



Strong Communities Together

Toronto Community Centre for Learning & Development

Immigrant Women Integration Program (IWIP)

Community Needs Assessment 2011

JANE AND FINCH

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Acknowledgement

In my opinion it is necessary to know your community, the place that you and your family live in. You should get to know the community that you are growing up in, studying in, learning in, getting skills in, implementing in and the most importantly, the community that you are living in. To get to know your community you need to do some social activities, such as participating in community events, meetings, gathering information, volunteering and taking action. For me, conducting the Community needs assessment survey was an amazing part of my study in Immigrant Women Integration Program (IWIP) in 2010-2011 and was a huge experience. It was an enormous opportunity to get to know my community.

I have to give my great appreciation to the ***Toronto Community Center for Learning and Development*** for providing me with the opportunities and support, and encouraging me to achieve my goal.

I deeply would like to give my special thanks to:

- Alfred Jean-Baptiste, Executive Director of CCL&D
- Maria Navarro, Deputy Executive Director of CCL&D
- Caroline Outten, Coordinator of Training Resource and Program Development of CCL&D
- Ma Rong, Training Support and Operations Coordinator of CCL&D
- I would also like to thank to the rest of the CCL&D staff for their great support, recommendations and encouragement, which helped us a lot.
- Oakdale Community Centre
- Doorsteps Neighbourhood Services
- Tumpane Public School
- Delta Family Resource Centre
- St. Stephen Church
- Residents
- I am proud of my neighbourhood because everything is available and accessible and it's easy to live in.

Description: Conducting and gathering information for the survey is one of the most important parts of the (IWIP) course, which is organized by CCL&D. The survey questionnaire was prepared by the IWIP trainees and finalized by the professional team of CCL&D. The Community Needs Assessment report in Jane/Finch has been conducted by Jamila Ghairat, Immigrant Women Integration Program Trainee in 2010/2011 and organized by the Toronto Centre for Community Learning and Development. The survey took place between the beginning of November 2010 to January 24, 2011. It was available online and through hard copies. The hard

copies and bookmarks for the online survey and the hard copies have been distributed in to 8 neighborhoods including organizations, community centres, door-to-door residents and individually in the community. More than 40 community members completed the hard copies of the survey.

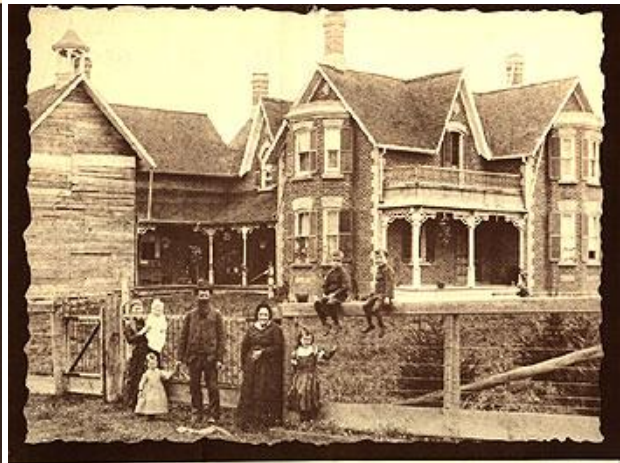
This report outcome is the analysis of the main data taken from the collected survey and broken down into a report.

Jane and Finch Neighbourhood

Introduction

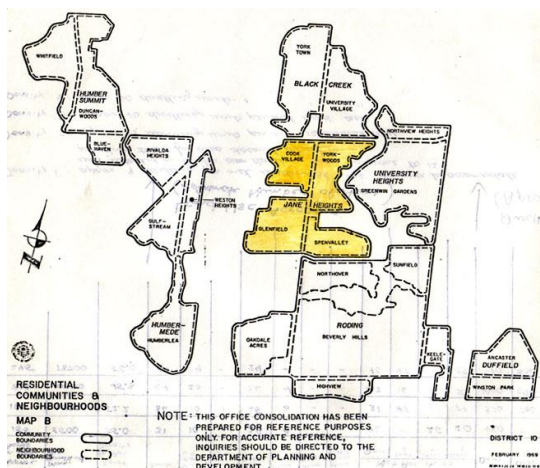
In 1950, Jane/Finch was a small farming community, was prepared for residential and commercial development. So, in 1954 Jane Street widened to 120 ft. Jane-Finch was originally developed as a model suburb in the 1960's in response to the rapid urban growth of Toronto. The community was planned to accommodate a socially-diverse population and included a substantial amount of public housing, but insufficient thought was given to the social infrastructure needed to sustain community life. In 1972, a new wave of people were entering this neighbourhood so there were not enough schools and facilities at that time until 1975.

