

Perception of Well-Being in the Community

MEASURING TOOL



KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION

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This document is part of the [Toolbox for Carrying Out a Food Access Diagnostic and Evaluating the Effects of a Food Cooperative](#), developed as part of the EffICAS study conducted by the Institut national de santé publique du Québec. One of the main goals of this toolkit is to help stakeholders draw up a diagnostic portrait—a snapshot at a given point in time—of people’s food access and to assess the effects of a food cooperative on individuals and communities.

More specifically, this tool measures respondents’ perception of quality of life and living conditions in the community, enabling changes to be tracked over time. Some food cooperative projects are developed with the aim of contributing to the quality of life in the community: it is therefore interesting to measure citizens’ perception of well-being in the community before and after the opening of the cooperative.

DEFINITION AND SOURCE

In this tool, the perception of well-being in the community refers to aspects related to quality of life and living conditions in the community.

The questions used in the EffICAS study to measure the perception of well-being in the community are taken from the work of Sirgy and colleagues (Sirgy *et al.*, 2010).

QUESTIONNAIRE

The questionnaire used to measure the perception of well-being in the community in EffICAS study is as follows:

- An introduction;
- General guidelines;
- A series of five (5) questions, each with its own choice of answers.

Introduction: The next questions concern living conditions and community life in [*Name of community*].

Guidelines: Reflecting on your experiences in your community, indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

Questions, answer choices, and associated values :

1. Overall how satisfied are you with the quality of life in [*Name of community*]?
 - 1- Strongly dissatisfied
 - 2- Dissatisfied
 - 3- Neither dissatisfied nor satisfied
 - 4- Satisfied
 - 5- Strongly satisfied

2. To what extent do you like living in [*Name of community*]?
 - 1- Not at all
 - 2- A little
 - 3- Somewhat
 - 4- To a great extent

3. When thinking about conditions in [*Name of community*], are conditions...
 - 1- Getting worse
 - 2- Staying about the same
 - 3- Getting better

4. In the years to come do you believe that conditions in [*Name of community*] will be...
 - 1- Worse than today
 - 2- Slightly less bad
 - 3- Neither worse nor better
 - 4- Slightly better
 - 5- Better than today

5. How would you rate [*Name of community*] as a desirable place to live?
 - 1- Not very desirable/inviting
 - 2- Somewhat desirable/inviting
 - 3- Desirable/inviting
 - 4- Very desirable/inviting
 - 5- One of the best places to live in [*Province name*]

PROCESSING AND ANALYSIS

As the scientific article by Sirgy *et al.* does not detail how to measure a score for the perception of well-being in the community, the EffiCAS research team opted for an average calculation of the five items making up the questionnaire to measure community vitality. To ensure the validity of the EffiCAS research team's choice, a reliability analysis was carried out. With a Cronbach's alpha of 0.710 for a sample of 163 respondents, it was deemed sufficient to proceed with the chosen method.

Before calculating the average, the values associated with the responses obtained must be recoded, as the scales proposed for the five questions do not include the same number of response choices.

Standardizing answer choice values

Questions 2 and 3 offer fewer response options than the other three questions designed to assess citizens' perception of well-being in the community. The values associated with these answer choices have therefore been recoded to match the value intervals from 1 to 5 in questions 1, 4, and 5. Based on a rule of 3, the values were recoded as follows:

- For question 2, the value associated with the answer obtained (1-not at all, 2-a little, 3-somewhat, or 4-to a great extent) was multiplied by 5 and then divided by 4.
- For question 3, the value associated with the answer obtained (1-getting worse, 2-staying about the same, 3-getting better) was multiplied by 5 and then divided by 3.

Calculating the average

The average of the five answers to the questions about the perception of well-being in the community constitutes a score. It will therefore vary between values 1 and 5.

INTERPRETATION

The higher the score, the higher the citizens' perception of well-being in their community.

This score does not have a threshold to support interpretation, so it is preferable to allow at least two collection times (pre-post) to interpret the evolution of the score over time.

REFERENCES

- Sirgy, M. J., Widgery, R. N., Lee, D.-J., & Yu, G. B. (2010). Developing a measure of community well-being based on perceptions of impact in various life domains. *Social Indicators Research*, 96(2), 295-311. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11205-009-9479-9>

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LAYOUT

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