

MAKING CONNECTIONS CROSS-SITE SURVEY

SOCIAL CONNECTIONS

The Urban Institute, Revised February 21, 2009

INTRODUCTION

The Making Connections Cross-Site Survey provides a wealth of information about Making Connections neighborhoods. The survey has entailed interviews with large samples of families in the selected neighborhoods of all 10 sites at two points in time: first in 2002 or 2003 (depending on the site), and second in 2005 or 2006.¹

These fact sheets provide selected data on social connections in Making Connections neighborhoods and how the relevant indicators changed between the two surveys. We expect these basic indicators to inform understanding of many other branches of research using the survey data.

Indicators are organized into three sections.

- Social Networks
- Civic Participation and Resident Leadership
- Community Mobilization

All of these sections present data for families with children only.

¹ Louisville is included in these groupings in these sheets even though its first survey was actually conducted in 2004 and its second in 2007.

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SOCIAL NETWORKS

Indicators pertaining to the strength of neighborhood social networks are presented in two groups

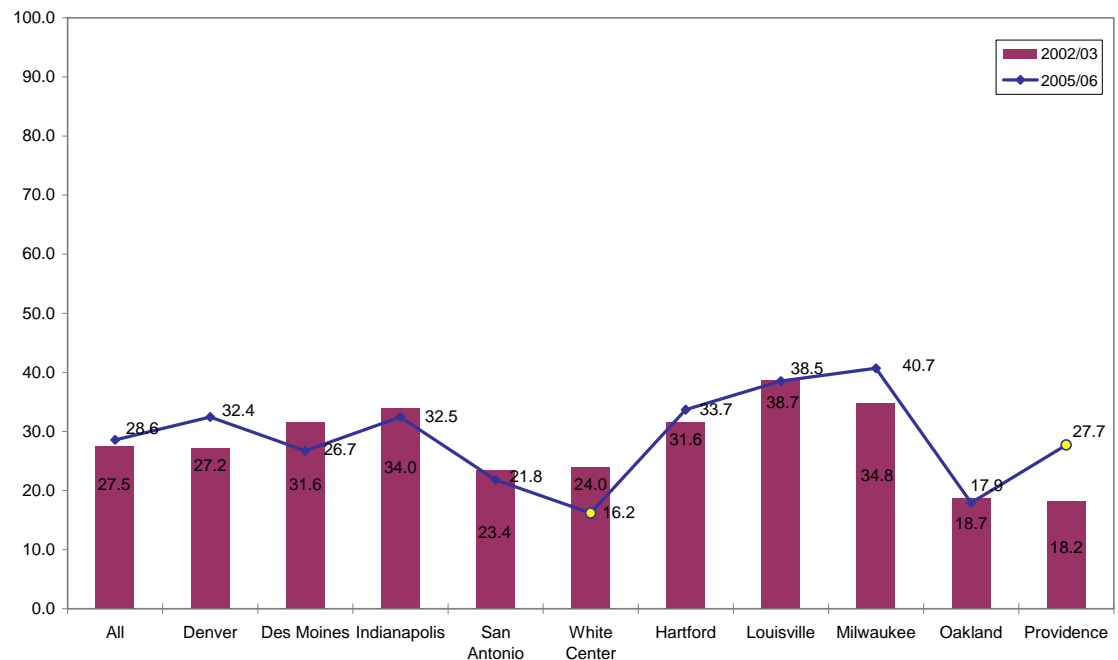
- those related to receiving help from, and giving help to, family and friends, and
- those that indicate the strength of other social linkages

S-1 - Indicators Related to Receiving and Giving Help to/from Friends an/or Family Families with Children, 2005/06

	Financial help friends/family		Non-financial help friends/family		% get or give any kind of help	
	Gets	Gives	Gets	Gives	Yes	No
<i>10 site average</i>	29	41	58	76	88	12
<i>By site</i>						
Denver	32	41	62	77	88	12
Des Moines	27	38	62	78	90	10
Indianapolis	32	44	56	80	92	8
San Antonio	22	28	53	71	84	16
White Center	16	52	50	74	90	10
Hartford	34	40	53	71	83	17
Louisville	39	48	61	81	90	10
Milwaukee	41	40	65	81	92	8
Oakland	18	37	48	62	72	28
Providence	28	43	67	80	92	8
<i>By race/nativity (10 sites)</i>						
NH White	32	38	63	78	90	10
NH Black U.S. born	41	43	62	81	91	9
NH Black foreign born	20	57	56	73	90	10
Hispanic U.S. born	27	31	56	75	85	15
Hispanic foreign born	14	44	57	75	89	11
NH Asian foreign born	15	36	37	47	65	35
Total foreign born	15	44	53	69	83	17
Total U.S. born	35	39	60	79	90	10

