
HANOVER TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY SURVEY

OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 2003

PREPARED BY



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Hanover Township Community Survey

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report represents the findings of 1330 responses to the Hanover Township (Butler County) Community Survey. These data represent a snapshot of the views concerning a variety of issues in Hanover Township at this time. Township officials may find the data useful on two levels. First, general views about the delivery and quality of the services provided to residents may be valuable in long range planning efforts. Second, residents' views and ratings of specific conditions provide baseline data for continued benchmarking and ongoing evaluation of service delivery. We are pleased to have worked with Township officials. Township Trustee Timothy S. Derickson provided valuable input into the development and administration of the survey project.

The following individuals comprised the project team:

Center for Public Management and Regional Affairs:

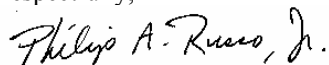
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- Andrew M. Dudas, Sr. Project Manager
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- Laura D'Arcy, Tim Glass, Ginger Harvey, Joe Howard, Kristen Jones, and Ryan McAvoy served as Undergraduate Research Associates on the project.
- Nicki Deetz, Matt Hensley, and Vince Tenaglia provided general project assistance.

Hanover Township:

- Timothy S. Derickson, Trustee
- Douglas L. Johnson, Trustee
- Michael E. Mignery, Trustee
- Elizabeth A. Brosius, Clerk

The Center for Public Management and Regional Affairs at Miami University engages in applied research, technical assistance services, training and education, and data base development in the areas of public management and capacity building, local government economic development and planning, and public program evaluation and policy research. The Center's full-time professional staff hold advanced degrees in public administration, policy/program evaluation, and community planning. The Center's activities are funded by external grants and contracts from a number of funding sources including Ohio's Rural Universities Program and the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration.

Respectfully,



Philip A. Russo, Jr.
Director, Center for Public Management and Regional Affairs
Professor, Political Science, Miami University

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This section provides a brief overview of the key findings from the Hanover Township (Butler County) Community Survey conducted by the Center for Public Management and Regional Affairs at Miami University. The total response rate to the survey was 48.0%. Note: The response rate is calculated using the total number of households mailed (2,889) less vacant (65) and undeliverable (53) addresses for a net total of 2,771 households.

Net Households Mailed	2,889
Households Responding	1330
Response Rate	48.0%
Confidence Interval	± 2.0%

- 46.0% of the respondents have lived in Hanover Township for more than 20 years.
- 97.9% of the respondents are homeowners.
- Respondent gender was 52.5% female and 47.5% male.
- 79.3% of the respondents are married.
- 96.5% of the respondents are very satisfied (47.7%) or satisfied (48.8%) with living in Hanover Township.
- 66.3% of the respondents think the Township has “stayed about the same” in the past five years.
- 79.5% of the respondents indicated they were “happy here and will probably stay for the next five years.”
- 60.0%, 51.3%, and 48.2% think that police protection, fire protection, and emergency medical services have “stayed about the same” in the past three years respectively.
- 52.9%, 43.7%, and 42.2% think that street and road conditions, zoning enforcement, and cemetery maintenance have “stayed about the same” in the past three years respectively.

- 76.1% of the respondents strongly agree (24.1%) or agree (52.0%) that they are satisfied with the current level of police protection provided to the township.
- 70.5% of the respondents strongly agree (18.8%) or agree (51.7%) that they are satisfied with the current level of fire protection provided by the township.
- 67.7% of the respondents strongly agree (19.9%) or agree (47.8%) that they are satisfied with the current level of emergency medical service (EMS) provided by the township.
- 39.3% think that Hanover Township should adopt its own zoning code.
- Junked cars (32.1%), vegetation height (weeds and brush) (22.9%), and miscellaneous junk (21.5%) were the most commonly cited public nuisances that Hanover Township has not adequately addressed.
- 57.2% are very satisfied (7.8%) or satisfied (49.4%) with the enforcement of zoning codes in the Township.
- 53.5% of the respondents would like to see more public parks and recreational facilities developed within the Township with fitness trail/hiking path/walking path being the most commonly cited (42.0%).
- 72.5% of the respondents would prefer to receive information concerning Township news, meetings, and events from a Township newsletter.

INTRODUCTION

Hanover Township is located in Butler County, Ohio. According to the 2000 United States Census, Hanover Township has a total population of 7,878 living in 2,809 households. Portions of the Village of Millville are located within the township borders and are included in the total household population for the purposes of this survey project.

The staff at the Center for Public Management and Regional Affairs at Miami University conducted a mail survey in October and November 2003. Township officials were interested in assessing attitudes towards a variety of issues and services that affect residents of the Township. Specifically, they were interested in general attitudes regarding the quality of life as well as growth and development in Hanover Township as well as attitudes toward the services provided to the residents of the Township including street and road conditions, public safety, and parks and recreation facilities. Identifying preferences and interests of residents can assist Township officials with long-term planning efforts for the Township.

The objectives of the survey were to better understand current satisfaction levels with Township services and to identify areas or issues that may require the attention of Township officials in the future. Through an objective analysis of survey responses, Township officials can evaluate these findings and establish priorities and strategies to better address the needs of the entire community.

SURVEY INSTRUMENT

The survey instrument was drafted by the staff and students at the Center for Public Management and Regional Affairs in consultation with Hanover Township officials. The

survey questions were designed to elicit responses in several forms. While the instrument comprised forced choice, ranking, and rating intensity questions, open ended questions allowed the respondent to describe in their own words concerns about a number of issues about living in Hanover Township. Appendix A contains a copy of the survey instrument.

The first set of questions asked about life in Hanover Township. Residents were asked to provide information about how long they have lived in Hanover Township, their overall satisfaction with living in the Township, and how living in the Township had changed in the past five years. Residents were then asked to list “the three qualities that you **like** the most” and “the three qualities that you **dislike** the most” about living in Hanover Township. Next, residents were asked about their intentions to remain in Hanover Township or move away in the next five years. Finally, residents were asked to imagine Hanover Township five years from now and indicate how much growth the Township should pursue. Residents were also given the opportunity to identify the types of growth they would like to see in Hanover Township.

The second section of questions gathered information on a variety of services offered to Hanover Township residents. Residents were asked about how service delivery had changed in the past three years in regard to services such as police protection, fire protection, emergency medical services, street and road conditions, zoning enforcement, and cemetery maintenance. Residents were then asked to rate the change over the past three years of a variety of street, road, and sign conditions, including street name signs, highway route signs, speed limit postings, railroad crossing signs, pothole repair, drains and ditches, and snow & ice removal.

The next set of questions focused specifically on public safety in the Township. Residents were asked to indicate their satisfaction with current levels of police protection, fire protection, and emergency medical services (EMS). Residents were also asked to indicate their level of satisfaction with specific police services including: on-duty patrol, response time to requests, and general community outreach. They were asked how many times they had seen on-duty Sheriff's deputies patrolling in their neighborhood over the past month. Of specific interest, residents were asked to indicate their preferences towards the creation of a paid, full-time police department and a paid, full-time fire/emergency medical services department in the next three to five years.

A fourth set of questions asked residents about zoning and enforcement in Hanover Township. Residents were asked whether they thought that the Township should adopt its own zoning code. Specifically, residents were asked to identify public nuisances that the Township has not adequately addressed. Finally, residents were asked to indicate their satisfaction with the enforcement of zoning codes in Hanover Township.

A fifth section of questions was designed to obtain views on the parks and recreation facilities provided by the Township. Residents were first asked how often they or their family uses facilities at the Hanover School Memorial Park and whether they were satisfied with the facilities there. Next, residents were asked their opinion on seeing more public parks and recreation facilities developed within the Township. They were then asked to indicate which facilities they might like to see developed within the Township.

A sixth set of questions asked residents about their attitudes and perceptions about Township government, while the seventh section of questions dealt with township communication. Residents were asked how many Township Trustee meetings they have

attended in the past two years. Also, residents were asked to identify the sources from which they would like to receive information concerning Township news, meetings, and events.

The final set of questions collected a number of demographic characteristics including: home ownership, family size and age groupings, gender, marital status, and the years in which the respondent and their spouse, if applicable, were born. Each section of the survey provided respondents with an opportunity to write-in additional thoughts or comments if they desired.

