### Neighborhood Brief Observation Measure
#### Instrument Abstraction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instrument Name</th>
<th>Neighborhood Brief Observation Tool</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Author(s)</strong></td>
<td>Margaret Caughy, Patricia O’Campo, and Jacqueline Patterson</td>
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<td><strong>Affiliated Organization(s)</strong></td>
<td>University of Texas School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University, and Center for Budget and Policy Priorities</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Instrument Purpose</strong></td>
<td>To measure the urban neighborhood characteristics that influence the health and well being of families and children.</td>
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<td><strong>Instrument Type</strong></td>
<td>Observational (audit)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Geographical Scale</strong></td>
<td>Neighborhood, defined as census block groups</td>
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**Instrument Development Methods**

Previous research by the current authors (Caughy et al., 1999; O’Campo et al., 1997) as well as other literature guided the development of this observational tool. Several of the items were adapted from the work of Ralph Taylor and colleagues (Perkins et al., 1992) and the Project for Human Development in Chicago Neighborhoods (PHDCN) (National Opinion Research, 1995). An initial draft of the instrument was pilot tested in two diverse neighborhoods.

**Sample**

Twenty-four census tracts of various socioeconomic and racial compositions were identified. Of these census tracts, between 1 and 3 block groups were selected resulting in 57 neighborhoods (a total of 1135 blocks).

**Psychometrics**

The reliability for each scale was very high: physical incivilities (0.96), territoriality (0.93), and availability of play resources (0.94).

**Key Item Sub-Domains**

- Physical incivilities
- Territoriality
- Availability of play resources

**Considers Disability Issues**

Yes: parking and ramps for people with disabilities

**Number of Instrument(s)**

1 instrument

**Length of Instrument(s)**

45 items

**Instrument Development Literature**

NA

**URL(s)**

NA

**Contact Information**

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**Definition(s)**

- **Physical incivilities**: e.g., graffiti, litter, condition of public spaces  
- **Territoriality**: e.g., fences, walls, and security bars  
- **Availability of play resources**: e.g., number of homes with yards, public playground is present

**Notes**

NA