

WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION STRATEGY?

That is the question the Hamilton Neighbourhoods Study asks. This study will show how neighbourhoods are changing over time, and what changes may be associated with the Neighbourhood Action Strategy.

The Neighbourhood Action Strategy is a long-term project that brings residents together to define what is important to them and their community. Residents, Community Developers and representatives from local agencies and businesses meet regularly to plan and complete actions to improve their neighbourhood.

The Hamilton Neighbourhoods Study (HNS) was conducted with residents from randomly selected households in the Stinson neighbourhood.

The Hamilton Neighbourhoods Study is one way to determine the impact that these actions are having. This Stinson study consists of a survey that was done with 308 Stinson residents in 2011 and 2012, when the Neighbourhood Action Strategy was just beginning. This was the “baseline” survey.

Two years later, we conducted the survey again, with the same residents. This was the “follow up” survey. We surveyed residents who were still living in Stinson, and also residents who had moved out of the neighbourhood. By speaking to the same people over time, we can understand how the neighbourhood has changed, and help support residents as they plan the future of their community.

Hamilton Neighbourhoods Study
2015 Follow-up report
STINSON
neighbourhood



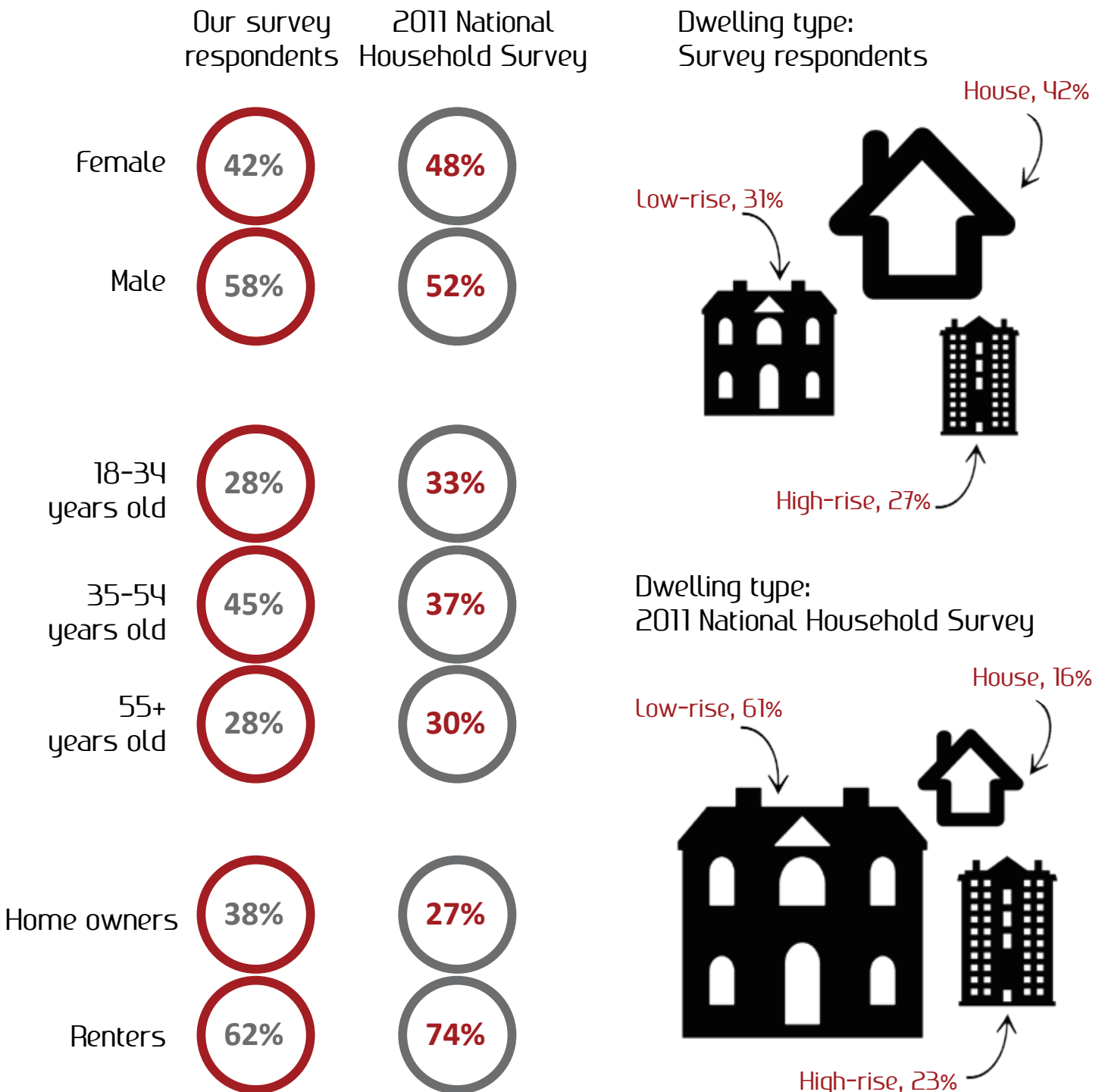
WHO WE TALKED TO IN STINSON:

