Survey Results

After surveying residents in both neighborhoods, a mean for collective efficacy was calculated for each variable listed in Table 2, which is modeled after Weffer et. al.’s study on collective efficacy in two of California’s Central Valley neighborhoods (2014). Questions on the survey, which were based on the Project on Human Development in Chicago Neighborhoods, gave respondents neighborhood scenarios in which they answered how likely their neighbors would “take action.” A score of 1 would indicate a very high level of social cohesion and control while, a 5 would indicate a very bleak perception on their neighborhood’s efficacy. As anticipated, Central San Bernardino had a much higher mean score indicating lower neighborhood collective efficacy compared to Northwest San Bernardino. Interestingly, as a whole, residents with some college experience tend to have a higher perceived collective efficacy than residents who did not complete high school. It is also important to note that a large percentage of the respondents (67%) had at least some college experience, which is much greater than the city as a whole. This may be due to differing outlooks on the neighborhoods they reside in; especially since more college educated residents are more likely to be living in low-vacancy neighborhoods. Additionally, there appears to be no change in mean efficacy score regardless of how long they lived in the neighborhood, contrary to what one might expect. This could be due to changing neighborhoods as indicated in some of the interviews conducted with residents. A Northwestern couple that lived in the neighborhood for nearly 30 years expressed a general mistrust of their neighborhood because all the people they knew moved away. This suggests that turnover rate in neighborhoods plays an important role in collective efficacy, particularly for long-time residents.