

Willow dale East Neighborhood

Community Well-Being Report (2014 – 2015)



By

Paridokht Shahcheraghi

Toronto Centre for Community Learning & Development

Table of content

List of Abbreviations	2
Glossary	3
Executive Summary	4
	5
Introduction	6
Neighborhood profile	7
	8
Methodology	9
Analysis	10-25
<i>Economy</i>	
<i>Education</i>	
<i>Environment & Infrastructure</i>	
<i>Mental/Physical Health</i>	
<i>Civic/Community Engagement</i>	
<i>Governance</i>	
Conclusion	26
Recommendations	
References	27

Acknowledgment

I would like to send my gratitude to:

- Alfred Jean-Baptiste - the Executive Director of the Toronto Center for Community Learning and Development
- Caroline-Mahlikah Aweri Outten – Deputy Executive Director of the Toronto Centre for Community Learning and development
- Ryan Fukunaga (Digital Tech)
- Mercedes – Intern from the University of Toronto, assistant of Writing Workshop
- Sara Abdulhussain – Intern from the University of Toronto, assistant of Writing Workshop
- Sarah Gaikwad – Representative from the Chang School, instructor of Writing Workshop
- Sureya Ibrahim (Community Engagement Worker)
- Soheil Shafagh

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Well-being survey plays a key role in the Immigrant Women Integration Program, Toronto Centre for Community Learning and Development (TCCL&D). This survey provides an overview of the community's needs. This report is based on the Canadian Index of Well-Being, which includes: demographic information, living standards, health, democratic engagement, community validity, public services, leisure and culture and environment friendly activities.

This survey was directed from October 2014 to November 2014 in the Willowdale East neighborhood. Respondents participated by filling out a hard copy form or even an online version of the form in order to identify the gaps among the community's ability to access different accessible services.



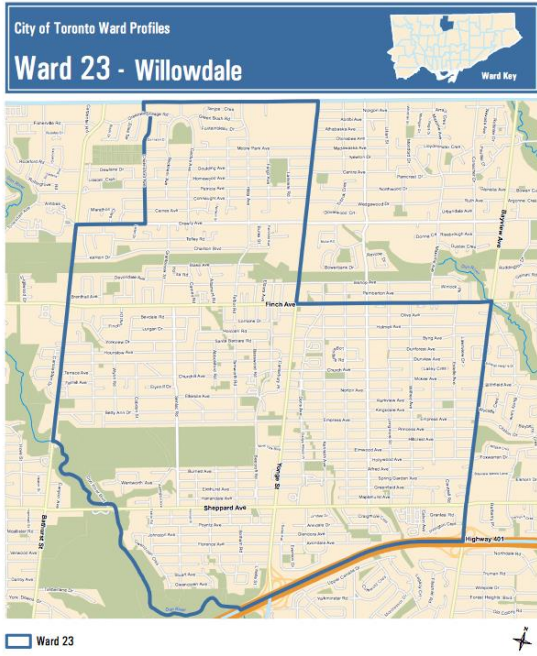
From all the residents that fill out the survey in this neighborhood, they know the name of neighborhood, 72% of residents live in this neighborhood less than 5 years, the majority of them live in their home less than 5 years. 25% of them are between 50-59 years old, and 23% are between 40-49 years old, and 12% are between 20-29 years old, and 10% are under 20 years old, 61% of them are female, 76% of them married, 17% of them are single. 27% of them graduate degree or higher and 25% are undergraduate degree from university or college. 61% have education and training in specific field. 97% of applicants speak at intermediate level, 78% of them have permanent resident, 76% live in Canada between 1-5 years, the majority of respondents from Middle East and 6% from East Asian. 72% speak in this neighborhood with 1 or 3 people and 70% sometimes visit or chat with their neighbors and The majority of respondents believed that they have moderate impact to their neighborhood, 51% of applicants have school-aged children and 56% sometimes are actively involved with activities in their neighborhood. 65% of them they not participants in any neighborhood groups or organization. 57% of them attended in community events. 44% they are satisfied of their neighborhood. The majority of them mentioned that this neighborhood is safe. 23% of them their annual household income is less than \$ 5000 and 19% are between \$55000- \$65000. 53% live in rental apartment. 38% of residents mentioned that half of their household income spent on housing. 13% employee and 33% study in school. 51% say their health is good. 85% they don't smoke cigarettes or any tobacco products. 46% to exercise less than once a week. More than half of them live in near the Subway station from their home. About

all of them buy most of their meats, fruits and vegetables in their neighborhood and the majority of them are satisfied with groceries. They mentioned that they are satisfied of neighborhood because of safety. Based on (statistic Canada census 2011-2012) 63% of population in this neighborhood are between 25-64 years old and 11% are seniors. 30% of population of willow dale east the mother tongue is English and 66% have Non-official mother tongue. The 3 top mother tongue language is, 11% Farsi, 10% Korean, 9% Chinese. 68% live in apartment and 18% live in single -Detached House. Unemployment rate is 8% and 86% have postsecondary certificate diploma and degree. 26% of population (after tax-household income) the annual income are between \$26000 to \$49000. 25% of population are low-income and Median After Tax-Household Income are \$69000 is the same with city of Toronto. In ward 23 Median Household income is \$55000 and top 5 ethnic origins is Chinese, Korean, Iranian, Italian, Jewish. Unemployment rate is 7%. Newcomer generally are less overweight or obese, smoke less, drink less alcohol but have higher rates of depression after giving birth and have poorer dental health and they are less active. Mental health and chronic diseases in newcomers are less likely than Canadian-born residents. In ward 23 compare with City of Toronto we have a lower rate of hospitalization and mortality for Respiratory diseases, Cancer and Cardiovascular disease and lower rate of sexually transmitted infections and similar rate of enteric disease and Influenza.