Participants who still live in Stinson

The first report to the Stinson community was published in 2013. That report presented some information from the baseline survey. This report is a follow-up to the first one, to see how things have changed in Stinson.

We spoke to 117 people who were still living in the Stinson neighbourhood. Nine of these people had moved to another residence within Stinson.

Comparing our survey respondents to recent Census data allows us to say how representative the responses are of the neighbourhood. Slightly more males, 35-54 year olds, homeowners, and people who live in houses participated in this survey compared to the demographics of rest of the neighbourhood.



WHAT CHANGED FOR PARTICIPANTS[†]

Residential Satisfaction, Safety and Security

	Improved	No change	Got worse
Satisfaction with their home	X		
Satisfaction with their neighbourhood	X		
Neighbourhood as a place to raise a child*	X		
Feel safe outside during the day		X	
Feel safe outside at night	X		
Feel safe in home at night		X	
Child(ren) are safe walking to and from school**			X

Community Attachment and Pride

	Improved	No change	Got worse
I would like to stay in my neighbourhood for years to come.	X		
Living in this neighbourhood gives me a sense of pride.	X		
It is very important to me to live in this particular neighbourhood.	X		
My neighbourhood has a distinct character - it is a special place to live.	X		

Civic Awareness, Engagement and Involvement

	Improved	No change	Got worse
Information is readily available to the public on City services and activities that take place in my neighbourhood	X		
The City is responsive to residents' inquiries, input and/or requests.	X		
Residents are invited to be involved in decision-making in my neighbourhood.	X		
Know who the City councillor for their ward is.	X		

