

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.

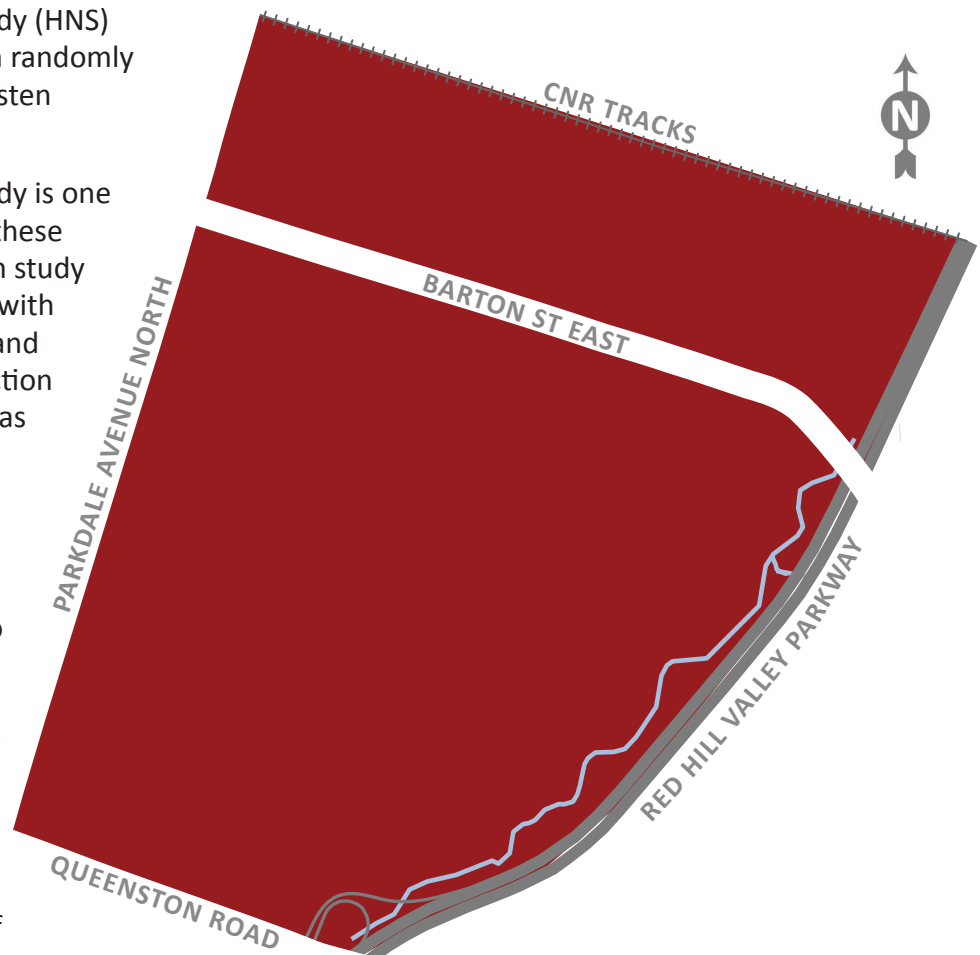
The Neighbourhood Action Strategy is a long-term project that brings residents together to define what is important to them and their community. Residents, Community Developers and representatives from local agencies and businesses meet regularly to plan and complete actions to improve their neighbourhood.

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

The Hamilton Neighbourhoods Study is one way to determine the impact that these actions are having. This McQuesten study consists of a survey that was done with 296 McQuesten 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 McQuesten, 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
McQUESTEN
neighbourhood