- **Substantial numbers of Making Connections families with children both receive and give help. Whether the help is financial or not, they are more likely to give it than receive it.**
 - Across sites in 2005/06, 76% of families give non-financial help to family or friends, but only 58% get such help (help like baby-sitting, rides, lending small appliances)
 - A smaller share (29%) get financial help from family or friends, whereas 41% provide financial help.
 - The share receiving non-financial help from family or friends ranged from 48% in Oakland to 67% in Providence
 - The share receiving financial help from family/friends ranges from 16% in White Center to 41% in Milwaukee.
 - In all categories of getting or giving help, Oakland and San Antonio shares ranked among the lowest three sites. Milwaukee and Louisville were most often among the highest three.
 - Among race/nativity groups, foreign born Asians most often rank lowest in the degree to which they receive or give help. For example, only 37% of them get non-financial help from family/friends compared to a highs of 62-63% (U.S. born blacks and whites). Only 15% of them get financial help, compared to a high of 41% (U.S. born blacks).
 - Overall, in all categories, families with U.S. born respondents are more likely to give and get help than those with foreign born respondents.

S-2 - Percent Respondents in Households with Children in Making Connections Neighborhoods Getting Financial Help from Family or Friends



Note: A light-colored dot indicates that there was a statistically significant change between 2002/03 and 2005/06.

- The shares receiving or giving financial help stayed at about the same levels between the two surveys. There were only two statistical significant changes: White Center's share receiving financial help went down from 24% to 16% and Providence's went up from 18% to 28%. (The questions about non-financial help were not asked in the 2002/03 survey so data on changes for those indicators are not available).

S-3 - Other Indicators of Social Linkage, Families with Child., 2005/06

	Free child care from friends/fam.	Attend religious services	Knows most kids friends	Learned of job friends/fam.
<i>10 site average</i>	44	64	66	51
<i>By site</i>				
Denver	37	61	67	45
Des Moines	42	65	70	43
Indianapolis	44	60	76	62
San Antonio	38	72	61	48
White Center		64	65	57
Hartford	57	58	70	50
Louisville	53	69	75	47
Milwaukee	51	65	70	46
Oakland	35	54	46	62
Providence	45	67	62	54
<i>By race/nativity (10 sites)</i>				
NH White	37	48	78	48
NH Black U.S. born	51	66	76	46
NH Black foreign born	44	83	65	49
Hispanic U.S. born	50	61	67	43
Hispanic foreign born	31	76	50	68
NH Asian foreign born	37	50	41	58
Total foreign born	34	71	51	63
Total U.S. born	48	60	74	46

