

WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION STRATEGY?

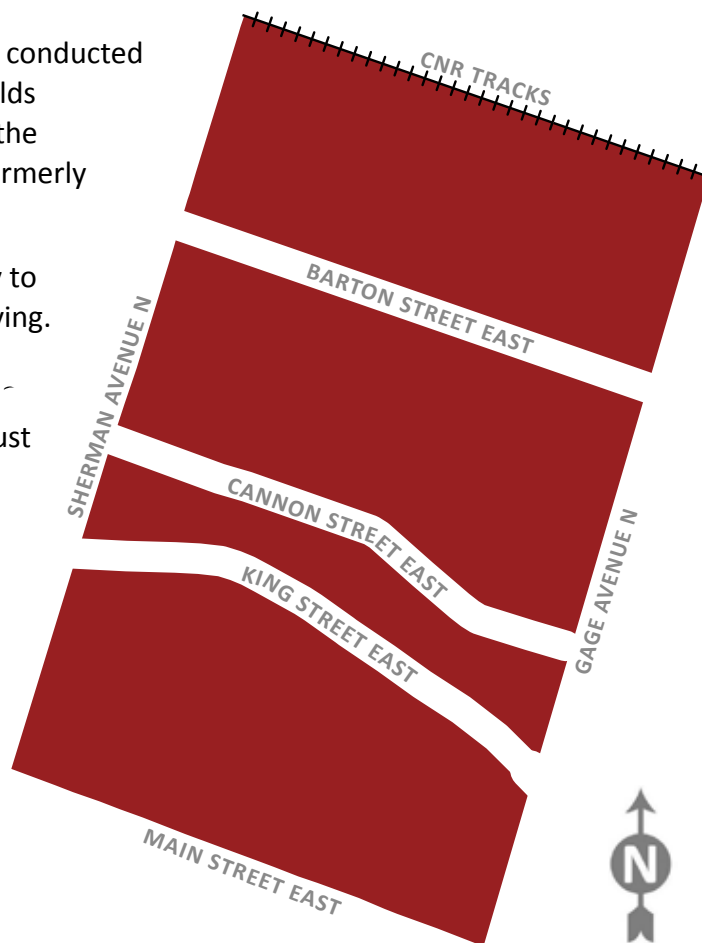
That is the question the Hamilton Neighbourhoods Study asks. This study will show how neighbourhoods are changing over time, and what changes may be associated with the Neighbourhood Action Strategy.

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 Stiplely Neighbourhood. Stiplely is one of the neighbourhoods that form the Sherman Hub (formerly called the South Sherman Hub).

The Hamilton Neighbourhoods Study is one way to determine the impact that these actions are having. This Stiplely study consists of a survey that was done with 385 Stiplely residents in 2011 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 Stiplely, 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.

