Sense of Community Index 2 (SCI-2): [©] Background, Instrument, and Scoring Instructions
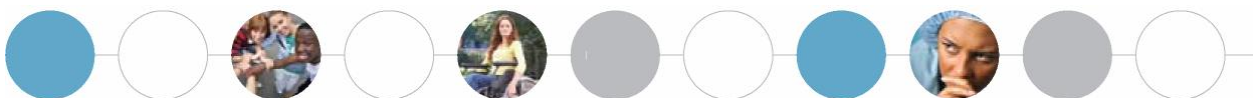
The Sense of Community Index (SCI) is the most frequently used quantitative measure of sense of community in the social sciences. It has been used in numerous studies covering different cultures in North and South America, Asia, Middle East, as well as many contexts (e.g. urban, suburban, rural, tribal, workplaces, schools, universities, recreational clubs, internet communities, etc.). The SCI is based on a theory of sense of community presented by McMillan and Chavis (1986) that stated that a sense of community was a perception with four elements: membership, influence, meeting needs, and a shared emotional connection.

Results of prior studies have demonstrated that the SCI has been a strong predicator of behaviors (such as participation) and a valid measurement instrument. Nonetheless the SCI has also been subject to criticisms and limitations. The reliability of the overall 12 item scale has be adequate, however it consisted of four subscales whose reliability were inconsistent and generally very low. The SCI had a true-false response set that limited variability and concerned critics. Despite its use with different cultural groups, there were concerns about the adequacy of the SCI as a cross cultural measure. A study of immigrant integration in a western US state, provided the research team the opportunity to revise the SCI in order to address previous concerns. The research team created a 24 item Sense of Community Index version 2 (SCI-2). Unlike the earlier version, it was able to cover all the attributes of a sense of community described in the original theory. A Likert like scale was developed instead of the True-False format. The original draft was piloted with 36 culturally person in seven different setting s from Maryland to Hawaii. Strong reliability was found, but there were several suggestions for improvement which were incorporated (i.e., rewording of the statement to increase clarity)

The SCI-2 was revised and used within a larger survey of 1800 people. The analysis of the SCI-2 showed that it is a very reliable measure (coefficient alpha= .94). The subscales also proved to be reliable with coefficient alpha scores of .79 to .86.

Community Science is pleased to share this material with other organizations and individuals free of charge. No changes may be made to the SCI-2, for use in either print or electronic form, without the permission of David Chavis, Ph.D., Community Science, 438 N. Frederick Ave., Suite 315, Gaithersburg, MD 20877; 301-519-0722 (office) or 301-519-0724 (fax) or email dchavis@communityscience.com.

Citation for this instrument:

Chavis, D.M., Lee, K.S., & Acosta J.D. (2008). *The Sense of Community (SCI) Revised: The Reliability and Validity of the SCI-2.* Paper presented at the 2nd International Community Psychology Conference, Lisboa, Portugal.

SENSE OF COMMUNITY INDEX II

The following questions about community refer to: [insert community name].

How important is it to you to feel a sense of community with other community members?

1	2	3	4	5	6
Prefer Not to be Part of This Community	Not Important at All	Not Very Important	Somewhat Important	Important	Very Important

How well do each of the following statements represent how you *feel* about this community?

		Not at All	Somewhat	Mostly	Completely
1.	I get important needs of mine met because I am part of this community.	○	○	○	○
2.	Community members and I value the same things.	○	○	○	○
3.	This community has been successful in getting the needs of its members met.	○	○	○	○
4.	Being a member of this community makes me feel good.	○	○	○	○
5.	When I have a problem, I can talk about it with members of this community.	○	○	○	○
6.	People in this community have similar needs, priorities, and goals.	○	○	○	○
7.	I can trust people in this community.	○	○	○	○

		Not at All	Somewhat	Mostly	Completely
8.	I can recognize most of the members of this community.	○	○	○	○
9.	Most community members know me.	○	○	○	○
10.	This community has symbols and expressions of membership such as clothes, signs, art, architecture, logos, landmarks, and flags that people can recognize.	○	○	○	○
11.	I put a lot of time and effort into being part of this community.	○	○	○	○
12.	Being a member of this community is a part of my identity.	○	○	○	○
13.	Fitting into this community is important to me.	○	○	○	○
14.	This community can influence other communities.	○	○	○	○
15.	I care about what other community members think of me.	○	○	○	○
16.	I have influence over what this community is like.	○	○	○	○
17.	If there is a problem in this community, members can get it solved.	○	○	○	○
18.	This community has good leaders.	○	○	○	○
19.	It is very important to me to be a part of this community.	○	○	○	○
20.	I am with other community members a lot and enjoy being with them.	○	○	○	○
21.	I expect to be a part of this community for a long time.	○	○	○	○
22.	Members of this community have shared important events together, such as holidays, celebrations, or disasters.	○	○	○	○
23.	I feel hopeful about the future of this community.	○	○	○	○
24.	Members of this community care about each other.	○	○	○	○

Instructions for Scoring the Revised Sense of Community Index

1. Identifying the Community Referent

The attached scale was developed to be used in many different types of communities. Be sure to specify the type of community the scale is referring to before administering the scale. Do not use "your community" as the referent.

2. Interpreting the Initial Question

The initial question "How important is it to you to feel a sense of community with other community members?" is a validating question that can be used to help you interpret the results. We have found that total sense of community is correlated with this question – but keep in mind this may not be true in every community.

3. Scoring the Scale

For the 24 questions that comprise the revised Sense of Community Index participants:

   Not at All = 0, **Somewhat** = 1, **Mostly** = 2, **Completely** = 3

Total Sense of Community Index = Sum of Q1 to Q24

Subscales   Reinforcement of Needs = Q1 + Q2 + Q3 + Q4 + Q5 + Q6

                  Membership = Q7 + Q8 + Q9 + Q10 + Q11 + Q12

                  Influence = Q13 + Q14 + Q15 + Q16 + Q17 + Q18

                  Shared Emotional Connection = Q19 + Q20 + Q21 + Q22 + Q23 + Q24