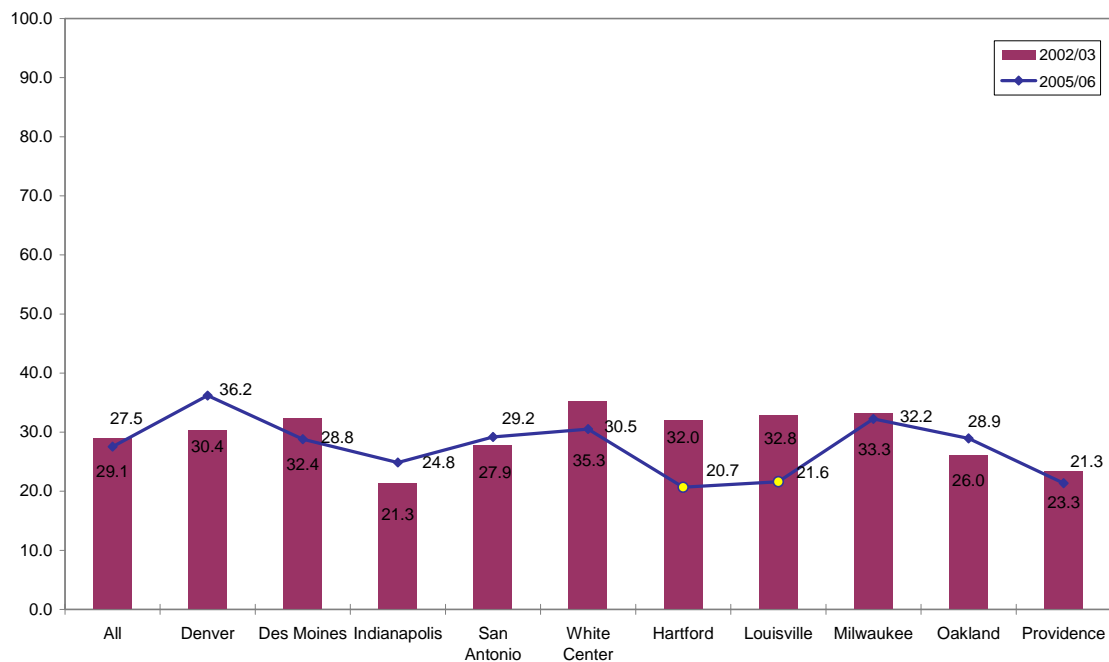
- **Other indicators also show that Making Connections families with children (on average) have significant social linkages. In 2005/06, 44% received free child care from friends and family, 64% attended religious services, 66% said they knew most of their kids friends, and 51% learned about their job from friends or family.**
 - The percent receiving free child care ranged from a low of 35% in Oakland to a high of 57% in Hartford.
 - The percent that attend religious services ranged from a low of 54% in Oakland to a high of 72% in San Antonio.
 - Between surveys, there were statistically significant declines in the shares attending religious services in six sites: San Antonio, White Center, Hartford, Louisville, Milwaukee and Oakland. The overall average had dropped from 73% to 64%. (Changes between surveys were not dramatic for the other indicators in this group)
 - The share that said they knew most of their kids friends ranged from 46% (Oakland) to 76% (Indianapolis)
 - With the above three indicators, shares for Louisville and Milwaukee ranked consistently among the top three sites, and for Oakland among the lowest three.
 - There was a different pattern for the final indicator in this group: the percent that learned about their job from friends or family. Here, Oakland came out on top (62%) and Des Moines was the lowest (43%).
 - Patterns for different race/nativity groups are not as consistent. Foreign born Hispanics had the lowest share receiving free child care (31%) while U.S. born blacks had the highest (51%). Whites had the lowest share attending religious services (48%), foreign born blacks the highest (83%). Foreign born Asians ranked lowest for knowing their kids friends (41%) and whites were highest (78%). For the share that learned about their job from family or friends, U.S. born Hispanics ranked lowest (43%) and foreign born Hispanics highest (68%).
 - Overall, the U.S. born were more likely than the foreign born to receive free child care (48% versus 34%) and know most of their kids friends (74% versus 51%). However, the foreign born were more likely to attend religious services (71% versus 60%) and learn about their job from friends or family (63% versus 46%).

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CIVIC PARTICIPATION AND RESIDENT LEADERSHIP

- In the 2005/06 survey, 28% of respondents in families with children said they had volunteered in community activities over the past 12 months. Considerably smaller shares said they had spoken to a political official about an issue (16%) or served as an officer or on a committee (11%).
 - The percent volunteering ranged from a low of 21% (Hartford and Providence) to a high of 36% (Denver).
 - There were significant changes in this indicator between surveys in two sites: decreases in Hartford (32% to 21%) and Louisville (33% to 22%)
 - The percent who had spoken to a political official on an issue ranged from 11% (Indianapolis and San Antonio) up to 20% (Denver and Providence)
 - Hartford has the smallest share serving as an officer or on a committee (8%) whereas Louisville had the highest (15%).

S-4 - Percent Respondents in Households with Children in Making Connections
Neighborhoods Volunteering



Note: A light-colored dot indicates that there was a statistically significant change between 2002/03 and 2005/06.

