

## MacArthur Scale of Subjective Social Status - Adult 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. To get a copy of this document in your preferred format, go to "File" and then "Download as" in the toolbar menu.*

**Age:** Adult

**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:**

Adler, N. E., Epel, E. S., Castellazzo, G., & Ickovics, J. R. (2000). Relationship of subjective and objective social status with psychological and physiological functioning: Preliminary data in healthy, White women. *Health Psychology, 19*(6), 586-592.

**Instructions: Think of this ladder as representing where people stand in the United States.** At the **top** of the ladder are the people who are the best off – those who have the most money, the most education, and the most respected jobs. At the **bottom** are the people who are the worst off – those who have the least money, least education, the least respected jobs, or no job. The higher up you are on this ladder, the closer you are to the people at the very top; the lower you are, the closer you are to the people at the very bottom.

**Where would you place yourself on this ladder?**

Please place a large “X” on the rung where you think you stand at this time in your life relative to other people in the United States.



**Instructions: Think of this ladder as representing where people stand in their communities.** People define community in different ways; please define it in whatever way is most meaningful to you. At the **top** of the ladder are people who have the highest standing in their community. At the **bottom** are the people who have the lowest standing in their community.

**Where would you place yourself on this ladder?**

Please place a large “**X**” on the rung where you think you stand at this time in your life relative to other people in your community.