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

A survey questionnaire was mailed to all households in Hanover Township. The Township Trustees assisted with procuring the mailing list from the two providers of water service to Township residents. The final household mailing list was created from the database of service addresses from water utility billing lists provided by the Southwest Regional Water District and the Butler County Department of Environmental Services. A total of 2,889 households were included on the lists from each water provider and surveys were mailed to these households in October 2003. Each survey packet included a survey instrument and a return-addressed postage-paid envelope. The survey requested that one member of the household who is 18 years of age or older and a resident of the Township complete the survey. A reminder card was mailed approximately one week after the first survey instrument had been mailed. A second survey instrument was mailed approximately three weeks after the first one. The second survey instrument packet was identical to the first one and provided households with a second opportunity to participate. A second reminder card was mailed one week after the

second instrument had been mailed. A total of 1,330 usable responses were returned, for a response rate of 48.0%¹.

The standard margin of sampling error in this survey is plus or minus two percentage points ($\pm 2\%$) in 95 out of 100 cases. This means that if a survey is conducted 100 times, in 95 cases the results will not vary by more than plus or minus two percentage points from the results if all Township residents had been surveyed and responded.

All surveys are subject to sources of error, such as bias in the wording of questions, timing, issue salience, etc. The instrument design, format, and timing attempted to increase the response rate and to minimize bias. There is little reason to suspect that the data collection procedures introduced any significant bias; the findings reported herein can be taken confidently as an accurate reflection of respondent opinion at the time. However, these opinions are ephemeral and therefore may change over time. Thus, they reflect a snapshot of respondents' views only at the time of the survey.

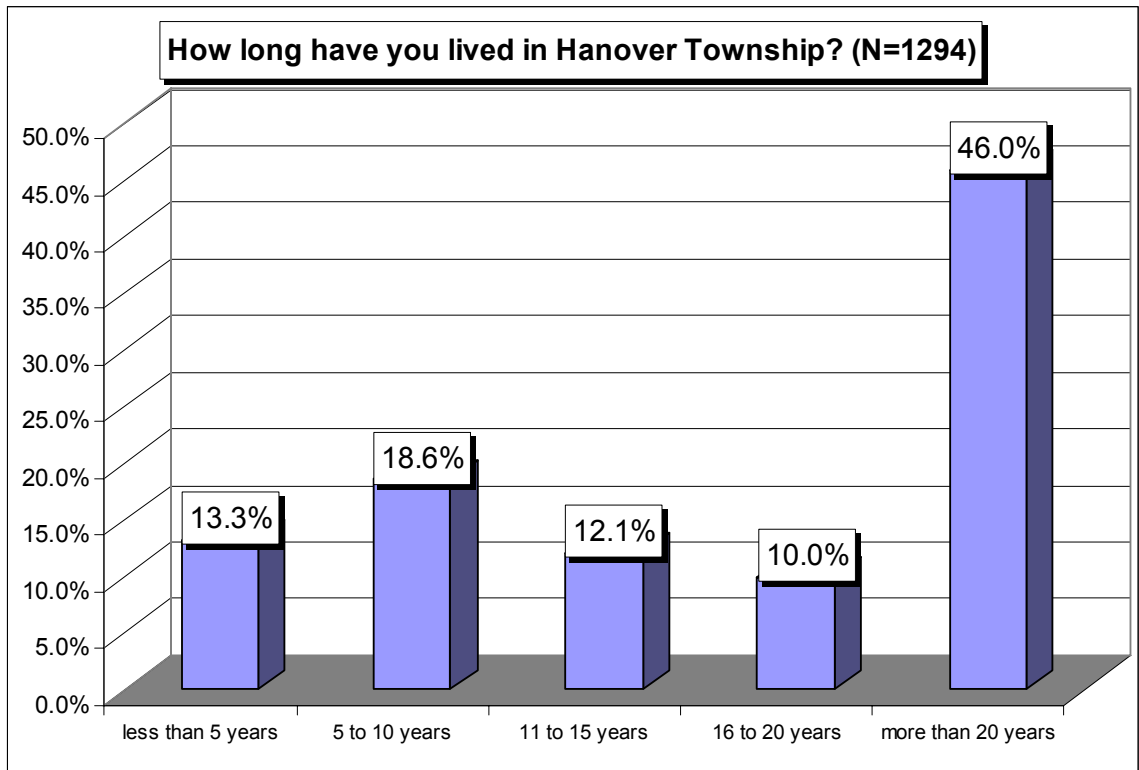
The majority of surveys returned were completed in full. However, some respondents chose not to answer parts or specific questions in the survey. Incomplete surveys were included in the database, thus some questions may have more responses than others. Due to rounding, some of the reported percentages may not equal 100%.

SURVEY RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

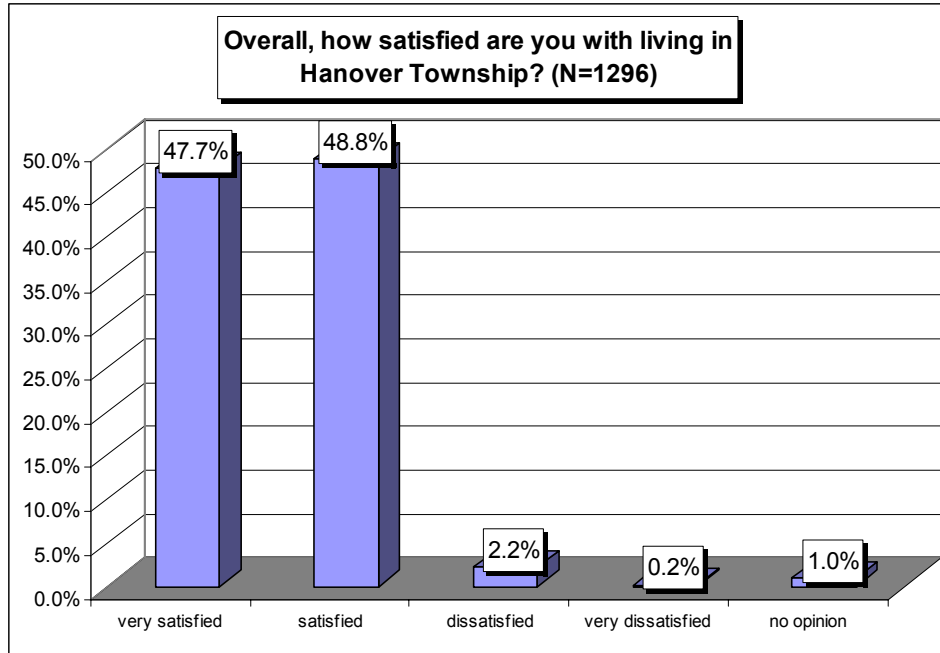
TOWNSHIP LIFE: It is not uncommon for long-term residents (more than 20 years) to account for a majority of the responses to a community survey of this nature. As the chart below indicates, survey respondents represent a distribution across all categories of

¹ The response rate is calculated by subtracting the vacant addresses (65) and the undeliverable addresses (53) from the total number of households mailed (2,889) for a net household base of 2,771.

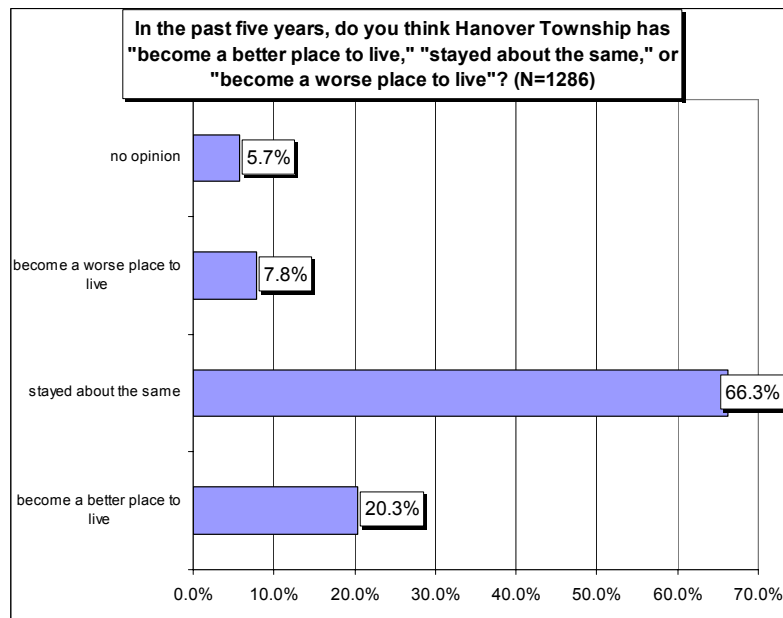
length of residency. While nearly five out of ten respondents were long-term residents, over ten percent have resided in the Township for five years or less. This is a positive indicator of wide spread interest in the Township by both longer-term residents as well as relative newcomers.



Well over nine out of ten respondents indicated their overall satisfaction with living in Hanover Township. Nearly five in ten indicated they were very satisfied (47.7%) with living in the Township; another 48.8% were satisfied with living in the Township. Only 2.4% of the respondents indicated they were dissatisfied (2.2%) or very dissatisfied (0.2%) with living in Hanover Township.