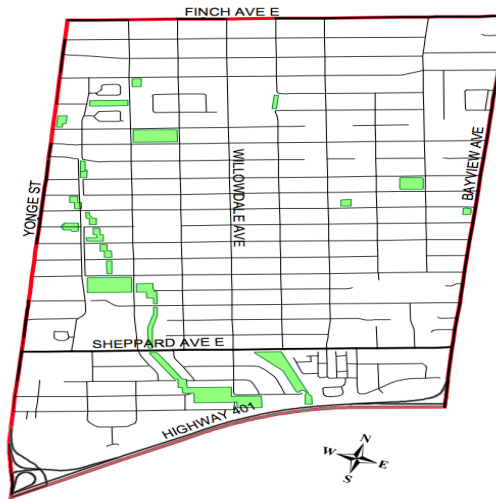
INTRODUCTION

Willow dale is an established ,affluent community in the city of Toronto ,Ontario, Canada, located in the district of North York .It was originally made up of from three postal villages Newton brook ,Willow dale and Lansing. Willow dale was originally postal village (orig.Willow Dale) which covered the area from Finch Ave.at the north to Elmwood Ave at the south and Bathurst st.at the west to Bay view Ave. at the east.The postal village of Lansing was from Elmwood Ave. at the north to approx.Hwy.401 at the south and Bathurst st.at the west to Bay view Ave.at the east (East of Bay view Ave. would have been the postal village of Oriole.)The north- south centerline of Lansing and Willow dale was Yonge st.The postal village of Lansing remained in existence until the post office at Lansing corner (northwest corner of Yonge St. and Sheppard Ave) was closed. When a new post office was built in Willow dale, the whole area of the former postal village of Lansing and Willow dale then became Willow dale, but still only a postal village, all within the township of North York at that time .Newton brook ,originally Newton Brook, was also a postal village, located on Yonge st.,north from Finch Ave. to Steel Ave). The boundaries of the current neighborhood extend as far as Victoria Park Avenue, west to Bathurst street south to the 401 freeway, and north to Steels avenue.Willowdale east are located between Finch Ave., in the north, Bay view Ave., in the east, Yonge street in the west and 401 high way in south.

Neighborhood Profile

<p>Toronto</p>	
<p>North York</p>	
<p>Ward 23</p>	

Willow dale East



**Member of Parliament
(MP):**

Leung, Chungsen



**Member of Provincial
Parliament (MPP):**

**Hon David
Zimmer, MPP
(Willow dale)**



Councilor:

John Filion



METHODOLOGY

This year, we were a group of newcomers women, participating in the Immigrant Women's Integration Leadership Program. This year we were conducting a survey to measure well-being in our neighborhoods, by conducting a Well-being survey, we hope to get a better understanding of how you and others in our neighborhoods experience day-to-day life. For example, the various ways individuals are able to develop their potential, work productively and creatively , build strong and positive relationship with others and contribute to community. In Willow dale east I distribute 50 hard copy and 50 online draft in different places for example in community center Saint Stephen community house, door to door in my neighborhood , North York library, Mel Lastman Square , North York Civic Center , people who shopping in Wholefood store in Yonge and Sheppard, Loblaws store in Cummer Centre, People who sitting in Coffee shop for example : Star Box ,Second cup and Mac Donald Café. Willow dale East has many shopping centre , Farmer's Market in Mel Lastman Square on every Thursday in summer with reasonable price of course organic. People on Thursday bought a food and sat the chair in Mel Lastman Square and enjoyed the local food. In Mel Lastman Square every Friday in summer has many festival that cause people who lived here feel happy. It has a beautiful center that named Sheppard Center with a nice food court. I think this neighborhood is very safe, convenient, accessible to Subway with high educated people, so happy and care about health, with people who know about healthy food and care about them.

Analysis

Figure1. 26% of applicants in Willow dale East between 50-59 and 23% between 30-39.

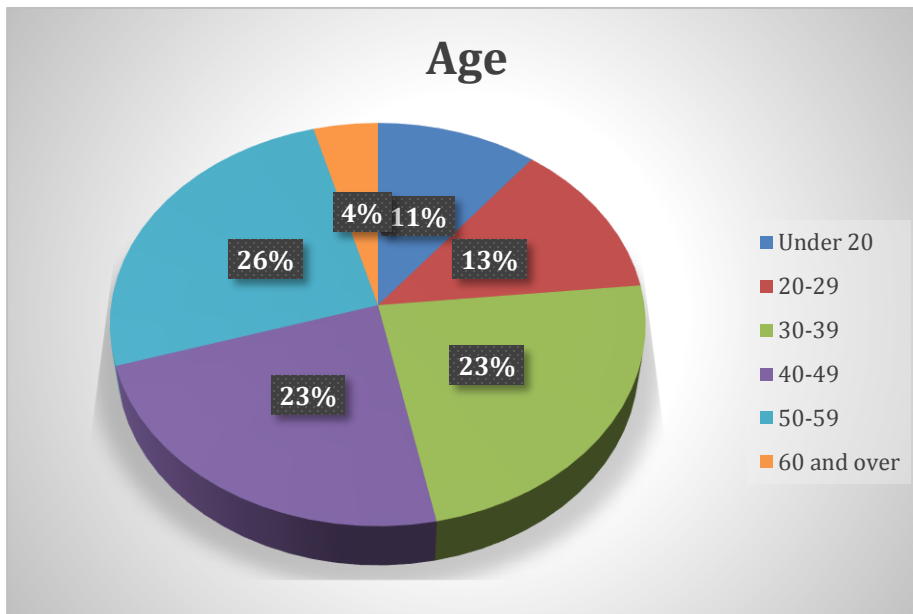


Figure 1. Blonging of age

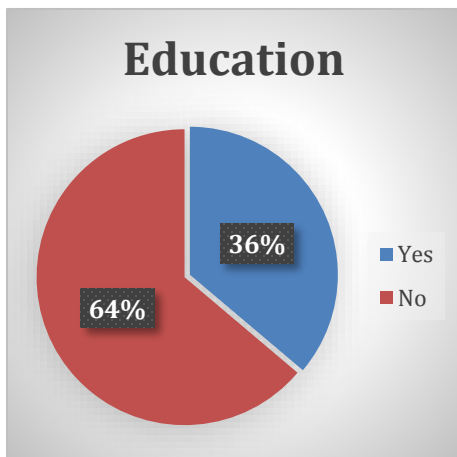


Figure 2. The number of residents who have Canadian training/experience

Figure2. 64% of people who fill up the survey are training experience or Canadian education.

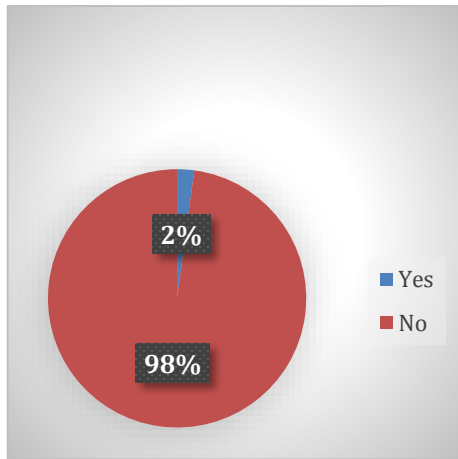


Figure 3. The number of residents who speak English as a second

Figure 3. The majority of respondents English is second language.

