

Analysis of Ontario & Scio

Project TIPS

(Trust – Information – Programs – Services)

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Analysis of Ontario & Scio Project TIPS Survey

The TIPS initiative, which stands for Trust, Information, Programs, and services, at the intersection of Ontario Street and Scio Street in Rochester, New York, was implemented to both to show support for a neighborhood that has been taken aback by drugs and youth violence, and to investigate community member's concerns and desires for their neighborhood. This report is designed to analyze the second part of that initiative. It will discuss the various likes that the Ontario & Scio community has for the neighborhood, the various concerns the Ontario & Scio community has about their neighborhood, and the initiatives or activities the Ontario & Scio community would like implemented within the neighborhood. Finally, this paper will provide multiple anecdotes that the Ontario & Scio community wish to share with law enforcement and community members in the neighborhood.

Methodology

The initiative used surveys to obtain this information. These surveys asked people to list their likes, concerns, and desires for things to be done within their neighborhood. The surveys asked community members how much they liked living in their area, how long they have lived there, and how likely they were to be living in the area in the future. The surveys then asked the respondents if they had anything specific to tell the police, and, finally, if they had anything to share with their fellow community members.

Groups of three or four volunteers were sent out to administer the survey to pre-selected streets in the neighborhood. Each group had at least one Rochester City Police officer with them. These groups were instructed to travel down one side of the street and then return on the other side, knocking on every door. When residents answered, the volunteers were to read a ready made script to the participant and then conduct the survey. Only those houses where residents responded and agreed to take the survey were included in the sample.

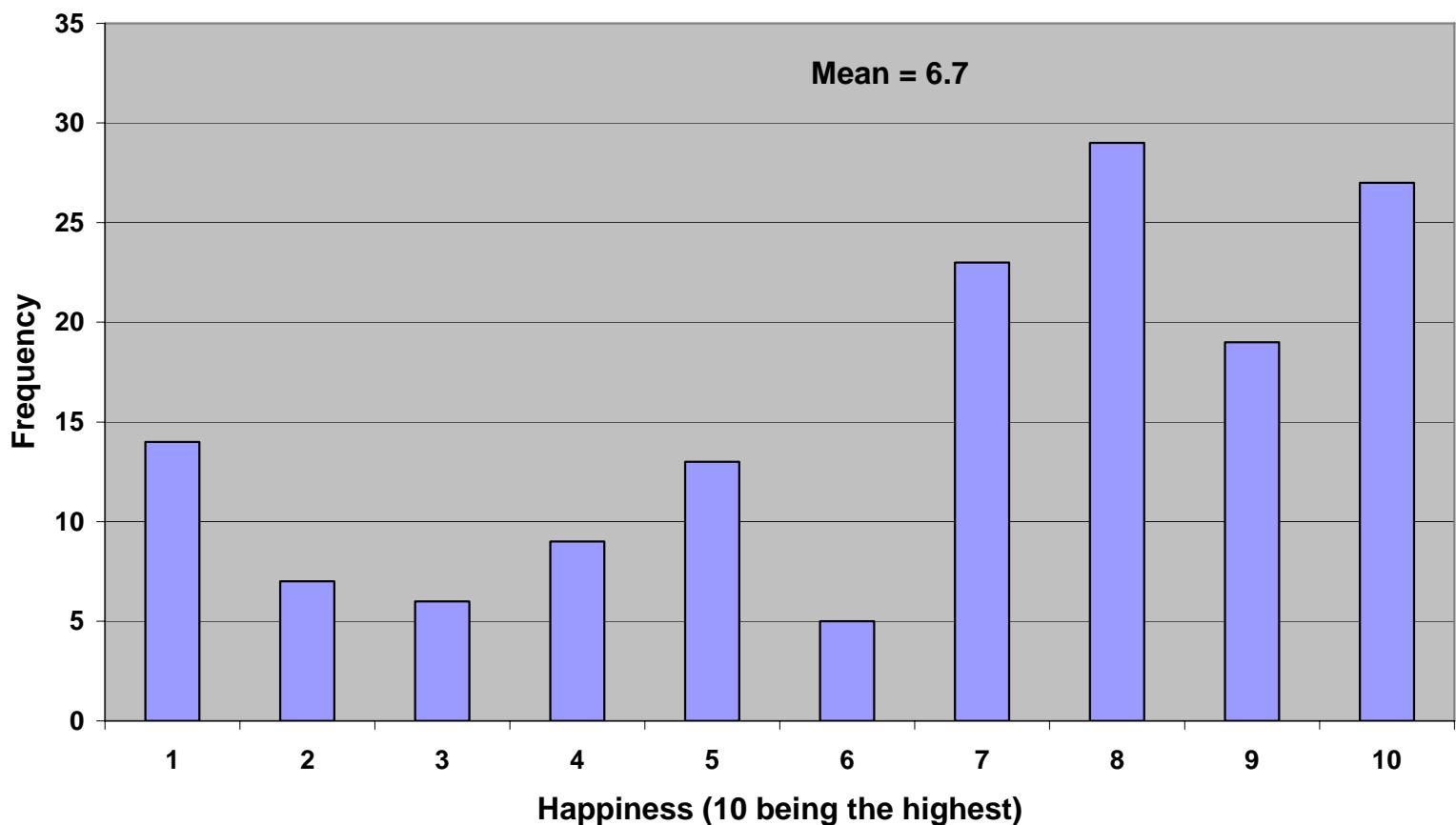
Because of this door-by-door sampling method, the resulting sample is not a random sample of the Ontario & Scio community. Despite this, the resulting analysis should give valuable insight into the various issues within the Ontario & Scio community.