As a second measure of satisfaction, the survey asked residents to consider how living in the Township has changed over the past five years. While 66.3% indicated that Hanover Township has “stayed about the same,” 20.3% indicated that Hanover Township has “become a better place to live.” Only 7.8% thought the Township has “become a worse place to live” over the past five years.



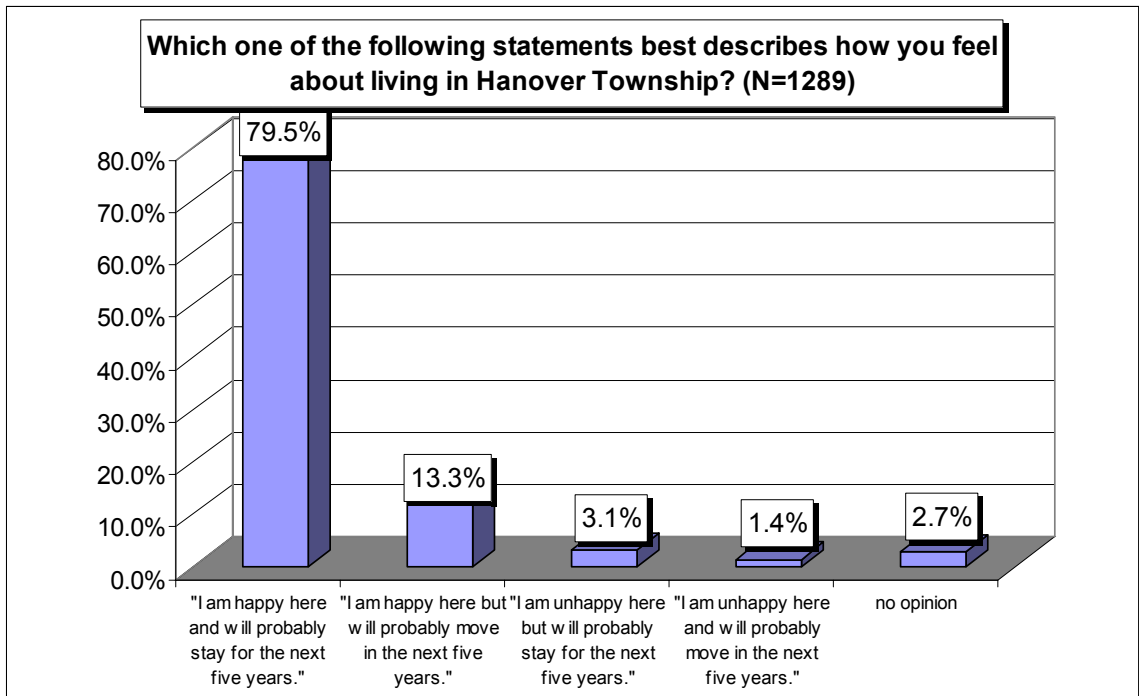
Residents were asked to identify “the three qualities that you **like** the most” and “the three qualities that you **dislike** the most” about living in Hanover Township. Over 4,500 discrete comments were provided in response to these two questions (approximately 2,700 positive (“likes”) aspects and 1,800 negative (“dislikes”) aspects). A content analysis was conducted on both sets of comments allowing similar responses to be aggregated into general categories. Approximately four out of ten positive aspects identified as qualities that people like about living in Hanover Township were aggregated into “quality of life” issues. These positive quality of life aspects included such things as small town atmosphere, country living, rural setting, peace and quiet, privacy, and good people/neighbors. Other positive aspects identified included the proximity of the Township to other locations such as the City of Hamilton and the City of Oxford, and the quality of public services provided to residents, particularly road maintenance. Many people specified snow and ice removal as a positive aspect within the broader category of road maintenance.

The negative aspects to living in the Township were more broadly dispersed across a variety of categories. Government related issues (including tax rates and Township services), traffic issues (including congestion, speeding, and road maintenance), and issues with growth and development (too much construction, loss of land to buildings, etc.) were the most frequently cited qualities that respondents dislike about living in Hanover Township. A number of respondents expressed a dislike for issues related to the schools in the area (particularly the Talawanda School District). All of the positive and negative aspects can be found in Appendix D.

Table 1: Qualities That You Like/Dislike the Most About Living in Hanover Township

Like	Dislike
Quality of Life	Government related issues
Proximity of Township	Traffic
Quality of Public Services	Growth and Development

While a previous question asked residents to take a retrospective look and assess change over the past five years, the next two questions asked them to look into the future. Again using a five-year time horizon, respondents were asked to indicate both their level of happiness and whether or not they anticipated staying in the Township. As the following chart shows, nearly eight out of ten respondents are both happy in Hanover Township and intend to stay for the next five years. This information may be useful to the Township as it looks to develop longer-term plans and strategies for what appears to be a very stable population base.



Furthermore, residents were asked to imagine the Township five years from now and indicate how much growth the Township should pursue. A slight majority of respondents (44.8%) think the Township should “pursue moderate growth,” while 44.6% of respondents think the Township should “remain the same.” Only 6.9% think the Township should “pursue significant growth” five years from now. It should be noted that individual respondents may have differing views of what constitutes significant or moderate growth.

In order to understand what respondents may have meant by significant or moderate growth, a follow-up question asked them to specify what types of growth they would like to see in Hanover Township. A content analysis of the 490 responses to this question allowed similar responses to be aggregated into general categories. Approximately five out of ten respondents indicated that they would like to see Hanover Township pursue growth in terms of maintaining open space, including farmland preservation and an increase in land set aside for parks and recreation activities and facilities. Nearly one out of four respondents would like to see improvements in the Township’s infrastructure (roads, water, sewer) and services (a community center, hospital, schools). Respondents also indicated (approximately 20%) that they would like to see growth in single-family residential housing in Hanover Township.

TOWNSHIP SERVICES: Hanover Township provides a number of services to its residents. Residents were asked to indicate whether these township services had “become better,” “stayed about the same,” or “become worse” over the past three years. Over 50% of respondents indicated that four of the five services had either “become better” or “stayed about the same” over the past three years. Just under 50% of respondents

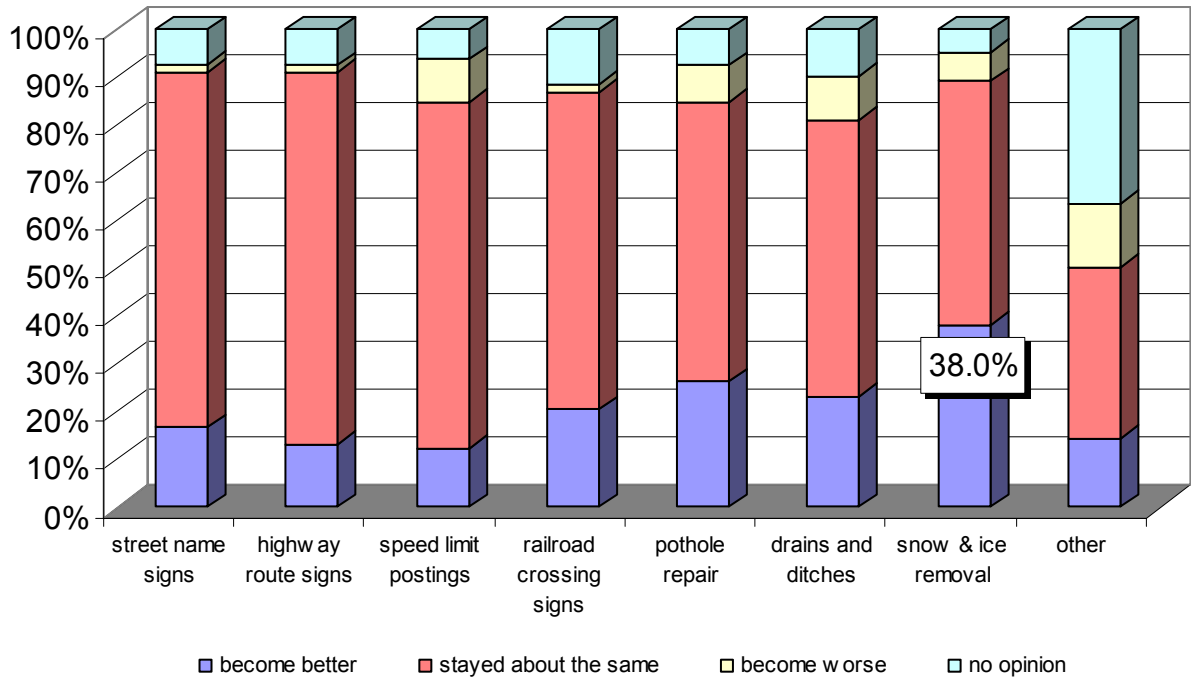
indicated that zoning enforcement had either “become better” or “stayed about the same” over the past three years. Details are shown in the table below.

