

Analysis of Lyell Avenue

TIPS Initiative

(Trust – Information – Programs – Services)

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Analysis of Lyell Avenue TIPS Initiative Survey

The TIPS initiative, which stands for Trust, Information, Programs, and services, on Lyell Avenue 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 community south of Lyell Avenue has for the neighborhood, the various concerns the community south of Lyell Avenue has about their neighborhood, and the initiatives or activities the community south of Lyell Avenue would like implemented within the neighborhood. Finally, this paper will provide multiple anecdotes that the community members near Lyell Avenue wish to share with law enforcement and community members in the neighborhood around Lyell Avenue.

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.

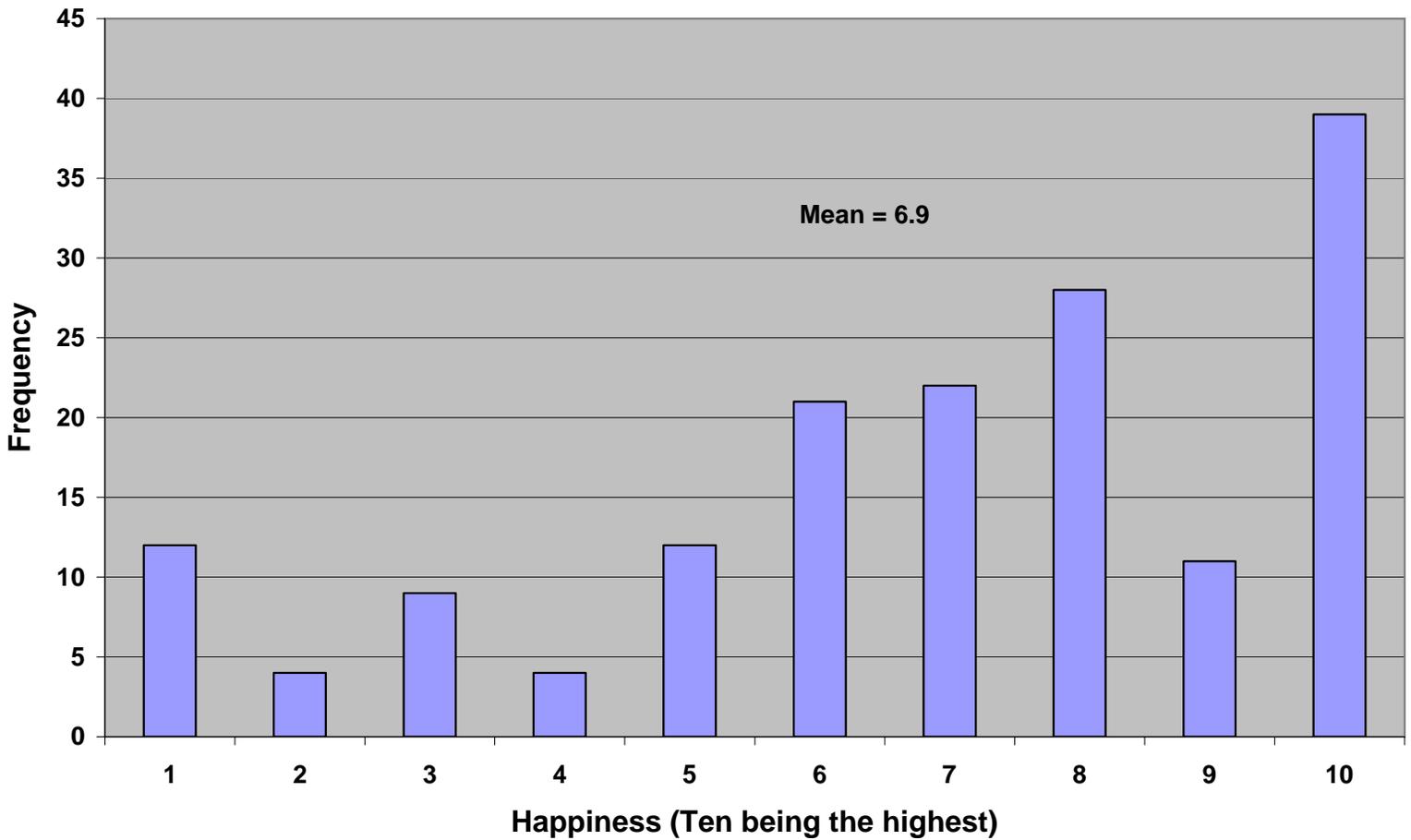
Because of this door-by-door sampling method, the resulting sample is not a random sample of the community surrounding Lyell Avenue. Despite this, the resulting analysis should give valuable insight into the various issues within the Lyell Avenue community.

