods

Distressed Neighborhoods: consist of households with a high percentage of single parents, high residential mobility, a low percentage of long tenure residents, low home ownership, low to medium social cohesion, and the highest rates of poverty among any cluster.

Stable Urban Neighborhoods: consist of households with a low percentage of single parent families, low residential mobility, a high percentage of long tenure residents, high home ownership, fairly high social cohesion, and medium rates of poverty.

Transition Neighborhoods: consist of households with a low percentage of single parent families, but has high residential mobility, a low percentage of long tenure residents, low home ownership, and medium levels of social control.

distressed” neighborhoods are a bit more likely to engage in community change activities than households in the other two types of neighborhoods. This is true even after we account for differences in household characteristics. Part of the explanation for this result could stem from the questions themselves. For purposes of this analysis, the definition of civic engagement draws heavily on questions that expressly ask about activities designed to address “a neighborhood problem or improvement”. It is possible that households in more distressed communities were more likely to responded in the affirmative because a wider variety of problems abound in neighborhoods such as these. If this were the case then residents of

these neighborhoods may be more likely to give an affirmative respond response due to the number of community issues than a different rate of activism per se.

The county of residence appears to make less of the difference in household civic participation than the type of neighborhood in which families reside. Controlling for other factors, we find that residents of one city are no more or less prone to civic engagement than residents of other cities. Only two sites that stand apart: San Antonio, with slightly lower civic participation rates than the rest of the cities, and Milwaukee, with slightly higher civic participation rates than the other cities. In other words, even after accounting for all of the demographic differences of individuals and the neighborhood differences, these two sites stand apart.

² For this analysis, block groups from the ten sites were classified into three categories using latent class analyses. This analysis combined block groups based on the percentage of single parents, degree of residential mobility, percentage of long tenure residents, home ownership, social cohesion, and poverty rate. Detailed descriptions of the three resulting clusters can be found in Appendix C. Latent class analysis for this project provided by Robert Goerge, Chapin Hall Center for Children, University of Chicago.

The type of neighborhood Making Connections residents find themselves living in has places an important qualification on the differences in civic participation found between racial/ethnic groups. When we look solely at household characteristics race/ethnicity appears to be a factor in determining the degree to which families engage in civic activities. However, when we go beyond household characteristics to account for differences in the neighborhood characteristics as well, differences in the rate of civic participation between racial/ethnic groups (for all groups except for non-Hispanic whites) fall away. In other words, differences in civic participation rates across racial/ethnic groups disappear when you account for differences in the rate civic participation for different locales. Even after accounting for household and place based factors white households in Making Connections areas are less likely to participate in local civic affairs than members of other racial/ethnic groups.

6. Help Giving in Making Connections Neighborhoods

Household Factors Relevant to Neighborhood Help Giving

<u>Most Influential Household Characteristics</u>	
<u>Most likely to Report Help Giving</u>	<u>Least likely to Report Help Giving</u>
Households with higher levels of education	Households with living below poverty
Households that own their own home	Households that are pessimistic about the future of neighborhood
Households with higher sense of social cohesion (strong sense of connection with neighbors)	Households with greater numbers of children
Immigrant households	Hispanic households

While poverty does not affect the likelihood of civic engagement, poverty does have a significant impact on the likelihood a household member would help a neighbor in a time of need. Even after accounting for household characteristics that are correlated with poverty, such as home ownership and educational

attainment, households in poverty are less likely to help their neighbors in a time of need. On the other hand, immigrant status has the opposite effect. While immigrant households were less likely to become involved in civic affairs they are more likely to help a neighbor in time of need. Feelings about the future of the neighborhood play a different role in help giving behavior as well. Respondents who felt that the future of their neighborhood looked bad were less likely to help a neighbor, not more. As with civic participation, race plays a very limited role in determining who is more or less likely to help neighbors.

Place Based Factors for Neighborhood Help Giving

Place does not appear to play a prominent role in help giving among Making Connections households. Unlike the civic participation dimension, the type of neighborhoods respondents live in does not have a significant impact on their willingness to help their neighbor. Nor does county of residence seem to affect help-giving behavior I most sites. Notable exceptions are Indianapolis, White Center, and Des Moines. In these counties, households of every kind are more likely to report helping behavior.

