

Analysis of Ontario & Scio

Return Project TIPS

(Trust – Information – Programs – Services)

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Greg Drake
Center for Public Safety Initiatives
Rochester Institute of Technology
585-475-2432
Gmd3165@rit.edu

John Klofas
Center for Public Safety Initiatives
Rochester Institute of Technology
585-475-2432
jmkgcj@rit.edu

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Analysis of Ontario & Scio Second 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 show both support for a neighborhood that has been taken aback by drugs and youth violence, and to investigate community members' concerns and desires for their neighborhood. This report is designed to analyze the second part of that initiative. It will discuss the various positive characteristics 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.

Project TIPS first visited the Ontario and Scio neighborhood in July of 2010. As this is the second time that Project TIPS has visited the neighborhood, residents were also asked if they had seen a change in their neighborhood over the past year.

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.

A press conference was held one week prior to the event informing the neighborhood about the community survey and the service fair. Groups also handed out fliers to the neighborhood detailing the event. 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 provided 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.

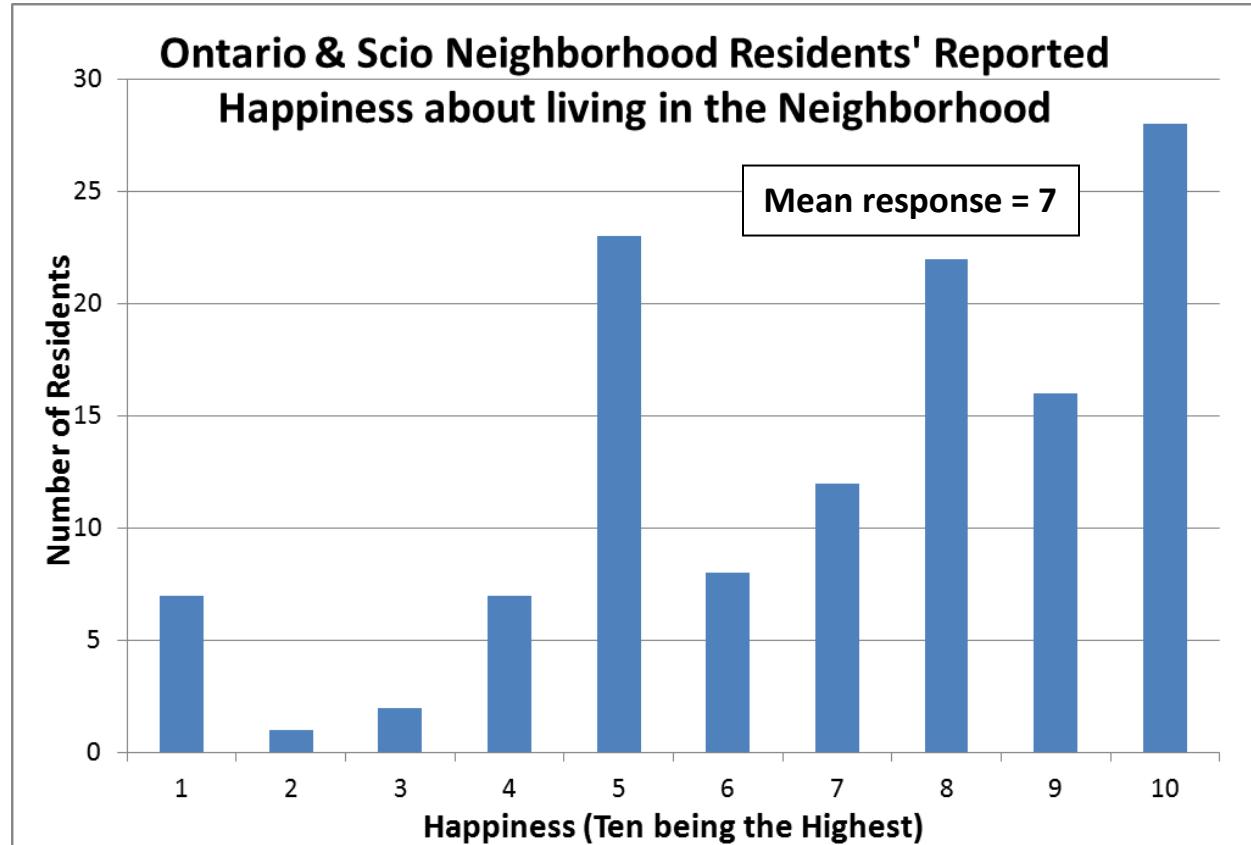
Because of this door-by-door sampling method, the resulting sample is not a random sample of the Ontario & Scio community. Despite this, the resulting analysis should give valuable insight into the various issues within the Ontario & Scio community.