Figure 4. The level of speaking English

Figure 4. 55% speak English as an intermediate, 7% speak English fluently

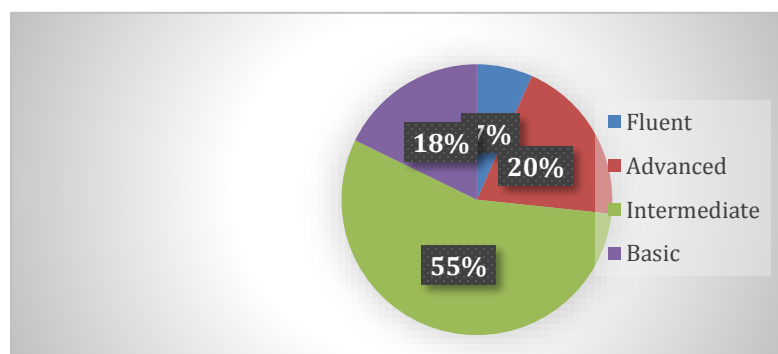


Figure 5. 79% of them are permanent resident and %21 Canadian resident.

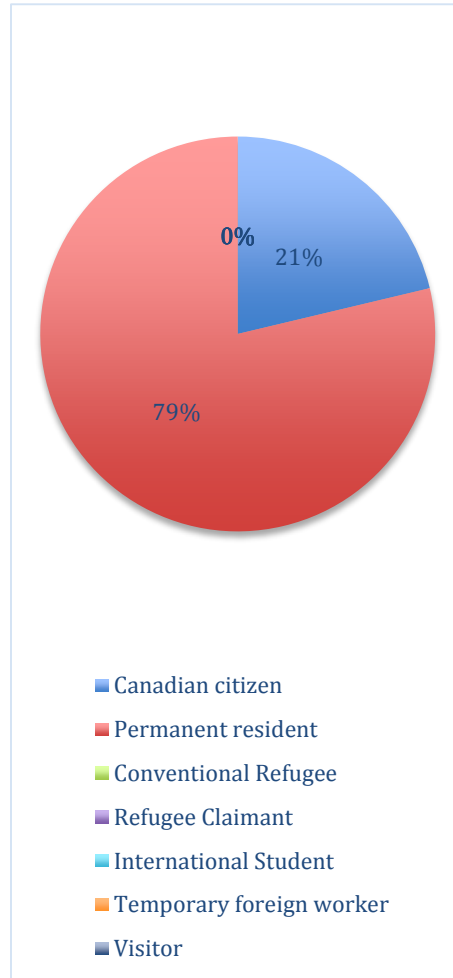


Figure5.

Figure 5. 79% permanet residents and 77% of them came to Canada between 1-5 years

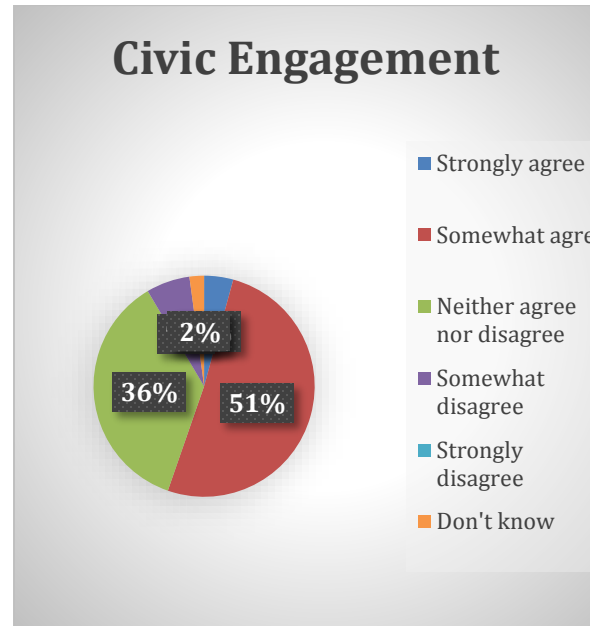


Figure 6. People around the Willow dale east, %51 responded that they are willing to help their neighbors and 36% responded neither agree nor disagree.

Figure7. People in this neighborhood 51% somewhat agree help their neighbors even if they are from different back grounds. .Half of the respondents told that they were helping with each other.

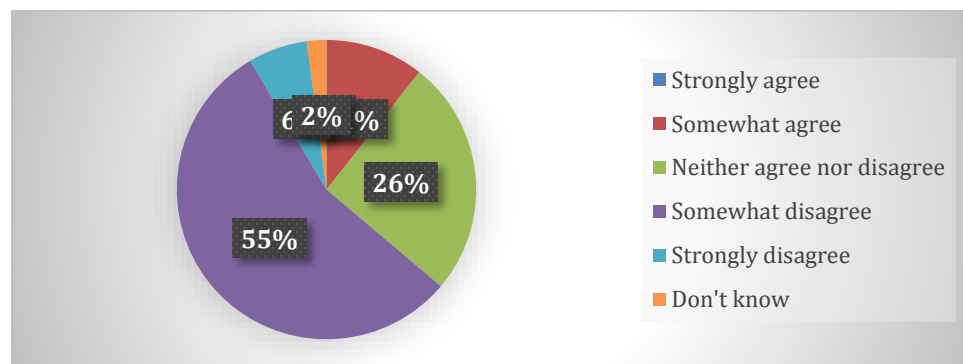
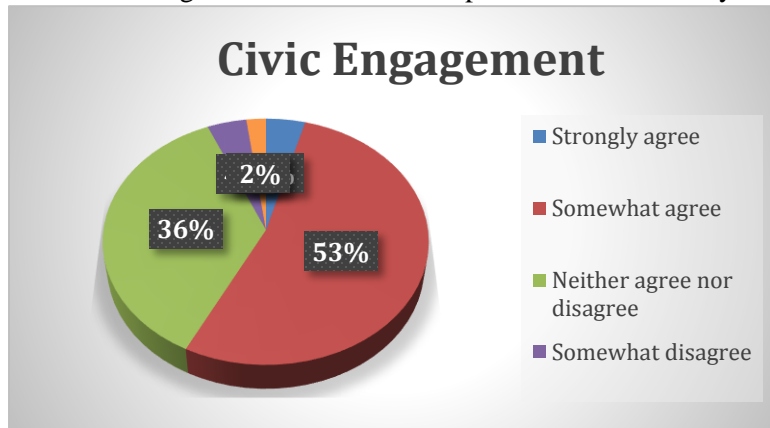


Figure 8.

Figur 8.The majority of respondents in Willow dale speak and talk with neighbors at least between one and three people and get along with each other.

Figure 8.People in Willow dale East get along with each other and 55% responded that they are somewhat disagree with this question that (people in this neighborhood generally don't get along with each other). 73% said that they speak with people at least between 1-3 people in a day.