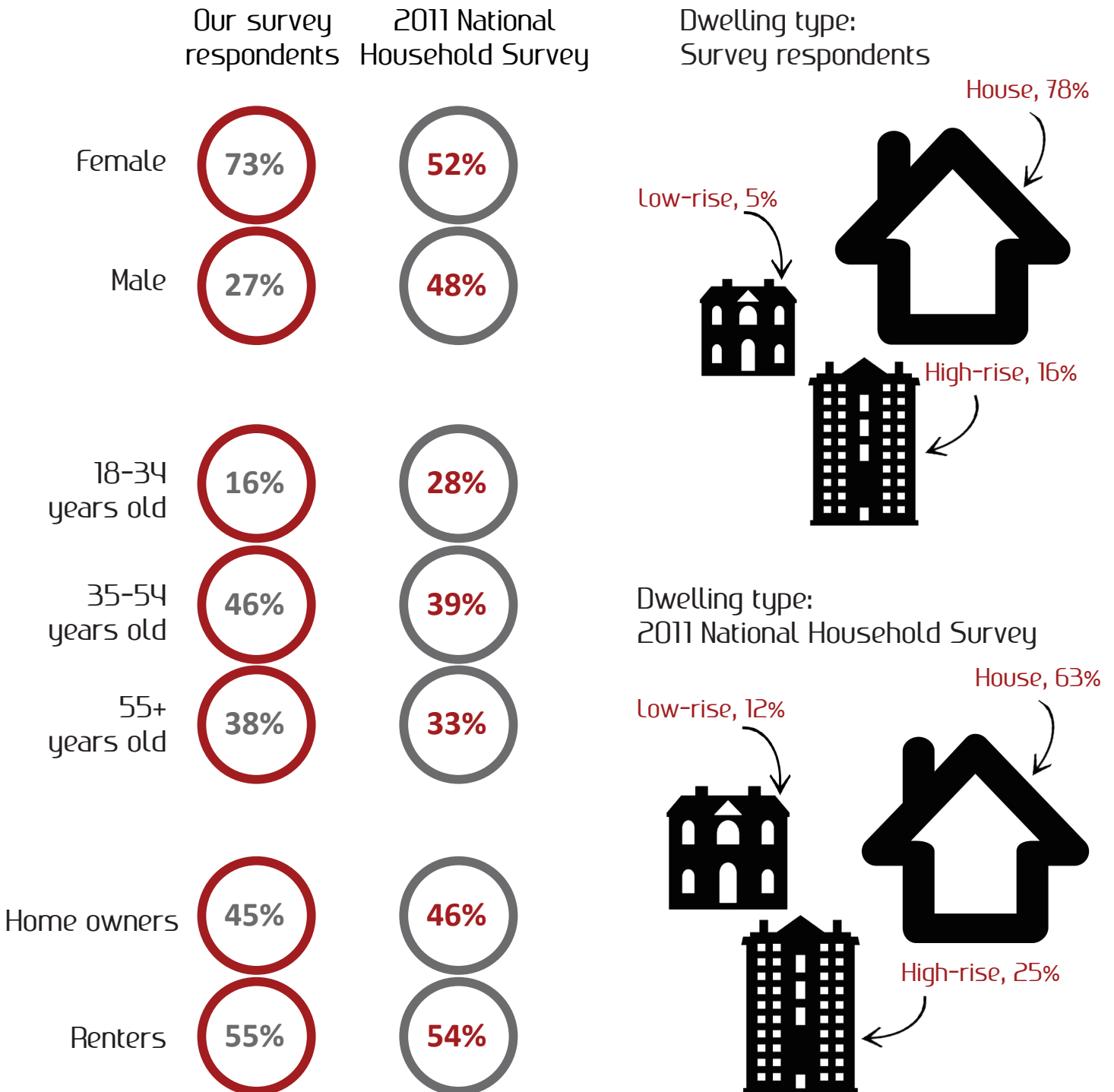
WHO WE TALKED TO IN MCQUESTEN:

Participants who still live in McQuesten

The first report to the McQuesten 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 McQuesten.

We spoke to 158 people who were still living in the McQuesten neighbourhood. Six of these people had moved to another residence within McQuesten.

Comparing our survey respondents to recent Census data allows us to say how representative the responses are of the neighbourhood. Slightly more females, people aged 35-54, 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		