Data

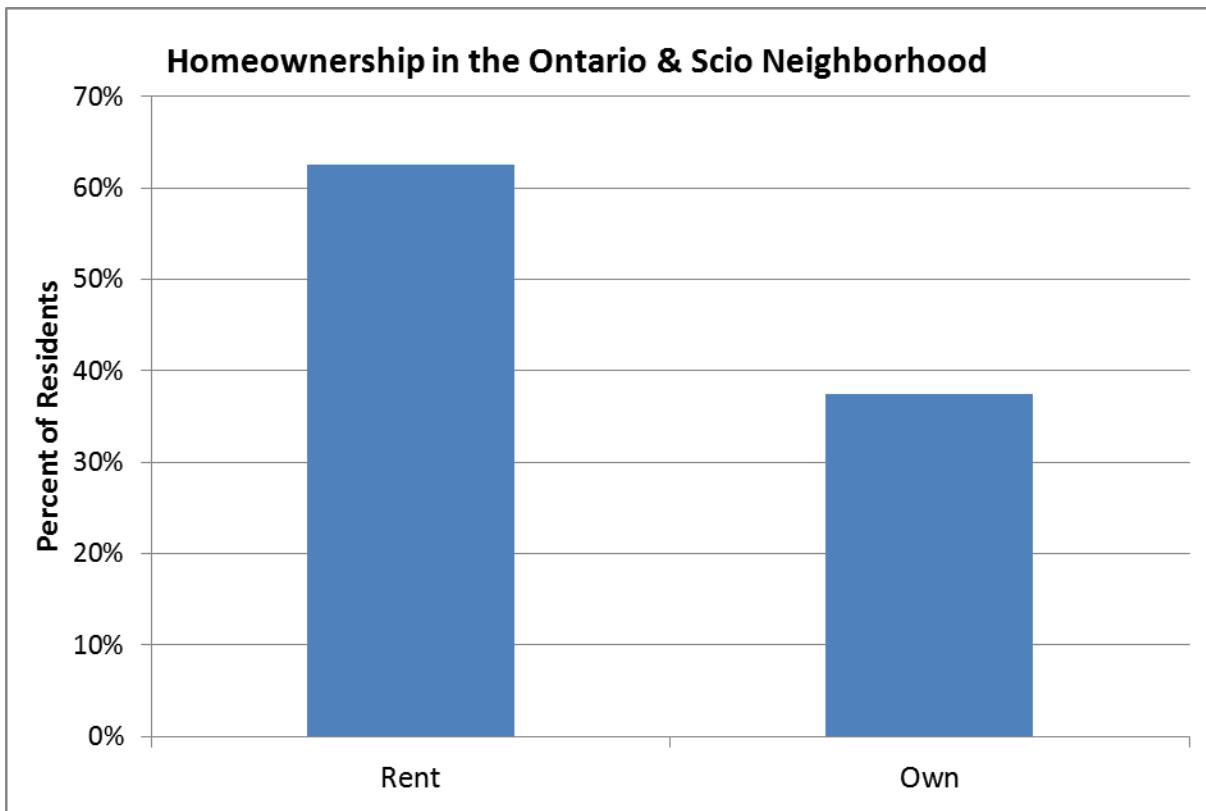
Fifteen groups surveyed nine streets in the Ontario & Scio community. These streets were Davis Street, Lewis Street, Ontario Street, Woodward Street, Weld Street, Lyndhurst Street, Scio Street, Union Street, and Alexander Street. Due to a small number of surveys collected on each street it is difficult 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 129 surveys were collected from the neighborhood.

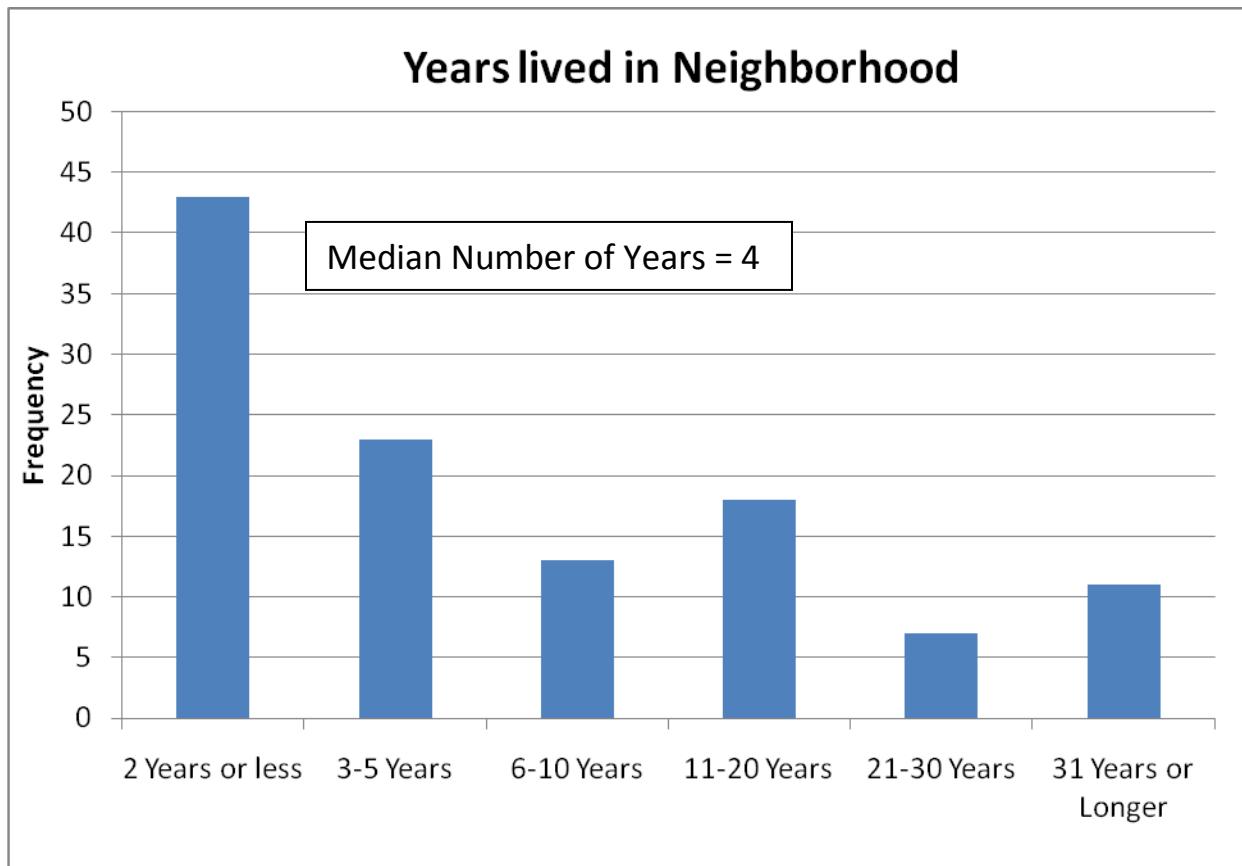
The first question to the Ontario & Scio community asked respondents to rate on a scale of one to ten, ten being the highest, how happy they were living in their neighborhood. Most respondents, 22%, listed a ten, the highest score. Overall, 61.9% reported a 6 or higher. The mean, or average, response for this section was a 7.1 on the 1-10 scale.