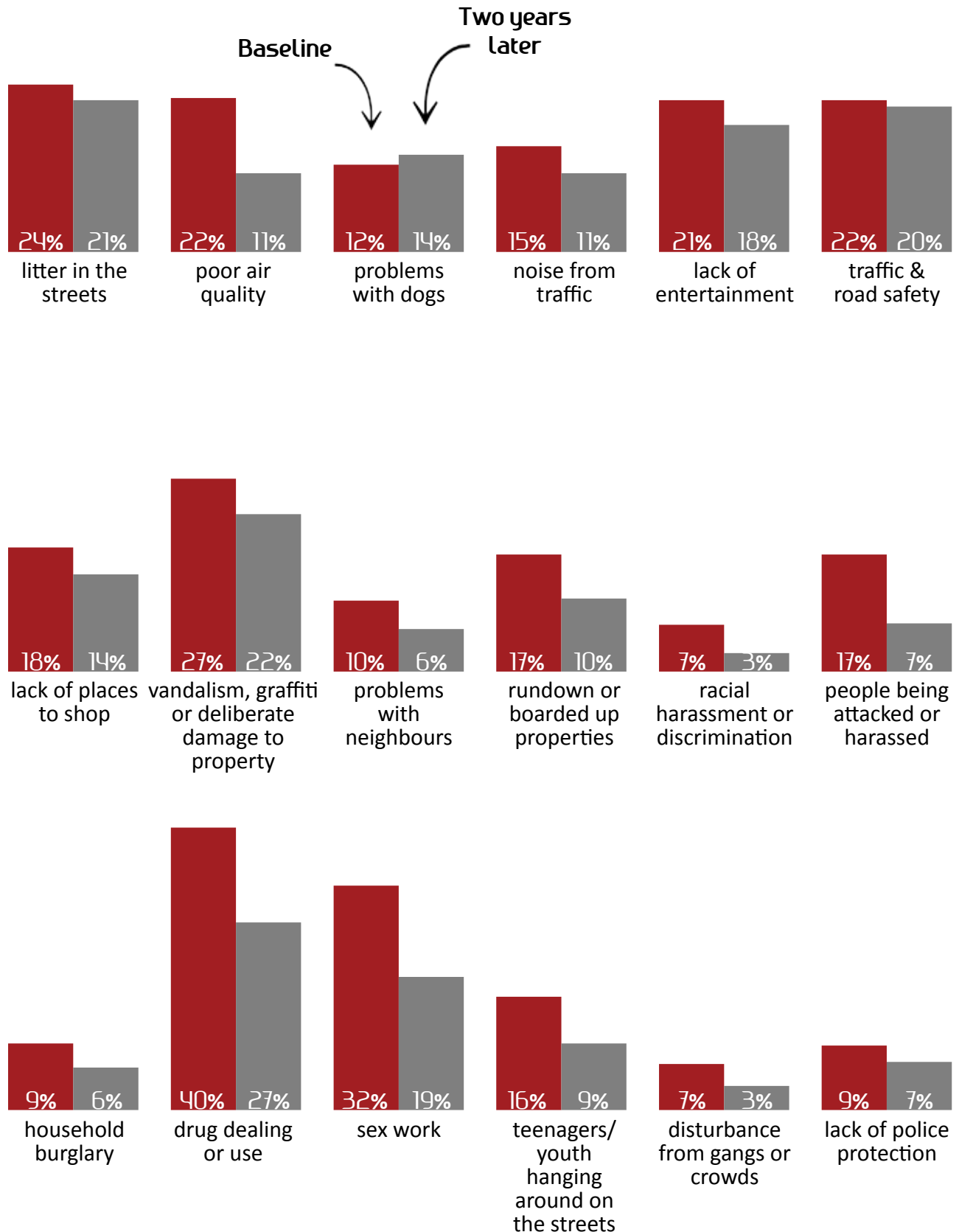
[†] Throughout the report, change is categorized as an increase or decrease of equal to or greater/less than 5%

* asked of all respondents whether they have children or not.

** Asked only of respondents who have children in school (kindergarten to grade 12)

Neighbourhood Concerns

We asked survey respondents to indicate if certain issues were a problem in their neighbourhood. These charts list the percentage of respondents who thought that it was “a serious problem” at baseline and follow-up. There was improvement across all 18 concerns except for rundown or boarded up properties which increased from 12% to 14%.



Social Cohesion and Trust

	Improved	No change	Got worse
People in neighbourhood are friendly		X	
Neighbourhood looks for solutions to local problems rather than being satisfied with the way things are	X		
Neighbourhood has good leaders who look out for the best interests of the neighbourhood	X		
Knowledge of a local neighbourhood or business association or group that meets regularly in my neighbourhood	X		
Neighbourhood has ways of sharing information (talking to neighbours, newsletters, etc.)		X	
Participant has influence over what the neighbourhood is like	X		
There are opportunities for celebration and fun in my neighbourhood	X		
Neighbours get together to deal with problems	X		
Neighbours watch over each other's property		X	
People in the neighbourhood can be trusted	X		
People in this neighbourhood share the same values	X		
Neighbours and participant want the same things for the neighbourhood	X		

Neighbourhood Engagement

When we did the follow-up survey, we asked Stinson participants how they felt about the Neighbourhood Action Strategy.

Do you know that there is a neighbourhood action plan, developed by residents for the neighbourhood?	YES 52%
Do you think that actions coming out of the plan have improved your neighbourhood?*	72%
In the last six months, have you been involved with the Stinson Community Association?*	74%
Are you involved in any other planning team/hub or neighbourhood association?*	7%

* Only asked if they answered "yes" to knowing about a neighbourhood plan.

Ways of receiving information

Survey respondents were asked how they usually learn about important information in their neighbourhood. These items are presented according to the most popular methods of receiving information as reported by Stinson participants.

82%	leaflets or flyers in the mailbox
69%	posters on telephone poles, in shops or community buildings
57%	free newspapers or community language newspapers
50%	websites or email
43%	through friends or family
35%	through volunteer or community organizations
35%	television stations
33%	at public meetings
30%	on buses
25%	radio stations
18%	through work or colleagues

WHO ELSE WE TALKED TO ABOUT STINSON: Participants who have moved out of the neighbourhood

We also surveyed 29 people who lived in Stinson for the baseline survey in 2011-2012, and moved out of the neighbourhood.

