

Quality of Life 2017: Social Capital



Quality of Life Survey 2017:

- Survey administered spring 2017
- 5,495 randomly selected Spokane County households; 1,692 adults participated
- Weighted data to make generalizable to full Spokane County population of adults 20+ (*weighted by age, sex, race/ethnicity, home ownership, marital status and education*)

Social Capital Definition:

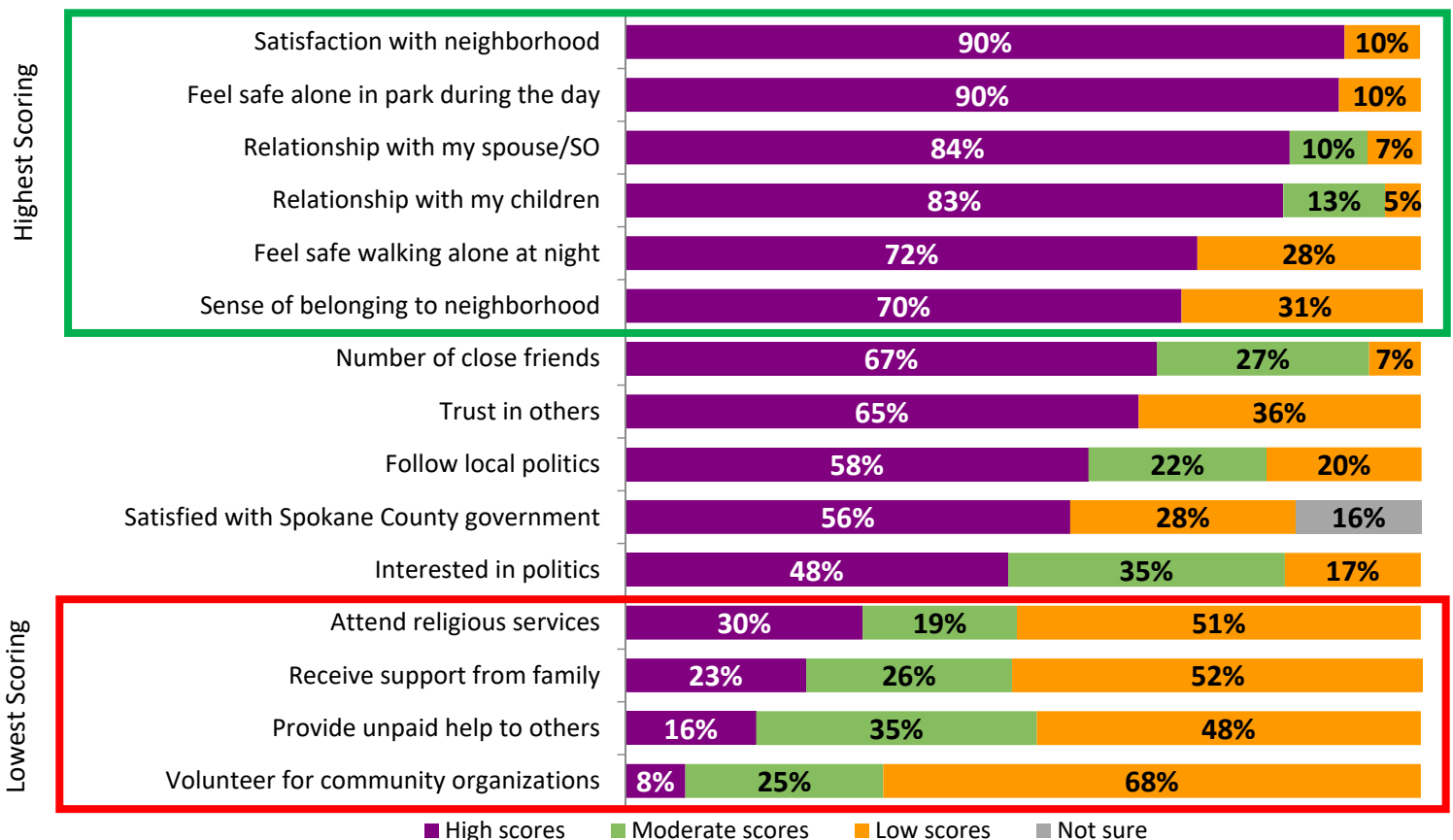
Social capital is commonly defined as **the degree of connectedness and the quality and quantity of social relations in a given population.**

Social capital is a construct assessed by 15 individual questions. It includes measures of *belonging, interest in politics, helping others, and relationships*, which are used in calculating a “Social Capital Score”.

Where do Spokane residents fall on dimensions of Social Capital?

The chart below shows the percent of respondents scoring high, moderate or low in each Social Capital measure.

Percent of Spokane County Population Scoring High, Moderate or Low in each Social Capital Measure, 2017

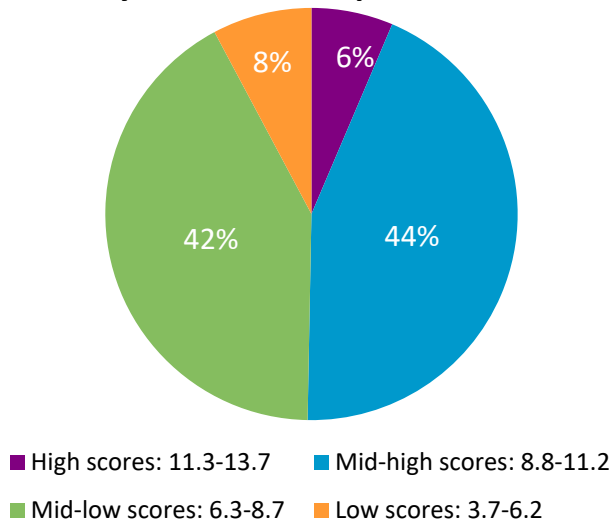


Social Capital Score:

Social Capital scores ranged from a low of 3.7 to a high of 13.5, with a mean of 8.7.

Fifty percent of respondents scored between 7.5 and 9.9 on the scale. The chart below shows what percent of respondents fell into each scoring category.

Percent of Spokane County Population by QOL Social Capital Score, 2017



Who was more likely to have a lower Social Capital score?

- *Younger (20-29)*
- *Those who felt uncomfortable most/all of the time in their neighborhood because of ethnicity, culture, race, skin color, accent or religion*
- *Lower income (< \$50,000)*
- *Those with poor mental health*
- *Never been married*
- *Out of work/unable to work*
- *HS/GED or less*

Conclusion

- Spokane County residents scored high in several measures of social capital. Highest dimensions included relationships, safety and satisfaction with neighborhood.
- Spokane County residents scored lower on dimensions of social capital involving volunteerism, providing and receiving support, and attending religious services.
- Social Capital was linked to age, income, mental health, marital status, employment, education, and perceptions of discomfort.
- These findings highlight the importance of social determinants in social capital, and allows for information that could support targeted interventions at the community level.
- Results could be used to identify possible target populations for interventions, explicitly those groups with low social capital scores.
- Efforts designed to “improve social capital” may include those aiming to improve education, income, and employment levels in the broader sense, or work towards reducing feelings of discomfort and alienation due to ethnicity, culture, race, skin color, accent or religion.

Data prepared by Spokane Regional Health District Data Center

1101 W. College Ave., #356, Spokane, WA 99201 TEL 509.323.2853 | TDD 509.324.1464 | srhd.org