Data

Seventeen groups surveyed eleven streets in the Ontario & Scio community. These streets were Davis Street, Lewis Street, Ontario Street, Woodward Street, Weld Street, Lyndhurst Street, Scio Street, Union Street, Champeney Terrace, Kenilworth Terrace, and Alexander Street. Due to a small number of surveys collected on each street it is difficult to accurately compare between them. Therefore, for this analysis the surveys collected from the streets mentioned above will be pooled together for analysis. This group will be referred to as 'the Ontario & Scio community'. A total of **162** surveys were collected from the neighborhood.

The first question to the Ontario & Scio community asked respondents to rate on a scale of one to ten, ten being the highest, how happy they were living in their neighborhood. Most respondents, 19.1%, listed an eight, the third highest score. Overall, 67.5% reported a 6 or higher. The mean, or average, response for this section was a 6.7 on the 1-10 scale.

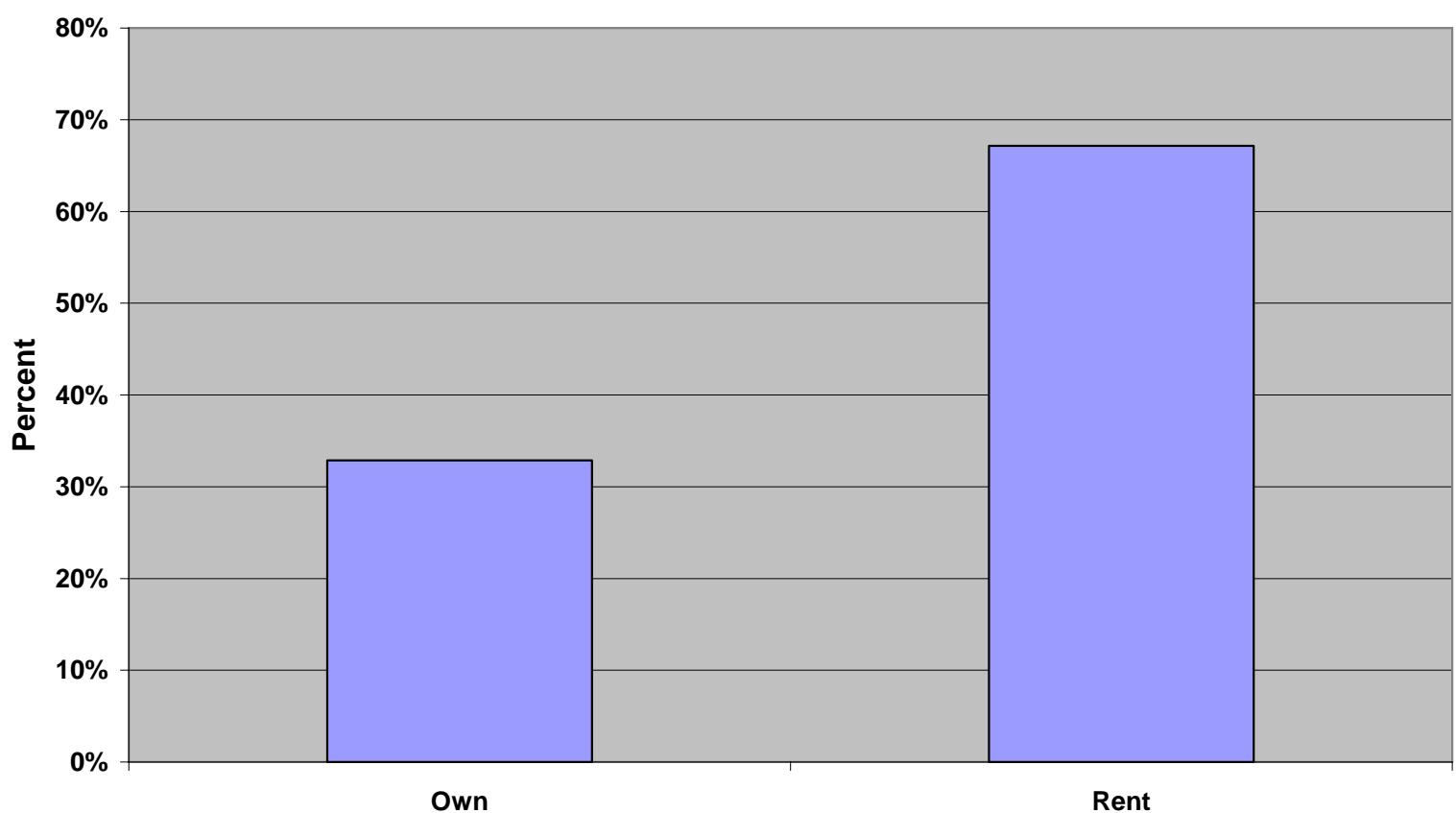
Happiness of Community Around Ontario & Scio Intersection N = 152



For the first time in a Project TIPS community survey, residents were asked about their living situation. Specifically, residents were asked if they owned or rented their property. Of the 143 residents who answered this question, 32.9% reported that they owned their property and the remaining 67.1% reported that they rented the property.