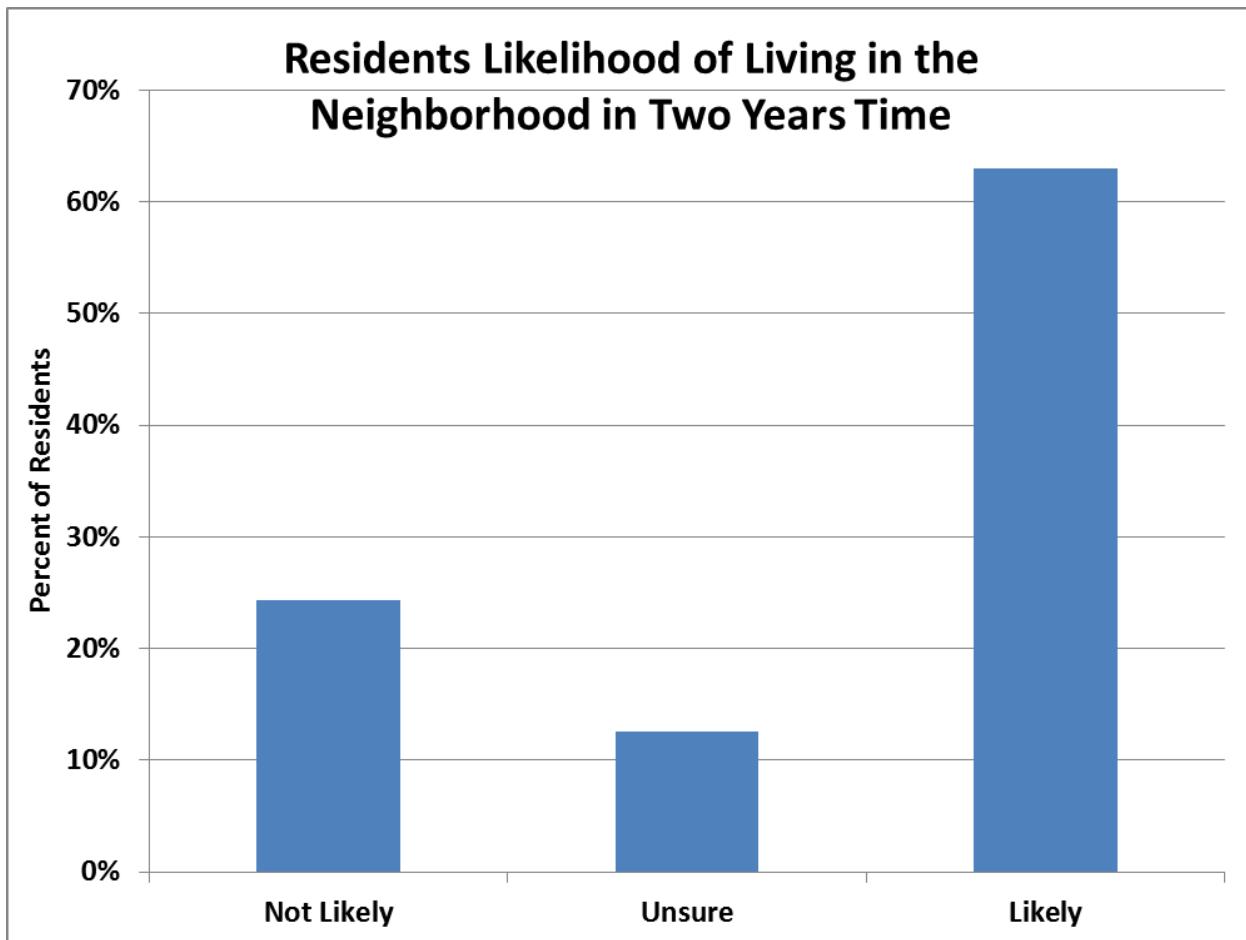
Next, residents were asked about the place that they lived. Specifically, residents were asked if they owned or rented their property. Of the 120 residents who answered this question, 37.5% reported that they owned their property and the remaining 62.5% reported that they rented the property.