People moved:

	COUNT
To another part of Hamilton	14
To another neighbourhood that in part of the Neighbourhood Action Strategy (map below)	12
Outside of Hamilton	3

Most important reason for moving from Stinson:

Disliked residence	34%
Change in financial situation	14%
Neighbourhood wasn't safe	14%
Other	21%



Map: The neighbourhoods of the Neighbourhood Action Strategy

Conclusions

The Stinson Neighbourhood Action Planning (SNAP) Team defined goals and specific actions for the neighbourhood. These actions were presented as a workplan, which began in October 2012 and ends in June 2017. This report is written at the mid-point of the SNAP workplan, and therefore can help to inform decision-making by the Stinson community.

Priorities identified by survey respondents

How do the priorities by survey respondents align with the priorities of the SNAP Workplan?

Overall, the responses from the survey do reflect the priorities, goals and actions of the workplan. For example, some of the most common “neighbourhood concerns” identified in the survey are litter in the streets, and vandalism, graffiti or deliberate damage to property. Along with the less common concern rundown or boarded up properties, these issues are reflected in Goal B, “Enhance Pride and Ownership of the Neighbourhood through Beautification and History.”

Traffic & road safety is also identified as a concern in the survey, and is reflected in Goal C, “Enhance Livable and Walkable Communities.”

Goal F, “Address Poverty and Housing Issues” may address survey respondents’ concerns regarding drug dealing or use, and sex work.

Mid & Long-term Objective

The items below are identified as either mid or long term actions on the SNAP workplan. Some of the HNS responses may provide guidance to the community on addressing these concerns.

Action B.1.1. Install garbage and recycling containers for people and pet waste in key locations throughout the neighbourhood including cigarette containers at bus stops.

When asked how much of a problem litter & garbage are in the neighbourhood, survey responses remained substantially the same at baseline and follow-up.

Action C.1.1 Advocate for and Implement a Stinson Pedestrian and Vehicle Transportation Master Plan

Survey respondents were asked how much of a problem they felt traffic was in their neighbourhood. These responses have not changed very much in the two years between the surveys.

Action C.1.4 Improve walking route to Queen Victoria School for Stinson Children

All survey respondents who have school-aged children living with them were asked if they feel safe letting their children walk to school. Positive responses to this question have decreased in the last 2 years.

These responses affirm that the Stinson Neighbourhood Action Plan Team has identified priorities that truly reflect those of residents more broadly, and that the Goals and Actions continue to be worth pursuing.

Icons used in this report were designed by various artists and available at The Noun Project, thenounproject.com.

HOW CAN I LEARN MORE?

This report is based on a research study by Dr. James Dunn and staff at McMaster University. If you have any questions, please contact us.



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ABOUT THE HAMILTON NEIGHBOURHOODS STUDY (HNS)

The Hamilton Neighbourhoods Study is studying neighbourhoods in six of the eleven Neighbourhood Action Strategy neighbourhoods: Beasley, Keith, McQuesten, Rolston, Stinson and Stipley (part of Sherman). At baseline, we recruited approximately 300 residents from randomly selected houses and apartments in each neighbourhood. 1,896 participants have completed a baseline survey. Follow-up surveys are done with residents approximately two years after their baseline survey.



How the study was done

2011-2012

BASELINE



Residents received a flyer in the mail informing them about the study.



Research staff knocked on randomly selected dwellings to see if someone in the household would like to do the survey.

308

Number of people who agreed to participate.



Survey was done face-to-face.

2013-2014

FOLLOW-UP



Participants were sent a letter to see if they would like to participate in another survey.



Research staff followed up by telephone with participants who didn't respond to the letter.

146

Number of people who agreed to participate.



Survey was done on the telephone.



Everyone received \$20 as a thank-you for their time.

Survey questions

Both baseline and follow-up surveys contain the same questions because we want to see what has changed. The follow-up survey contains additional questions about awareness of the Neighbourhood Action Strategy. The survey includes questions on:

- Housing & Physical Environment
- Community
- Safety & Security
- Civic Engagement
- Health
- Employment, Education & Demographics