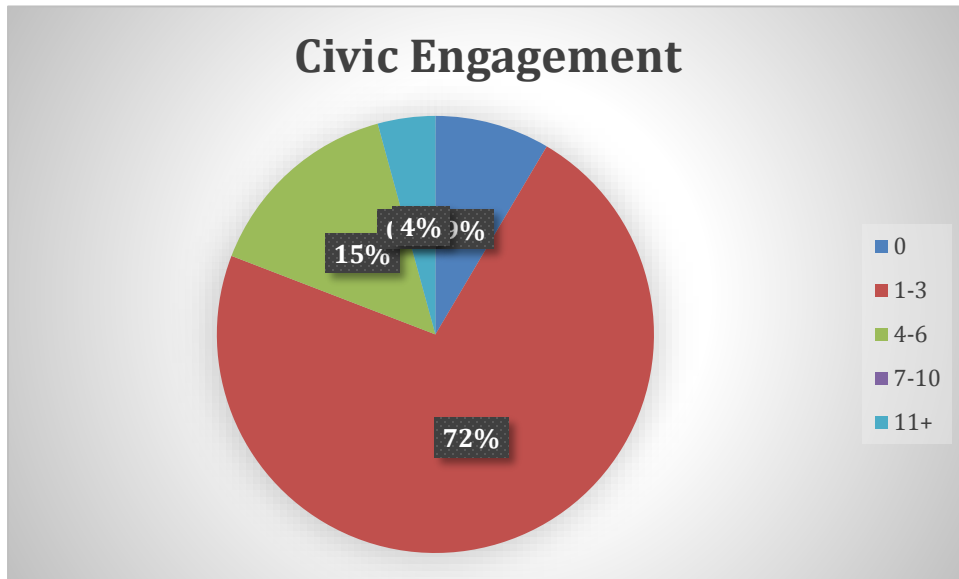


Figure 9. The majority of people in Willow dale east speak with neighbors between 1-3 people every day.

Figure10.

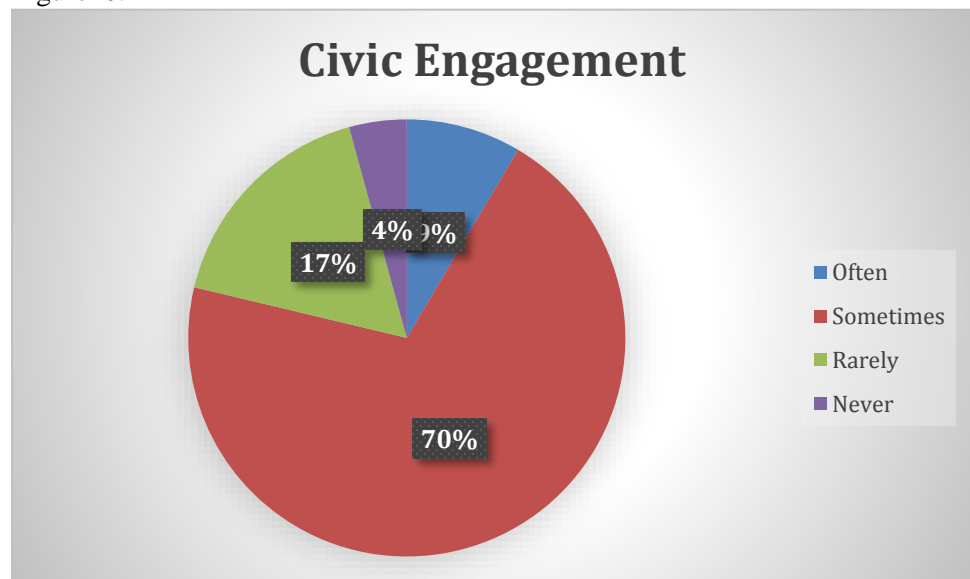


Figure 10.The majority of people in Willow dale East sometimes visit or chat with neighbors.

Figure 11.

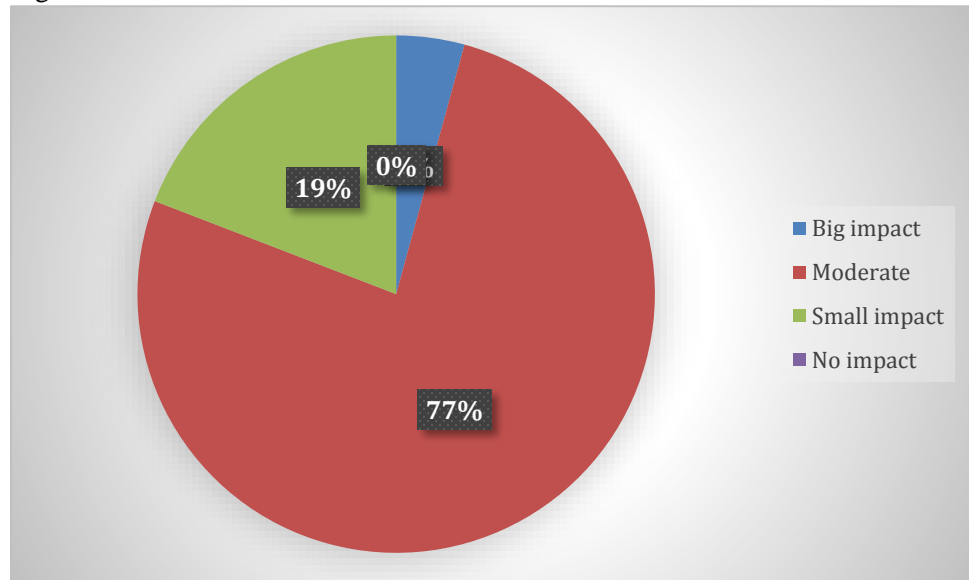


Figure 11.77% people responded that we have moderate impact with each other to build the better neighborhood.

51% they have school-aged children and %56 sometimes involved with activity in school in their school.

65% currently participate in any neighborhood group or organization and only 22% attended a community meeting public, hearing and discussion group and. 10% called or sent a letter to any local politician. 4% joined the protest or demonstration.

Figure 12.