7. Help Seeking Behavior in Making Connections Neighborhoods

Household Characteristic Relevant to Neighborhood Help Seeking

The same household factors that were examined for civic participation and help giving were also used to identify the factors that contribute to help seeking. As we might expect, a number of household factors that were positively related to civic participation and help giving have the opposite impact on help seeking behavior. Factors such time in the neighborhood, home ownership and immigrant status all had a negative impact on help seeking behavior for the household. However, for other household factors the outcome is not as clear-cut. For example, having more education – something one might normally assume reduces your need for help seeking - actually improves the likelihood that people would seek help/or access social services. This suggests an alternative explanation: that people with more formal education are better able to negotiate the social service systems and comply with its administrative requirements than people with fewer years of formal education. In addition to years of education, another household factor that has an impact on help seeking behavior is having more adults in the household. Here is should be noted that multiple adults includes young adults that tend to be in and out of the labor market as well as elderly.

Place Based for Neighborhood Help Seeking

Here, as with giving help, the level of neighborhood distress types of neighborhood in which a respondent lives does not appear to make a significant difference with respect to help seeking behavior. However, cities do appear to play a role. After accounting for the household level differences, help seeking behavior appearing to be highest in White Plains and lowest in Denver and Lower San Antonio.

Most Influential Household Characteristics	
<u>Most likely to Report Help Seeking</u>	<u>Least likely to Report Help Seeking</u>
Households with greater numbers of children	Households that own their own homes
Households with higher levels of education	Households with more time in the neighborhood
Households living below the poverty line	Immigrant households
Households with greater number of adults present (including elderly)	

Summary

The Making Connections survey provides a unique opportunity to measure the varying ways people relate to one another and local institutions. The survey provides a basis for comparing a broad set of community relationships ranging from very personal connections with friends and family to the more public ties people make with local institutions in seeking services or pursuing civic action. A comparative examination of these very different types of community ties provides a more complete picture of the types of relationships people engage in to meet their needs or to get things done. Below we list findings that cut across or summarize the results discussed above.

Making Connections households are actively engaged with local institutions in seeking services but are less likely to engaged one another or area leadership for community change.

The vast majority of households (over 80%) reported connections to area institutions for financial services and community services, such as parks, libraries and recreation centers. Though ties to social services were lower for financial and social services, a comparison to metropolitan households reveals that Making Connections households are much more likely to access social services available in their communities than households in the region as a whole. While it is unclear from the survey data whether the difference between the two areas is a function of habit or differential access, the magnitude of the difference (29% higher for community service access and 37% higher for social service access) is worth noting. These relatively strong rates of engagement related to seeking services stand in contrast to rates in which Making Connections households engage their neighbors, area leaders, and volunteer in their community. When we compare rates of participation for Making Connections households to metropolitan households on these indicators, the households across the region are more likely to engage locally to address community problems. A closer examination of the gap between local service utilization and involvement in neighborhood change activities could provide important lessons for future community building efforts.

Informal exchange of money and information between friends and family and collaboration with neighbors for community change are not uncommon events in Making Connections neighborhoods.

Whether it's getting together for instrumental purposes, like finding a job or getting help in a time of financial need, or getting together address broader community issues, the survey suggests that residents often connect with one another for support. For example, more than 50% of the Making Connections households reported that they had either given or received a financial loan from a family member or friend in the past 12 months. For the civic participation indicators, all sub-groups across the various Making Connections sites were more likely to turn to each other to solve a neighborhood problem than they were to call upon a political official or religious leader or minister. This type of informal exchange and collaboration activity in the Making Connections neighborhoods provides a tangible measure of interpersonal support within the community, but it falls short of addressing questions of when, where and why this very important community activity takes place. Future projects should seek to explain the varied circumstances under which residents share both information and resources to build upon and/or support this types of activity.

The three forms of community engagement identified in the study are correlated with very different household characteristics.

For example, the number of children in the household has a positive impact on both community change behaviors and, perhaps not surprisingly, is positively related to help seeking behavior. However, it does not appear to affect a household likelihood to engage in the kinds of behavior implied in the help-giving dimension. Poverty status, which is positively correlated with help seeking behavior, has a negative effect on the help giving dimension but no effect on community action. Race, which is often introduced as a factor to explain varying rates of community engagement, plays a relatively modest and inconsistent role in explaining the difference in these three dimensions. These varying ways in which households and neighborhood

relate to these activities challenge program planners to be clear about the objective community engagement initiatives and the target populations they hope to reach.

Place matters for some forms for community action and seeking help, but plays a limited role between households for giving help. The type of neighborhoods people live in seems to make a difference in explaining community change dimension even when we hold other important household predictors of political behavior constant such as: race, poverty, time in neighborhood, level of education and children in household. Though the reason for this variation is unclear, the difference is worth the fact that neighborhood types could play a role in community change behavior is worth further investigation. The impact of cities, like neighborhood, varies for the three dimensions identified in this study. For the community change dimension two cities, San Antonio and Milwaukee, have a significantly different impact on household community change behavior than other cities, even after accounting for household-level factors and neighborhood factors.