Jane and Finch is one of the biggest neighborhoods in West of Toronto with a diverse population. The majority of this community are from West India and Latin America. The rest of the immigrants are from different countries such as South, Central and South East Asia, South America, Western and Eastern Africa and so on. This community has a diverse wealth of culture, experience and knowledge but the facilities and opportunities are inadequate for a better life. Popular beliefs are that Jane/Finch is one of the lowest socio-economic areas in Toronto and that it has one of the highest population of the unemployed.



Where is Jane and Finch located?

Jane and Finch is located in northwestern district of Toronto, Ontario, Canada. The area is roughly bounded by Highway 400 to the West, Driftwood Avenue to the East, Grand Ravine Drive to the South, and Shoreham Drive to the North. The area was alternatively named **University Heights** in January 2009 to get rid of its notorious tag. The general area has also been known as the neighborhood of Elia.



How was Jane and Finch settled?

Jane and Finch was settled largely by Italian immigrants. The area was still mostly farmland dotted by single-family houses. In the late 1960's, a place was needed to house Toronto's next wave of newcomers, this time from around the world. Jane and Finch, or 'Black Creek' as the neighborhood is officially known, was planned as a place to house thousands of new low-income and high-need families.

The Ontario Housing Corporation oversaw the construction of a large concentration of private high-rise apartment buildings and public housing along Jane Street, what became known as 'the corridor.' The availability of social and affordable housing attracted tens of thousands of people. The neighborhood's population exploded more than 2000% in a decade.

But, as the newcomers flooded in, the social service infrastructure that was needed to support them did not keep up. Jane and Finch lacked the settlement, employment and language services vital to new immigrants. Schools were overcrowded, community centres didn't appear for years, and public transportation was never better than sporadic. Racial tensions grew as the face of the neighborhood changed, from mostly European to a mosaic of people from Asia, Africa, the Caribbean and Latin America.

In the early 1970's, frustrated by what they saw as a lack of government support, Jane and Finch residents started to establish grassroots organizations to help meet the community's needs. Community activism and mobilization continue to provide many of the neighborhood's much-needed services, and in 1998, Jane and Finch won the Ontario Trillium Foundation's Caring Community Award.

Jane and Finch, however, is still a community that requires support, a picture clearly painted by its demographics. Compared to the rest of the city of Toronto, Jane and Finch has:

- a higher rate of immigrants and people new to Canada
- a higher rate of youth and children
- a higher rate of single parents
- a higher rate of low-income families
- a higher proportion of rental households
- a higher rate of unemployment
- a lower percentage of population with university education (despite being located next to York University)
- and a higher percentage of population with less than a high school education



Jane and Finch in 2010

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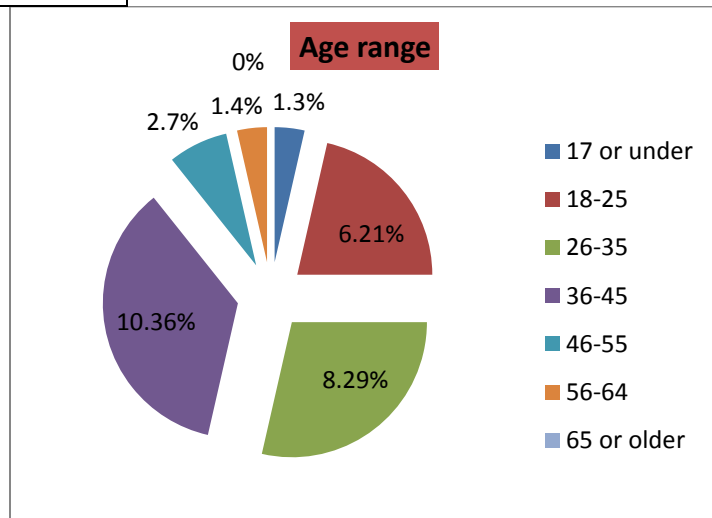
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Neighbourhood Demographic Information by Age of Jane and Finch 2011