- Among race/nativity groups, whites had the highest share volunteering (32%) and speaking to a political official (20%). Foreign born Asians came out lowest on both indicators (18% and 13% respectively).
- Foreign born blacks had the largest percent serving as an officer or on a committee (18%), whereas foreign born Hispanics were lowest on this measure (8%).
- A notably higher share of U.S. born respondents took part in all three of these activities than did foreign born respondents.

**S-5 - Indicators of Civic Participation and Leadership
Families with Children, 2005/06**

	Volun- teered commun. activities	Spoken to political official	Served as officer or on committee
<i>10 site average</i>	28	16	11
<i>By site</i>			
Denver	36	20	12
Des Moines	29	14	14
Indianapolis	25	11	9
San Antonio	29	11	9
White Center	31	19	11
Hartford	21	16	8
Louisville	22	14	15
Milwaukee	32	18	10
Oakland	29	13	10
Providence	21	20	12
<i>By race/nativity (10 sites)</i>			
NH White	32	20	13
NH Black U.S. born	30	17	13
NH Black foreign born	24	16	18
Hispanic U.S. born	25	15	9
Hispanic foreign born	24	12	8
NH Asian foreign born	18	13	9
Total foreign born	24	13	9
Total U.S. born	30	17	12

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COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION

- Whereas the preceding section looked at civic participation and leadership activities overall, this one focuses on the share of such activities that occur within the respondent's neighborhood. It finds that the neighborhood shares are quite high in several categories.

S-6 - Preconditions for Community Organizing - Participation and Leadership in the Neighborhood, Families with Children, 2005/06

	Volun- teered commun. activities	Served as officer or on committee	Got togeth. with neigh. to solve problem	Attend religious services
<i>10 site average</i>	22	6	23	29
<i>By site</i>				
Denver	30	8	28	34
Des Moines	23	8	22	25
Indianapolis	21	4	24	21
San Antonio	23	7	23	40
White Center	22	4	23	26
Hartford	18	5	16	35
Louisville	16	9	22	27
Milwaukee	25	4	26	25
Oakland	22	5	25	25
Providence	18	8	20	34
<i>By race/nativity (10 sites)</i>				
NH White	23	5	29	16
NH Black U.S. born	25	6	23	24
NH Black foreign born	19	12	17	31
Hispanic U.S. born	20	6	23	31
Hispanic foreign born	22	5	20	49
NH Asian foreign born	11	5	15	22
Total foreign born	19	6	18	40
Total U.S. born	23	6	25	24

- On average across sites in 2002/06, 79% of those who volunteered and 55% of those who served as an officer or on a committee, but only 45% of those who attended religious services, did so within their own neighborhoods.
- **In total, 22% of respondents volunteered inside their own neighborhoods, 6% served as an officer or on a committee in their neighborhoods and 23% got together to solve a community problem inside their neighborhoods.**
 - The rate of in-neighborhood volunteering was highest by far in Denver (30%) whereas Louisville, Hartford and Providence were at the low end on this measure (16%-18%).
 - The share serving as an officer or on a committee inside their neighborhood was highest in Louisville, Denver, Des Moines and Providence (8%-9%). Indianapolis, White Center and Milwaukee were lowest by this measure (4%)
 - The share getting together with neighbors to solve a community problem ranged from a high of 28% in Denver, down to a low of 16% in Hartford.
 - As they have on several other measures of social ties, foreign born Asians ranked lowest on the first three of these indicators of neighborhood involvement.
 - U.S. born blacks rated highest on in-neighborhood volunteering (25%) and second highest on getting together with neighbors to solve a problem (23%)
 - Foreign born blacks were twice as likely to serve as an officer or committee member in their neighborhoods (12%) than all other racial/nativity groups (5%-6%)
 - As was the case with many other indicators of engagement, the U.S. born overall had higher scores than the foreign born on in-neighborhood volunteering (23% versus 19%) and getting together to solve a problem (25% versus 18%)
 - Patterns were different for the shares attending religious services in their own neighborhood. As might be expected, San Antonio rated highest (40%) followed by Denver, Hartford, and Providence (34%-35%); all areas with sizeable Hispanic populations. Indianapolis was lowest at 21%. Among race/nativity groups, the Hispanic foreign were highest by far by this measure (49%) while whites were lowest (16%).