Living Situation for Ontario & Scio Community Residents

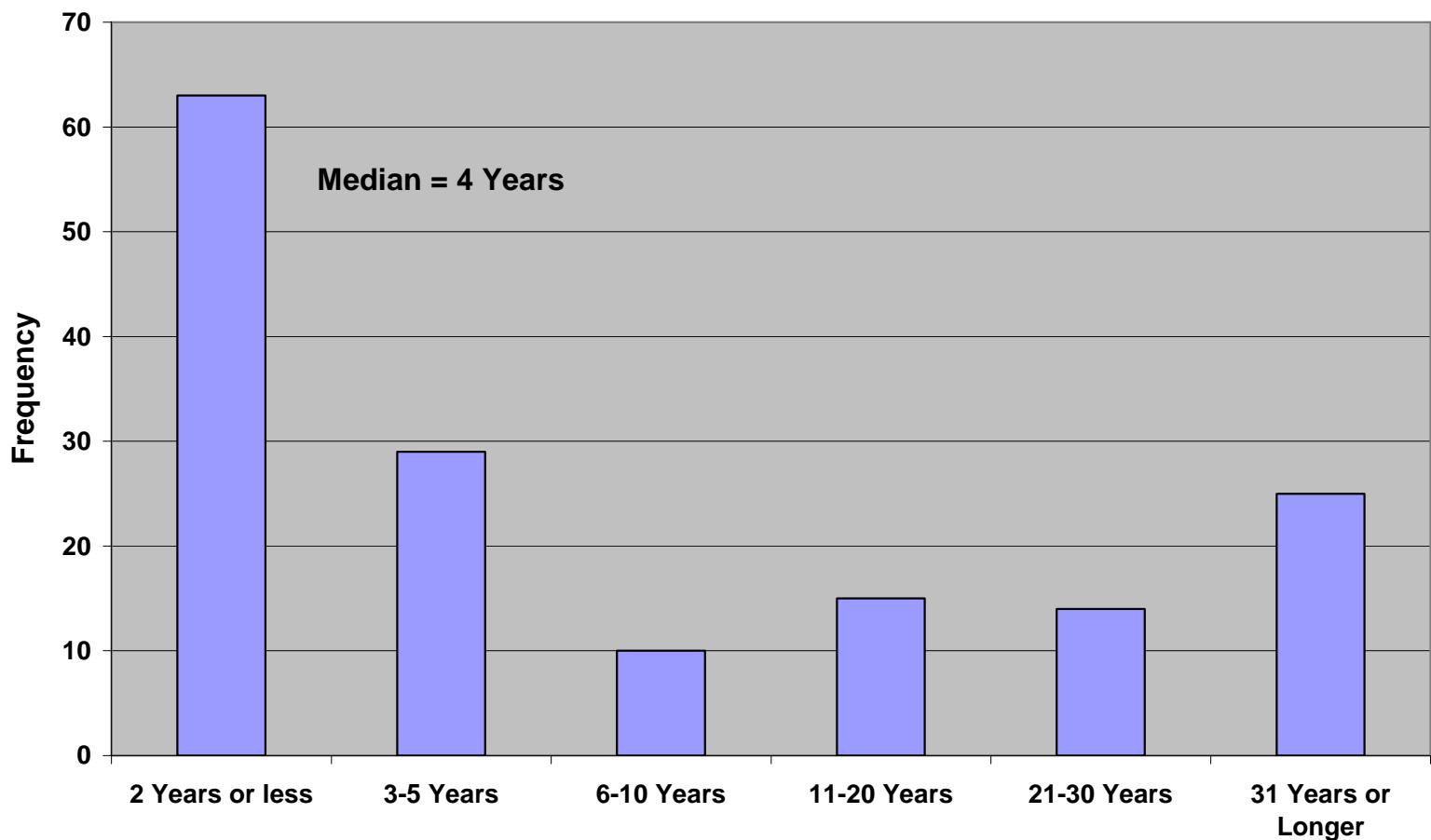
N = 143



The next question asked respondents how long they had lived in the Ontario & Scio community. Of the respondents, 27.6% had lived in the area one year or less, 59% reported living in the area five years or less, and 65.4% reported living in the area 10 years or less. The median number of years lived in the area for the respondents was four.