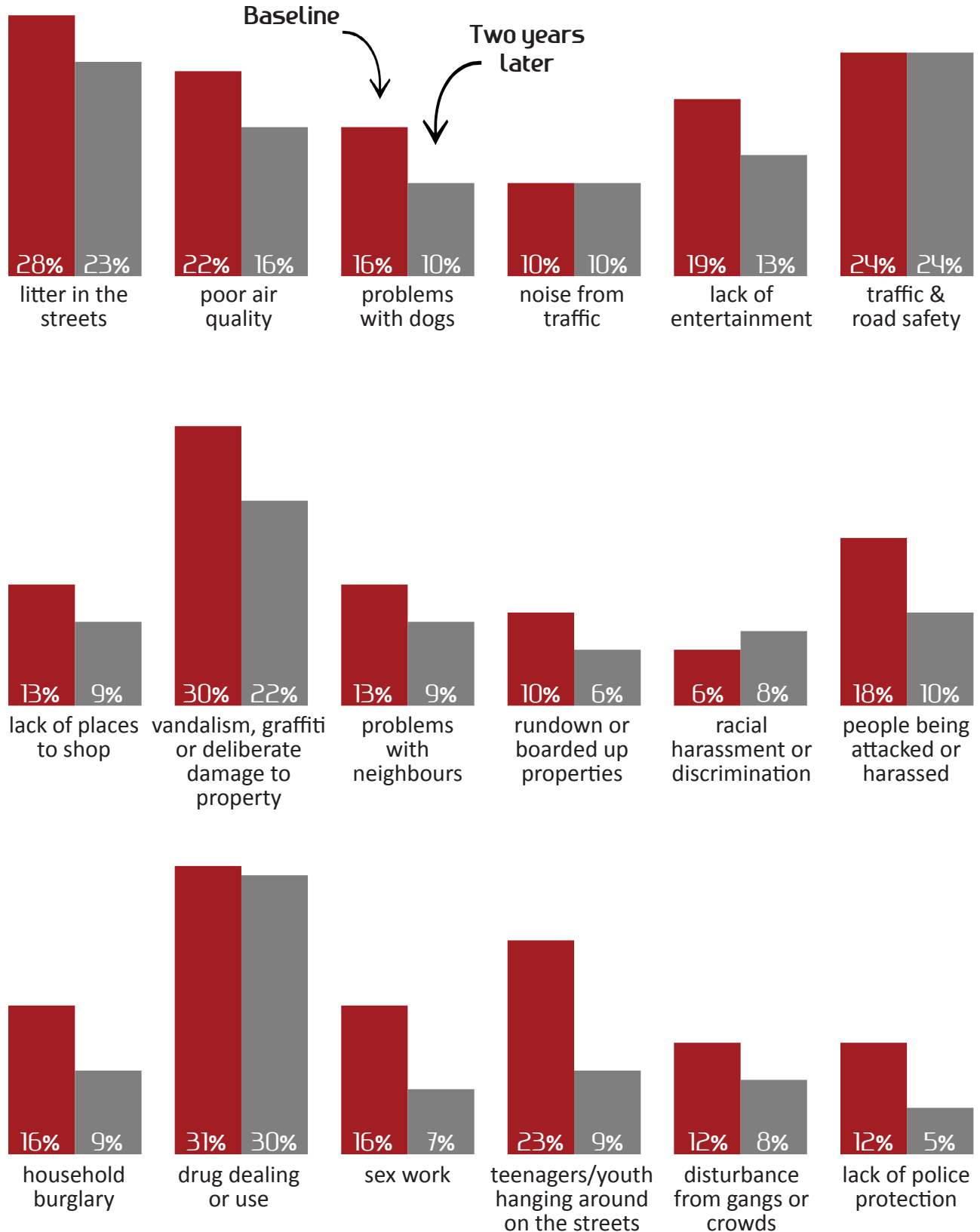
† Throughout the report, change is categorized as an increase or decrease of equal to or greater/less than 5%

* 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 or discrimination which increased from 6% to 8% and noise from traffic and traffic and road safety which stayed the same.



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 McQuesten 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?	27%
Do you think that actions coming out of the plan have improved your neighbourhood?*	69%
In the last six months, have you been involved with the McQuesten Community Planning Team?*	24%
Are you involved in any other planning team/hub or neighbourhood association?*	10%

* 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 McQuesten participants.

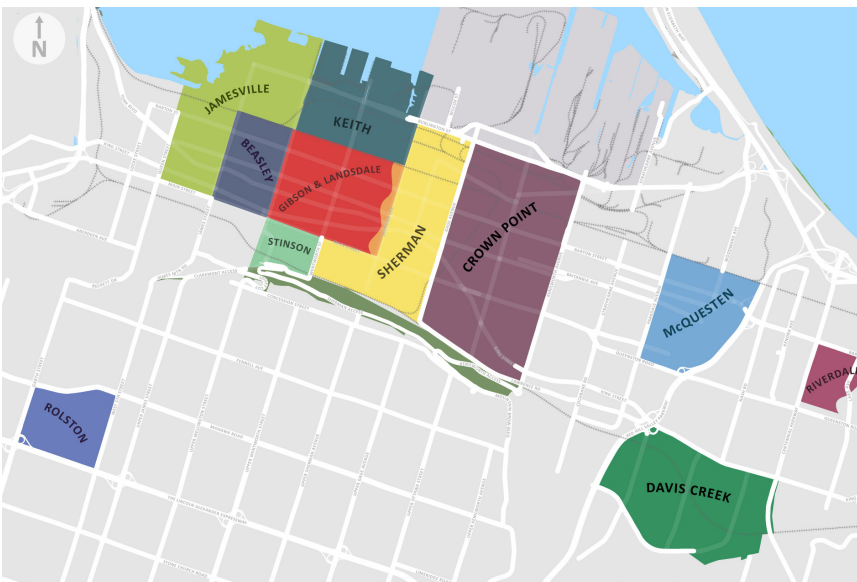
87%	leaflets or flyers in the mailbox
53%	free newspapers or community language newspapers
50%	television stations
46%	through friends or family
44%	posters on telephone poles, in shops or community buildings
34%	on buses
32%	radio stations
32%	websites or email
28%	through volunteer or community organizations
22%	at public meetings
18%	through work or colleagues