Data

Twenty-two groups surveyed thirteen streets in the neighborhood south of Lyell Avenue. These streets were Child Street, Whitney Street, Orchard Street, Saxton Street, Walnut Street, Grape Street, Riley Park, Lime Street, Smith Street, Kondolf Street, Jay Street, Orange Street, Romeyn Street, and Campbell 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 community south of Lyell Avenue'. A total of **166** surveys were collected from the neighborhood.

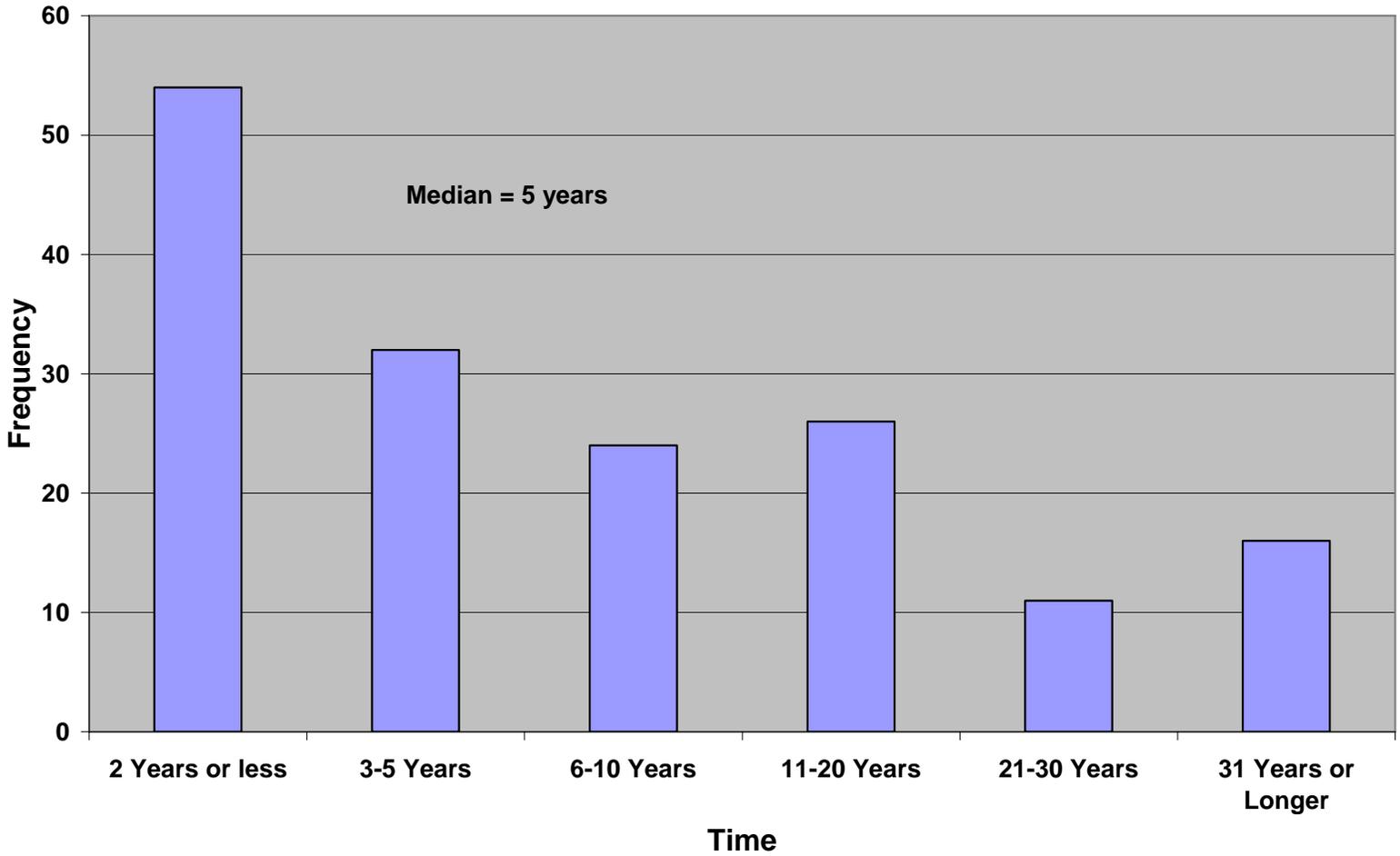
The first question to the community south of Lyell Avenue asked respondents to rate on a scale of one to ten, ten being the highest, how happy they were living in their neighborhood. Most respondents, 23.5%, listed a ten, the highest possible score. Overall, 74.7% reported a 6 or higher. The mean, or average, response for this section was a 6.9 on the 1-10 scale.