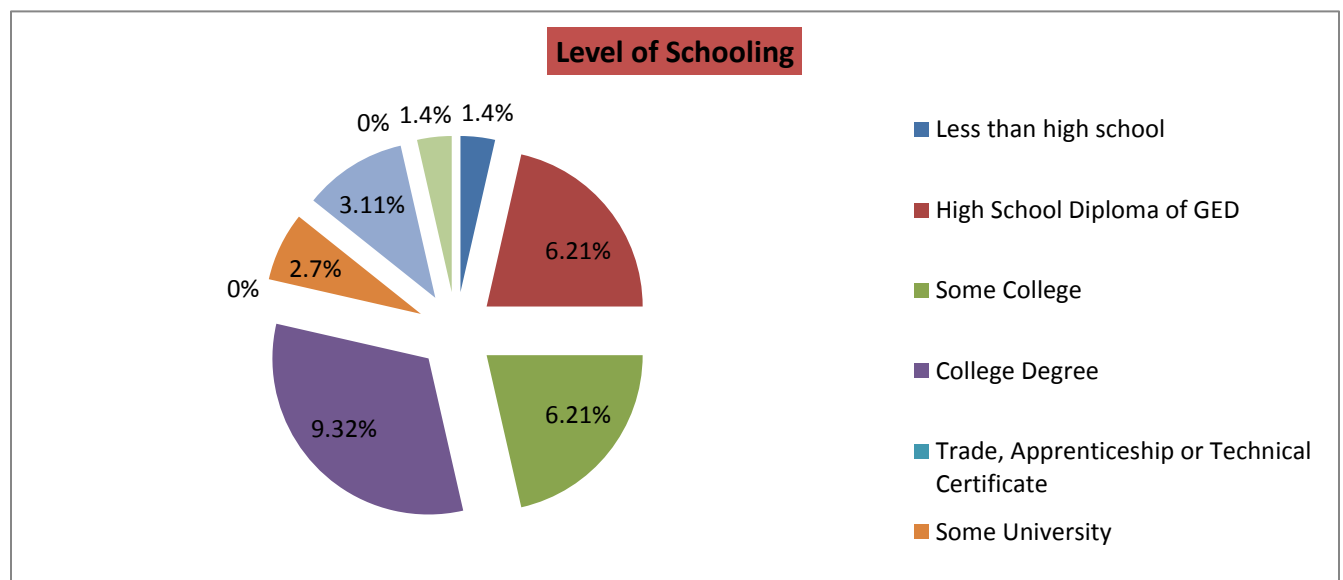
Description	Number	Percentage %
17 or under	1	3.57
18-25	6	21.34
26-35	8	28.57
36-45	10	35.72
46-55	2	7.14
56-64	1	3.57
65 or older	0	0



This table shows the different ages of people living in this neighborhood. Most respondents are in the age group of 26-35 in the Jane/Finch Community.

Highest Level of Schooling

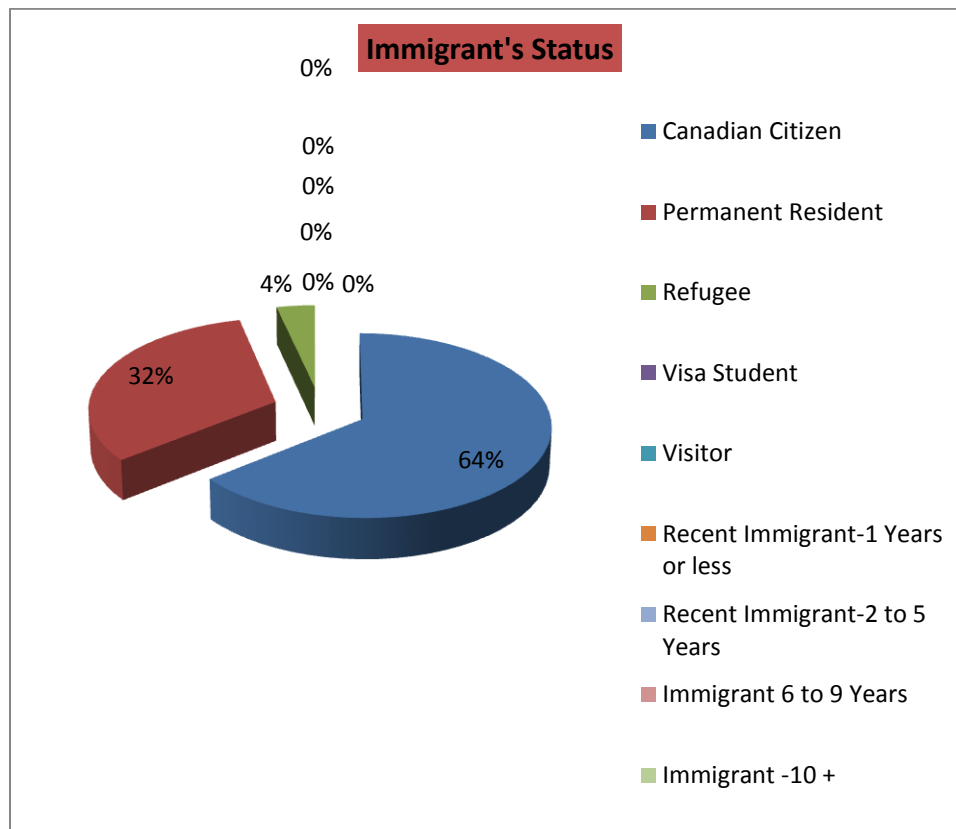
Description	Number	Percentage %
Less than high school	1	3.57
High School Diploma of GED	6	21.43
Some College	6	21.43
College Degree	9	32.15
Trade, Apprenticeship or Technical Certificate	0	0
Some University	2	7.14
University	3	10.71
Undergraduate Degree Post-Graduate Degree	0	0
Other	1	3.57