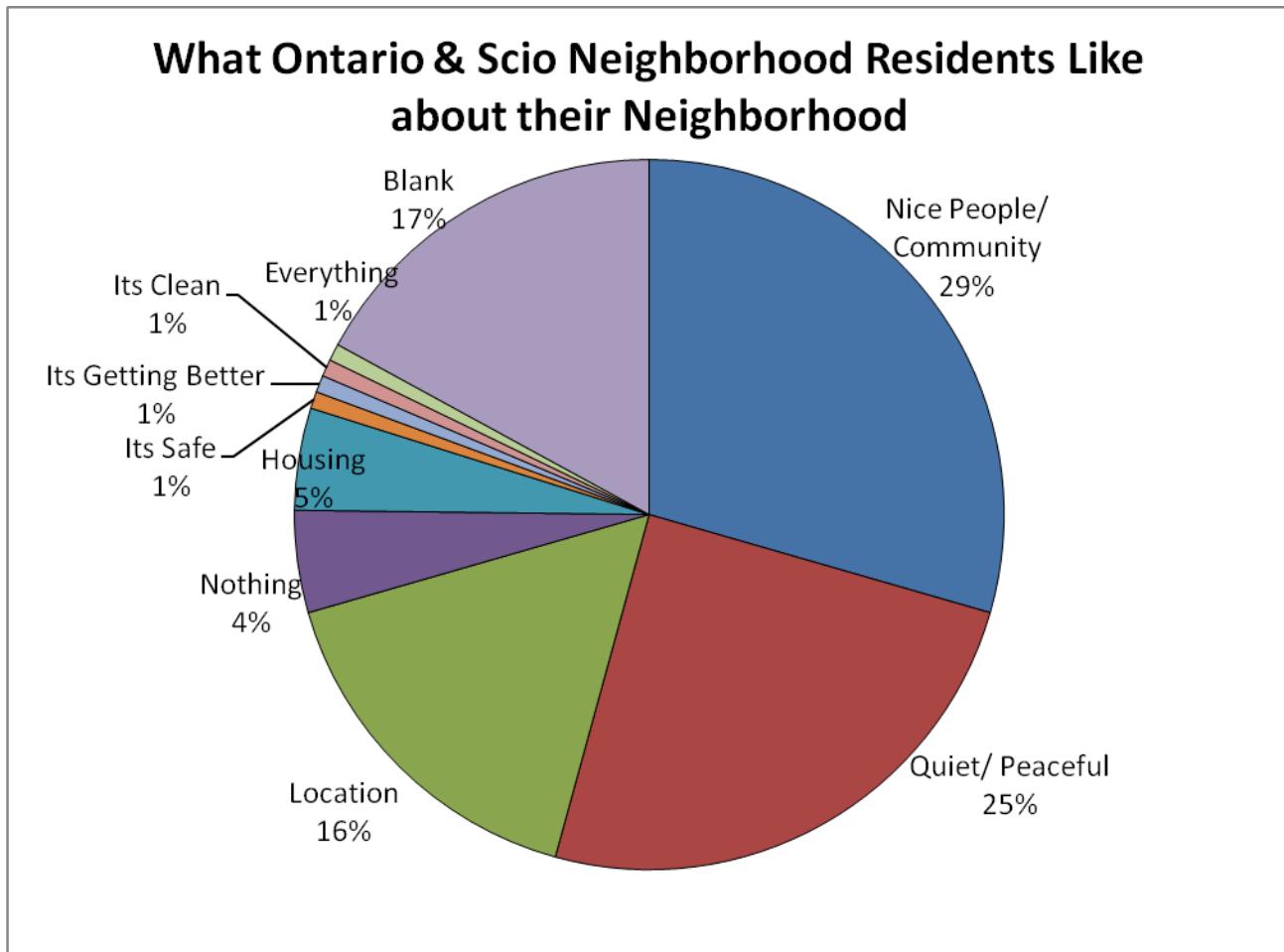
Respondents were asked how long they had lived in the Ontario & Scio community. A large number of residents, 23.5%, had lived in the area for less than a year, 57.4% reported living in the area five years or less, and 68.7% reported living in the area 10 years or less. The median number of years lived in the neighborhood was four.



The next question asked residents how likely they were to be living in the Ontario & Scio community two years from now. Responses were taken on a three point scale consisting of the responses ‘not likely’, ‘unsure’, and ‘likely’. Of the 119 residents who responded to this question, 63% stated that they were likely to be in the area in two years, 12.6% responded that they were unsure, and 24.4% reported that it was not likely that they would be in the area in two years.



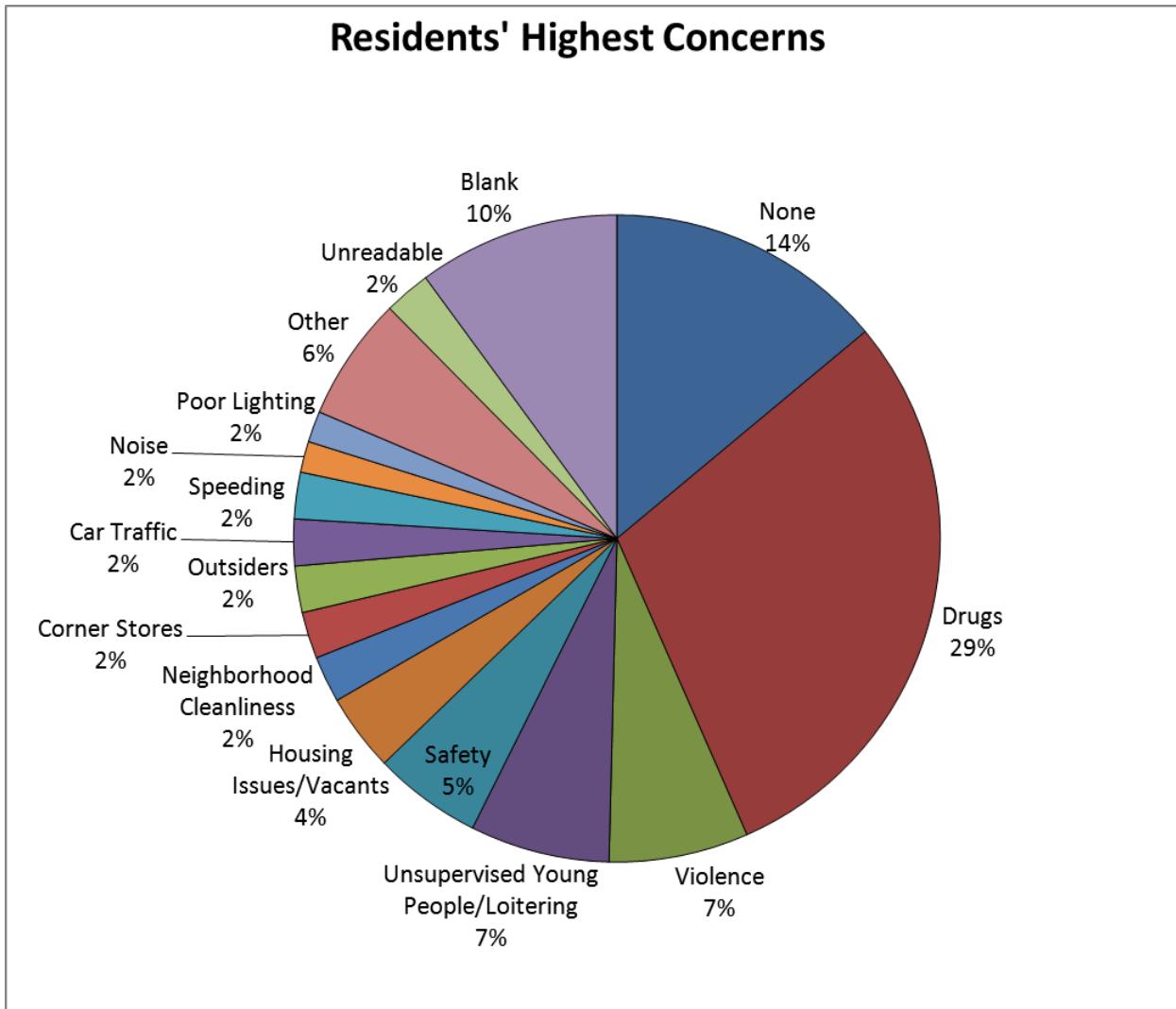
The next question asked residents to list the one thing they liked most in the Ontario & Scio community. For the few residents who listed multiple responses, the first response was chosen. Most respondents, 29%, stated that they liked the people around the Ontario Scio Intersection, followed by 25% reporting that they liked how the area was ‘quiet’ or peaceful. Four percent of the respondents reported that they liked nothing in their neighborhood and 17% of the respondents did not answer the question. The remaining responses are depicted in the chart below.