Table 2: Township Services Over the Past Three Years (N=varies)

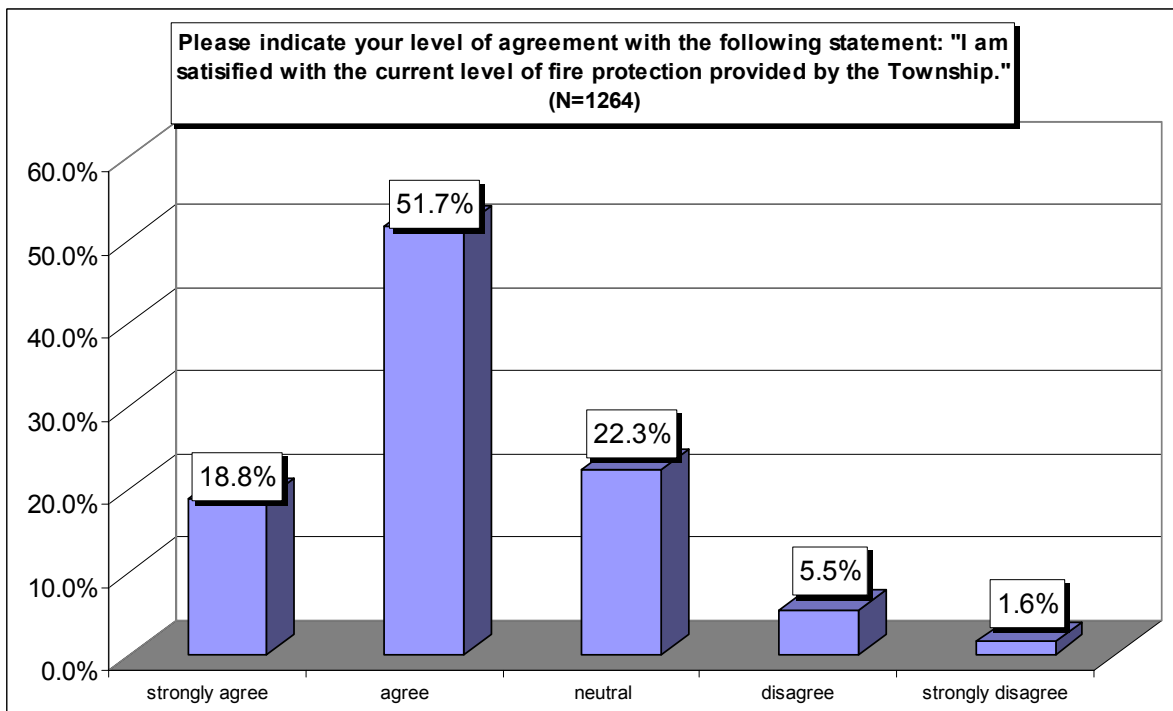
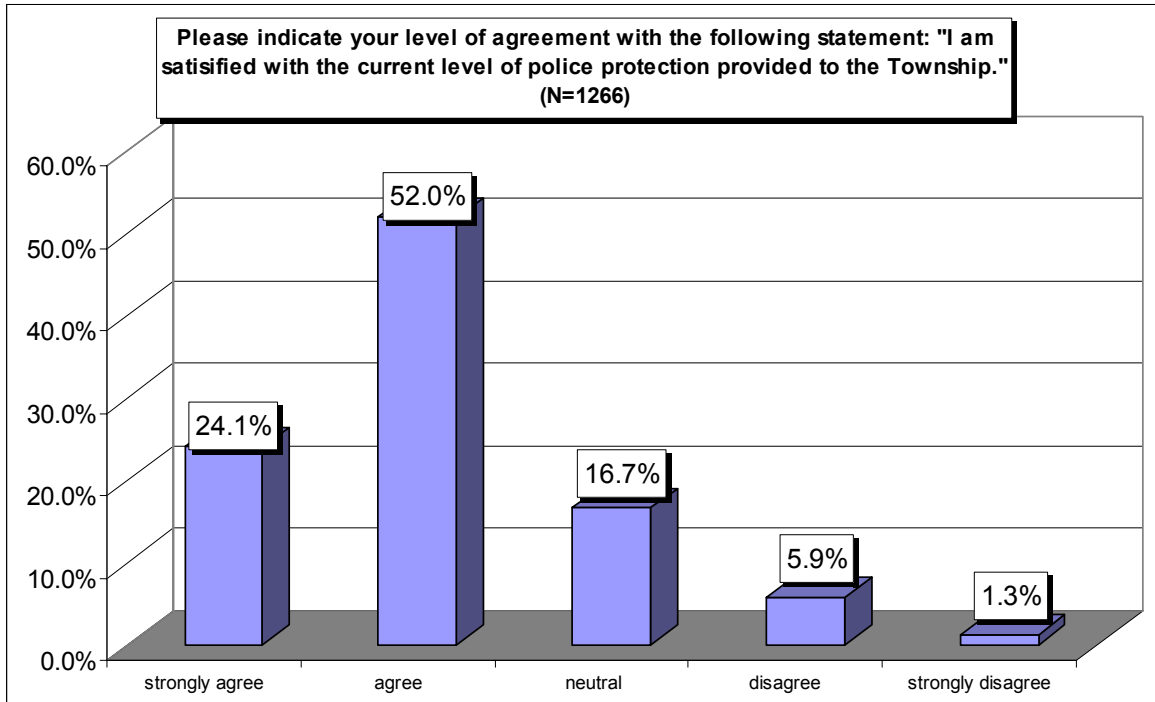
	become better	stayed about the same	become worse	no opinion
police protection	21.1%	60.0%	4.3%	14.6%
fire protection	27.9%	51.3%	2.2%	18.5%
emergency medical services	27.9%	48.2%	4.5%	19.3%
street and road conditions	32.8%	52.9%	8.6%	5.7%
zoning enforcement	6.1%	43.7%	14.3%	35.9%
cemetery maintenance	13.7%	42.2%	1.2%	43.0%

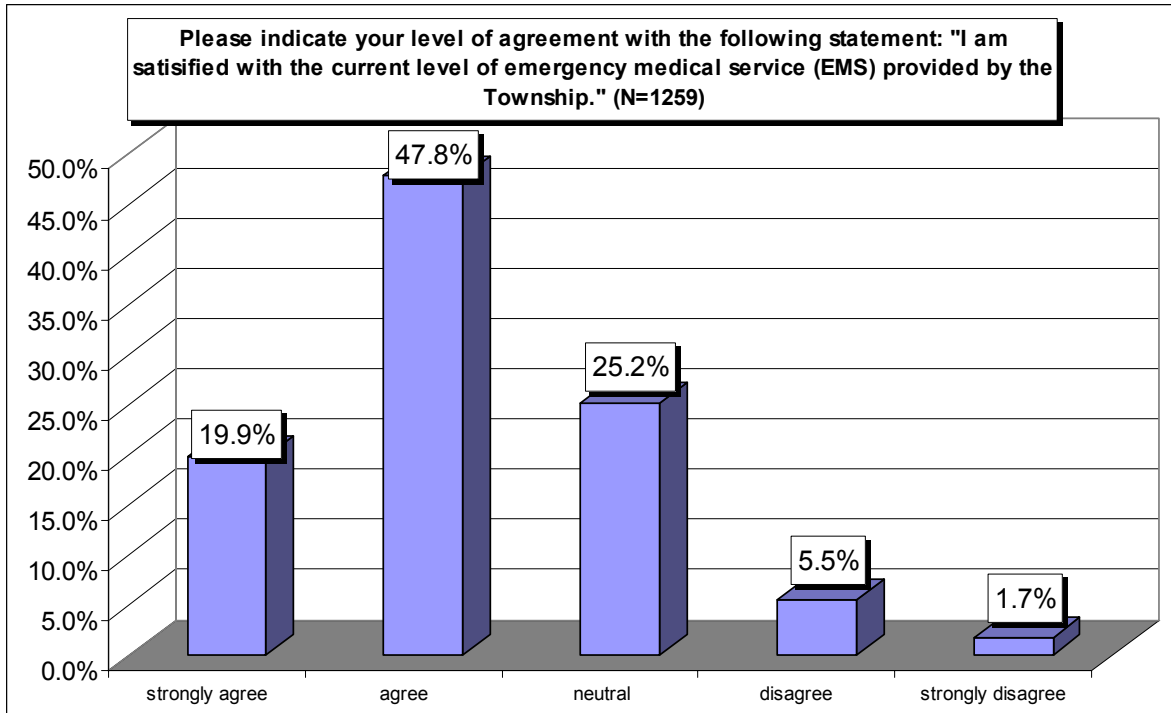
Residents were then asked to assess the condition and maintenance of streets, roads, and signs in Hanover Township over the same period of time. As the chart below indicates, most respondents indicated that the condition and maintenance of streets, roads, and signs in the Township have “stayed about the same” (pink bars) over the past three years. One particular service that stood out positively in the responses to this question was that of snow & ice removal. 38.0% of respondents indicated that this particular service had “become better” over the past three years.

