

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.

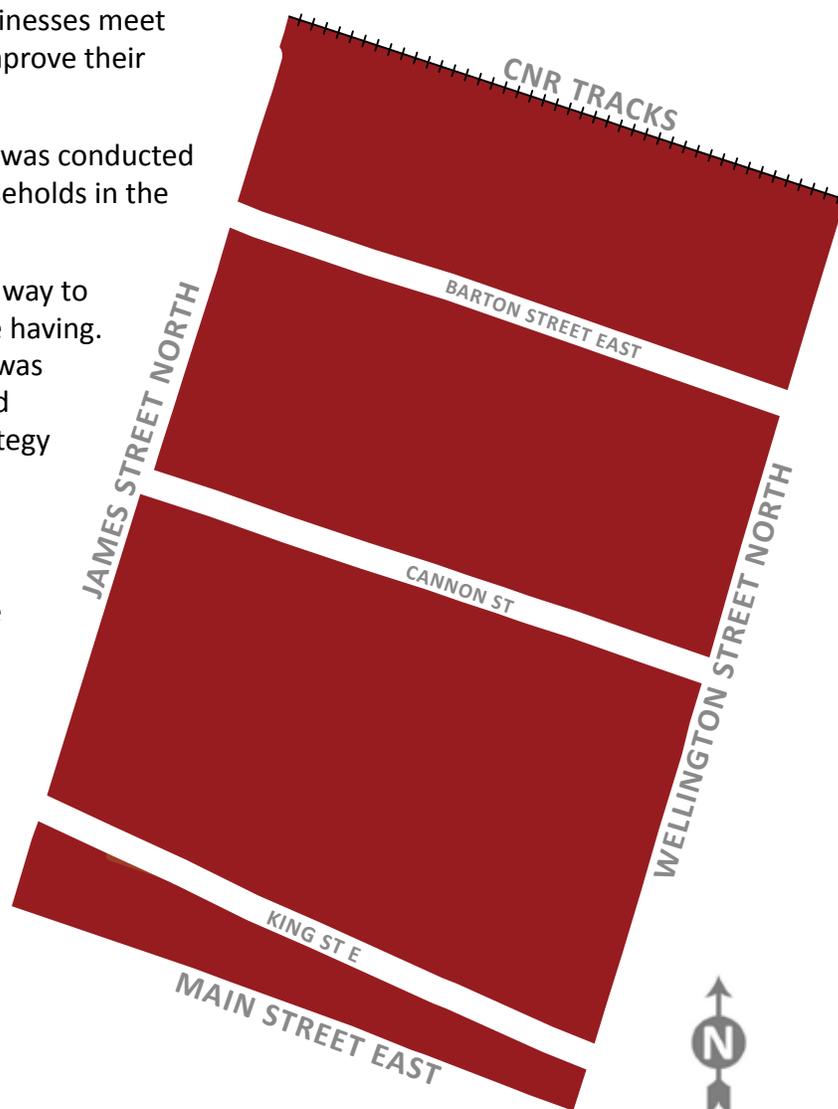
The Neighbourhood Action Strategy is a long-term project that brings residents together to define what is important to them and their community. Residents, Community Developers and representatives from local agencies and businesses meet regularly to plan and complete actions to improve their neighbourhood.

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

The Hamilton Neighbourhoods Study is one way to determine the impact that these actions are having. This Beasley study consists of a survey that was done with 300 Beasley residents in 2012 and 2013, 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 Beasley, 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
2016 Follow-up report
BEASLEY
neighbourhood