Community South of Lyell Avenue's Reported Happiness in Living in the Area
N = 162



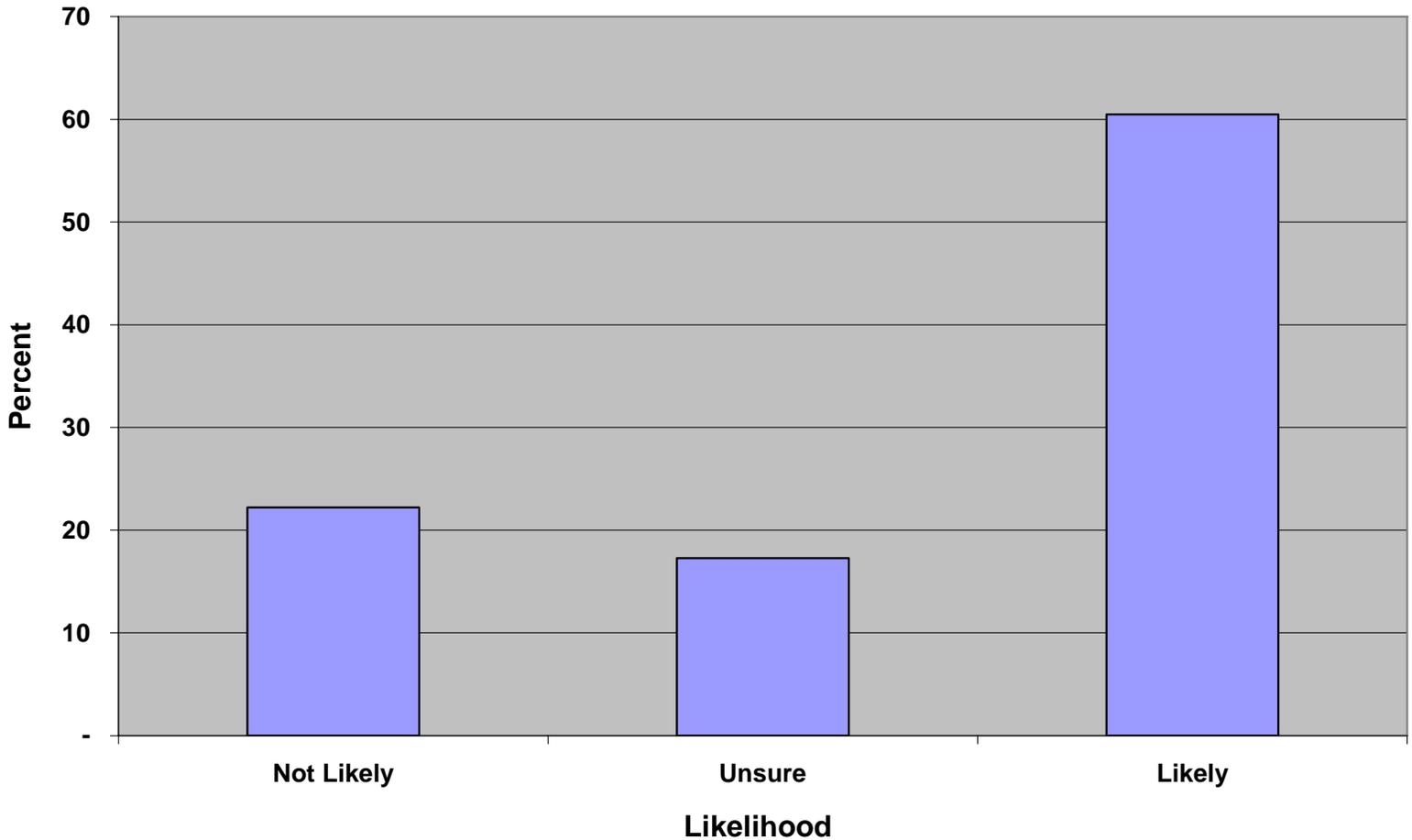
The next question asked respondents how long they had lived in the community south of Lyell Avenue. Of the respondents, 22.1% had lived in the area one year or less, 52.8% reported living in the area five years or less, and 67.5% reported living in the area 10 years or less. The median number of years lived in the area for these respondents was five.