Over the past three years, have the following street, road, and sign conditions listed below "become better," "stayed about the same," or "become worse"? (N=varies)

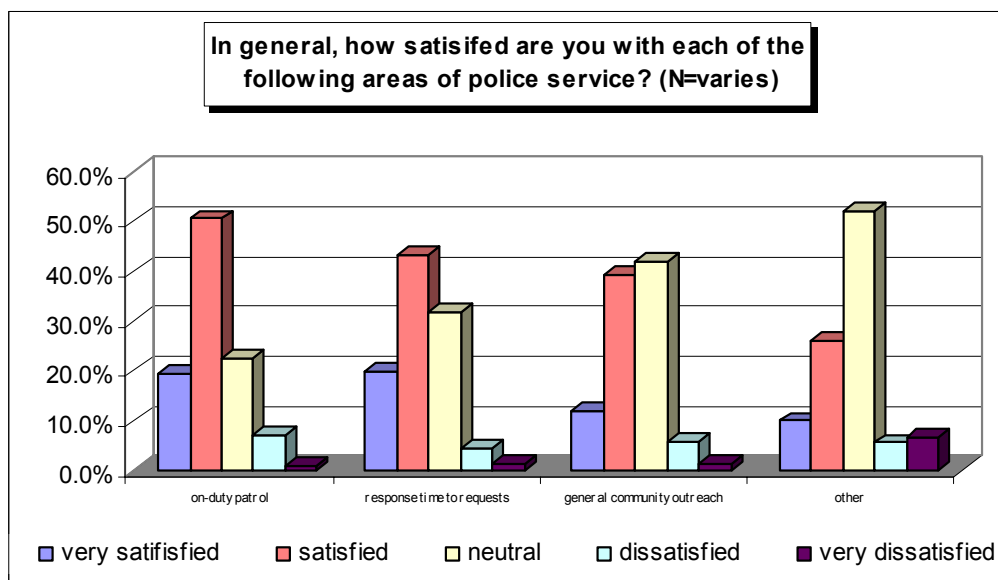


PUBLIC SAFETY: Previously, residents were asked to assess the change over time with regard to public safety services in the Township. The next set of questions asked them to consider the levels of public safety services provided to residents. Respondents indicated generally high satisfaction rates with the level of public safety services (police protection, fire protection, and emergency medical services (EMS)) provided to residents.

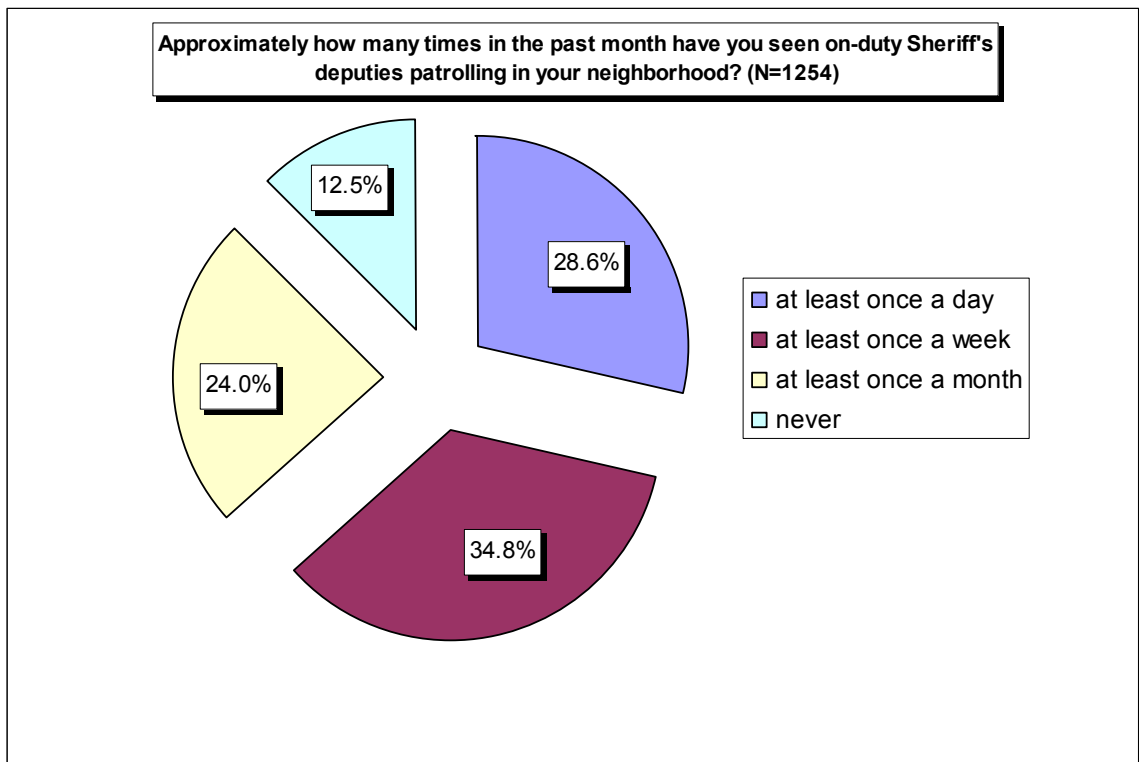




Looking more specifically at police services, residents were first asked to indicate their satisfaction with several specific areas of police service provided by the Butler County Sheriff's Office. While there were a fair number of neutral responses (22.4%, 31.7%, and 41.9% respectively) respondents expressed their overall satisfaction with on-duty patrol, response time to requests, and general community outreach.



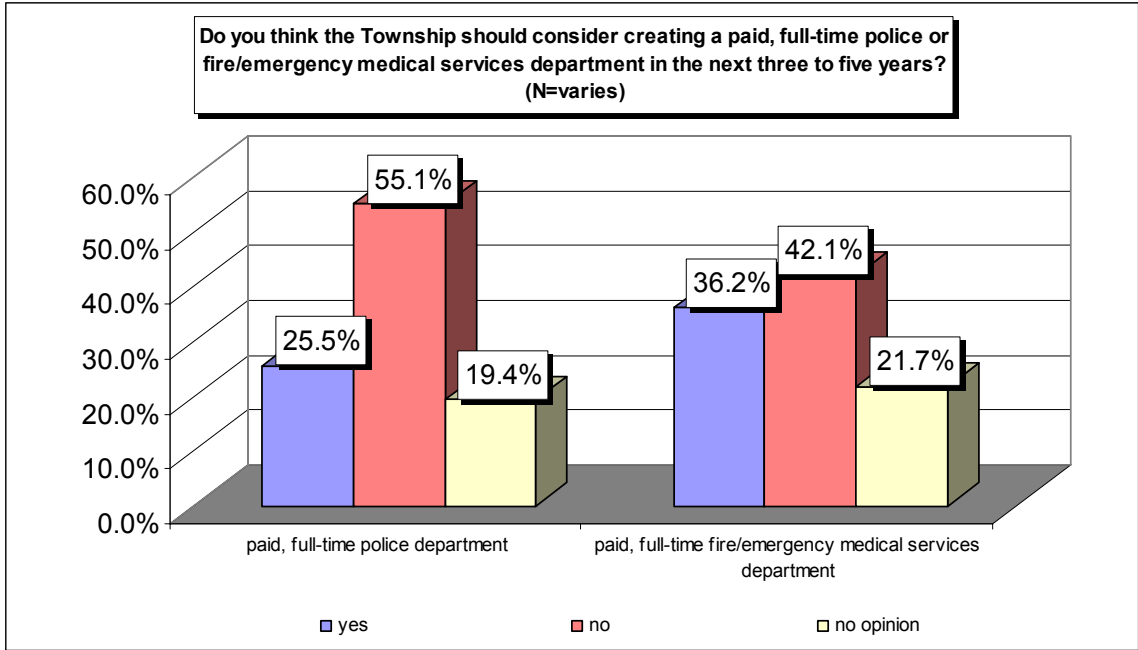
As a measure of resident's perception of police visibility, they were asked approximately how many times in the past month had they seen on-duty Sheriff's deputies patrolling in their neighborhood. Over 60% of the respondents indicated seeing the police at least once a week (34.8%) or at least once a day (28.6%).