The survey shows that 21.43% of the respondents have a high school diploma, 32.15% of the people have a college degree and 10.71% have a university degree. This means more than 40% of the respondents have high qualification but they come in low income categories. They don't have jobs or their jobs are not relative to their qualifications.

Civic/Immigration Status

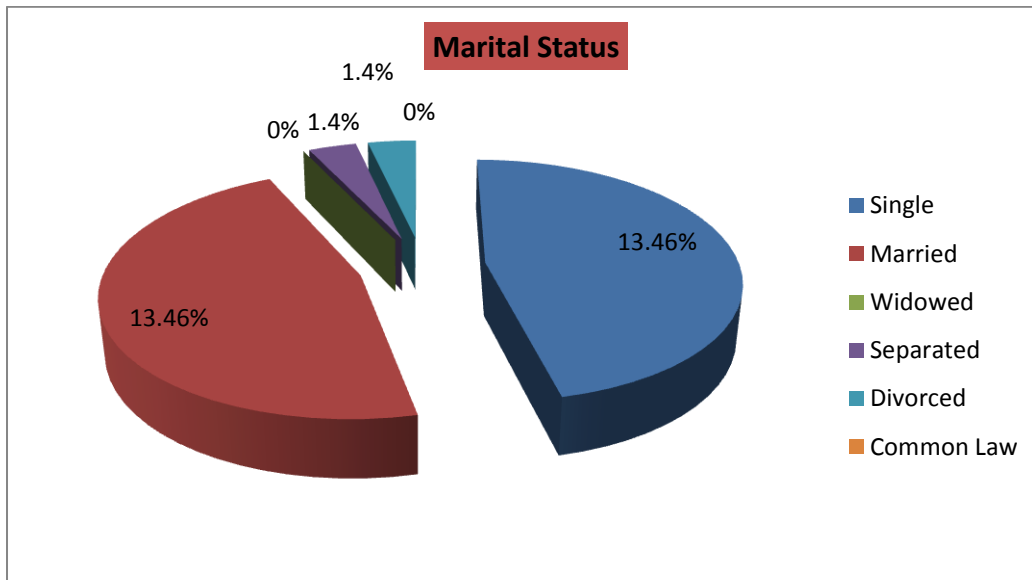
Description	Number	Percentage %
Canadian Citizen	18	64.29
Permanent Resident	9	32.14
Refugee	1	3.57
Visa Student	0	0
Visitor	0	0
Recent Immigrant-1 Years or less	0	0
Recent Immigrant-2 to 5 Years	0	0
Immigrant 6 to 9 Years	0	0
Immigrant -10 +	0	0



The table and graph above shows that 18% of the respondents are Canadian Citizens, 9% are Permanent residents and 1% of people are refugees in Jane and Finch.

