

## Scoring the Social Network Index

### MEASURES

Number of high-contact roles (network diversity)  
Number of people in social network  
Number of embedded networks

#### Number of High-Contact Roles (Network Diversity)

Definition: This is the number of social roles in which the respondent has regular contact (i.e., at least once every 2 weeks) with at least one person. The maximum number of high-contact roles is 12. They are: spouse, parent, child, child-in-law, close relative, close friend, church/temple member, student, employee, neighbor, volunteer, and group member. [It would also be possible to count each group a person belongs to (question 12) as a separate social role, however we have not done this in our previous work.]

Computation: For each of the 12 possible high-contact roles, assign a 0 if the respondent does not have the role and a 1 if he/she does. The total number of high-contact roles is computed by summing the 0s and 1s. The table below shows which scale items are used in the computation and how each is scored.

Role Item # Scores 1 if response is ...

spouse 1 1

parent 2a not 0

child 3a not 0

child-in-law 4a not 0

close relative 5a not 0

close friend 6a not 0

church/temple member 7a not 0

student 8a not 0

employee 9a & 9b not 0 for both items

neighbor 10 not 0

volunteer 11a not 0

group member 12 not 0 for # of group members talked to every 2 weeks

#### Number of People in Social Network

Definition: This is the total number of people with whom the respondent has regular contact (i.e., at least once every 2 weeks).

Computation: For each of the 12 possible roles, determine the number of people with whom the respondent has regular contact. The total number of people in the social network is computed by summing across the 12 roles. The table below shows which scale items are used in the computation and how each is scored.

#### Role Item # Scoring

spouse 1 scores 1 if respondent is married, otherwise scores 0

parent 2a use the number indicated

child 3a 1,2=1; 3=2

child-in-law 4a 1,2=1; 3=2

close relative 5a use the number indicated

close friend 6a use the number indicated

church/temple member 7a use the number indicated  
student 8a use the number indicated  
employee 9a & 9b sum of 9a & 9b  
neighbor 10 use the number indicated  
volunteer 11a use the number indicated  
group member 12 sum of number of group members talked to at least once every 2 wks

#### Number of Embedded Networks

**Definition:** This measure is meant to reflect the number of different network domains in which a respondent is active. The maximum possible is 8. They are: family, friends, church/temple, school, work, neighbors, volunteering, and groups. To receive a point for a domain, a respondent must have at least 4 high-contact people within that domain. The 5 family roles are collapsed into one network for this measure. To receive a point for family, they are required to have at least 3 high-contact family roles as well as 4 high-contact people.  
**Computation:** If the subject meets the criteria for an embedded network, assign a score of 1 for that network, otherwise assign a 0. The total number of embedded networks is computed by summing the 0s and 1s. The table below shows the criteria used for each embedded network.

Embedded Network Scores 1 if S has  
at least 4 high-contact...  
Questionnaire Item(s)

family  
family members and at least 3 high-contact family roles

1, 2a, 3a, 4a, 5a  
friends friends 6a  
church/ temple church/temple members 7a  
school students/teachers 8a  
work work associates 9a and 9b  
neighbors neighbors 10  
volunteering fellow volunteers 11a  
groups group members 12