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

We also surveyed 30 people who lived in McQuesten for the baseline survey in 2011-2012, and moved out of the neighbourhood.

People moved:

	COUNT
To another part of Hamilton	14
Outside of Hamilton	10
To another neighbourhood that is part of the Neighbourhood Action Strategy (map below)	6



Map: The neighbourhoods of the Neighbourhood Action Strategy

Most important reason for moving from McQuesten:

Neighbourhood wasn't safe	33%
Change in life circumstances	13%
Disliked residence	10%
Insects and pests	19%
Other (single response)	34%

Conclusions

The McQuesten Neighbourhood Action Plan outlines a vision for the neighbourhood with Action Items that are short, medium and longer term in scope. 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 McQuesten residents, particularly as they renew the Action Plan. Below are some goals identified in the Action Plan, and results from the HNS that relate to these goals.

Priorities identified by survey respondents

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

Goal: Increase Neighbourhood Safety and Security

Many of the McQuesten Actions focus on the children and teenage residents of the neighbourhood, and providing them with support, resources and activities. The success of these actions is reflected in the change in the percentage of respondents who say that “teenagers/youth hanging around on the streets” is a serious problem: from 23% to 9%. Vandalism and burglary also have fewer respondents reporting them as “a serious problem.” For baseline survey participants who moved away from McQuesten, one out of three cite the reason for leaving the neighbourhoods as being concern for their safety.

Goal: Strengthen Economic Opportunities and Investment

From the time the original survey was conducted, there has been no change in responses to questions about job opportunities, the success of new businesses, or the longevity of businesses in the neighbourhood.

Goal: Strengthen Neighbourhood Pride and Promote Community Beautification

A number of questions show greater positive response from baseline, including questions about neighbourhood leadership, opportunities for celebration and fun, and having influence over what the neighbourhood is like.

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



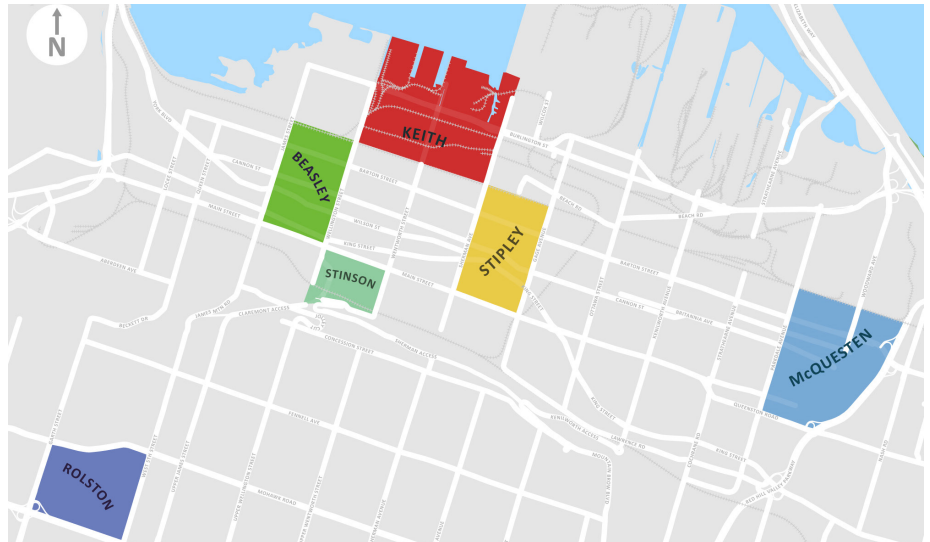
Email: hnstudy@mcmaster.ca

This research was funded in part by the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. The views expressed are those of the researchers, not the Government of Ontario, or the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.

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