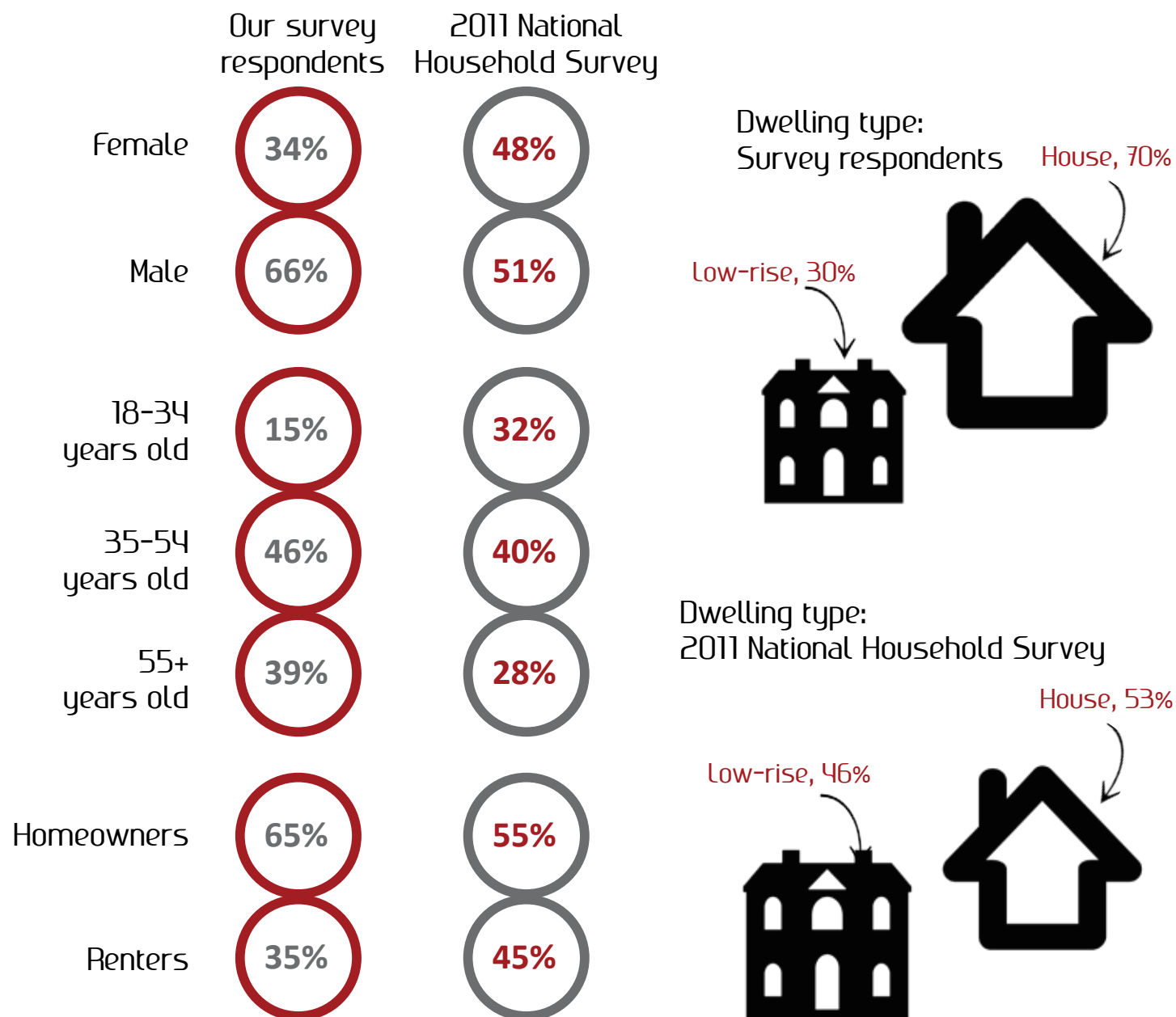


WHO WE TALKED TO IN STIPLEY:

Participants who still live in StipleY

The first report to the StipleY 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 StipleY. We spoke to 150 people who were still living in the StipleY neighbourhood. 10 of these people had moved to another residence within StipleY.

Comparing our survey respondents to recent Census data allows us to say how representative the responses are of the neighbourhood. This survey includes a greater proportion of male, older adults, homeowners and people who live in houses compared to the neighbourhood as a whole.



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		

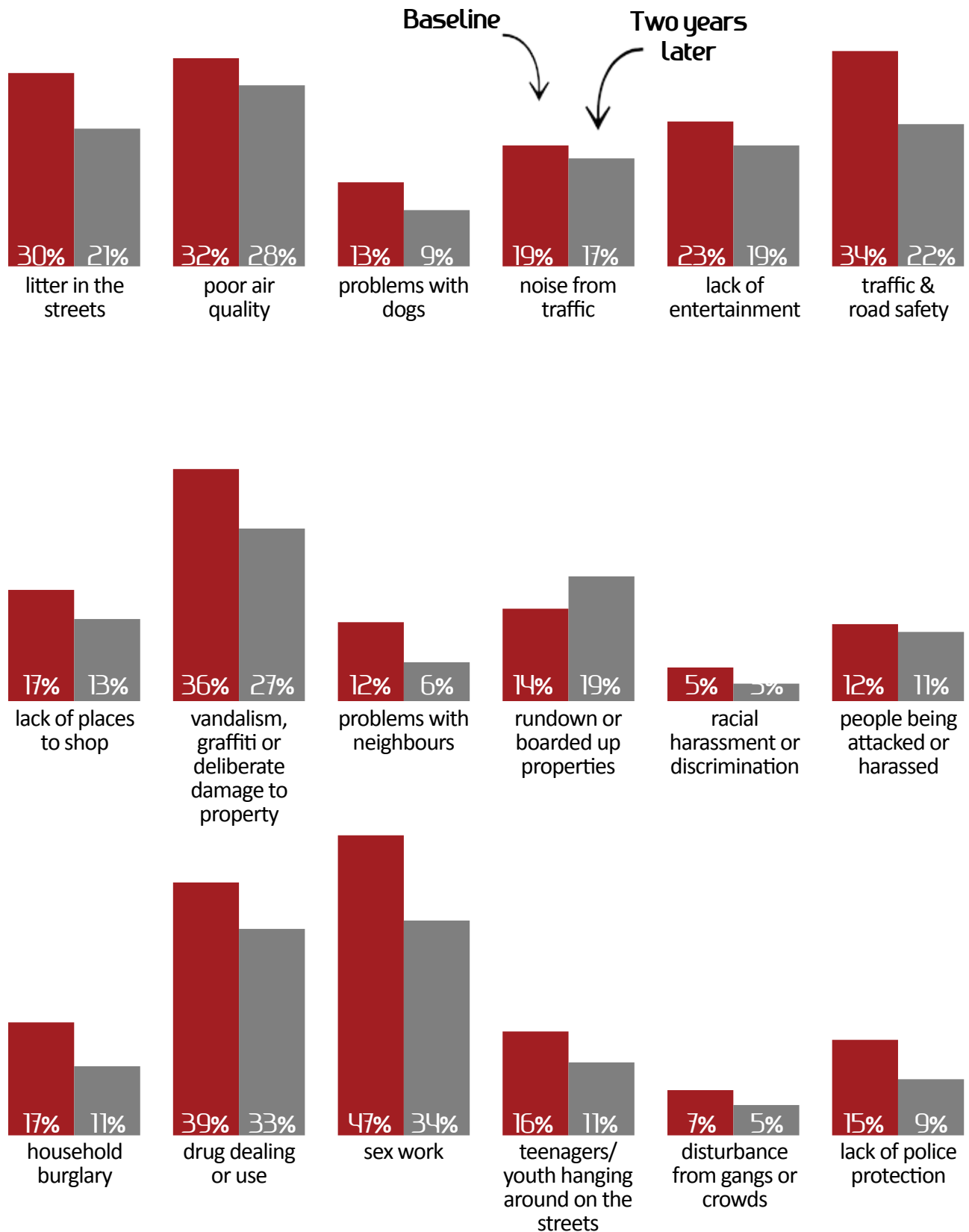
† Throughout the report, change is categorized as an increase or decrease of equal to or greater/less than 5%