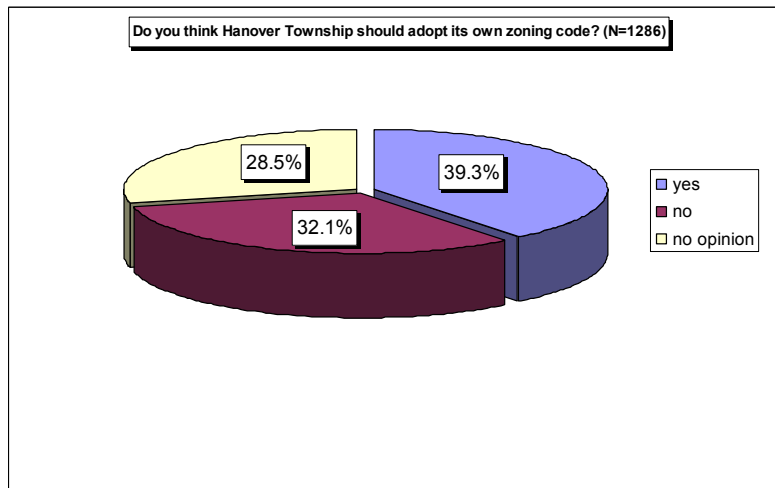
Looking to the future, only slightly more than one-quarter (25.5%) of all respondents indicated the Township should consider creating a paid, full-time police department in the next three to five years. 55.1% of all respondents do not think the Township should consider creating a paid, full-time police department in the next three to five years, while 19.4% had no opinion on the issue.

A similar future-oriented question asked residents whether the Township should consider creating a paid, full-time fire/emergency medical services department in the next three to five years. Over one-third of respondents (36.2%) were in favor of the Township considering a paid, full-time fire/emergency medical services department in the next three

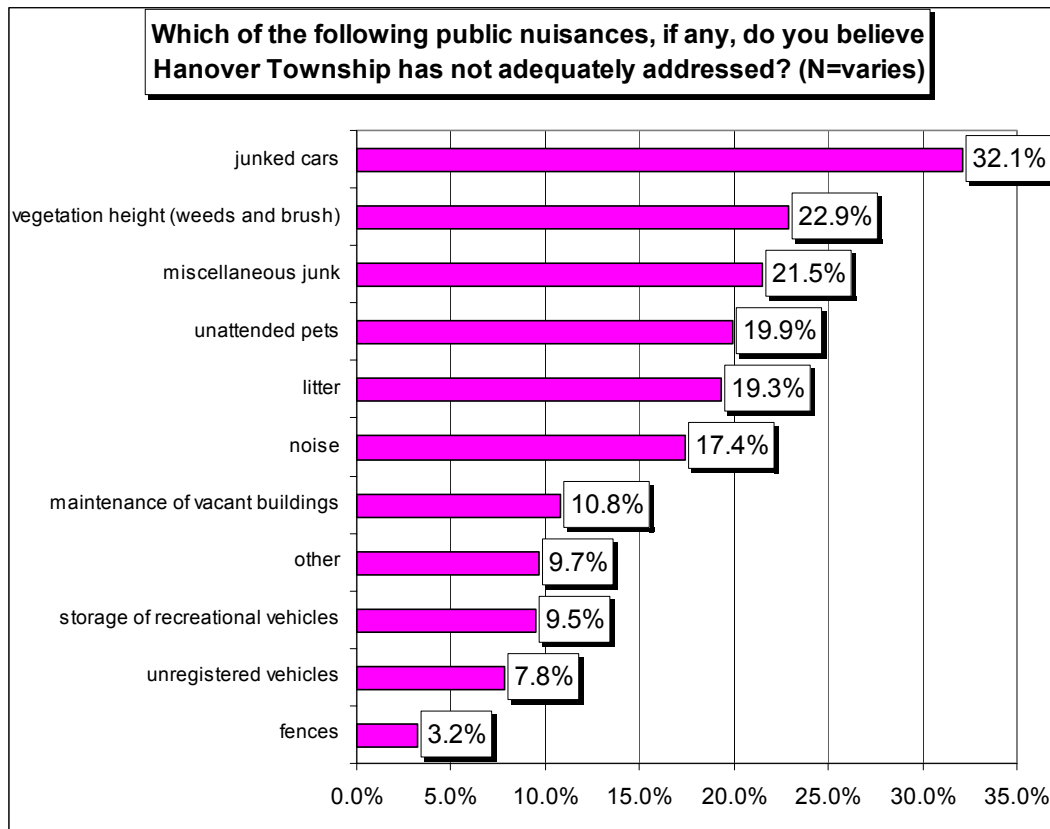
to five years, while 42.1% do not think that township should consider this issue in that timeframe.



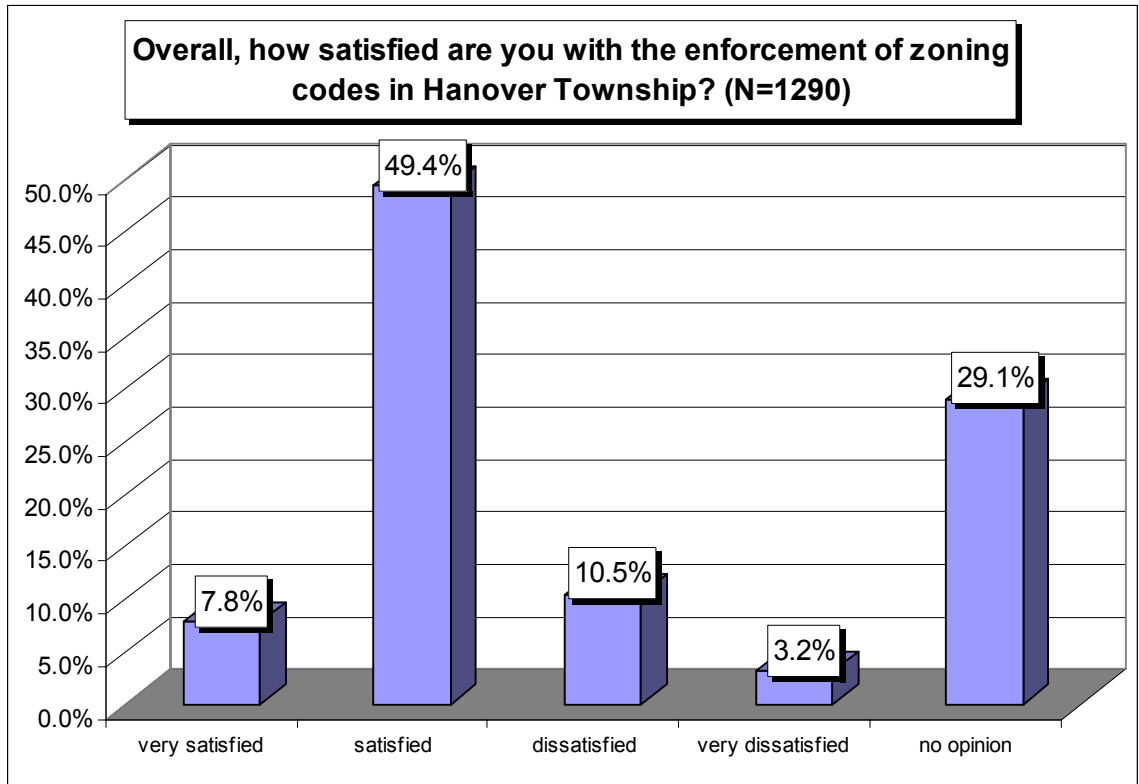
ZONING AND ENFORCEMENT: This set of questions is used to capture opinions regarding zoning regulations and code enforcement. The first question asked residents whether Hanover Township should adopt its own zoning code. 39.3% of respondents were in favor of the Township adopting its own zoning code, while 32.1% of respondents were not. Another 28.5% expressed no opinion on the issue.



