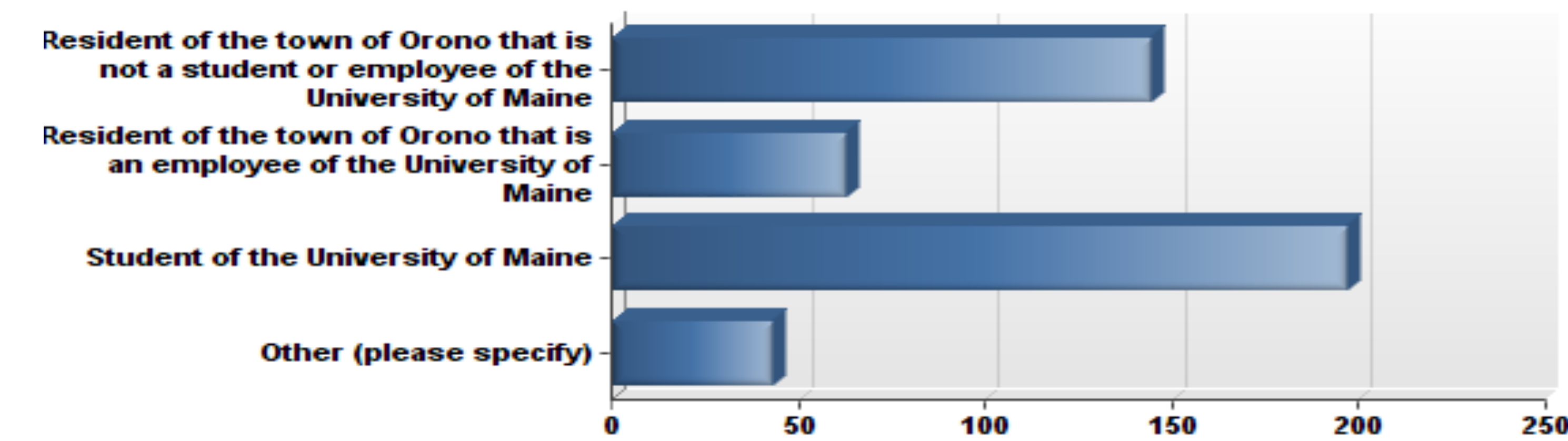


Confronting the Challenges of Studentification in Residential Orono Neighborhoods

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Findings Relative to the University of Maine:



Our respondent pool is an initial, positive indication that even those not affiliated with the University of Maine are still very receptive and willing to communicate in meaningful ways.

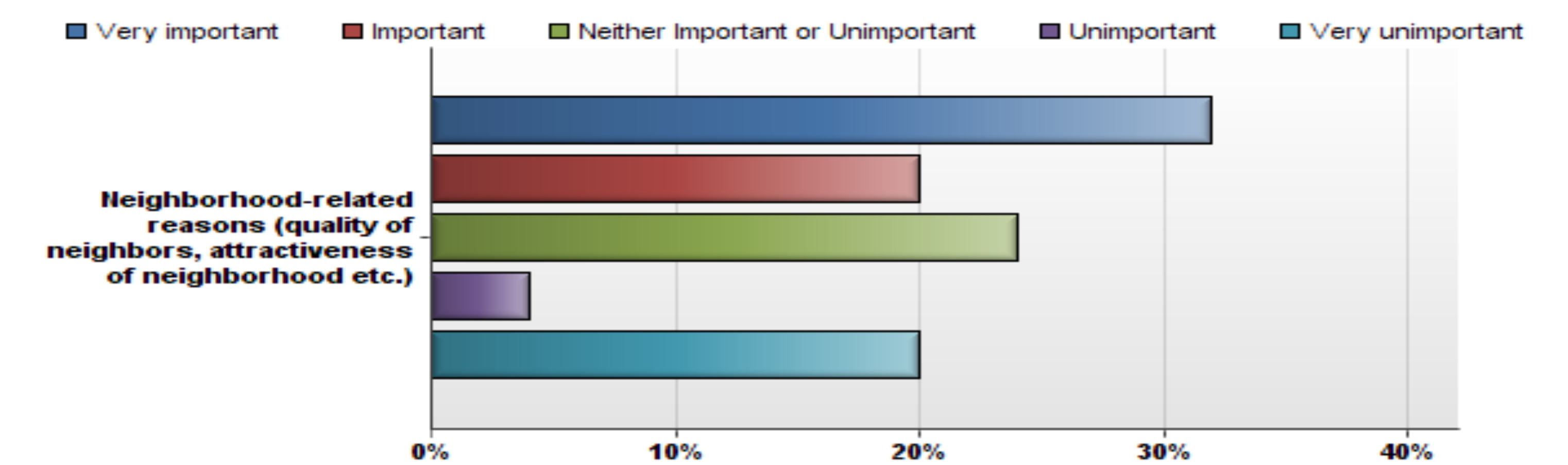
	Undergraduate student living off-campus in Orono
Strongly Disagree, Disagree	66
Neither Agree or Disagree	16
Agree, Strongly Agree	4
Prefer not to answer	5
Total	91

The data indicates that Resident Assistants (RAs) provide very little, if any, information about living off-campus in the future. Being that RA's have the most access and familiarity with on-campus students (usually freshman) who will, at least in the majority of cases, move off of campus soon, it would make more sense for the University to train Resident Assistants to be capable of providing the necessary information to these students.

