

# Quality of life

## Safety

### Overall

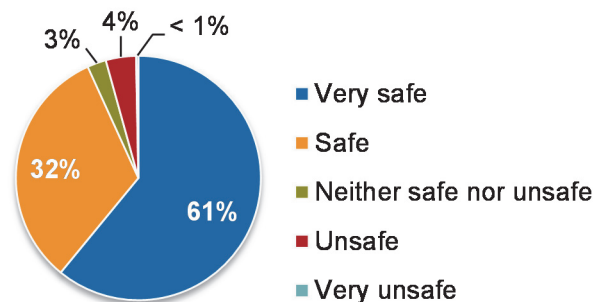
Ninety-three percent of the homeowners feel “very safe” or “safe” in their own homes (Figure 3). Seventy-eight percent feel safer than in their previous residence, 17 percent feel no different safety-wise, and 4 percent feel less safe. The results suggest an association between living in a Habitat home and feeling safe.

Eighty-three percent of respondents consider their children safer after the family’s move into a Habitat home, 12 percent feel that no change has occurred in their children’s safety, and 5 percent consider their children less safe.

Through open-ended questions, homeowners discussed safety as both neighborhood safety and also safety of housing conditions.

*Before we were living in a drug infested neighborhood in a tiny little house that had been made into a duplex. We had lead paint, no furnace filter; there was a hole in the furnace which would leak. I had to tape over the hole so we didn't have to breathe in the fumes. So having this [Habitat] home makes a huge difference of not having to live in that environment.*

### 3. Respondents’ feelings of safety in their current home (N=400)



### Regional

Overall, the percentage of homeowners who feel safe in their homes is relatively similar across regions, however the proportion who said they feel “very safe” varied. In greater Minnesota, 96 percent of homeowners said they feel at least “safe”, with 72 percent of homeowners saying they currently feel “very safe.” Ninety-one percent of Twin Cities

homeowners said they feel safe, with 52 percent considering themselves “very safe.” In regards to change in safety, percentages were relatively similar across regions with about 80 percent of homeowners saying they feel safer and their children are safer than they were before moving into their Habitat home.

*It is definitely more safe because I was living in a house with mold and the lock in the main door didn't work. So it has created a healthier and more safe environment for us to be in the Habitat house.*

### ***Length of homeownership***

The percentages of homeowners who said they currently feel safe in their homes were relatively similar between longer-term and shorter-term homeowners. However, in regards to changes in safety, 85 percent of shorter-term homeowners said they feel at least “a little more safe,” compared to 73 percent of longer-term homeowners. Additionally, a higher percentage of shorter-term homeowners said they feel “much more safe” (64% shorter-term, 54% longer-term). In regards to their children being more or less safe, longer- and shorter-term homeowners were relatively similar, however there was a difference in those who feel their children are “much more safe” (68% shorter-term, 58% longer-term).

*It's helping me. Because I lived before in the very bad neighborhood in [an] apartment, a lot of problems. Now, thank my god, I don't have any problem with that; my family [is] safe, everything is safe. It's going much better than previous. [I'm] proud about owning [a] house, and my family is safe. It's good.*