Respondent's Years Lived in Ontario & Scio Community

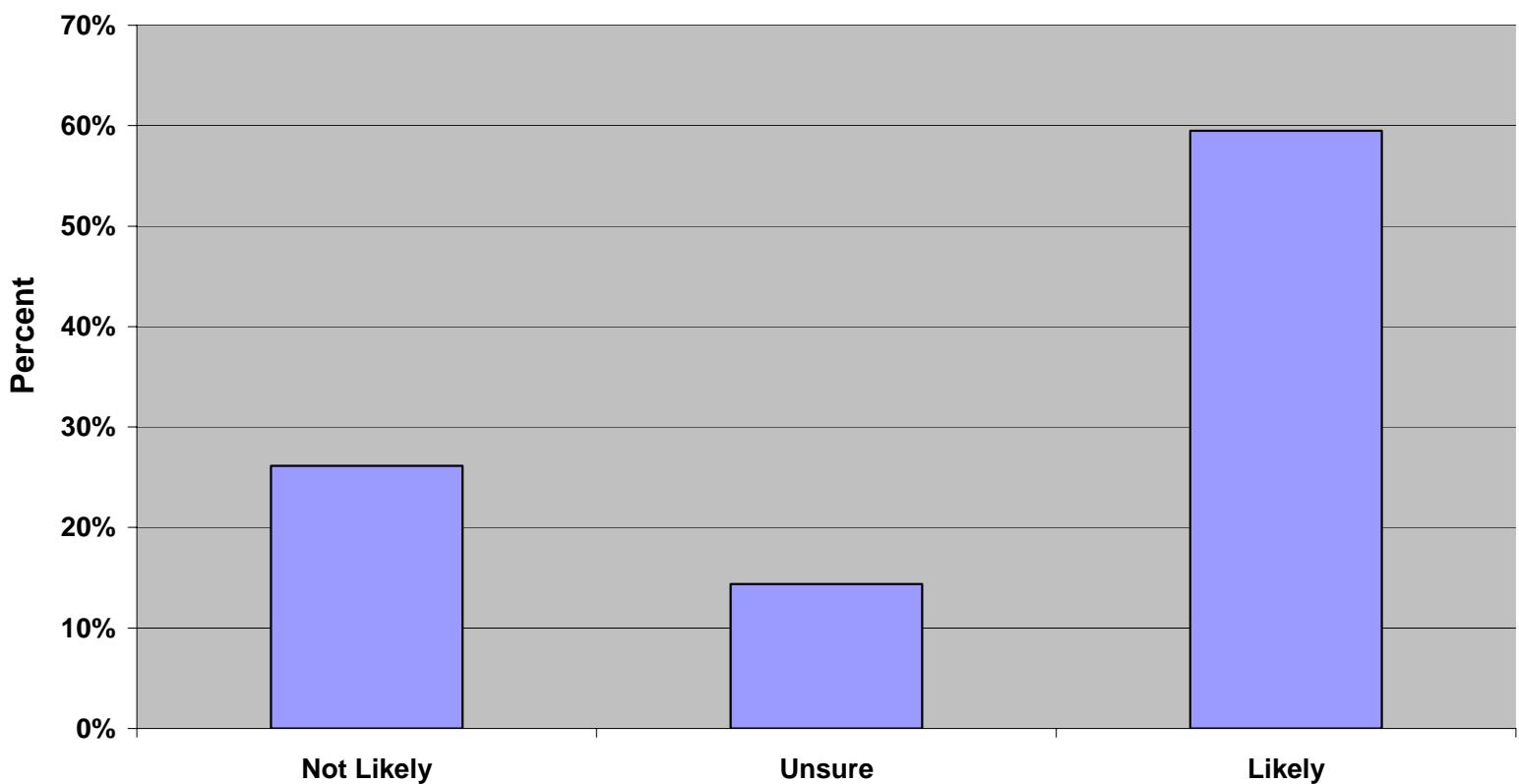
N = 156



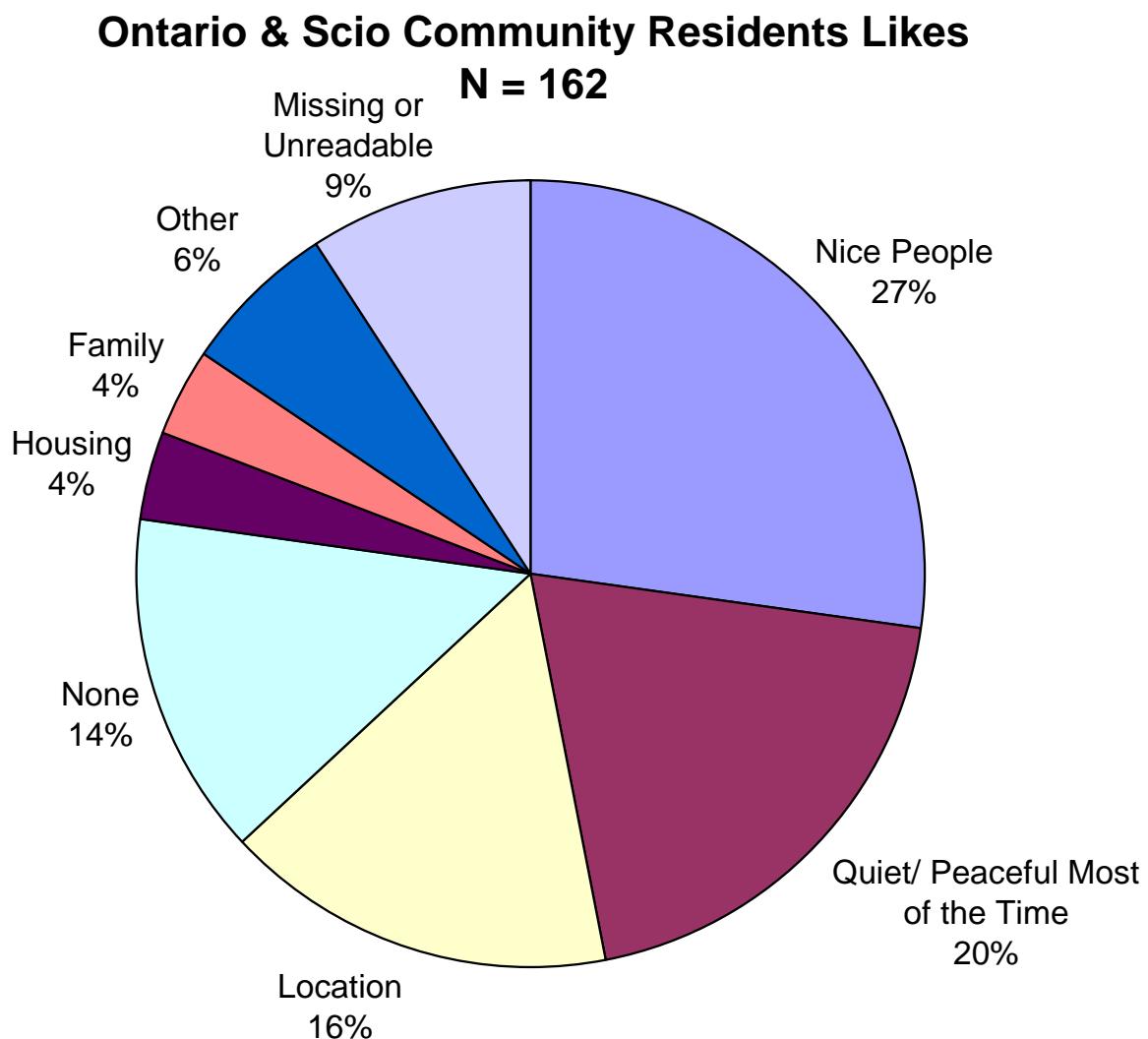
The next question asked residents how likely they were to be living in the Ontario & Scio community in two years time. Responses were taken on a three point scale consisting of the responses ‘not likely’, ‘unsure’, and ‘likely’. Of the 153 residents who responded to this question, 59.5% stated that they were likely to be in the area in two years, 14.4% responded that they were unsure, and 26.1% reported that it was not likely that they would be in the area in two years.