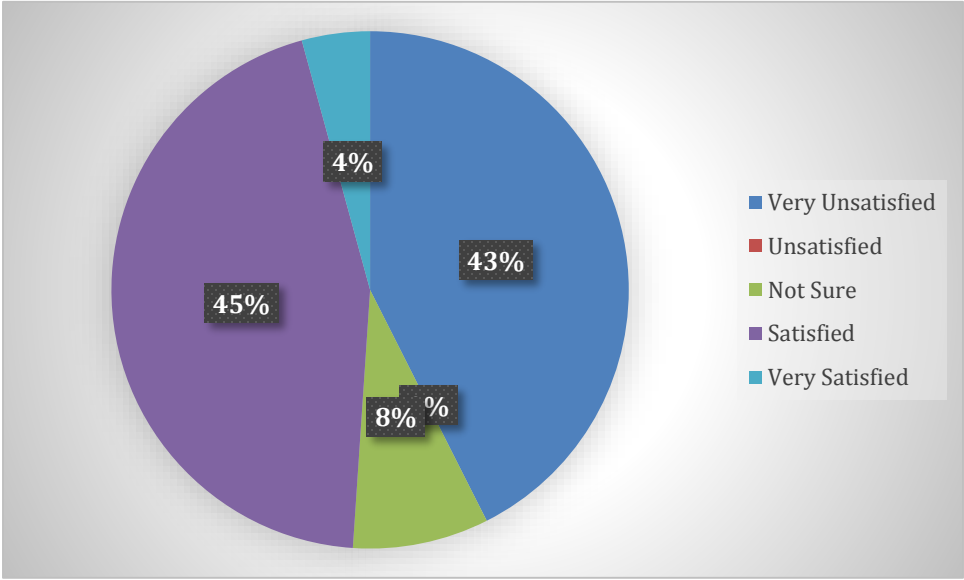


Figure 12. 45% satisfied with the neighborhood and 43% very unsatisfied.

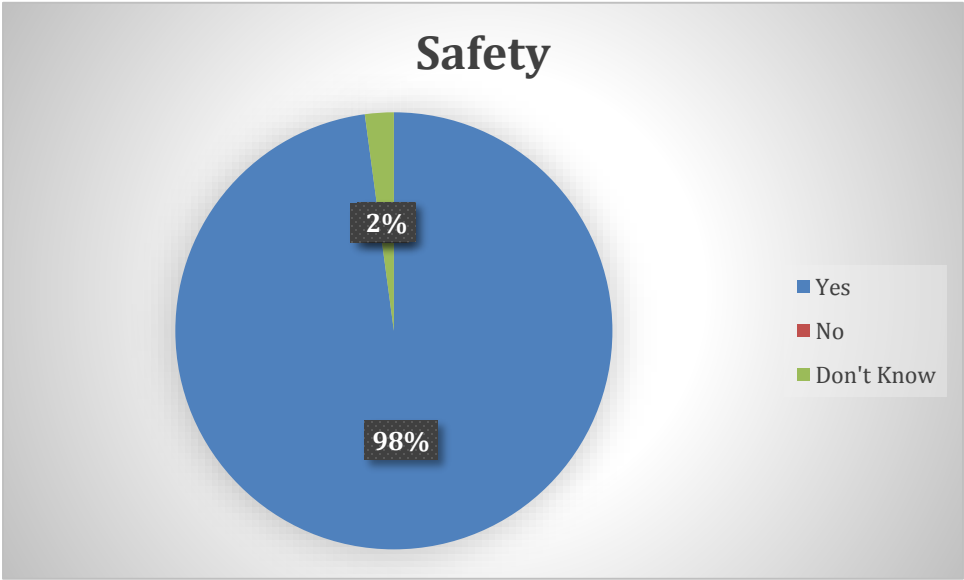


Figure 13. Almost all of the applicants mentioned that Willow dale east is a good place and safe .

Figure 14.

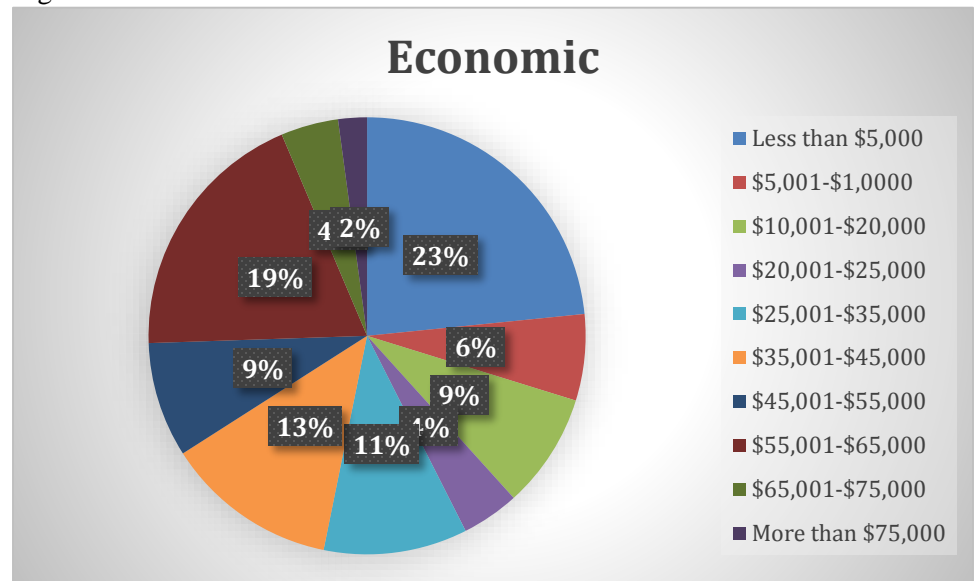


Figure 14. According to the data in Willowdale East 23% of applicants, their annual income is less than \$5000 and 6% between \$5000 till \$10000 and 19% annual income is between \$55000 till \$65000.

Figure 15.

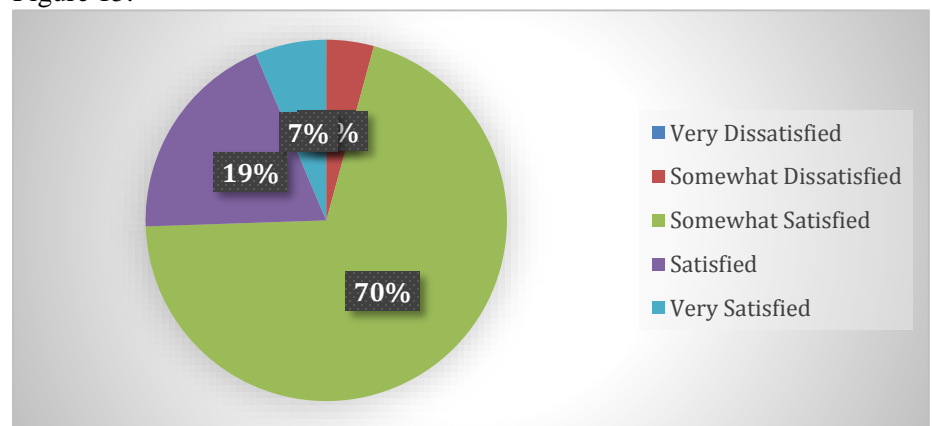


Figure 15. Most of the applicants are satisfied with their standard of living.