Respondent's Years Lived in Lyell Avenue Area
N = 163



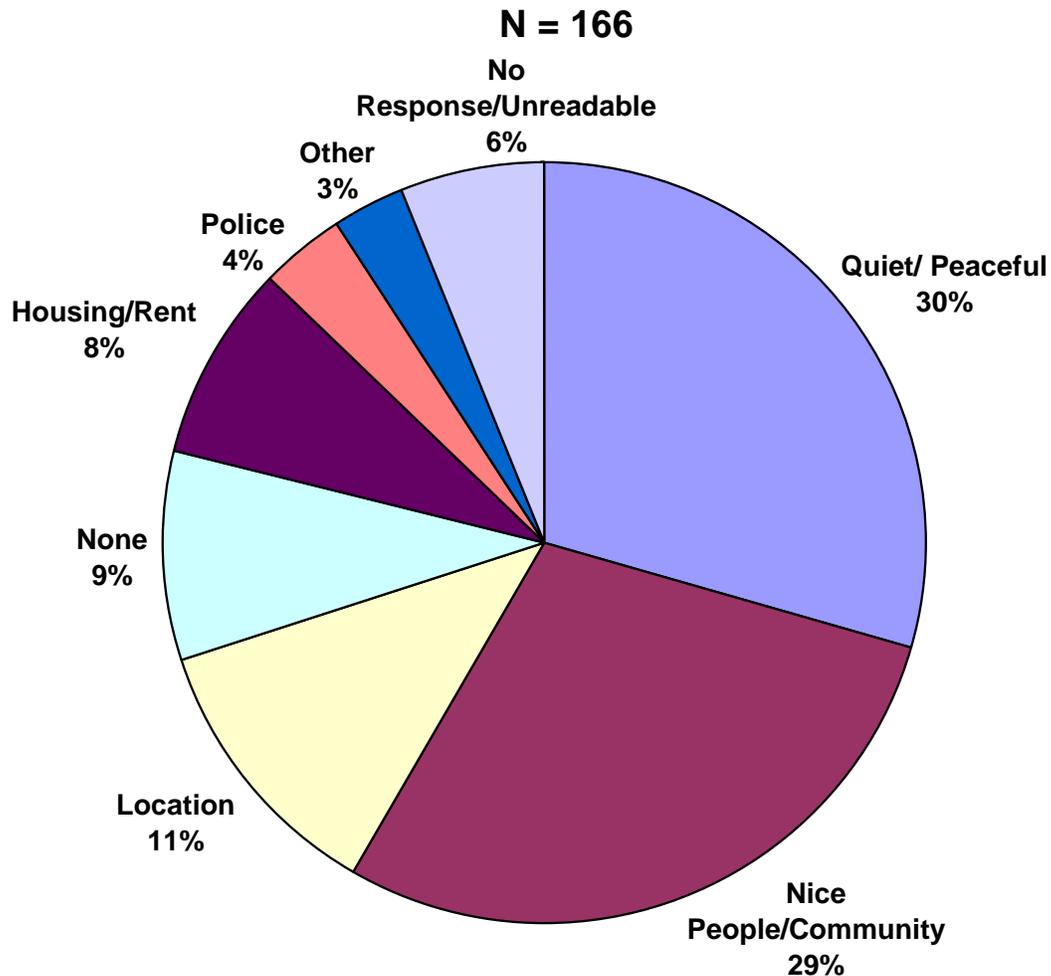
The next question asked residents how likely they were to be living in the community south of Lyell Avenue in two years time. Responses were taken on a three point scale consisting of the responses 'not likely', 'unsure', and 'likely'. Of the 163 residents who responded to this question, 60.5% stated that they were likely to be in the area in two years, 17.3% responded that they were unsure, and 22.2% reported that it was not likely that they would be in the area in two years.

How Likely Respondents are to be Living in the Neighborhood in Two Years
N = 162



The next question asked residents to list the one thing they liked most in the community south of Lyell Avenue. This questions 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, 30%, stated that they liked how the area was 'quiet' or peaceful, followed by 29% reporting that they liked the people around Lyell Avenue. 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 improving', and 'I can play my music'. Nine respondents did not answer the question, and one survey listed a response that was illegible.