Likelihood that Ontario & Scio Residents Will Be living in the Area in Two Years

N = 153



The next question asked residents to list the one thing they liked most in the Ontario & Scio community. This question was open ended, meaning that the residents were not limited as to what they could respond. For the few residents who listed multiple responses, the first response was chosen. Most respondents, 27%, stated that they liked the people around the Ontario Scio Intersection, followed by 20% reporting that they liked how the area was ‘quiet’ or peaceful. The remaining responses are depicted in the graphic below. The category of ‘other’ refers to the responses of ‘Can’t say, I just moved here’, ‘everything’, ‘lived there a long time’, ‘it’s potential’, ‘drugs’, ‘it’s clean’, ‘it’s active’, and ‘the police’. Twelve respondents did not answer the question.

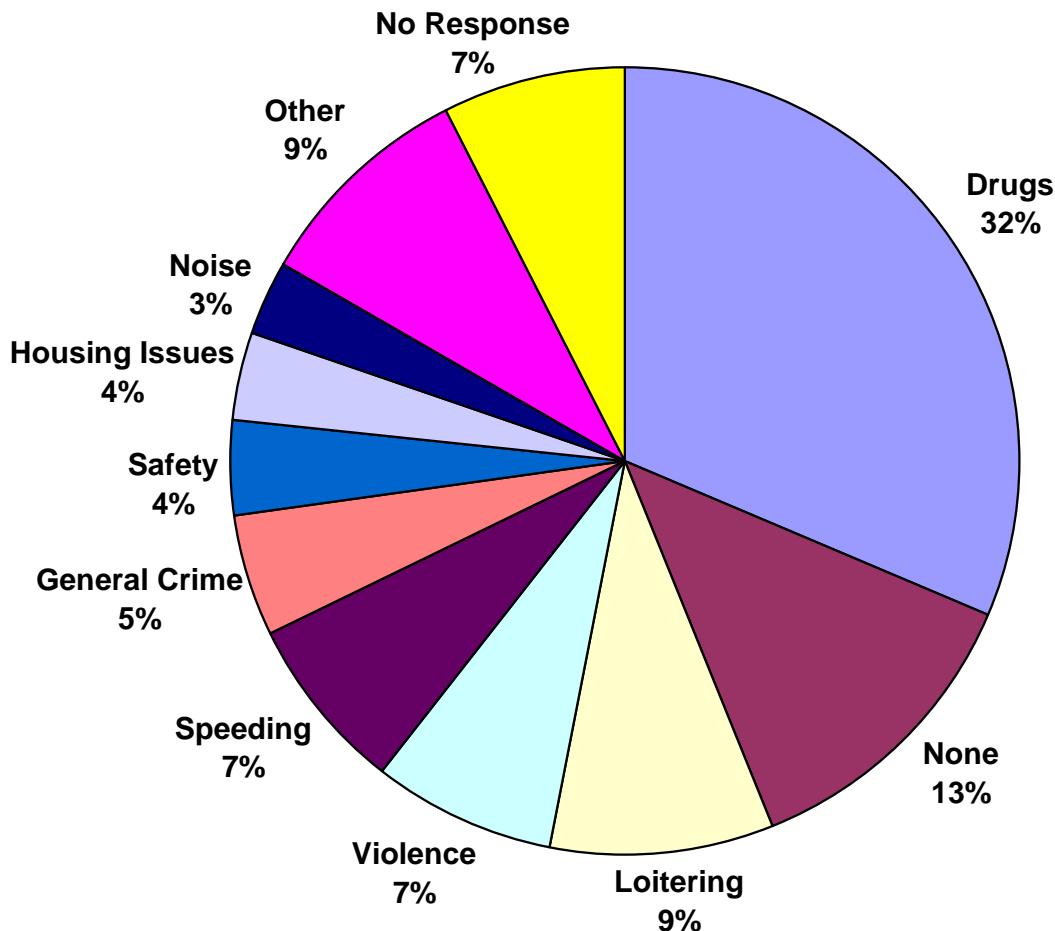


The next question asked residents to list up to three concerns that they had in the Ontario & Scio community. In this survey, the respondents were also asked to list these concerns in ranked order. The highest concerns listed by the Ontario & Scio community will be discussed first.

For the residents' highest listed concerns, 32% reported drugs and 9% reported loitering youth. Of the respondents, 13% specifically reported that they had no concerns whatsoever.

