Neighborhood Environment Walkability Scale—Youth

**OVERVIEW**
- This measure assesses youth perceptions of available neighborhood design features that may be related to physical activity in youth

**SUBSCALES**
- Each domain has several questions; therefore, you may only select one or two domains that are relevant to your evaluation. The domains include:
  - Land-use Mix – Diversity
  - Neighborhood Recreation Facilities
  - Residential Density
  - Land-use Mix – Access
  - Street Connectivity
  - Walking/Cycling Facilities
  - Neighborhood Aesthetics
  - Pedestrian & Automobile Traffic Safety
  - Crime Safety

**STEPPING UP THEME(S) & OUTCOME(S)**
- Coordinated & Youth-Friendly Communities
  » Youth have access to safe spaces that provide quality opportunities for play and recreation
  » Youth know about and easily navigate resources in their community

**TARGET POPULATION**
- Youth ages 11 years old and over

**LENGTH & HOW IT IS MEASURED**
- 67-items
  - Response scales differ based on the subscale
  - Self-report
  - Average scores can be calculated
  - Higher scores denote higher walkability for most subscales (all except Pedestrian & Automobile Traffic Safety and Crime Safety which outline lower walkability)
  - Further scoring information is available HERE

**DEVELOPER**
- Society for Children and Youth of British Columbia

**PSYCHOMETRICS**
- Reliability
  - Moderate reliability (α = .64-.94)
- Validity
  - Content validity
  - Construct validity
  - Convergent and discriminant validity

**LEARN MORE**
  - Find out more about this measure HERE
Neighborhood Environment Walkability Scale – Youth (NEWS-Y)

Adolescent Version

From Active Where? study

Information on scoring can be found at:

Suggested reference:
### A. Stores and Other Public Places in Your Neighborhood

About how long would it take you to walk from your home to the nearest stores or places listed below? Please circle the time it would take you to walk to each place, even if you don’t normally go there.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>1-5 min</th>
<th>6-10 min</th>
<th>11-20 min</th>
<th>21-30 min</th>
<th>31+ min</th>
<th>don’t know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>convenience/corner store/ small grocery store/bodega</td>
<td>1-5 min</td>
<td>6-10 min</td>
<td>11-20 min</td>
<td>21-30 min</td>
<td>31+ min</td>
<td>don’t know</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>supermarket</td>
<td>1-5 min</td>
<td>6-10 min</td>
<td>11-20 min</td>
<td>21-30 min</td>
<td>31+ min</td>
<td>don’t know</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>hardware store</td>
<td>1-5 min</td>
<td>6-10 min</td>
<td>11-20 min</td>
<td>21-30 min</td>
<td>31+ min</td>
<td>don’t know</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>fruit/vegetable market</td>
<td>1-5 min</td>
<td>6-10 min</td>
<td>11-20 min</td>
<td>21-30 min</td>
<td>31+ min</td>
<td>don’t know</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>laundry or dry cleaners</td>
<td>1-5 min</td>
<td>6-10 min</td>
<td>11-20 min</td>
<td>21-30 min</td>
<td>31+ min</td>
<td>don’t know</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>clothing store</td>
<td>1-5 min</td>
<td>6-10 min</td>
<td>11-20 min</td>
<td>21-30 min</td>
<td>31+ min</td>
<td>don’t know</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>post office</td>
<td>1-5 min</td>
<td>6-10 min</td>
<td>11-20 min</td>
<td>21-30 min</td>
<td>31+ min</td>
<td>don’t know</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>library</td>
<td>1-5 min</td>
<td>6-10 min</td>
<td>11-20 min</td>
<td>21-30 min</td>
<td>31+ min</td>
<td>don’t know</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>elementary school</td>
<td>1-5 min</td>
<td>6-10 min</td>
<td>11-20 min</td>
<td>21-30 min</td>
<td>31+ min</td>
<td>don’t know</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>middle or high school</td>
<td>1-5 min</td>
<td>6-10 min</td>
<td>11-20 min</td>
<td>21-30 min</td>
<td>31+ min</td>
<td>don’t know</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>book store</td>
<td>1-5 min</td>
<td>6-10 min</td>
<td>11-20 min</td>
<td>21-30 min</td>
<td>31+ min</td>
<td>don’t know</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>fast food restaurant</td>
<td>1-5 min</td>
<td>6-10 min</td>
<td>11-20 min</td>
<td>21-30 min</td>
<td>31+ min</td>
<td>don’t know</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>coffee place</td>
<td>1-5 min</td>
<td>6-10 min</td>
<td>11-20 min</td>
<td>21-30 min</td>
<td>31+ min</td>
<td>don’t know</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>bank/credit union</td>
<td>1-5 min</td>
<td>6-10 min</td>
<td>11-20 min</td>
<td>21-30 min</td>
<td>31+ min</td>
<td>don’t know</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>non-fast food restaurant</td>
<td>1-5 min</td>
<td>6-10 min</td>
<td>11-20 min</td>
<td>21-30 min</td>
<td>31+ min</td>
<td>don’t know</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>video store</td>
<td>1-5 min</td>
<td>6-10 min</td>
<td>11-20 min</td>
<td>21-30 min</td>
<td>31+ min</td>
<td>don’t know</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>pharmacy/drug store</td>
<td>1-5 min</td>
<td>6-10 min</td>
<td>11-20 min</td>
<td>21-30 min</td>
<td>31+ min</td>
<td>don’t know</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>hairdressers/barber shop</td>
<td>1-5 min</td>
<td>6-10 min</td>
<td>11-20 min</td>
<td>21-30 min</td>
<td>31+ min</td>
<td>don’t know</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>any offices/worksites</td>
<td>1-5 min</td>
<td>6-10 min</td>
<td>11-20 min</td>
<td>21-30 min</td>
<td>31+ min</td>
<td>don’t know</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>bus, subway or train stop</td>
<td>1-5 min</td>
<td>6-10 min</td>
<td>11-20 min</td>
<td>21-30 min</td>
<td>31+ min</td>
<td>don’t know</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### B. Recreation Places in Your Neighborhood