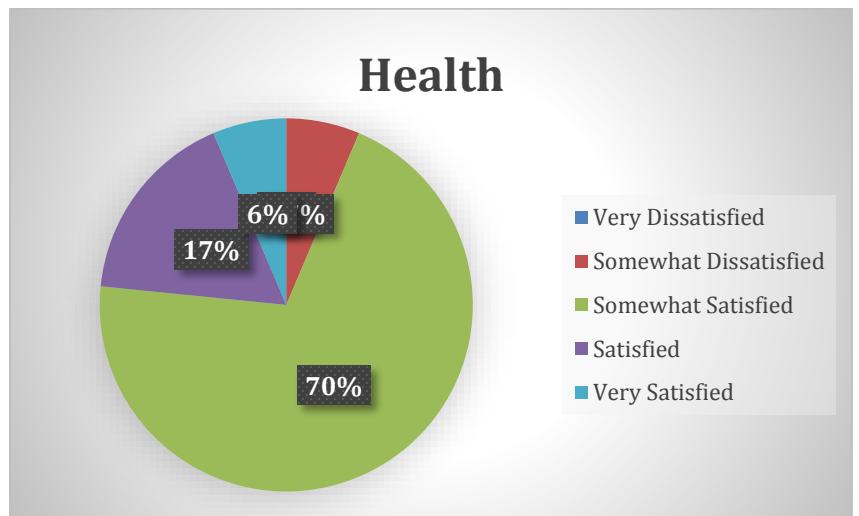
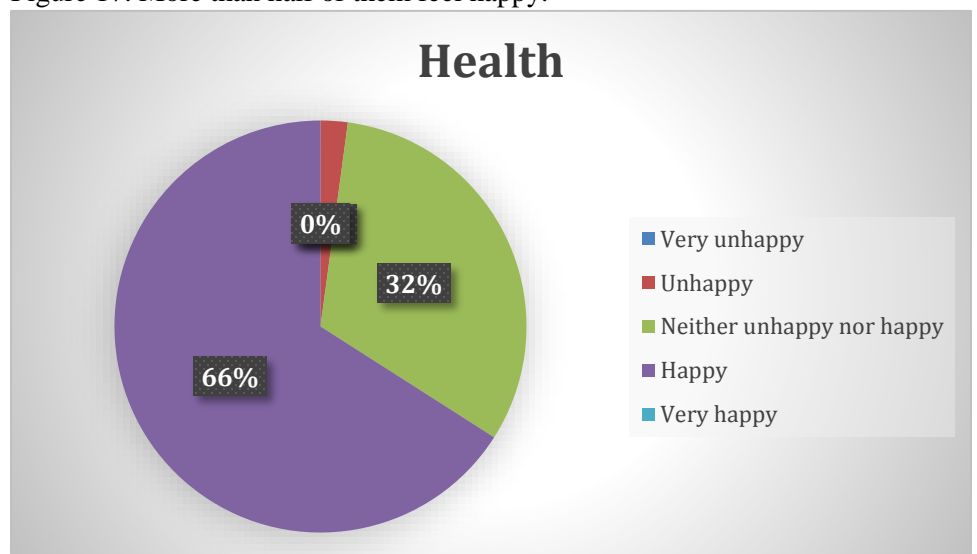


Figure 16.

The majority of applicants somewhat satisfied with their currently achieving in life. 70% somewhat satisfied with personal relationships and 74 %satisfied with feeling part of their community. 63% they feel safe with their community .59% are agree with interacting job and family.

Figure 17. More than half of them feel happy.



Economy

Figure 18.

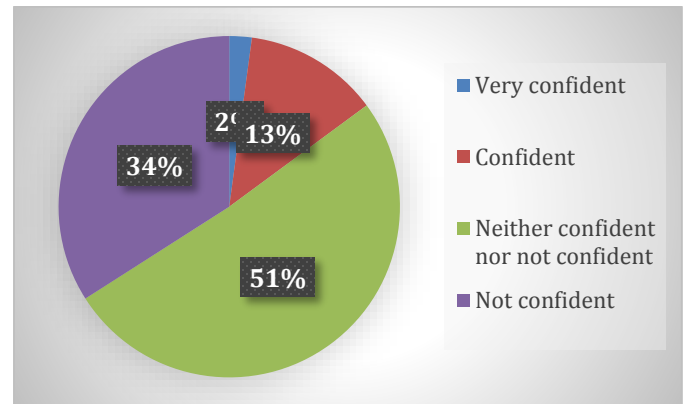


Figure 18. 51% are neither confident nor not confident with lenders and informal Credit and 34% not confident with informal Credit when they had financial difficulties.

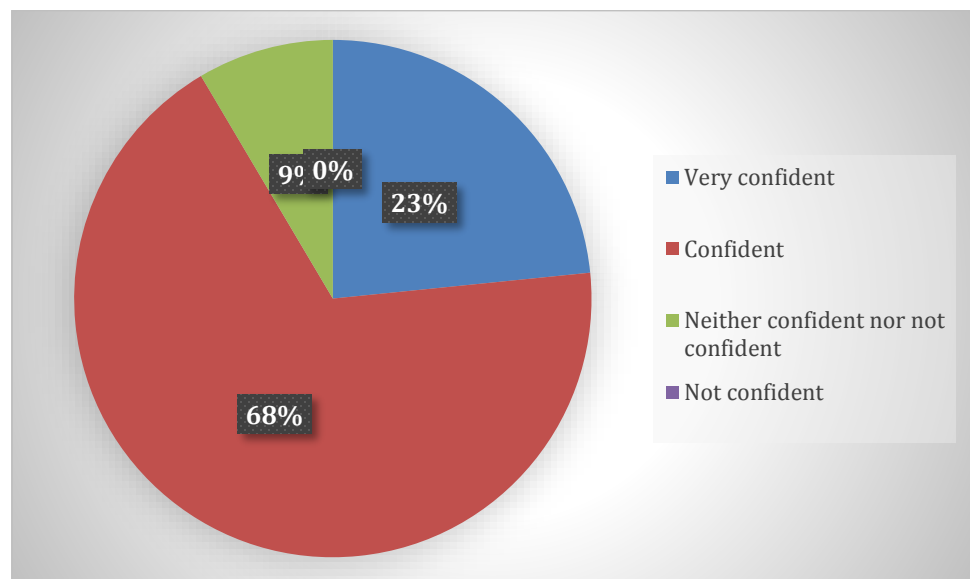


Figure 19.

Figure 19. With financial difficulty 65% confident with getting help from family and relative and 51% neither confident nor not confident with Group and association. 81% are confident with Government and Bank. 80% satisfied with other formal credit.