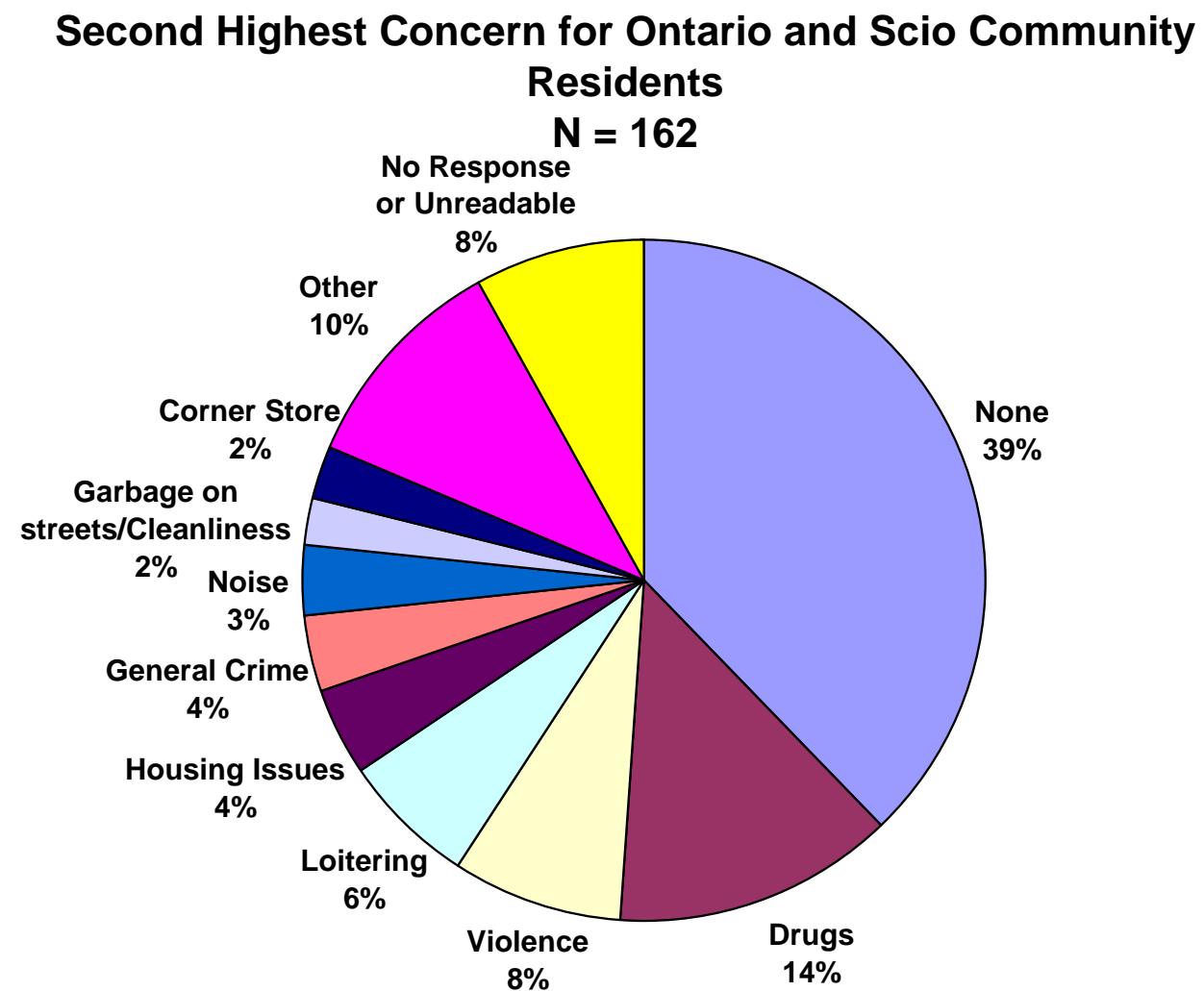
- The category '**General Crime**' includes gangs (1), theft (1), and burglary (1).
- The category '**Other**' is composed of police harassment (1), bad police (1), lack of business (1), verbal disputes (1), slumlords/absentee landlords (2), the corner store (3), lack of youth activities (3), and garbage on streets (3).

Highest Concern for Ontario and Scio Community Residents N = 162



For the residents' second highest concern, 14% reported drugs and 8% reported violence. Because of the ranking system in the survey, those respondents who left only one concern, captured in the previous graph, were reported as having no second highest or third highest concern. These individuals were also coded as 'none'.