The next question asked residents to rank up to three concerns they had for the Ontario & Scio community. The highest concerns will be discussed first.

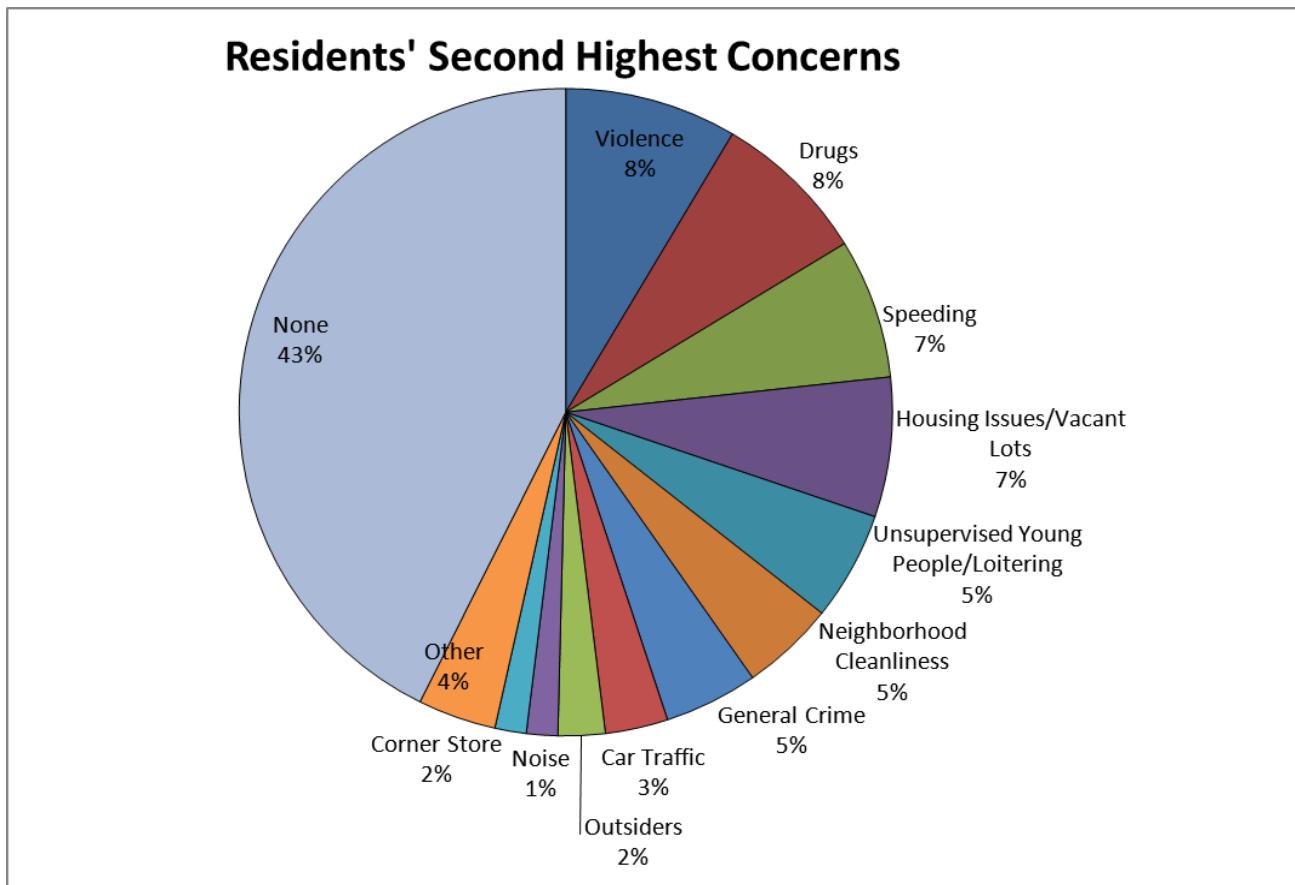
For the residents' most frequently listed concerns, 29% reported drugs and 7% reported both loitering youth and violence. Of the respondents, 14% specifically reported that they had no concerns whatsoever, and 10% of the surveys did not have a response for this question.