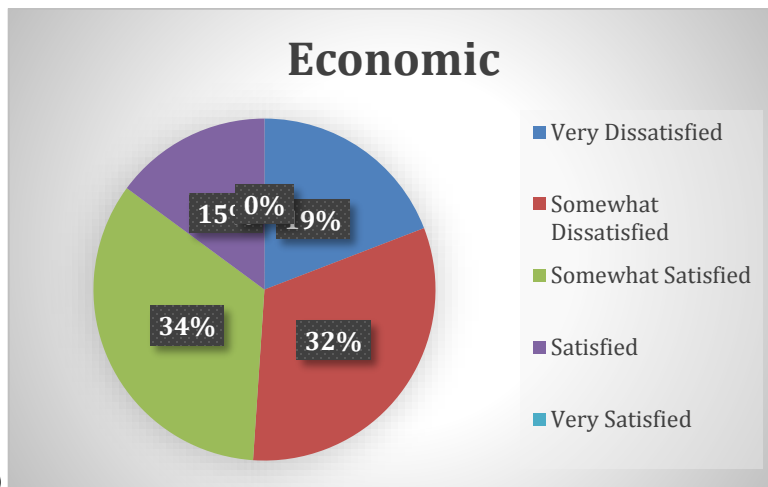


Figure 20. 34% satisfied with household situation .and 55% thought that the future is likely they will be better than today. In this neighborhood most of the respondents unsatisfied with household situation. About half of them live in rental apartment and every year the price goes up.

Figure 21.

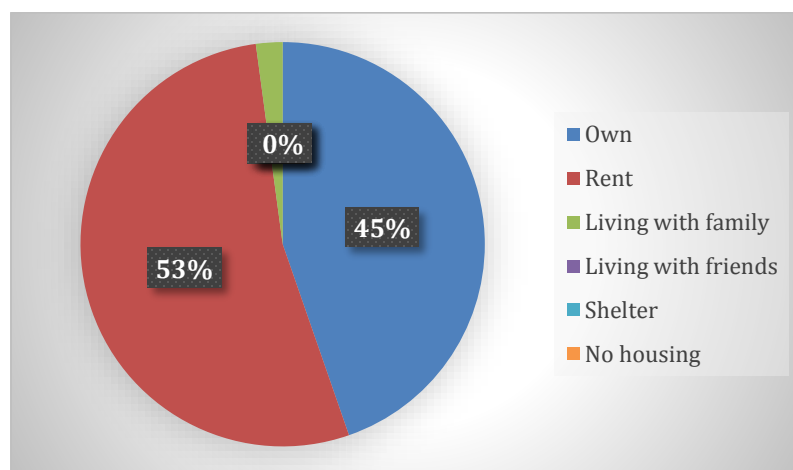


Figure 21. 53% of people that filled up the survey their housing are rent.

Figure 22.

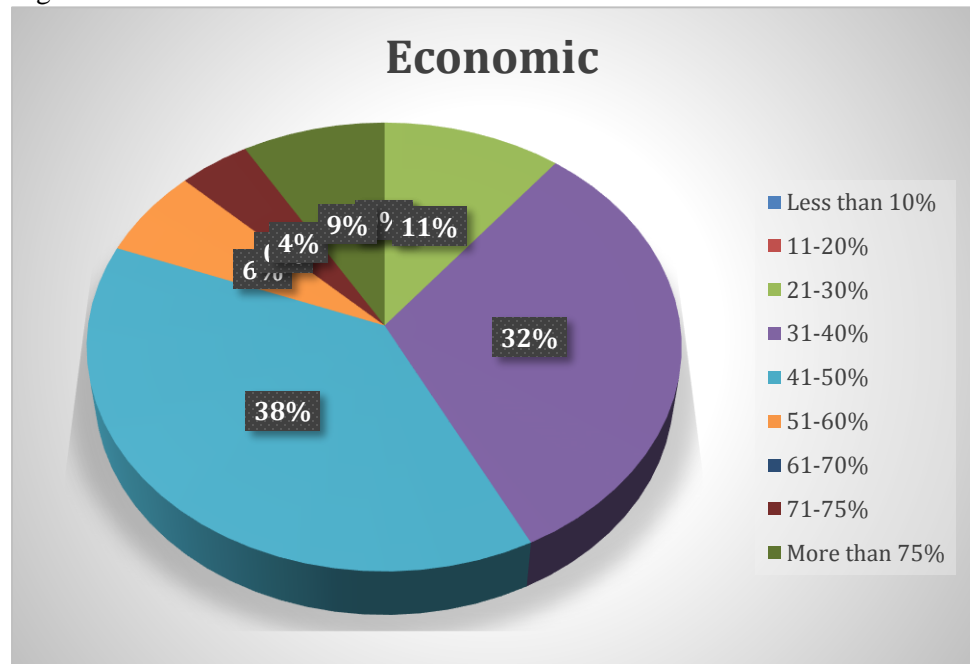


Figure 22. 38% of people said that 41-50% of their household income spent on housing.

32% of people said that 31-40%, their household income spent on housing. About half of the household income spent on housing and 11% more than 75% of income spent for housing.

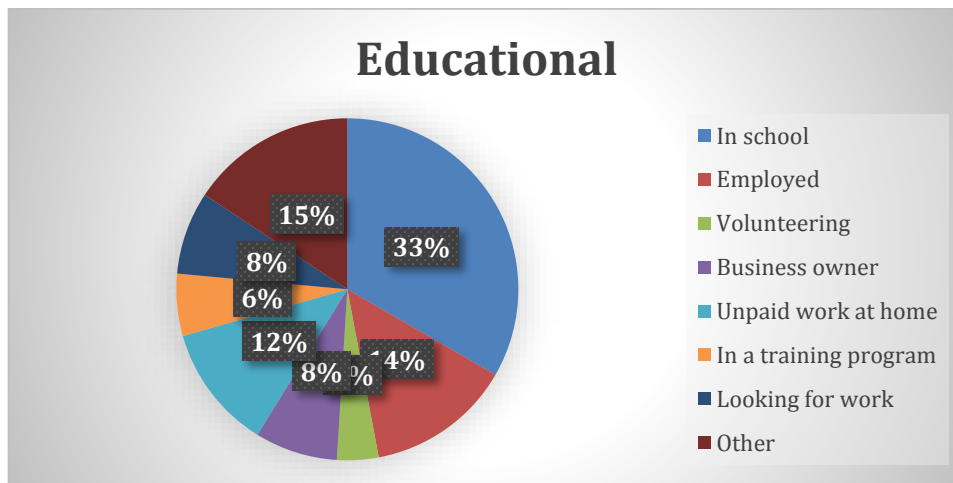


Figure 23.

33% of people that filled up the survey were in the school and 14% were employee. 51% told their healthy are good. 85% they did not smoke cigarettes and tobaccos produc.

Figure 24.The majority of them told that their health were good.