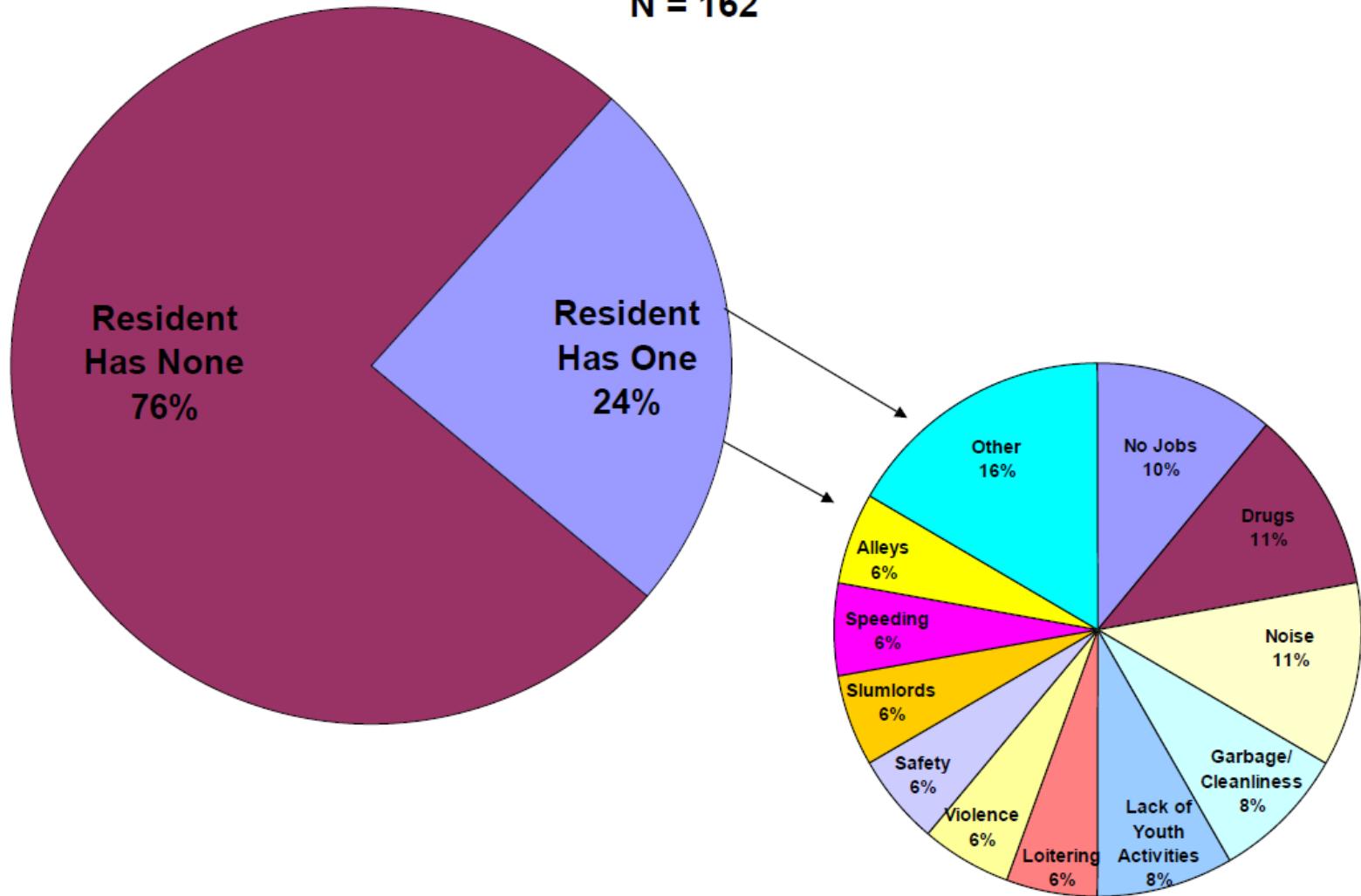
- The category '**General Crime**' includes burglary (2), and gangs (2).
- The category '**Other**' is composed of police distribute caller's name (1), people with shopping carts (1), police brutality (1), no jobs(1), lack of youth activities(1), lack of business(1), slow police response (1), dogs (1), the alleys (2), speeding (3), and safety (3).



For the third highest concern, 26% reported a variety of concerns. These are listed in the graphic below. Finally, 74% did not report a third concern.

- The category ‘**Other**’ is composed of lack of business (1), general crime (1), snow removal (1), youth bullies (1), people not doing the right thing (1), and housing issues (1).

Third Highest Concern for Ontario & Scio Community Residents
N = 162



Next, this analysis will look at the reported concerns in aggregate. The tables below list every concern listed by the Ontario & Scio community, broken down into issues of criminal activity and quality of life, respectively. These tables are mutually exclusive though one could make the argument that many of the concerns for criminal activity have a tremendous affect on the quality of life of those residents in the community Ontario & Scio community.

Aggregated Concerns (Policing or Criminal Activity)

Concerns	Number that Reported Concern
Drugs	77
Violence	27
Safety	11
General Crime	8
Corner Store	7
Burglary	3
Gangs	3
Theft	1
Slow Police Response	1
Police Harassment	1
Police Brutality	1
Police Distribute Caller's Names	1
Bad police Officers	1
Total	142