* 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 14% to 19%.



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 Stipley 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?	36%
Do you think that actions coming out of the plan have improved your neighbourhood?*	65%
In the last six months, have you been involved with the Sherman Neighbourhood Planning Team?*	26%
Are you involved in any other planning team/hub or neighbourhood association?*	11%

* 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 Stiple participants.

87%	leaflets or flyers in the mailbox
79%	free newspapers or community language newspapers
60%	through family or friends
55%	posters on telephone poles, in shops or community buildings
51%	television stations
48%	websites or email
37%	on buses
37%	radio stations
33%	through volunteer or community organizations
27%	at public meetings
24%	through work or colleagues

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

We also surveyed 39 people who lived in Stiple for the baseline survey in 2011-2012, and moved out of the neighbourhood.

People moved:

	COUNT
To moved to another part of Hamilton	21
To moved to another neighbourhood that in part of the Neighbourhood Action Strategy (map below)	14
Outside of Hamilton	4



Map: The neighbourhoods of the Neighbourhood Action Strategy

Most important reason for moving from Stiple:

Neighbourhood wasn't safe	18%
Disliked neighbourhood	16%
Change in personal situation	16%
Disliked residence	13%
Not affordable	11%
Forced to move	11%
Change in financial situation	8%
Inconvenient - far from good schools	5%
Didn't know people in the neighbourhood	3%

Conclusions

The Sherman Hub Planning Team defined goals and specific actions for the neighbourhoods within it, including Stipley. These actions were presented in the South Sherman Neighbourhood Action Plan, which began in October 2012 and will end in 2017. This report is written at approximately the mid-point of the Action Plan. Below is a summary of items that have been identified with a specific time period in the South Sherman Action Plan, where the Hamilton Neighbourhoods Study has specific questions that can speak to that action.

Priorities identified by survey respondents

How do the priorities by survey respondents align with the priorities of the Action Plan?

Action A.3.1: Work with Police Services & By-Law enforcement to increase compliance with traffic laws

At the baseline, 34% of respondents identified traffic & road safety as “a serious problem.” Two years later, 22% of respondents still consider this to be “a serious problem,” indicating improvement in this area.

Action A.3.2: Advocate for reduced traffic speeds along key streets and the designation of school traffic zones

Survey respondents who have school-aged children (kindergarten to grade 12) living with them were asked if they think that children are safe walking to and from school. Over two years, more respondents reported that they felt their children were safe walking to and from school.

Action B.2.3 Support the continued production of the South Sherman News as a way of engaging residents and businesses in the neighbourhood activities

Since the Action Plan was created, the community newspaper has been renamed the Sherman Hub News. Responses suggest that the community newspaper is achieving the goal of resident and business engagement.

“Information is readily available to the public on City services and activities that take place in my neighbourhood”. Participants who agreed or strongly agreed with this statement went from 61% at baseline to 70% at follow-up.

“My neighbourhood has ways of sharing information.” 66% of participants at baseline agreed or strongly agreed with this statement. Two years later, this increased to 76%.

Action B.2.4 Provide more opportunities for community building events such as community dinners, BBQ’s and cultural celebrations

“There are opportunities for celebration and fun in my neighbourhood”. There was limited change to this already high number: 67% at baseline; 69% two years later.

Action D.1.2 Support neighbours with the home repairs necessary for them to live safely

In the first survey, 14% of respondents indicated that rundown or boarded up properties was “a serious problem.” This increased to 19% two years later. Another question asks if participants agreed that neighbours watch over each other’s property and the percentage who agreed increased from 83% to 89%.

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.

385

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.

189

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