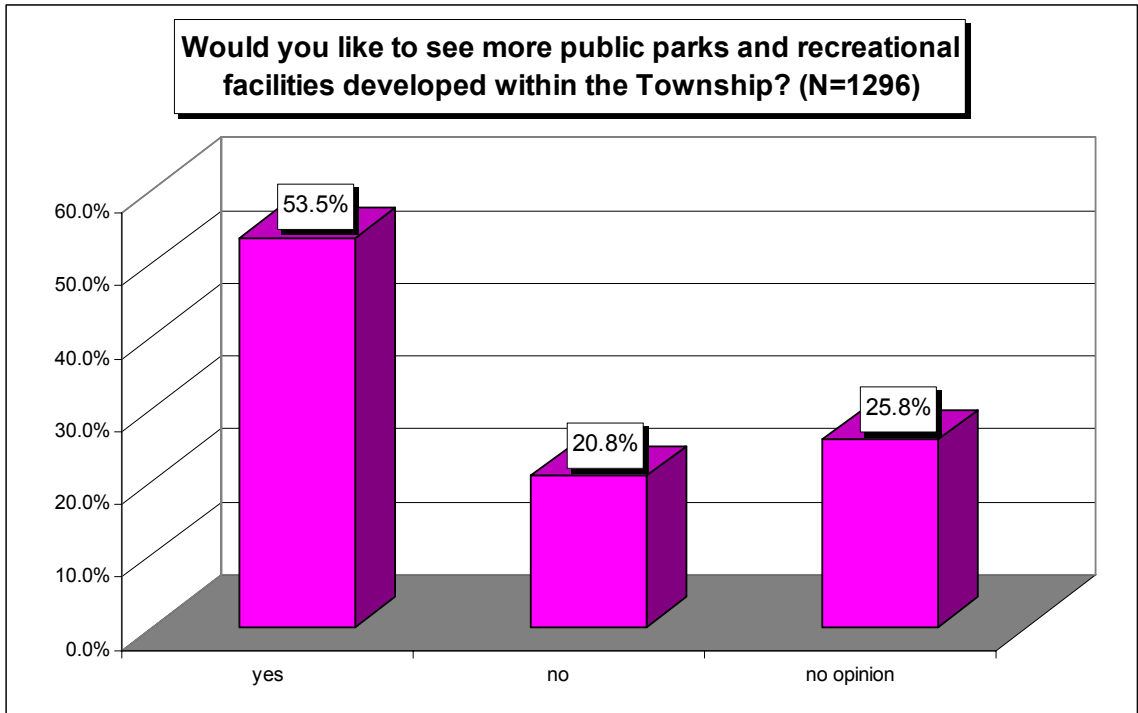
Residents were then asked to identify which public nuisances they believe Hanover Township has not adequately addressed. Respondents identified “junked cars,” “vegetation height (weeds and brush),” and “miscellaneous junk” as the top three nuisances not adequately addressed by the Township.



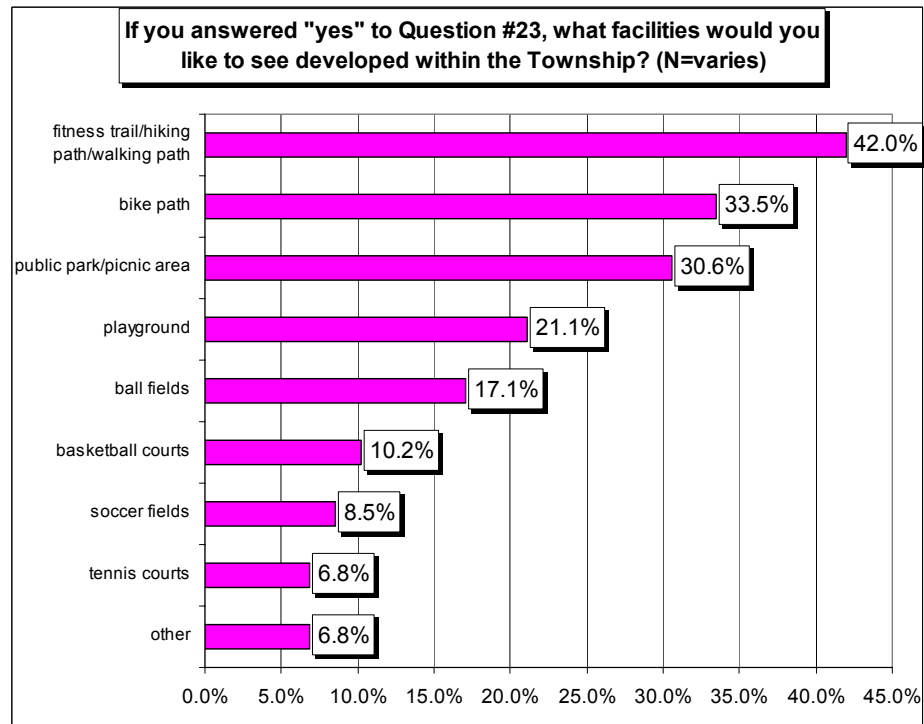
The final question in this section asked residents about their satisfaction levels with the enforcement of zoning codes in Hanover Township. Over 50% of respondents indicated that they were either very satisfied (7.8%) or satisfied (49.4%) with zoning code enforcement in the Township. Nearly 30% of respondents expressed no opinion on the issue (29.1%).



PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES: Township residents were asked how often they or their families used facilities at the Hanover School Memorial Park in a month. Nearly 70% selected none in response to this question. Over one quarter (25.9%) of respondents use the facilities at the park 1-3 times in a month. Furthermore, residents were asked how satisfied they were with the recreational facilities at the Hanover School Memorial Park. Over half of the respondents were either very satisfied (24.9%) or satisfied (29.5%) with the recreational facilities at the park. Another 44.0% had no opinion on the matter. Furthermore, residents were asked to indicate their preferences towards additional public parks and recreational facilities and the types of facilities they would prefer if facilities were to be developed within the Township. A majority of respondents (53.5%) indicated an interest in additional public parks and recreational facilities within the Township.

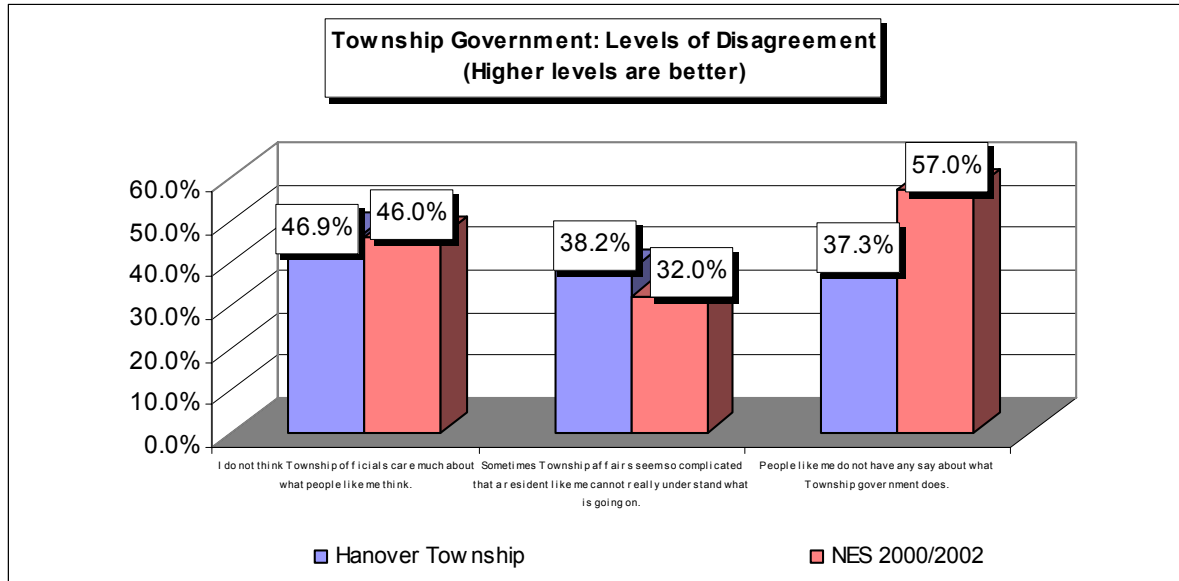


Fitness trail/hiking path/walking path, bike path, and public park/picnic area were the three most frequent selections by respondents who favored additional public parks and recreational facilities in the Township.



TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENT: In addition to collecting attitudes and opinions regarding public services provided by the Township, the survey also sought to collect information regarding residents' views toward Township government. Using a set of questions that have been used in other surveys in other communities, we can compare the attitudes of Hanover Township residents with others. Based upon the 2000/2002 National Election Studies² results, we can compare Hanover Township survey results with national results. Higher levels of disagreement with this set of questions indicate that residents have positive feelings towards their ability to understand and influence the political process. Hanover Township survey respondents are above the national average on two of the three comparative measures. We do urge caution in the interpretation and use of these results as many factors can and do influence individual responses to questions of this nature. With less than four out of ten respondents disagreeing with the statement, "People like me do not have any say in what Township government does," this may provide the Township with an opportunity to reach out and improve communications to change this negative perception. Also, 38.2% of respondents disagreed with the statement that "Sometimes Township affairs seem so complicated that a resident like me cannot really understand what is going on." This level of disagreement would seem to indicate that some residents find Township affairs complicated.