- The category '**Other**' is composed of police harassment (1), gangs (1), burglary (1), slumlords (1), nosy neighbors (1), lack of youth activities (1), lack of jobs (1), and "my neighbor burns metal" (1).



For the residents' second highest concern, reports of both drugs and violence were most frequent (8%). 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 are listed as 'none'.

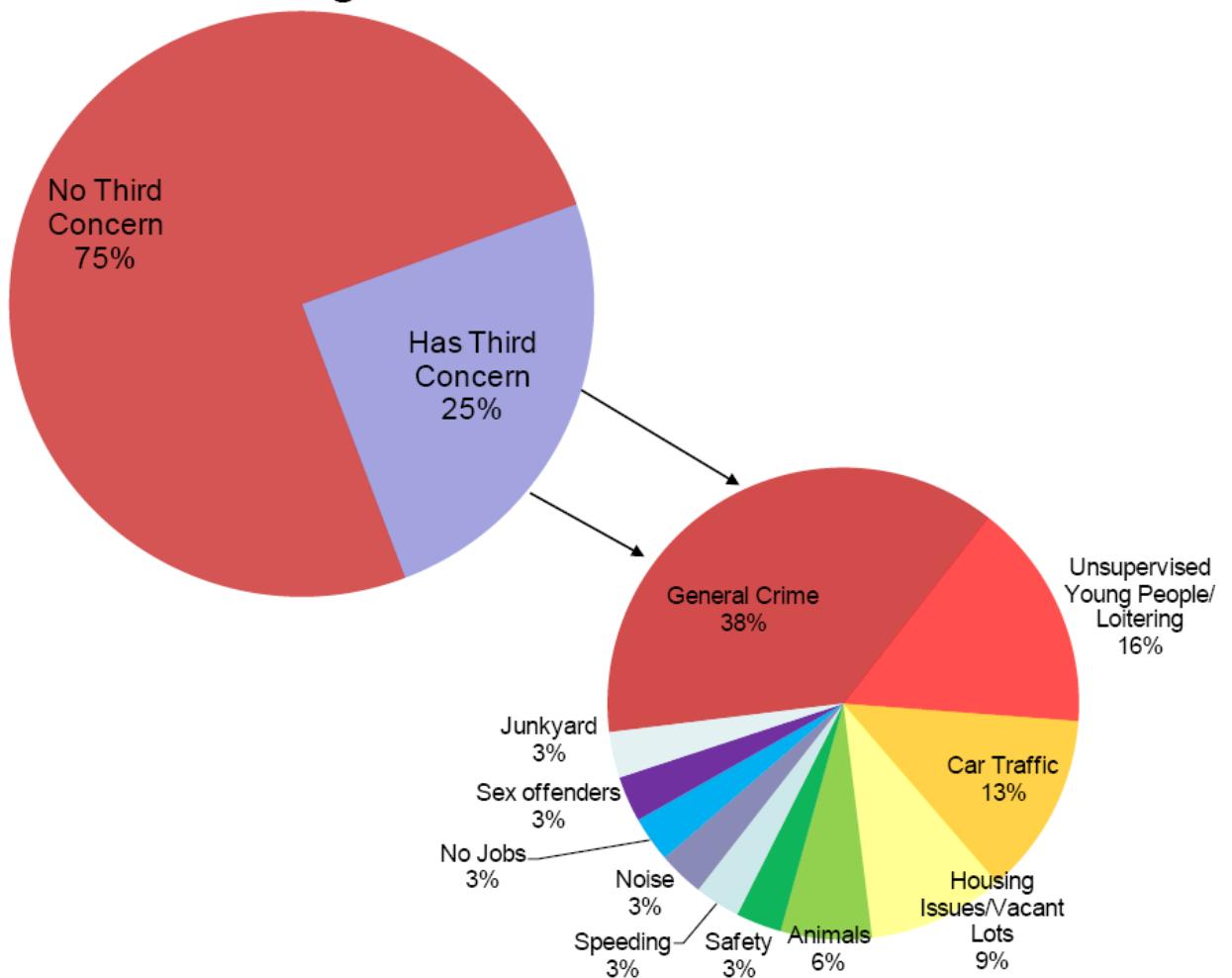
- The category '**Other**' is composed of police harassment (1), dogs (1), "the city doesn't listen" (1), lack of jobs (1), and sex offenders (1).



For the third highest concern, only 25% (32 residents) of residents reported a concern. These are listed in the chart below. .

- The category ‘General Crime’ is composed of drugs (7), burglary (3), and violence (2).

Residents' Third Highest Concerns



Next, this analysis will look at the reported concerns cumulatively. 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 effect on the quality of life for the residents in the Ontario & Scio community.

Aggregated Concerns (Policing or Criminal Activity)