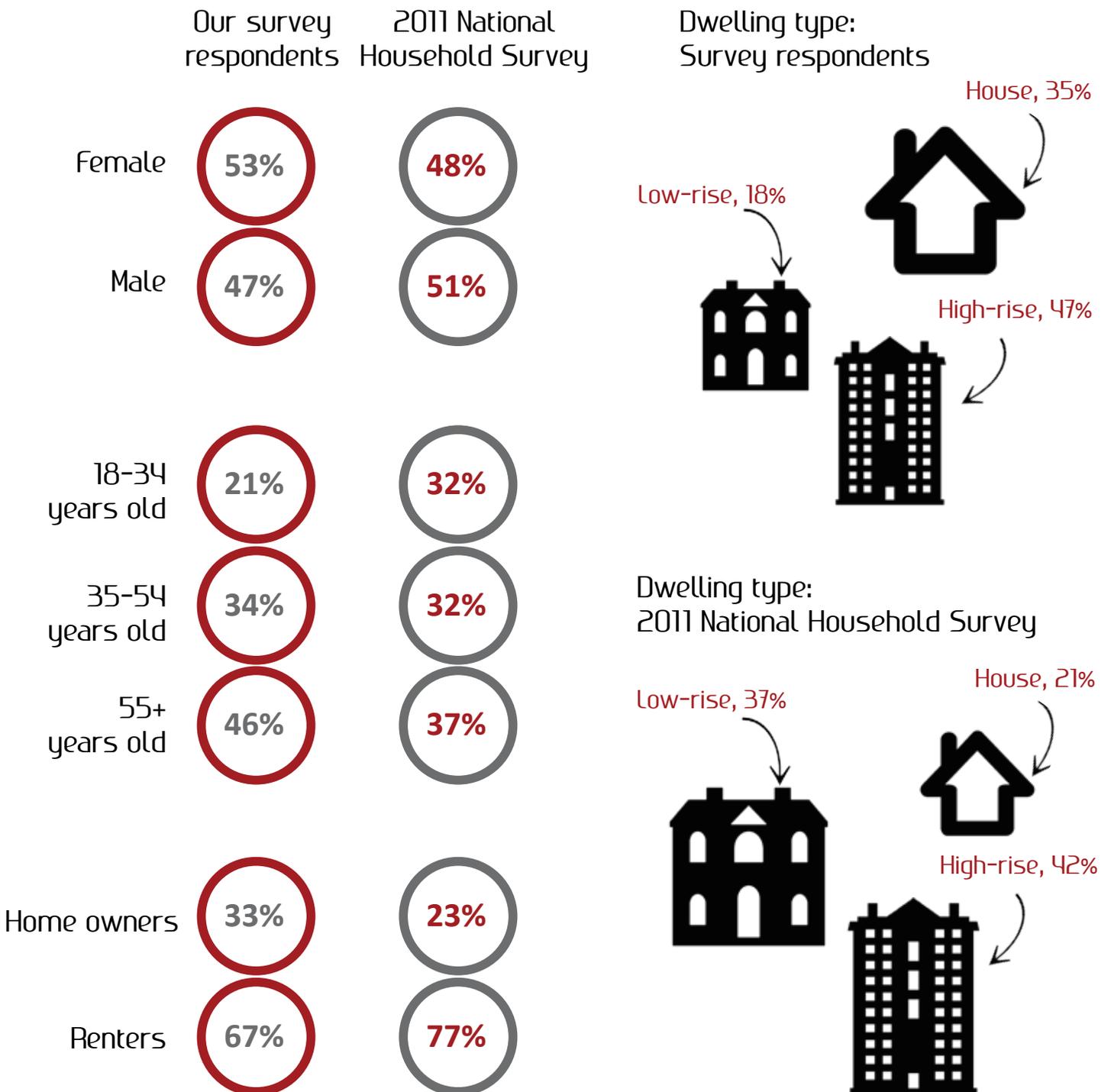
WHO WE TALKED TO IN BEASLEY:

Participants who still live in Beasley

The first report to the Beasley 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 Beasley.

We spoke to 134 people who were still living in the Beasley neighbourhood. Four of these people had moved to another residence within Beasley.

Comparing our survey respondents to recent Census data allows us to say how representative the responses are of the neighbourhood. Slightly more females, adults aged 55 years or older, 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		

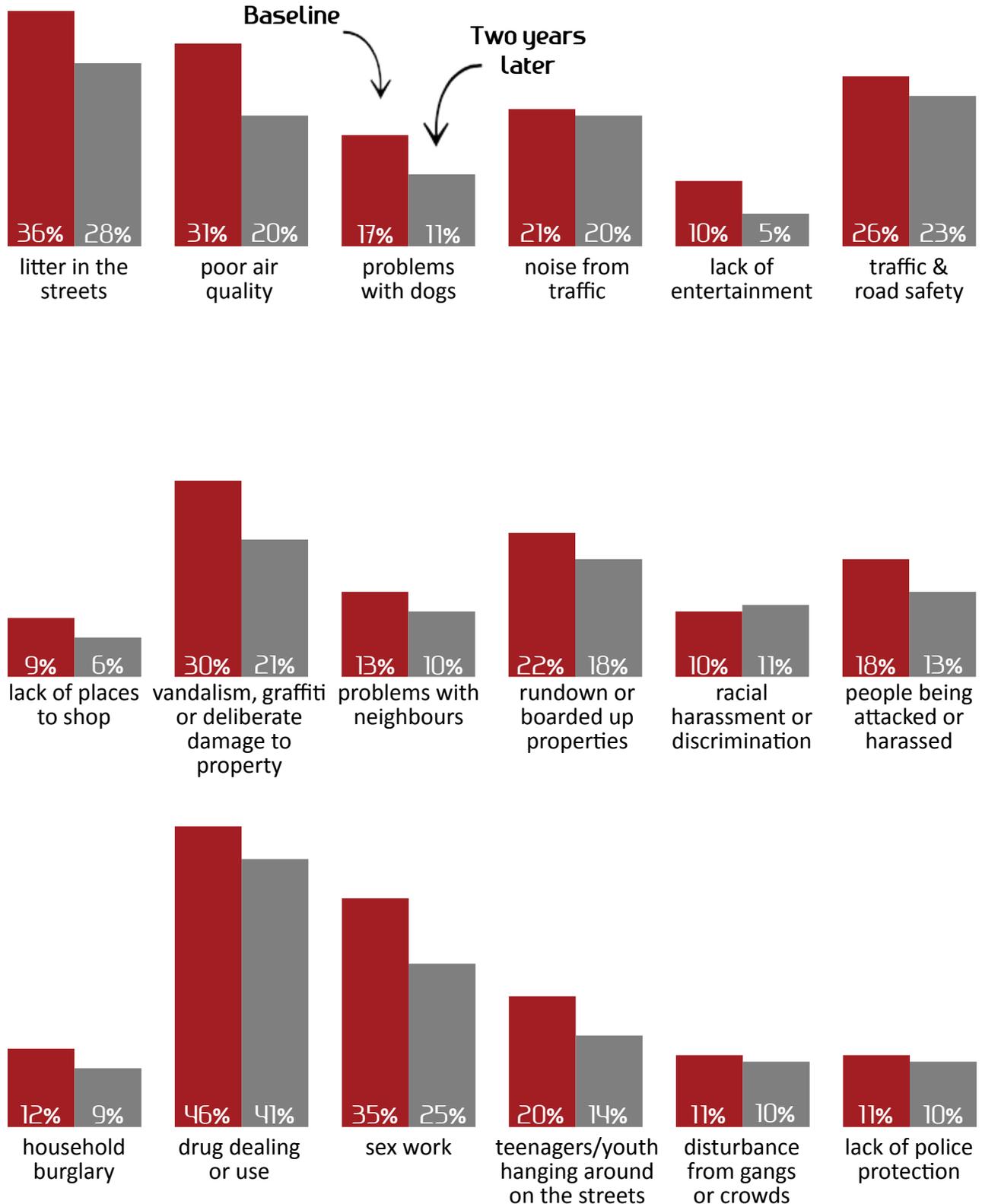
† Throughout the report, change is categorized as an increase or decrease of equal to or greater/less than 5%

