

20.12 Realised safety

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| Realised safety | Social Justice and Social Cohesion |
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| <p>Description and justification</p> | <p>Neighborhood safety is generally understood as an environmental demand (environmental press) in that perceived or actual low safety of a neighborhood environment could exceed person's physical or psychological capacity to manage the demands of the environment (Jin-Choi & Matz-Costa, 2018). Such adversity is particularly challenging for vulnerable groups like women, children, or elders. As a dimension of social capital, relations with neighbors and social support from interactions with neighbors are strongly related to the subjective sense of community, and mediate the relationship between neighborhood factors and residents' well-being. Research on neighborhood effects has explored relationships between burdensome physical conditions (e.g., living in deteriorating neighborhoods, public drug use, public drinking, loitering, street harassment, poor lighting, homeless sleeping in public, abandoned cars, trash, overgrown trees) and perceptions of psycho-social conditions (e.g., trust, support, sense of well-being) (Kruger, 2008; Loukaitou-Sidaris, 2006). Along these lines, neighborhood safety has been highlighted as a significant indicator for both the social capital of a community, and the health and well-being of its members, thereby a major factor in the implementation, and potential success of any collective initiatives like NBS. For instance, Bogar and Beyer (2015) conducted a systematic study of existing research on relationships among urban green space, violence, and crime in the United States, and found overwhelmingly positive associations between urban green space and neighborhood safety that withstand methodological idiosyncrasies and a limited understanding of causal pathways. Similarly, McCabe (2014) brings forth evidence on how community gardens as community-based multi-prolonged initiatives effectively stabilize distressed neighborhoods, and positively associate with reduced violence, greater perception of residents' safety, lowered stress levels, improved relations with police, and greater empowerment as residents take pride and ownership in the development of their neighborhoods. Indeed, McCabe (2014) brings forth evidence on how community gardens as</p> |

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| | community-based multi-prolonged initiatives effectively stabilize distressed neighborhoods, and positively associate with reduced violence, greater perception of residents' safety, lowered stress levels, improved relations with police, and greater empowerment as residents take pride and ownership in the development of their neighborhoods. Furthermore, Bogar and Beyer (2015) conducted a systematic study of existing research on relationships among urban green space, violence, and crime in the United States, and found overwhelmingly positive associations between urban green space and neighborhood safety that withstand methodological idiosyncrasies and a limited understanding of causal pathways. |
| Definition | Actual presence of environmental (e.g., unattended dogs) and/or human (e.g., reckless drivers) factors that have an impact on a neighborhood/community's objective parameters of safety (e.g., crime types, frequency of crimes committed, number of hospitalizations related to neighborhood safety hazards, etc.) |
| Strengths and weaknesses | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> +objective indicator of challenges to neighborhood/community resources for a shared sense of trust, and for an individual sense of well-being +safety hazards related to green spaces (parks, trees, etc.) can inform NBS on best approaches so as to meet community's capacity to manage the demands of environment +consistently adds to the information on a community's shared notion of trust and solidarity -measurements of actual safety usually limit the investigation to neighborhood crime, conflict, and violence, yet physical conditions related to housing (e.g., garbage, insects, and inadequate heat) and neighborhood (e.g., noise, crime, abandoned buildings, dark streets and sidewalks, heavy traffic, and low accessibility to shops) hazards are relevant to actual/real safety as well |
| Measurement procedure (P) and tool (T) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Quantitative</i>: objective measures (e.g., reported crimes in a neighbourhood per capita, crime density, number of crimes per building, or number of emergency calls) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public participation geographic information system (PPGIS) methods/approaches |
| Scale of measurement | - |
| Data source | |
| Required data | ✓ Essential: NBS characteristics for each city/site, more specifically objectives (short-, medium-, and long-term) and challenges |
| Data input type | Quantitative (quantitative and qualitative, if participatory data collection is opted for) |

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| Data collection frequency | Before NBS implementation and/or aligned to timing of targeted (especially long-term) objectives |
| Level of expertise required | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☒ Methodology and data analysis requires high expertise in psycho-social research ☒ Quantitative data collection requires no expertise ☒ Qualitative data collection through case study methodology and PPGIS requires high expertise in psycho-social research <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Basic training needed if participatory data collection is opted for |
| Synergies with other indicators | <p>SC1 Bonding social capital SC2 Bridging social capital SC3 Linking social capital SC4.2 Solidarity between neighbours SC4.3 Tolerance and respect SC5.1 Perceived safety SC6 Place attachment (sense of place): Place identity SC9 Empowerment: Perceived control and influence over NBS decision-making SC12 Social desirability HW10 Prevalence, incidence, morbidity of chronic stress HW11 Mental Health Wellbeing: Depression and Anxiety HW12 Restoration-Recreation: Enhanced physical activity and meaningful leisure HW13 Levels of aggressiveness and violence HW15 Exploration behaviour in children</p> |
| Connection with SDGs | <p>Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels</p> |
| Opportunities for participatory data collection | Participatory methods (e.g., collaborative participatory data collection, GIS with top-down goals of understanding neighborhood dynamics, location-based PPGIS) may be applied to collect community-relevant information about crimes and safety hazards; data can further inform NBS implementation and expansion. |
| Additional information | |

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