Lyell Avenue Respondent's Reported Likes about their Neighborhood

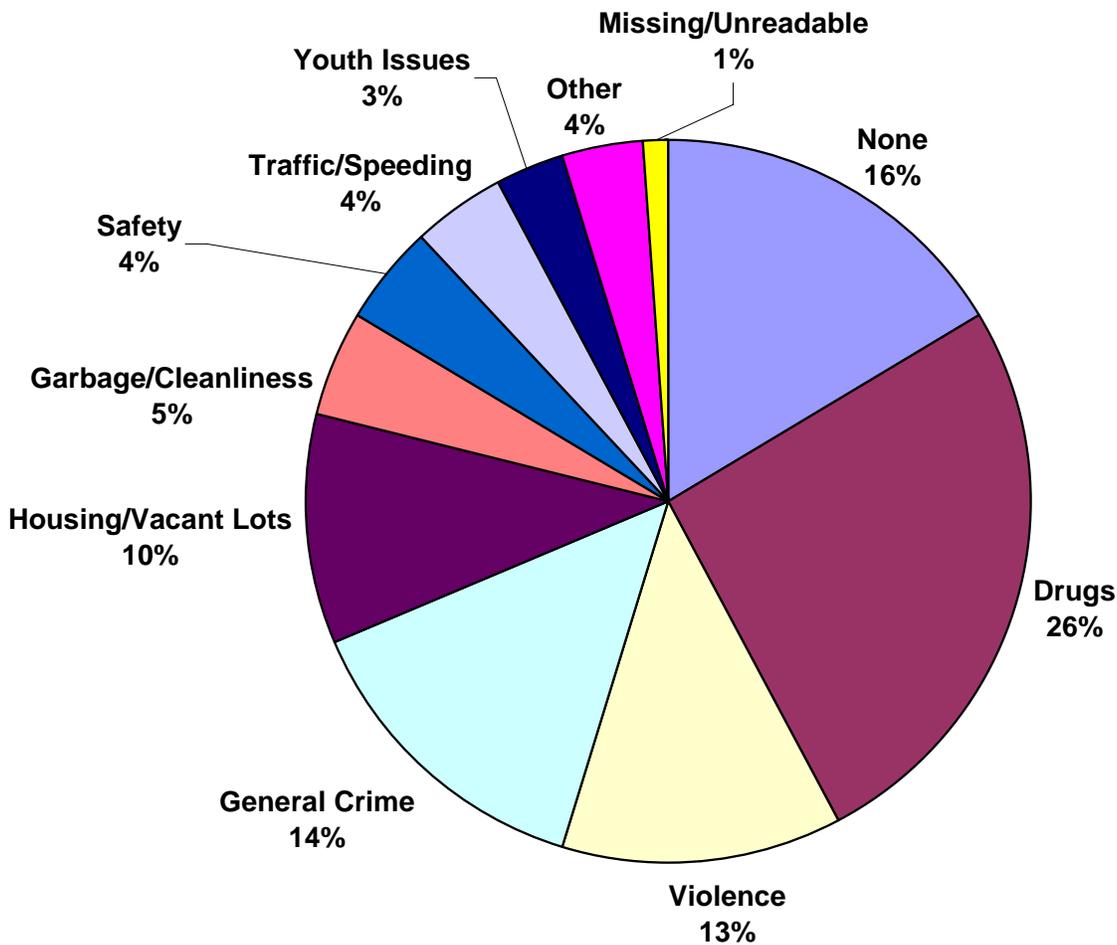


The next question asked residents to list up to three concerns that they had in the community south of Lyell Avenue. In this survey, the respondents were also asked to list these concerns in ranked order. The highest concerns listed by the community south of Lyell Avenue will be discussed first.

For the residents' highest listed concerns, 26% reported drugs and 13% reported violence. Of the respondents, 16% specifically reported that they had no concerns whatsoever.

- The category '**General Crime**' includes gangs (1), prostitution (1), arson (2), burglary (4), and theft (5).
- The category '**Youth Issues**' is composed of lack of parental supervision (1), lack of youth activities (1), and youth loitering (3).
- The category '**Other**' is composed of verbal disputes (1), dogs (1), lack of social cohesion (1), and noise (3).