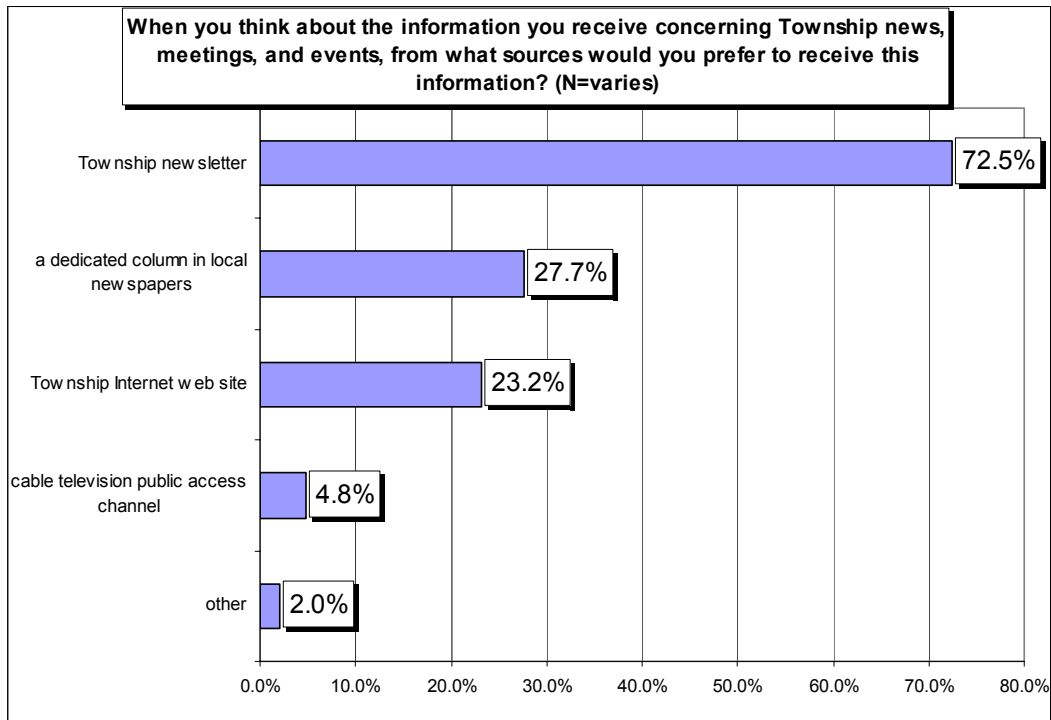
² The National Election Studies, Center for Political Studies, University of Michigan. The NES Guide to Public Opinion and Electoral Behavior (<http://www.umich.edu/~nes/nsguide/nsguide.htm>). Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan, Center for Political Studies [producer and distributor], 1995-2002.



TOWNSHIP COMMUNICATION: Another set of questions was designed so that residents could consider issues pertaining to Hanover Township Trustee meetings and the Township’s communication efforts with residents. The first question asked residents to indicate how many Township Trustee meetings they have attended in the past two years. An overwhelming number of respondents (86.3%) have not attended a meeting in that timeframe. Just over ten percent (11.2%) of respondents have attended 1-3 meetings in the past two years, while the remaining 2.5% of respondents have attended 4 or more meetings in that timeframe.

A second question in this section attempted to gauge from what sources respondents would prefer to receive information concerning Township news, meetings, and events. The most frequently cited choice (72.5%) for a source of information was a Township newsletter. This may be taken as a signal that the Township should consider producing a periodic newsletter for Township residents. 27.7% of respondents would prefer to receive information about the Township from a dedicated column in local newspapers. Another

23.2% would like to see a Township Internet web site established as a source of Township information.



DEMOGRAPHICS: The Hanover Township Community Survey also collected baseline demographic data from responding households. This demographic data can be used as a comparison against the 2000 Census results to determine the overall representativeness of responding households as compared to the entire Township.

Table 3: Demographic Representativeness

Demographic Category	2000 Census	2003 Hanover Survey
Gender:		
Male	49.6%	47.5%
Female	50.4%	52.5%
Marital Status:		
Married	67.0%	79.3%
Single (never married)	20.1%	2.7%
Single (divorced)	6.3%	8.0%
Surviving Spouse	5.6%	9.6%
Households with Minor Children	38.9%	30.5%
Home Ownership	93.8%	97.9%

As Table 3 indicates, household demographic data compare favorably with overall data collected by the 2000 Census. Female, married, and home owner respondents are slightly over-represented in the survey, while single (never married) respondents are somewhat under-represented in the household population. However, this Census comparison suggests that the respondents were proportionately representative of the overall population of Hanover Township.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Respondents were provided with the opportunity at the end of the survey to make additional comments. A listing of the responses to all of the open-ended questions in the survey, including the Additional Comments can be found in Appendix D. A sampling of the Additional Comments is shown below.

- *I think we live in one of the best townships in Ohio. There will be growth problems but, so far, I think they are being handled well. My grandkids love the park. Whenever I have called the Trustees, especially Mike Mignery, they have been very responsive.*
- *A newsletter to let us know about crime, local meetings, advice on snow emergencies, or anything else newsworthy – list meeting dates every couple of months or a few times a year.*
- *Let's get some business here to help with taxes.*
- *Zoning is a big issue and I'd like to see the township enact stricter zoning rules instead of using county rules.*
- *Trustees need to take a concerted effort against neighbors who turn their properties into "junk yards." I see multiple unlicensed vehicles, boats, and construction equipment in residential neighborhoods. This is of concern; it causes property values to decrease.*
- *I know I've addressed the increased truck/semi traffic in other areas on this survey, but this is a big problem. They fly on Stillwell-Beckett Rd. and just in the past year I know of two accidents caused by their speed & aggressive 'hogging' of the road.*

- *The Sheriff's Dept has always went the full limit and sometimes above and beyond duty showing sincere dedication and concern for us. They are timely and do their jobs well and with pride and dedication.*
- *I think this survey is a good assessment tool. I am interested in reading the results and am more interested in future efforts to resolve weaknesses/problems in the township.*
- *It is great living in Hanover Township. Roads are taken care of during snow days. Emergency volunteers are great and quick on response.*
- *I want to thank road crews for exceptional road care in winter.*
- *Thanks for sending out this survey. This proves that Hanover Twp. cares about what its citizens think.*

COMPARISON TO 1992 COMMUNITY SURVEY

In 1992, the Center for Public Management and Regional Affairs conducted a similar community survey for Hanover Township. It is interesting to consider some general comparisons on issues such as quality of life and Township services between the two surveys. In 1992, the response rate was 47.1% with 1,129 households completing questionnaires as compared to a response rate of 48.0% with 1,330 households participating in 2003.

In 1992, 40.3% of respondents had lived in Hanover Township for more than 20 years as compared to 46.0% of respondents in 2003. This would seem to indicate that residents are remaining in the Township for significant lengths of time. Nearly eighty percent (78.2%) of respondents were either very satisfied or satisfied with living in Hanover Township in 1992. The 2003 survey results reveal that satisfaction levels have increased with 96.5% of respondents indicating that they were either very satisfied or satisfied with living in Hanover Township.

Support for Hanover Township adopting its own zoning code has increased slightly since 1992. In the 2003 survey, 39.3% of respondents think that the Township should adopt its own zoning code. That figure represents an increase of 5.1% from the 34.2% that favored the Township adopting its own zoning code in 1992.

Finally, in terms of public parks and recreational facilities in the Township, 40.5% of respondents favored expanding park facilities in 1992. More public parks and recreational facilities in Hanover Township are supported by 53.5% of respondents in the 2003 survey.

CONCLUSION

Nearly half of those who received a Hanover Township Community Survey chose to participate and returned a completed survey. This is a positive indication of the high degree of public interest within the Township. In general, respondents indicated a fairly high degree of satisfaction with the public services provided to residents of Hanover Township. This overall satisfaction is reflected in the large number of respondents who indicated their expectation to remain in the Township for the next five years. Respondents indicated an interest in considering expanding public services such as additional public parks and recreational facilities and the publication of a Township newsletter. This interest is tempered by a concern from some for the current and future taxes that may be needed to provide such services.

This community survey provides a baseline set of data that may be useful in addressing both current and future needs of the Township. The Center for Public Management and Regional Affairs recommends the Township conduct a similar

community survey in three to five years to better assess both change and progress in the Township over time.