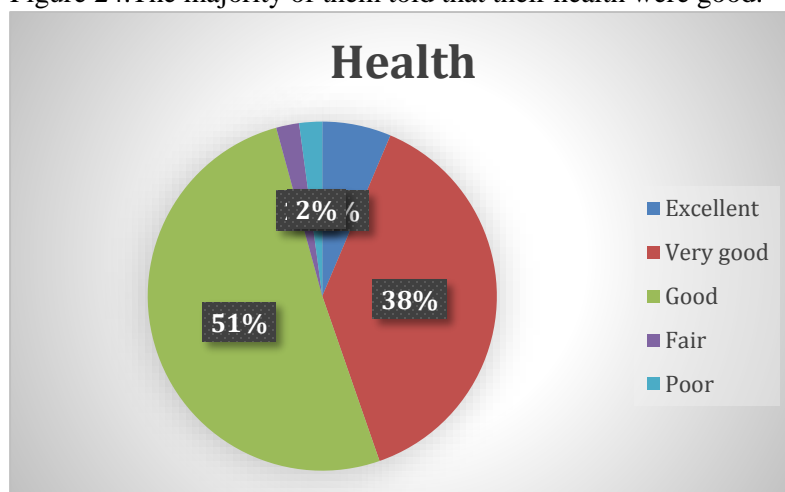


Figure 25. Physical Activity

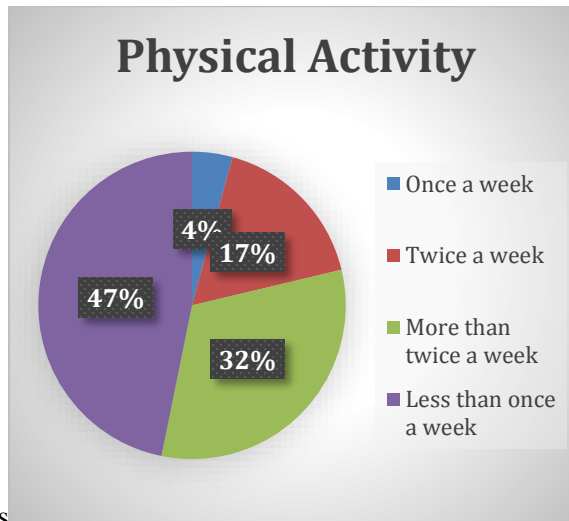


Figure 25. 47% less than once a week had at least 30 minutes of physical exercise. 32% more than twice a week had physical activity at least 30 minutes. Less than half of applicants do exercise more than twice a week. It shows many people in this neighborhood do exercise less than Canadian citizen.

□

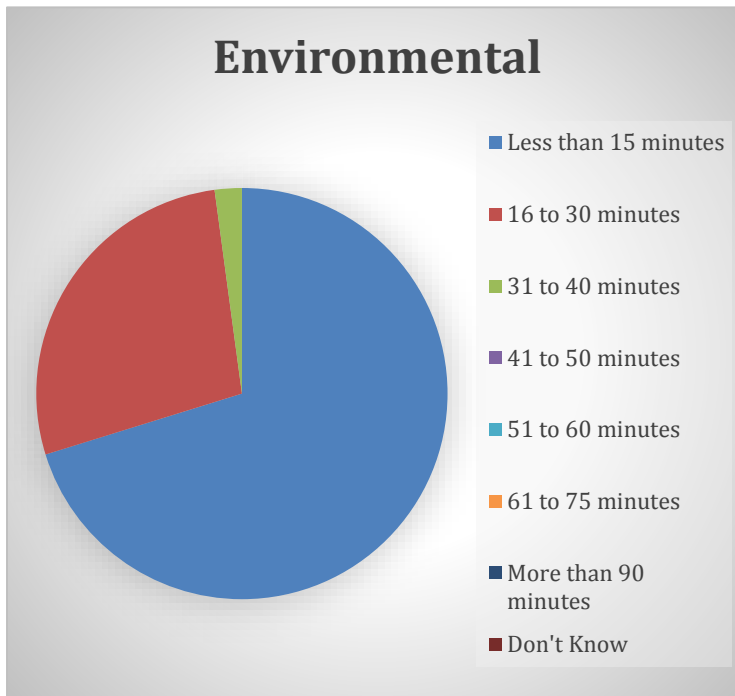


Figure 26. The majority of them live near the subway and it takes less than 15 minutes.

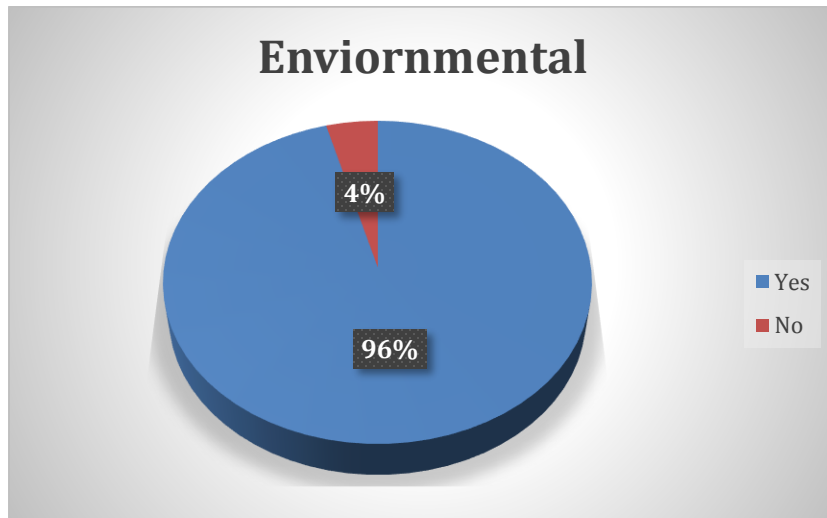


Figure 27. Almost all of them are able to buy most of their meats and vegetables and fruits in their neighborhood.

Conclusion and Recommendation

By data this neighborhood is very safe and have a new buildings ,beautiful condominium, Townhouses, houses and rental apartments, with a lot of immigrants from Middle East and East Asia, so convenient, accessible to Subway ,with friendly people, so safe but the most significant challenges in the neighborhood right now the lack of community centre ,I saw many people from this neighborhood had long waiting list for English classes. This neighborhood needs more community centre for huge of immigrants that they will come and want to be settle. In Willow dale east does not have community center for information to newcomers for renting and buying apartment or house. We need a specific community close to this neighborhood .I think government should be more inspect the activity of Real State Agencies and also

government providing subsidized language courses, building a community centre, establishing policies that would inhibit unregulated real-state inflation.

References

City of Toronto. (2012, May). Willow dale East - Your City.

Retrieved November 28, 2014, Retrieved from:

<http://www1.toronto.ca/wps/portal/contentonly?vgnextoid=c70812ceaf1c1410VgnVCM10000071d60f89RCRD&vgnextchannel=1e68f40f9aae0410VgnVCM10000071d60f89RCRD>.