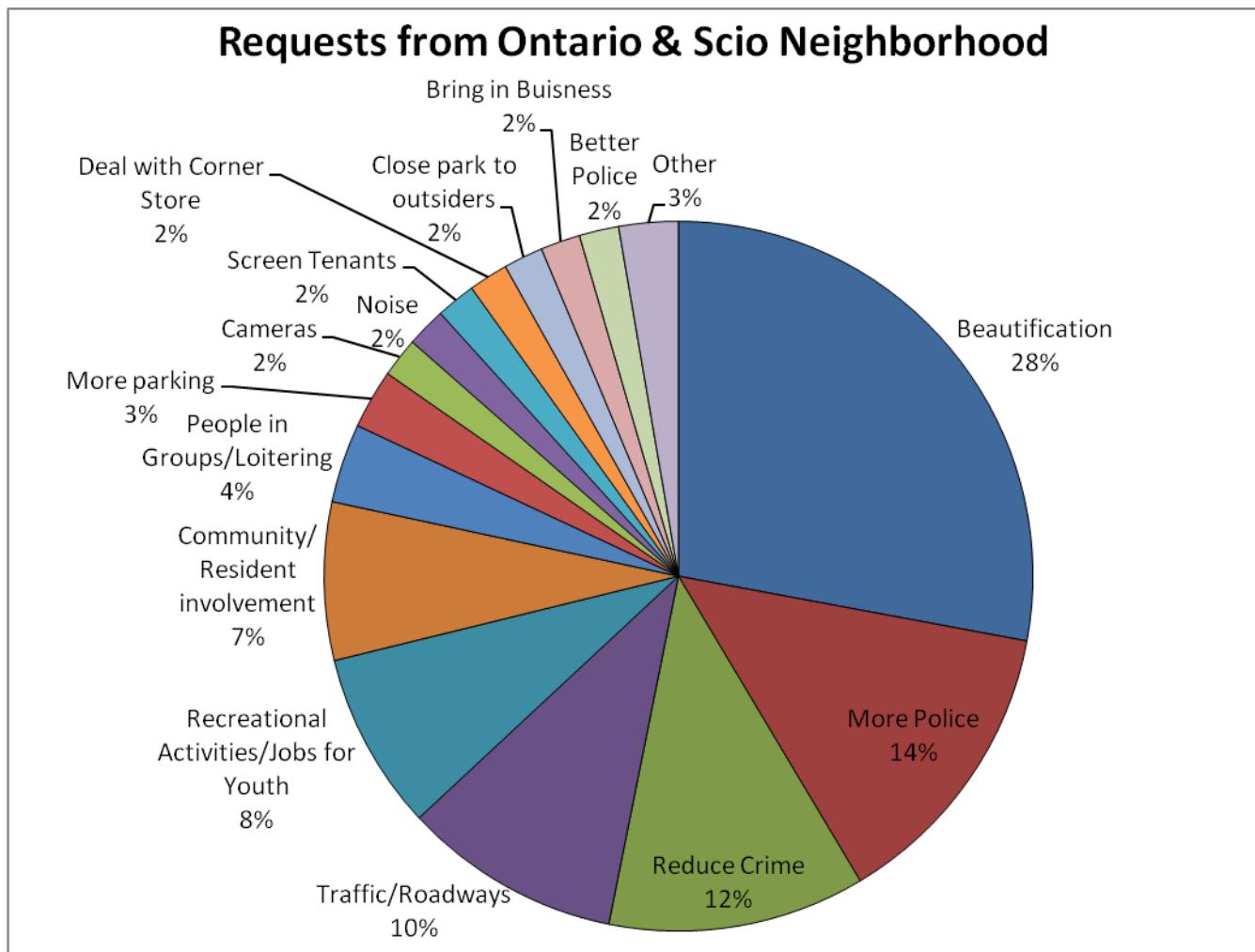
Concerns	Number that Reported Concern
Drugs	55
Violence	22
Safety	8
General Crime	6
Corner Store	5
Burglary	4
Sex Offenders	2
Police Harassment	2
Gangs	1
Total	105

Aggregated Concerns (QOL)

Concerns	Number that Reported Concern
Loitering	21
Vacant Housing	17
Speeding	13
Car Traffic	11
Neighborhood Cleanliness	9
Outsiders	6
Noise	5
No Jobs	3
Animals	3
Poor Lighting	2
Slumlords/Absentee Landlords	1
Lack of Youth Activities	1
Nosey Neighbors	1
Gov't Doesn't Listen	1
Junkyard	1
Total	95

The next question asked respondents if there were any specific requests to be done in the Ontario & Scio community. The 87 respondents listed a total of 111 requests. The most frequent requests were for beautification of the neighborhood (28%), which included tearing down abandoned houses and cleaning up yards, followed by requests for more police patrols in the neighborhood. The remainder of the requests can be seen below.

- The category '**Other**' is composed of: calls for a NET office in the area (1), for slumlords and absentee landlords to be dealt with (1), and for "culture shock" in the neighborhood (1), the meaning of which is unclear.
- The category '**Reduce Crime**' includes calls for reduction in dug activity (11).



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 whereas only a modest number of respondents listed a policing request (more than a 2:1 ratio). The disparity between the number of policing requests listed and the number of policing concerns listing is interesting as it offers some insight into the types of services residents in this community desire from city and county agencies. This may be indicative as to what kind of interventions the community believes will be effective in reducing crime and drugs in the neighborhood.

Requests (Policing Issues)

Requests	Number that Reported Request
More police	15
Reduce Drugs	11
Decrease Crime Generally	2
Cameras	2
Deal with Corner Stores	2
Better Police	2
Total	34