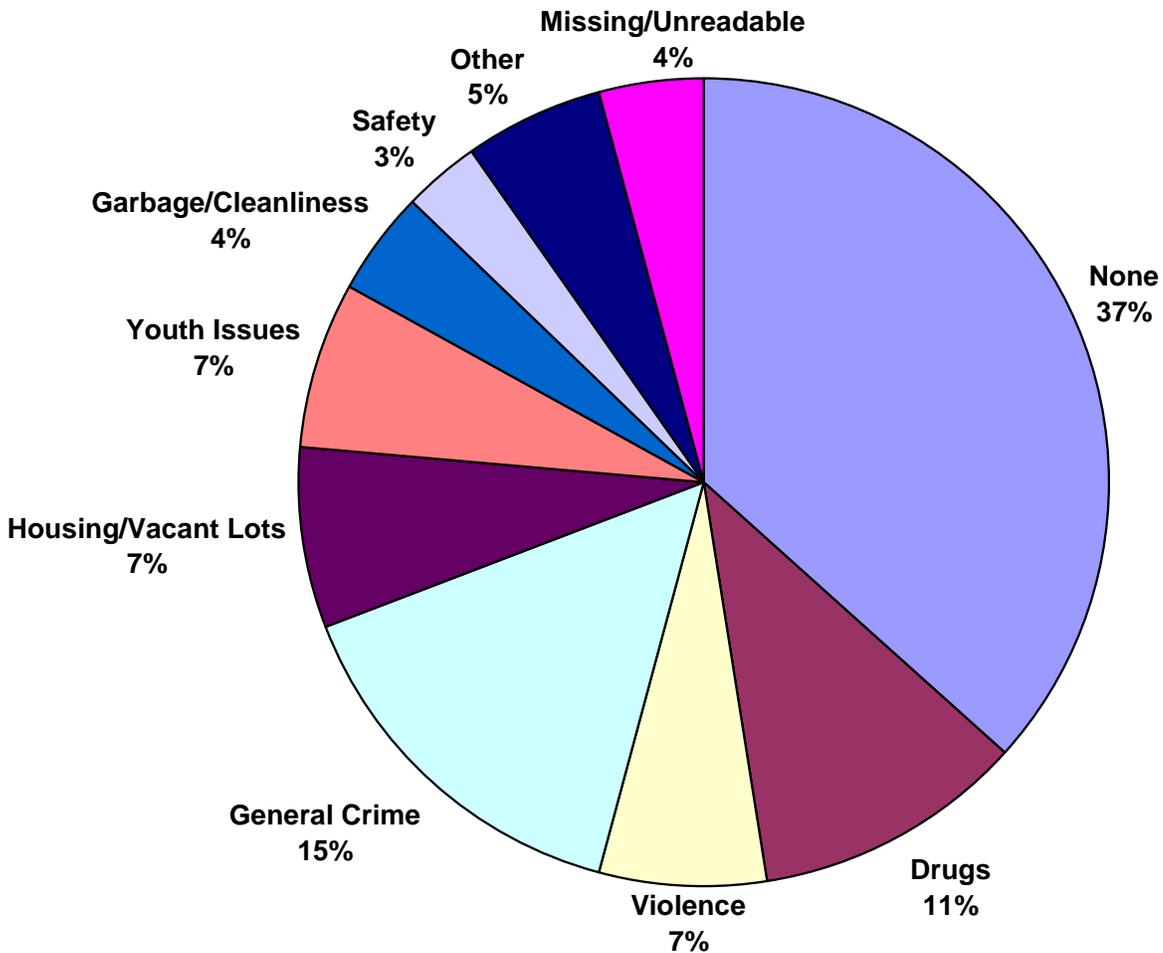
Lyell Avenue Area Residents' Highest Concerns N = 166



For the residents' second highest concern, 11% reported drugs and 10% 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 arson (1), burglary (1), vandalism (2), gangs (3), theft (3), and prostitution (6).
- The category '**Youth Issues**' is composed of truancy (1), lack of parental supervision (1), lack of youth activities (2), disrespectful youth(3), and youth loitering (4).
- The category '**Other**' is composed of people in area (1), failing schools (1), rats (2), noise (2), and traffic/speeding (3).

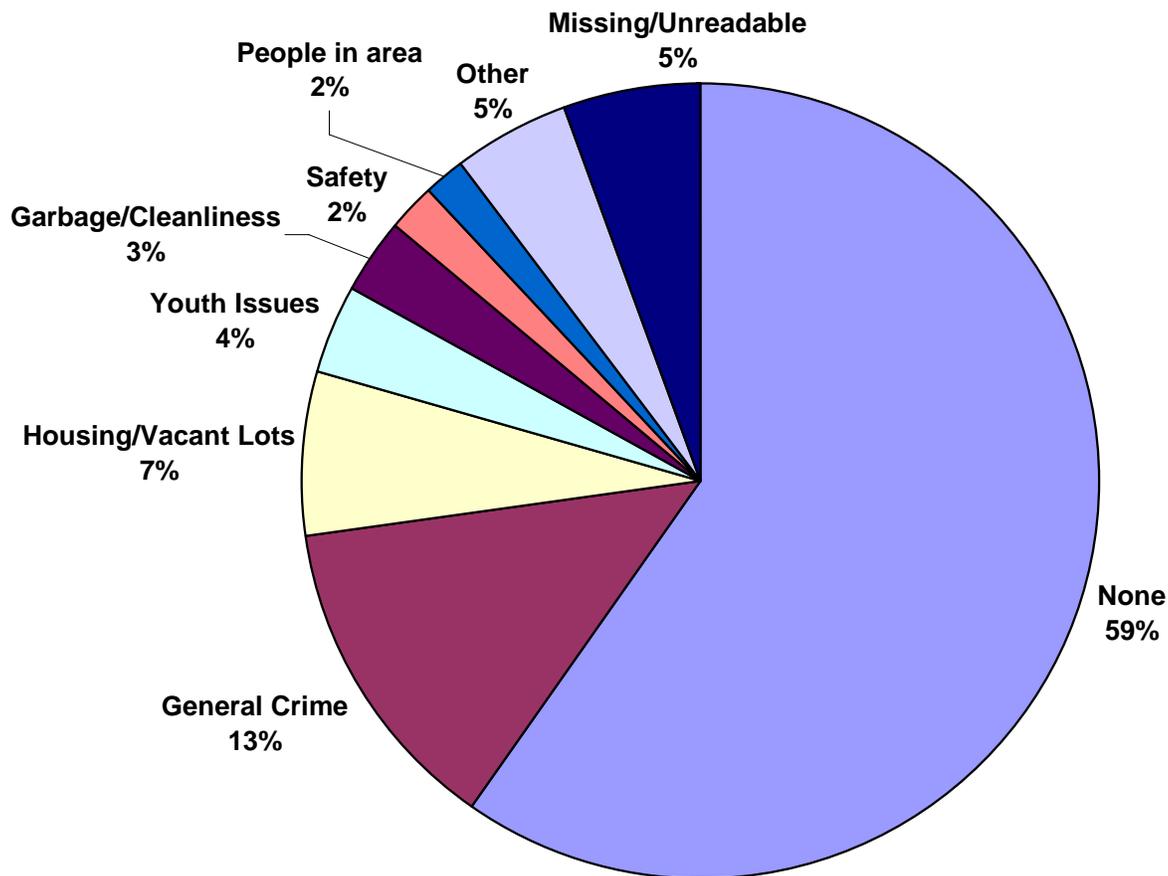
Lyell Avenue Area Residents 2nd Highest Concerns
N = 166