Findings Relative to the Town of Orono:

	Very satisfied, Satisfied	Neutral	Unsatisfied, Very unsatisfied	Not sure, Prefer not to answer	Total
0 to 1, 2 to 3	78	1	5	0	84
3 to 5, 5 or more	83	13	14	1	111
Unsure, Prefer not to answer	20	2	0	0	22
Total	181	16	19	1	217

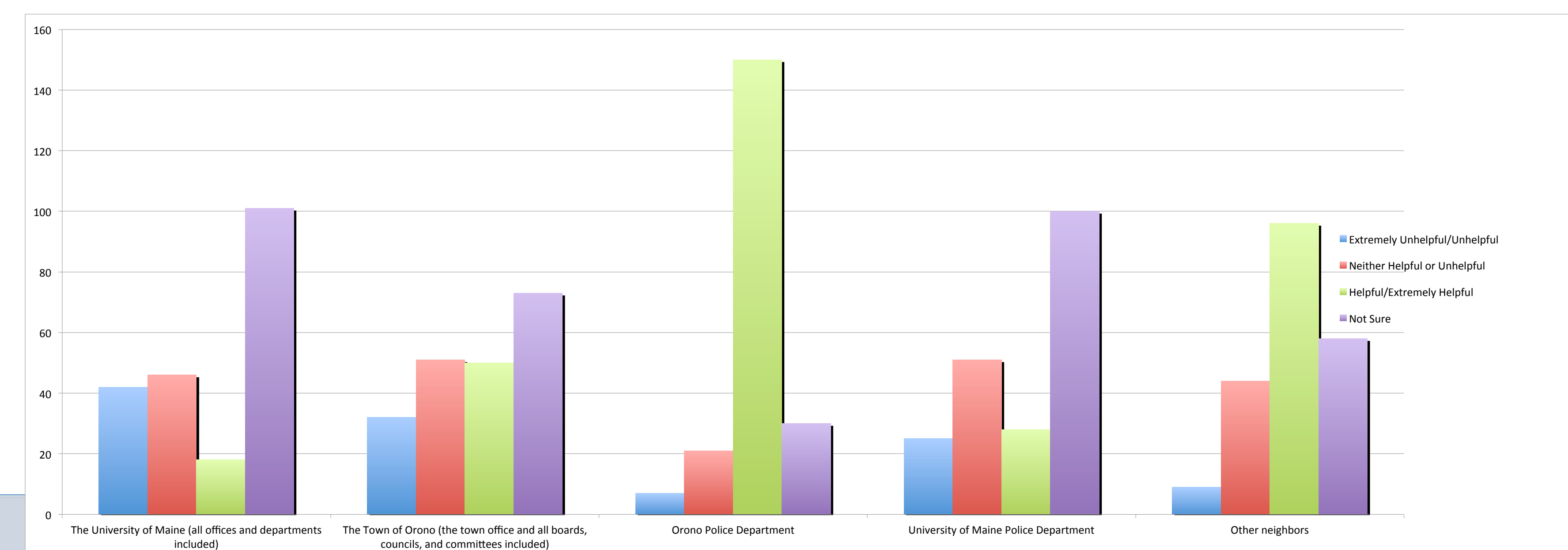
This cross tabulation shows us that there is no significant link between residents level of satisfaction with their neighborhood and the number of students living within them. In fact, there is a nearly even proportion of residents who identify as "very satisfied, (or) satisfied", within both neighborhoods with 0-3 student-owned homes, and neighborhoods with more than 3.



This graph shows that over 50% of residents planning to leave the town consider neighborhood-related reasons as important or very important in their decision to leave. With the finding above, we know that there are certain "problem areas" and that this issue doesn't encompass the entire town.

"We'll continuously be looking at 'Can we improve the situation on campus here? What are desired housing opportunities on campus?' But still, a lot of students want to step away from the "mother ship". That's a natural development, and so in order for us to be appealing to people we have to offer something really special. And we should probably step up our efforts in terms of students thinking about moving off-campus and how to do that. We have tried quite a few programs. Basically it's tenant information and education on how to be a good citizen. We don't do it continuously, but we should." – **Administrative Official of the University of Maine.**

This graph represents the uncertainty residents have regarding who they can contact when experiencing problems with student neighbors.



"We need to work on ensuring that the management of student rental properties is effective. In some instances in town we have great management and we see the benefits of that with lease enforcement and on-site security, and there's examples in town where there isn't that level of management and it's not good for our community. Management of these properties is key." – **Employee of the town of Orono**



Policy Implications:

Our findings demonstrate that neighborhood-related issues are occurring in Orono, but these are not insurmountable. An overwhelming majority of residents are pleased with their neighborhoods. Rather than punitive measures, authorities should take steps to mend relations between students and residents in neighborhoods where student behavior is a perceived issue. The University of Maine could enhance its education and programming for students on what it means to be a good neighbor before these students move off campus. The Town of Orono could make a greater effort to hold property owners accountable for actions that might be occurring when they are not properly attending to their student rental properties.