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Figure 1
PERCENT OF RESPONDENTS SAYING THEY CONNECTED WITH NEIGHBORS, LOCAL SERVICES OR FOR CIVIC PARTICIPATION
Families with children in all Making Connections neighborhoods

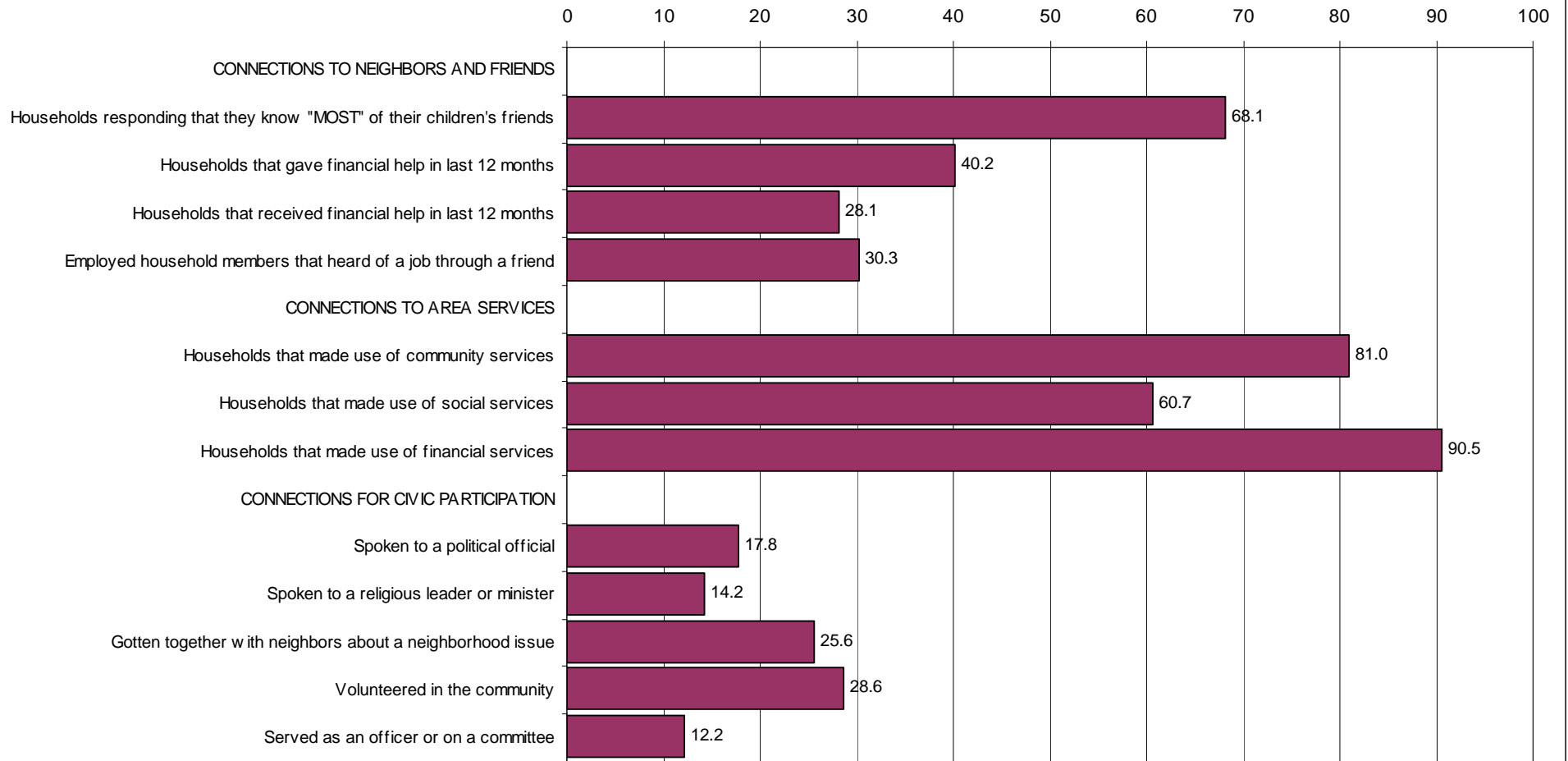


Table 1
PERCENT OF RESPONDENTS SAYING THEY CONNECT WITH NEIGHBORS, LOCAL SERVICES
OR FOR CIVIC PARTICIPATION BY HOUSEHOLD TYPE
(Families with children in all Making Connections neighborhoods)