For the third highest concern, 13% reported concern for general crime rates and 7% reported concern for housing or maintenance issues. Finally, 59% did not report a third concern.

- The category **‘General Crime’** includes arson (1), prostitution (1), burglary (2), drugs (4), and violence (7).
- The category **‘Youth Issues’** is composed of lack of parental supervision (1), lack of youth activities (1), disrespectful youth (1), and youth loitering (3).
- The category **‘Other’** is composed of failing government agencies (1), slow police response (1), rats (1), and traffic/speeding (1), poverty (2), and noise (2).

Lyell Avenue Residents' 3rd Highest Concerns N = 166



Next, this analysis will look at these concerns in aggregate. The tables below list every concern listed by the community south of Lyell Avenue, 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 neighborhood south of Lyell Avenue.

Aggregated Concerns (Criminal Activity)

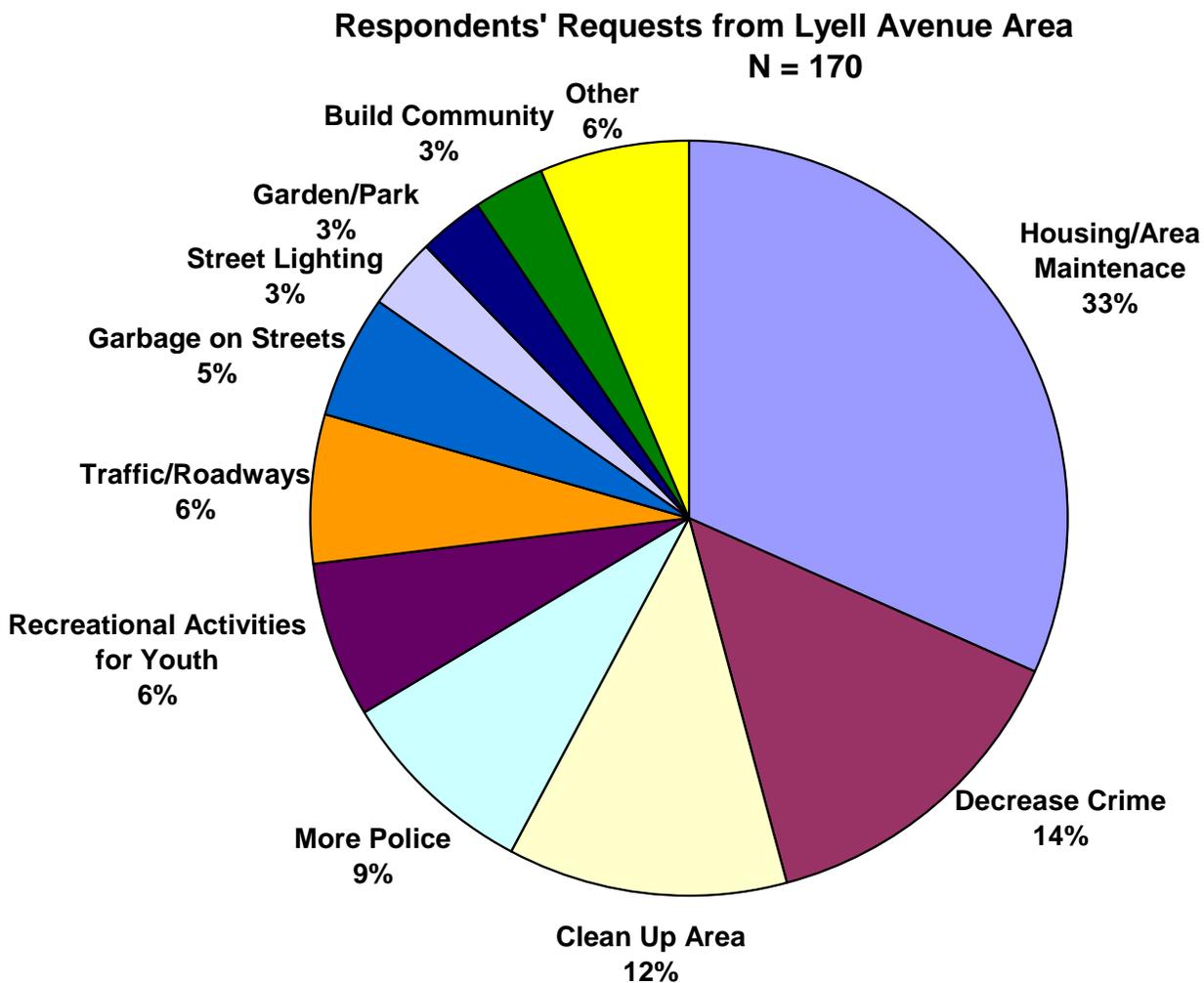
Concerns	Number that Reported Concern
Drugs	65
Violence	39
General/Increasing Crime Rates	26
Theft	8
Prostitution	8
Burglary	7
Gangs	4
Arson	4
Vandalism	2
Total	163