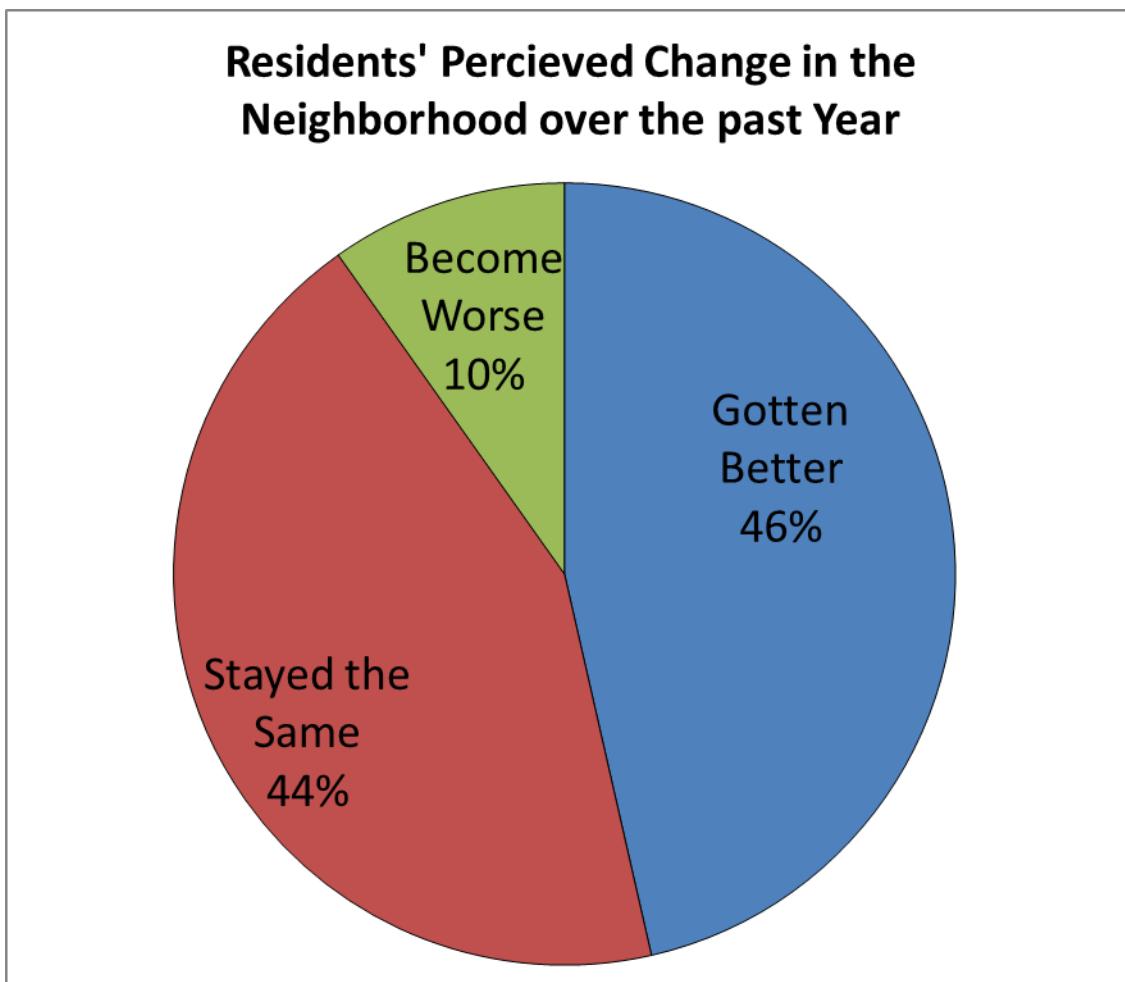
Requests (QOL Issues)

Requests	Number that Reported Request
Beautification	31
Reduce Speeding	11
Recreational Activities for Youth	9
Community Involvement	8
Decrease Loitering	4
More Parking	3
Reduce Noise	2
Screen Tenants	2
Close Park to Outsiders	2
Bring In Business	2
NET Office	1
Deal with Slumlords/Absentee Landlords	1
“Culture Shock”	1
Total	77

Neighborhood Change

Because this was the second time in just under a year that project TIPS had visited the neighborhood, residents were asked if they felt the neighborhood had changed at all over that time. Residents were asked to state whether they felt the neighborhood had become worse, stayed the same, or become better over the past year. Residents were then asked to describe why they felt the changes had occurred. The findings are encouraging.

Of the 129 residents, 112 left a response. Of those residents, 52 reported that they felt the neighborhood had become better, 49 reported that they felt the neighborhood had remained the same, and only 11 felt that it had gotten worse. This can be seen in the graph below.



When asked why they felt that the neighborhood had changed, residents who felt that it had improved stated that: “the bad influences had left” or been removed by the police(i.e. “the police took down drug houses”). Some felt that the cameras had played a role, and others still felt that the people in the neighborhood were playing a more active role in child rearing, participating in community meetings, and taking care of their property. Those residents who felt that the neighborhood had remained the same or gotten worse tended not to state why they felt

that way. Those few that did record a response stated that issues with drugs and young people had worsened.

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, 43 of the 129 residents left a response. Of those, 8 reported specific crimes or criminal behaviors. Those reports have been provided to the Rochester Police Department. Five residents wished to offer support for the police, thanking them for their presence and hoping they “keep doing good work”. Only one resident offered criticisms of police, requesting that police “learn how to communicate [with residents]” because “not everyone is a criminal”. A large contingent of residents want police to know that there is generally criminal activity and other suspicious activity in the neighborhood, along back alleys, and in the local corner stores.

In regards to specific ideas to tell community members, 71 of the 129 left responses. Of those 71 residents, 41 reported in one way or another that building community, working together, organizing, or becoming more involved would be helpful in the area. This is a substantial portion of the neighborhood’s residents, suggesting that the neighborhood may benefit from targeted community organizing. Other respondents asked neighbors to call the police more, parent their children more, and take better care of their homes and yards.

Conclusion

The Ontario and Scio community was in many ways the same in May 2011 as it was in July 2010. Almost across the board residents reported similar levels of happiness in living in the neighborhood, rates of homeownership, likes, concerns, and requests for government agencies. This is discouraging in part because it might indicate that the issues that residents might hold Project TIPS accountable to change have not. However, the item that is most encouraging from the surveys is the residents’ perceptions of neighborhood change. More than 45% of the residents surveyed reported that they felt that the neighborhood was getting better. More specifically they reported that drug markets had decreased, particularly in the community park at the YMCA childcare facility. This may offer support that Project TIPS can aid in reducing crime and bettering quality of life in Rochester neighborhoods.