	Neigh. Average	County Average	Average for Groups in Neighborhoods			
			Poor	Black	Hispanic	Immigrant
Connections to neighbors and friends						
Households responding that they know "MOST" of their children's friends	68.1	82.5	64.9	75.1	68.0	51.0
Households that gave financial help in last 12 months	40.2	-	29.9	41.9	32.0	38.5
Households that received financial help in last 12 months	28.1	-	34.2	45.9	40.0	14.2
Employed household members that heard of a job through a friend	30.3	28.3	28.6	26.3	22.0	39.6
Connections to area services						
Households that made use of community services	81.0	51.9	78.5	84.4	81.0	78.5
Households that made use of social services	60.7	24.2	92.9	66.9	66.3	58.4
Households that made use of financial services	90.5	97.2	86.4	91.9	85.3	92.1
Connections for civic participation						
Spoken to a political official	17.8	25.4	15.6	21.4	17.5	13.3
Spoken to a religious leader or minister	14.2	13.7	14.0	20.0	13.2	9.7
Gotten together with neighbors about a neighborhood issue	25.6	36.3	22.7	29.0	24.6	19.2
Volunteered in the community	28.6	47.5	27.2	31.6	28.8	23.7
Served as an officer or on a committee	12.2	-	8.9	5.8	8.9	9.6

Appendix A

Social Interaction Questions in the Making Connections CSS

- Did you give any financial help like this in the past 12 months?
- Did you get any financial help like this in the past 12 months?
- Do you attend religious services inside or outside of your neighborhood?
- Community service utilization: HHS defined as having used a community service if they (or a member of their household) used a “park or playground”; “a recreation or community center”; “a library” in the last 12 months.
- Social service utilization: HHS defined as having used a social service if they (or a member of their household) used “employment counseling and training” (in the last 3 years); or a “place where you sign up for TANF or welfare”; or “family counseling or other family supportive services” in the last 12 months.
- Financial service utilization: HHS defined as having used a financial service if they (or a member of their household) used a “bank or a credit union”; or a “check cashing facility not in a bank”; or “a money transfer service not in a bank, like Western Union” in the last 12 months.
- The second category identifies household connections to local institutions. The indicators that make up this second grouping include connections to: religious institutions, common community services, social services and financial services. The first of these is drawn directly from a survey question that asks:
- The third category identifies household civic participation. There were five indicators of direct civic participation identified in the survey:
 - Have you (or any member of your household) spoken with a political official like a city councilman, county supervisor, or state legislator about a neighborhood problem or improvement?
 - Have you (or any member of your household) talked to a religious leader or minister to help with a neighborhood problem or improvement?
 - Have you (or any member of your household) gotten together with neighbors to do something about a neighborhood problem or to organize a neighborhood improvement?
 - Over the past 12 months, have you volunteered or helped out with activities in your community?
 - In the past 12 months, have you served as an officer or served on a committee of any local club or organization?
- “If someone stopped me at night to ask directions, I would probably speak to them.”

Appendix B

We applied categorical principal components analysis to the full set of social interaction indicators to develop multivariate indices. This analysis identified three distinct dimensions: households engaged in community change activities, household engaged in help giving activities and household engaged help seeking activities. The CATPCA procedure was used because it allows for the integration of both numerical and categorical variables, and it is a generalized extension of the classical method of principal components, which was originally restricted to just numerical variables. As a statistical procedure, the categorical principal components analysis (CATPCA) provides optimal quantification of categorical variables and reduces the dimensionality of the data, by summarizing in a reduced number of factors most of the information provided by the original indicators. CATPCA handles nominal, ordinal, and numeric indicators. An index (based on the first principal component) may be interpreted as the linear combination of constituent indicators, which captures the maximum possible amount of information provided by the indicators. The index optimizes the explained proportion of the total original indicator variance. The component loadings for the three dimensions and the model are summarized below:

Variable	Three Social Interaction Dimensions		
	Community Change Dimension	Help Seeking Dimension	Help Giving Dimension
Give financial help to friends/family in past 12 months	.271	.259	.390
Get financial help from friends/family in past 12 months	.081	.574	-.325
Access financial institution in past 12 months	.223	.396	.549
Access community services in past 12 months	.395	.463	.148
Access social services in past 12 months	.188	.608	-.451
Spoke to political official about a community problem	.658	-.259	-.155
Spoke to religious leader or minister about a community problem	.628	-.150	-.198
Get together with neighbors about neighborhood problem	.641	-.242	-.125
Serve as officer of club or org	.547	-.112	.089
Volunteered in community in past 12 months	.658	-.026	.020
Would speak to a stranger in need of directions	.141	-.032	.497

Component Loadings

Variable Principal Normalization.