About how long would it take you to walk from your home to the **nearest** recreation place listed below? Please circle the time it would take you to walk to each place, even if you don’t normally go there.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th><strong>1</strong> indoor recreation or exercise facility (public or private)</th>
<th><strong>2</strong> beach, lake, river, or creek</th>
<th><strong>3</strong> bike/hiking/walking trails, paths</th>
<th><strong>4</strong> basketball court</th>
<th><strong>5</strong> other playing fields/courts (like soccer, football, softball, tennis, skate park etc.)</th>
<th><strong>6</strong> YMCA</th>
<th><strong>7</strong> boys and girls club</th>
<th><strong>8</strong> swimming pool</th>
<th><strong>9</strong> walking / running track</th>
<th><strong>10</strong> school with recreation facilities open to the public</th>
<th><strong>11</strong> small public park</th>
<th><strong>12</strong> large public park</th>
<th><strong>13</strong> public playground with equipment</th>
<th><strong>14</strong> public open space (grass or sand/dirt) that is not a park</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1-5 min</td>
<td>6-10 min</td>
<td>11-20 min</td>
<td>21-30 min</td>
<td>31+ min</td>
<td>don’t know</td>
<td>1-5 min</td>
<td>6-10 min</td>
<td>11-20 min</td>
<td>21-30 min</td>
<td>31+ min</td>
<td>don’t know</td>
<td>1-5 min</td>
<td>6-10 min</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
C. Types of homes in your neighborhood

While thinking about the places where people live in your neighborhood, please circle an answer for each of the following questions. Your neighborhood is the local area around your home, within a 10-15 minute walk in any direction.

1. How common are **separate or stand alone one family homes** in your neighborhood?
   There are:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>A few</td>
<td>Some</td>
<td>A lot</td>
<td>All the residences are separate one family homes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. How common are **connected townhouses or rows of houses** in your neighborhood?
   There are:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>A few</td>
<td>Some</td>
<td>A lot</td>
<td>All the residences are townhouses or row houses</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. How common are **multiple family or duplex homes** in your neighborhood?
   There are:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>A few</td>
<td>Some</td>
<td>A lot</td>
<td>All the residences are multiple family/duplex homes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. How common are **apartment or condo buildings** in your neighborhood?
   There are:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>A few</td>
<td>Some</td>
<td>A lot</td>
<td>All the residences are in apartment or condo buildings</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### D. Access to services

Please circle the answer that best applies to you and your neighborhood. Both **local** and within **walking distance** mean within a 10-15 minute walk from your home.

1. Stores are within easy walking distance of my home.  
   - 1: strongly disagree  
   - 2: somewhat disagree  
   - 3: somewhat agree  
   - 4: strongly agree

2. Parking is difficult in local shopping areas.  
   - 1: strongly disagree  
   - 2: somewhat disagree  
   - 3: somewhat agree  
   - 4: strongly agree

3. There are many places to go (alone or with someone) within easy walking distance of my home.  
   - 1: strongly disagree  
   - 2: somewhat disagree  
   - 3: somewhat agree  
   - 4: strongly agree

4. From my home, it is easy to walk to a transit stop (bus, subway, train), alone or with someone.  
   - 1: strongly disagree  
   - 2: somewhat disagree  
   - 3: somewhat agree  
   - 4: strongly agree

5. The streets in my neighborhood are hilly, making my neighborhood difficult to walk in (alone or with someone).  
   - 1: strongly disagree  
   - 2: somewhat disagree  
   - 3: somewhat agree  
   - 4: strongly agree

6. There are major barriers to walking (alone or with someone) in my local area that make it hard to get from place to place (for example, freeways, railway lines, rivers).  
   - 1: strongly disagree  
   - 2: somewhat disagree  
   - 3: somewhat agree  
   - 4: strongly agree
E. Streets in my neighborhood

Please circle the answer that best applies to you and your neighborhood.