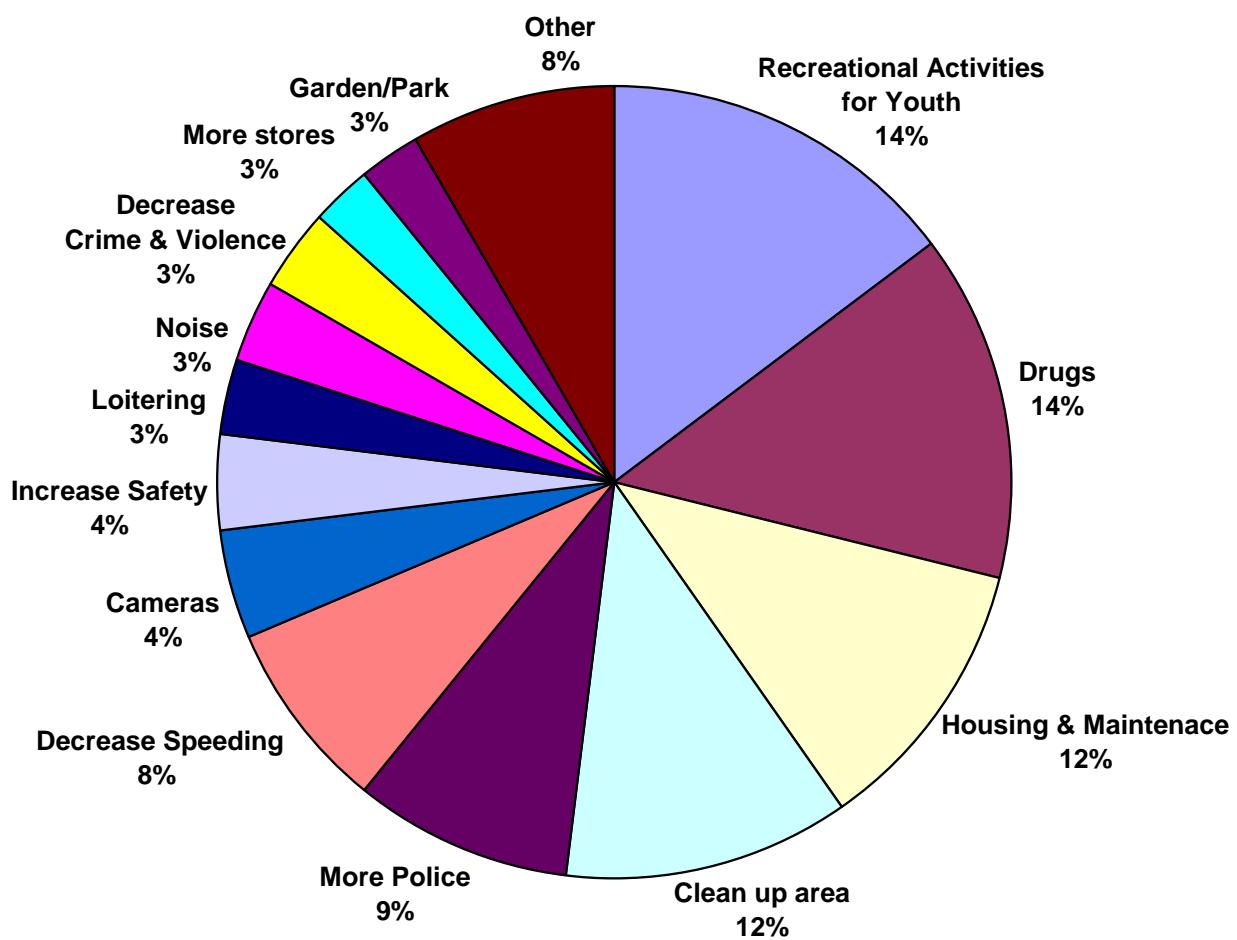
Aggregated Concerns (QOL)

Concerns	Number that Reported Concern
Loitering	27
Speeding	17
Noise	14
Housing Issues	14
Garbage on Streets	10
No Jobs	6
Lack of Youth Activities	6
Slumlords/Absentee Landlords	4
Alleys	4
Lack of Business	3
Dogs	1
People with Shopping Carts	1
Verbal Disputes	1
Disrespectful Youth	1
People not Doing the Right Thing	1
Youth Bullies	1
Snow Removal	1
Total	112

The next question asked respondents if there were any specific requests to be done in the Ontario & Scio community. A total of 111 respondents listed a total of 156 requests. Eighteen respondents listed two requests, and twelve listed three. The most frequent requests were for dealing with housing and maintenance issues (33%), which included tearing down abandoned houses and cleaning up yards, followed by a general calling to see a reduction in crime. The remainder of the requests is listed below.

- The category ‘Other’ is composed of calls for a improve police attitude (1), build community (1), make people more respectful (1), increase police effort (1), take care of groundhogs (1), reduce truancy (1), improve access to resources (1), fix schools (1), implement community policing (1), form a community watch (1), implement a curfew (1), and take care of slumlords (2).

Requests from Ontario and Scio Community



Next, this analysis will look at these requests in aggregate. The tables below list every request posited by the Ontario & Scio community, broken down into issues of policing and quality of life, respectively. These tables are mutually exclusive. Notice the shift in the number of policing related requests compared to the number of QOL requests. A significant number of respondents listed a QOL request where as only a modest number of respondents listed a policing request. The disparity between the number of policing requests listed and the number of policing concerns listing is interesting.

Requests (Policing Issues)

Requests	Number that Reported Request
Reduce Drugs	22
More police	14
Cameras	7
Reduce Violence	3
Decrease Crime Generally	2
Implement Curfew	1
Implement Community Policing	1
Increase Police Effort	1
Improve Police Attitude	1
Total	52

Requests (QOL Issues)

Requests	Number that Reported Request
Recreational Activities for Youth	23
Housing/Vacant Lots Maintenance Issues	18
Clean up Area	18
Speeding	12
Increase Safety	6
Decrease Loitering	5
Reduce Noise	5
More Stores	4
Build Parks or Gardens	4
Deal with Slumlords	2
Make People more Respectful	1
Community Watch	1
Build Sense of Community	1
Fix Schools	1
Improve Access to Resources	1
Decrease Truancy	1
Take Care of Groundhogs	1
Total	128

Community Anecdotes

The next two questions asked respondents if they had anything specific to tell the police or their fellow community members. Because these questions were open ended, it is difficult to accurately quantify the majority of these statements. However, these anecdotes can provide interesting insight into how the members of the Ontario & Scio community think and feel about police, crime, community, and quality of life issues in their neighborhood.

In regards to specific statements for police, 60 of the 162 residents left a response. Of those, 10 reported specific crimes or criminal behaviors. Those reports have been provided to Rochester Police Chief David Moore. Unlike previous Project TIPS, only one respondent provided encouragement for the police, thanking them for their presence. Four offered criticisms of police, requesting that ‘police stop harassing people’, and that they ‘can’t trust you because you tell others that we reported them.’ A large contingent of residents want police to know that there is generally criminal activity in the neighborhood.

In regards to specific ideas to tell community members, 100 of the 162 left responses. Of those 100, 50 reported in one way or another that building community, working together, or organizing would be helpful in the area. Other respondents asked neighbors to call the police more, parent their children more, and take care of their homes and yards.