

MacArthur Scale of Subjective Social Status - Youth Version

This survey accompanies a measure in the SPARQTools.org [Measuring Mobility toolkit](#), which provides practitioners curated instruments for assessing mobility from poverty and tools for selecting the most appropriate measures for their programs.

Age: Teen

Duration: < 3 minutes

Reading Level: 6th to 8th grade

Number of items: 2

Answer Format: 1-10 placement on the ladder

Scoring:

The Socioeconomic Status Ladder subscale item is Q1. The Community Ladder subscale item is Q2.

Each rung of the ladder corresponds with numbers from 1 through 10. If a participant marks an "X" on the bottom rung, their response is scored as 1. If they mark an "X" on the middle rung, their response is scored as 5. If they mark an "X" on the top rung, their response is scored as 10.

Sources:

Goodman, E., Adler, N. E., Kawachi, I., Frazier, A. L., Huang, B., & Colditz, G. A. (2001). Adolescents' perceptions of social status: Development and evaluation of a new indicator. *Pediatrics*, *108*(2), e31-e31.

Instructions: Imagine that this ladder pictures how **American society is set up**.

At the top of the ladder are the people who are the best off — those who have the most money, the highest amount of schooling, and the jobs that bring the most respect. At the bottom are people who are the worst off — those who have the least money, little or no education, no job, or jobs that no one wants or respects.

Now think about your family.

Please tell us where you think your family would be on this ladder. Mark the rung that best represents where your family would be on this ladder.



Instructions: Assume that the ladder is a way of **picturing your school**.

At the top of the ladder are the people in your school with the most respect, the highest grades, and the highest standing. At the bottom are the people whom no one respects, whom no one wants to hang around, and who have the worst grades.

Where would you place yourself on this ladder? Mark the rung that best represents where you would be on this ladder.