1. The streets in my neighborhood do not have many cul-de-sacs (dead-end streets).
   
   1   2   3   4
   strongly  somewhat  somewhat  strongly
   disagree  disagree  agree  agree

2. The distance between intersections (where streets cross) in my neighborhood is usually short (100 yards or less; the length of a football field or less).

   1   2   3   4
   strongly  somewhat  somewhat  strongly
   disagree  disagree  agree  agree

3. There are many different routes for getting from place to place in my neighborhood (I don’t have to go the same way every time).

   1   2   3   4
   strongly  somewhat  somewhat  strongly
   disagree  disagree  agree  agree

F. Places for walking

Please circle the answer that best applies to you and your neighborhood.

1. There are sidewalks on most of the streets in my neighborhood.

   1   2   3   4
   strongly  somewhat  somewhat  strongly
   disagree  disagree  agree  agree

2. Sidewalks are separated from the road/traffic in my neighborhood by parked cars.

   1   2   3   4
   strongly  somewhat  somewhat  strongly
   disagree  disagree  agree  agree

3. There is grass/dirt between the streets and the sidewalks in my neighborhood.

   1   2   3   4
   strongly  somewhat  somewhat  strongly
   disagree  disagree  agree  agree
G. Neighborhood surroundings

Please circle the answer that best applies to you and your neighborhood.

1. There are trees along the streets in my neighborhood.
   1 strongly disagree
   2 somewhat disagree
   3 somewhat agree
   4 strongly agree

2. There are many interesting things to look at while walking in my neighborhood.
   1 strongly disagree
   2 somewhat disagree
   3 somewhat agree
   4 strongly agree

3. There are many beautiful natural things to look at in my neighborhood (e.g., gardens, views).
   1 strongly disagree
   2 somewhat disagree
   3 somewhat agree
   4 strongly agree

4. There are many buildings/homes in my neighborhood that are nice to look at.
   1 strongly disagree
   2 somewhat disagree
   3 somewhat agree
   4 strongly agree
# H. Neighborhood safety

Please circle the answer that best applies to you and your neighborhood.

1. There is so much traffic along nearby streets that it makes it difficult or unpleasant to walk (alone or with someone) in my neighborhood.
   - 1 strongly disagree
   - 2 somewhat disagree
   - 3 somewhat agree
   - 4 strongly agree

2. The speed of traffic on most nearby streets is usually slow (30 mph or less).
   - 1 strongly disagree
   - 2 somewhat disagree
   - 3 somewhat agree
   - 4 strongly agree

3. Most drivers go faster than the posted speed limits in my neighborhood.
   - 1 strongly disagree
   - 2 somewhat disagree
   - 3 somewhat agree
   - 4 strongly agree

4. My neighborhood streets have good lighting at night.
   - 1 strongly disagree
   - 2 somewhat disagree
   - 3 somewhat agree
   - 4 strongly agree

5. Walkers and bikers on the streets in my neighborhood can be easily seen by people in their homes.
   - 1 strongly disagree
   - 2 somewhat disagree
   - 3 somewhat agree
   - 4 strongly agree

6. There are crosswalks and signals to help walkers cross busy streets in my neighborhood.
   - 1 strongly disagree
   - 2 somewhat disagree
   - 3 somewhat agree
   - 4 strongly agree

7. When walking in my neighborhood there are a lot of exhaust fumes.
   - 1 strongly disagree
   - 2 somewhat disagree
   - 3 somewhat agree
   - 4 strongly agree
I. Crime safety

Please circle the answer that best applies to the neighborhood where you and your child live.

1. There is a high crime rate in my neighborhood.
   
   1. strongly disagree  2. somewhat disagree  3. somewhat agree  4. strongly agree

2. The crime rate in my neighborhood makes it unsafe to go on walks alone or with someone at night.
   
   1. strongly disagree  2. somewhat disagree  3. somewhat agree  4. strongly agree

3. I am worried about being outside alone around my home (like in the yard, driveway, or apartment common area) because I am afraid of being taken or hurt by a stranger.
   
   1. strongly disagree  2. somewhat disagree  3. somewhat agree  4. strongly agree

4. I am worried about being outside with a friend around my home because I am afraid of being taken or hurt by a stranger.
   
   1. strongly disagree  2. somewhat disagree  3. somewhat agree  4. strongly agree

5. I am worried about being or walking alone or with friends in my neighborhood and local streets because I am afraid of being taken or hurt by a stranger.
   
   1. strongly disagree  2. somewhat disagree  3. somewhat agree  4. strongly agree

6. I am worried about being in a local/nearby park because I am afraid of being taken or hurt by a stranger.
   
   1. strongly disagree  2. somewhat disagree  3. somewhat agree  4. strongly agree