* 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 racial harassment/discrimination which increased from 10% to 11%.



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		

Economic Development

	Improved	No change	Got worse
There are job opportunities in my neighbourhood.	X		
New businesses succeed in my neighbourhood.	X		
Local businesses stay for a long period of time.	X		

Neighbourhood Engagement

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

	YES
Do you know that there is a neighbourhood action plan, developed by residents for the neighbourhood?	32%
Do you think that actions coming out of the plan have improved your neighbourhood?*	77%
In the last six months, have you been involved with the Beasley Neighbourhood Association?*	23%
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 Beasley participants.

81%	leaflets or flyers in the mailbox
70%	posters on telephone poles, in shops or community buildings
55%	free newspapers or community language newspapers
54%	websites or email
50%	television stations
49%	on buses
43%	through volunteer or community organizations
37%	radio stations
32%	at public meetings
28%	through friends or family
22%	through work or colleagues

WHO ELSE WE TALKED TO ABOUT BEASLEY:

Participants who have moved out of the neighbourhood

We also surveyed 45 people who lived in Beasley for the baseline survey in 2011-2012, and moved out of the neighbourhood.

People moved:

	COUNT
To another part of Hamilton	23
To another neighbourhood that in part of the Neighbourhood Action Strategy (map below)	13
Outside of Hamilton	9



Map: The neighbourhoods of the Neighbourhood Action Strategy

Most important reason for moving from Beasley:

Change in personal situation	22%
Disliked residence	18%
Neighbourhood wasn't safe	16%
Evicted/pushed out by landlord	9%
Other (single response)	35%

Conclusions

The Beasley Neighbourhood Action Plan is a comprehensive vision with Action Items that are short, medium and longer term in scope, and of varying degrees of complexity. The Baseline of the Hamilton Neighbourhoods Study survey was conducted shortly after the Action Plan was written, and the Follow Up survey was done approximately 2 years after that. Some of the questions asked by the HNS can be used to inform continued action by Beasley residents, particularly as they renew the Action Plan.

Priorities identified by survey respondents

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

Goal: Improve Social & Cultural Connections

A number of questions are grouped under the category of Social Cohesion & Neighbourhood Engagement, and 11 of 12 questions showed an improvement. There was no change for the remaining question, “I have influence over what my neighbourhood is like.”

Goal: Strengthen Business and Economic Opportunities

There was an improvement in the survey responses to all three questions about local businesses; respondents feel more confident that there are job opportunities, that businesses succeed, and that local businesses stay open for a long period of time.

Goal: Improve Neighbourhood Design

There has been a positive change to the percentage of people who feel that children are safe walking to and from school, which speaks to the Action “Work with Councillor and Dr. Davey School to Create a School Safety Zone.”

Slightly fewer respondents consider Traffic & Road Safety to be “a serious problem” (from 26% to 23%).

Goal: Increase Sense of Health, Safety & Security

There are positive changes to the number of respondents who consider the following items to be a serious problem: poor air quality (from 31% to 20%); people being attacked or harassed (18% to 13%); drug dealing or use (46% to 41%); and sex work (35% to 25%).

There has been very modest change, although still in a positive direction, to other health and safety questions, including run down & boarded up properties, household burglary, and traffic & road safety.

There has been no change in responses regarding Beasley a neighbourhood to raise a child, or feeling safe in one’s home or neighbourhood, whether during the day or at night.

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.



905-525-9140 ext. 23375



Email: hnstudy@mcmaster.ca

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note: This phase of the study is over. There may be future phases. Thank you to our research participants for their time and contributions.

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

2011-2013 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.



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.



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