Dimension	Cronbach's Alpha	Variance Accounted For
		Total (Eigenvalue)
1	.625	2.314
2	.253	1.299
3	.117	1.119
Total	.868(a)	4.732

a Total Cronbach's Alpha is based on the total Eigenvalue.

Appendix C

Three Part Cluster Descriptions

Cluster 1 (the reference cluster), containing 37% of the sample, consists of households with a high percentage of single parents, high residential mobility, a low percentage of long tenure residents, low home ownership, low to medium social cohesion, and the highest rates of poverty among any cluster.

Cluster 2, with 33% of the sample, consists of a low percentage of single parent families, low residential mobility, a high percentage of long tenure residents, high home ownership, fairly high social cohesion, and medium rates of poverty.

Cluster 3, with about 30% of the sample, contains a low percentage of single parent families, but has high residential mobility, a low percentage of long tenure residents, low home ownership, and medium levels of social control. This cluster has the fewest households living in high levels of poverty, although there is little difference between Cluster 2 and Cluster 3 based on this measure.

Appendix D

Coefficients(a,b)

Model

	HHS Civic Participation (Object 1)			HHS Help Seeking (Object 2)			HHS Help Givers (Object 3)		
	Unstandardized Coefficients		Std	Unstandardized Coefficients		Std	Unstandardized Coefficients		Std
	Coefficients	S.E.	Beta	Coefficients	S.E.	Beta	Coefficients	S.E.	Beta
1.000 (Constant)	-1.273	0.089		-0.039	0.088		-0.483	0.086	
Below poverty	0.025	0.027	0.012	0.072	0.027	0.036	-0.553	0.026	-0.271
Social cohesion	0.057	0.020	0.040	-0.052	0.020	-0.037	0.093	0.020	0.065
Informal social control	0.079	0.015	0.072	-0.012	0.015	-0.011	0.053	0.015	0.049
Homeowner	0.172	0.030	0.081	-0.280	0.030	-0.135	0.163	0.029	0.078
Immigrant	-0.177	0.035	-0.075	-0.173	0.035	-0.075	0.127	0.034	0.054
Hispanic	-0.023	0.036	-0.010	0.014	0.036	0.006	-0.112	0.035	-0.050
White	-0.139	0.034	-0.062	-0.067	0.034	-0.030	-0.054	0.033	-0.024
Other	-0.058	0.061	-0.012	-0.100	0.061	-0.021	0.000	0.060	0.000
Time in neighborhood	0.008	0.001	0.092	-0.010	0.001	-0.118	-0.002	0.001	-0.019
Level of education	0.131	0.006	0.280	0.024	0.006	0.053	0.049	0.006	0.106
Future looks bad (0/1)	0.195	0.038	0.069	0.015	0.038	0.005	-0.200	0.037	-0.071
Future looks good (0/1)	0.218	0.027	0.109	-0.016	0.027	-0.008	-0.044	0.026	-0.022
Number of adults	0.018	0.014	0.017	0.031	0.013	0.029	0.026	0.013	0.024
Number of children	0.066	0.009	0.090	0.152	0.009	0.209	-0.052	0.009	-0.070
Des Moines	0.092	0.053	0.029	0.267	0.053	0.085	0.071	0.052	0.023
Indiana	0.084	0.053	0.026	0.284	0.053	0.089	0.143	0.052	0.045
San Antonio	-0.125	0.061	-0.039	0.261	0.060	0.082	0.028	0.059	0.009
Seattle	0.084	0.053	0.026	0.355	0.053	0.111	0.165	0.052	0.051
Hartford	0.060	0.057	0.017	0.294	0.057	0.085	-0.015	0.056	-0.004
Louisville	0.070	0.055	0.021	0.221	0.055	0.067	-0.019	0.054	-0.006
Milwaukee	0.232	0.057	0.067	0.260	0.057	0.075	0.027	0.056	0.008
Oakland	0.028	0.056	0.008	0.095	0.056	0.027	0.079	0.054	0.023
Providence	0.175	0.055	0.050	0.181	0.055	0.052	0.155	0.054	0.045
CLUST3B	-0.102	0.039	-0.044	-0.066	0.039	-0.029	0.035	0.038	0.015
CLUST3C	-0.101	0.033	-0.047	-0.008	0.032	-0.004	0.056	0.032	0.026