Aggregated Concerns (QOL)

Concerns	Number that Reported Concern
Housing/Vacant Lots Maintenance Issues	40
Garbage/Cleanliness of Neighborhood	20
Traffic/Speeding	11
Youths Hanging Out	10
Youth Safety	8
Noise	7
Personal Safety	5
Lack of Youth Activities	4
People in Area	4
Disrespectful Youth	4
Lack of Parental Involvement/Supervision	3
Rats	3
Poverty	3
Slow Police Response	1
Verbal Disputes	1
Failure of Government Agencies	1
Lack of Community Cohesion/Unity	1
Dogs	1
Truancy	1
Failing Schools	1
Total	128

The next question asked respondents if there were any specific requests to be done in the community south of Lyell Avenue. A total of 140 respondents listed a total of 170 requests. Only 30 respondents listed two requests. 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 **‘Decrease Crime’** includes calls for reductions in drugs (16), prostitution (2), violence (2), gangs (2), and theft (1).
- The category **‘Other’** is composed of calls for a community watch (4), cameras (3), a safer neighborhood (2), more respectful people (1), and more parental involvement (1).



Next, this analysis will look at these requests in aggregate. The tables below list every request posited by the community south of Lyell Avenue, 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	16
More police	15
Cameras	3
Reduce Gangs	2
Reduce Violence	2
Reduce Prostitution	2
Reduce Theft	1
Decrease Crime Generally	1
Total	42

Requests (QOL Issues)

Requests	Number that Reported Request
Housing/Vacant Lots Maintenance Issues	54
Clean up Area	20
Traffic/Speeding	11
Recreational Activities for Youth	11
Clean up Garbage on Streets	9
Build Community	5
Street Lights	5
Garden/Park	5
Community Watch	4
Increase Safety	2
Make People more Respectful	1
More Parental Involvement	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 community south

of Lyell Avenue think and feel about police, crime, community, and quality of life issues in their neighborhood.

In regards to specific statements for police, 97 of the 166 residents left a response. Of those, only a handful reported specific crimes or criminal behaviors. Those reports have been provided to Rochester Police Chief David Moore. Sixteen people provided encouragement for the police, saying that they were 'doing a good job', or to 'keep up the good work'. Eight offered criticisms of police, requesting faster response times or stating that '[the] police stereotype.' Others listed that they wished police would use 'more foot patrols and less car patrols.' Finally, two respondents requested that the police 'interact more with citizens on a positive note' particularly when crime is inactive in an area.

In regards to specific ideas to tell community members, 63 of the 166 left responses. Of those 63, 38 reported in one way or another that building community, working together, or organization would be helpful in the area. The majority of the other respondents asked neighbors to take care of their homes and yards.