Marital Status, Household and Children

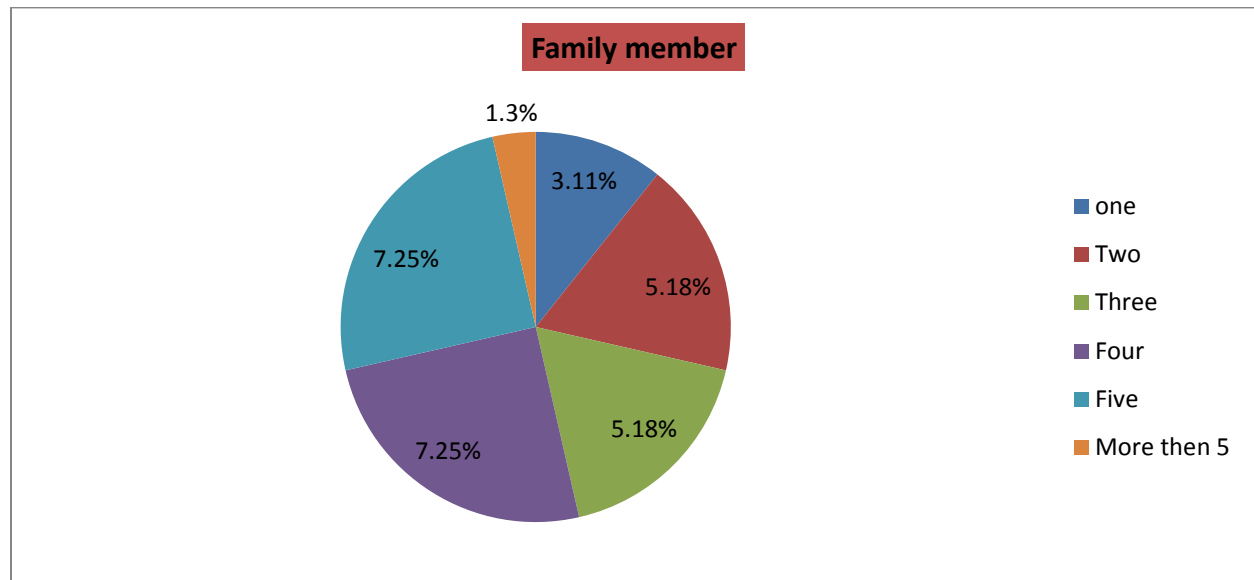
Description	Number	Percentage %
Single	13	46.43
Married	13	46.43
Widowed	0	0
Separated	1	3.57
Divorced	1	3.57
Common Law	0	0



The table above shows the marital status of Jane and Finch respondents. 46.43 % are single, 46.43% are married and 3.57% are widowed and 3.57% are separated.

Total number of family members

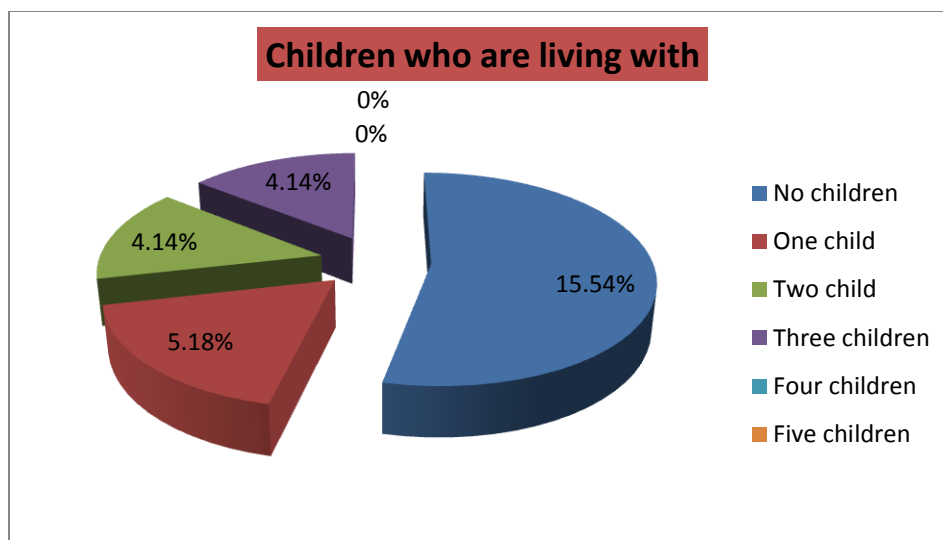
Description	Number	Percentage %
one	3	10.71
Two	5	17.86
Three	5	17.86
Four	7	25
Five	7	25
More then 5	1	3.57



According to the chart and graph above, the majority of the people live with 5-7 people in a house.

Children who are living with:

Description	Number	Percentage %
No children	15	53.56
One child	5	17.86
Two child	4	14.29
Three children	4	14.29
Four children	0	0
Five children	0	0



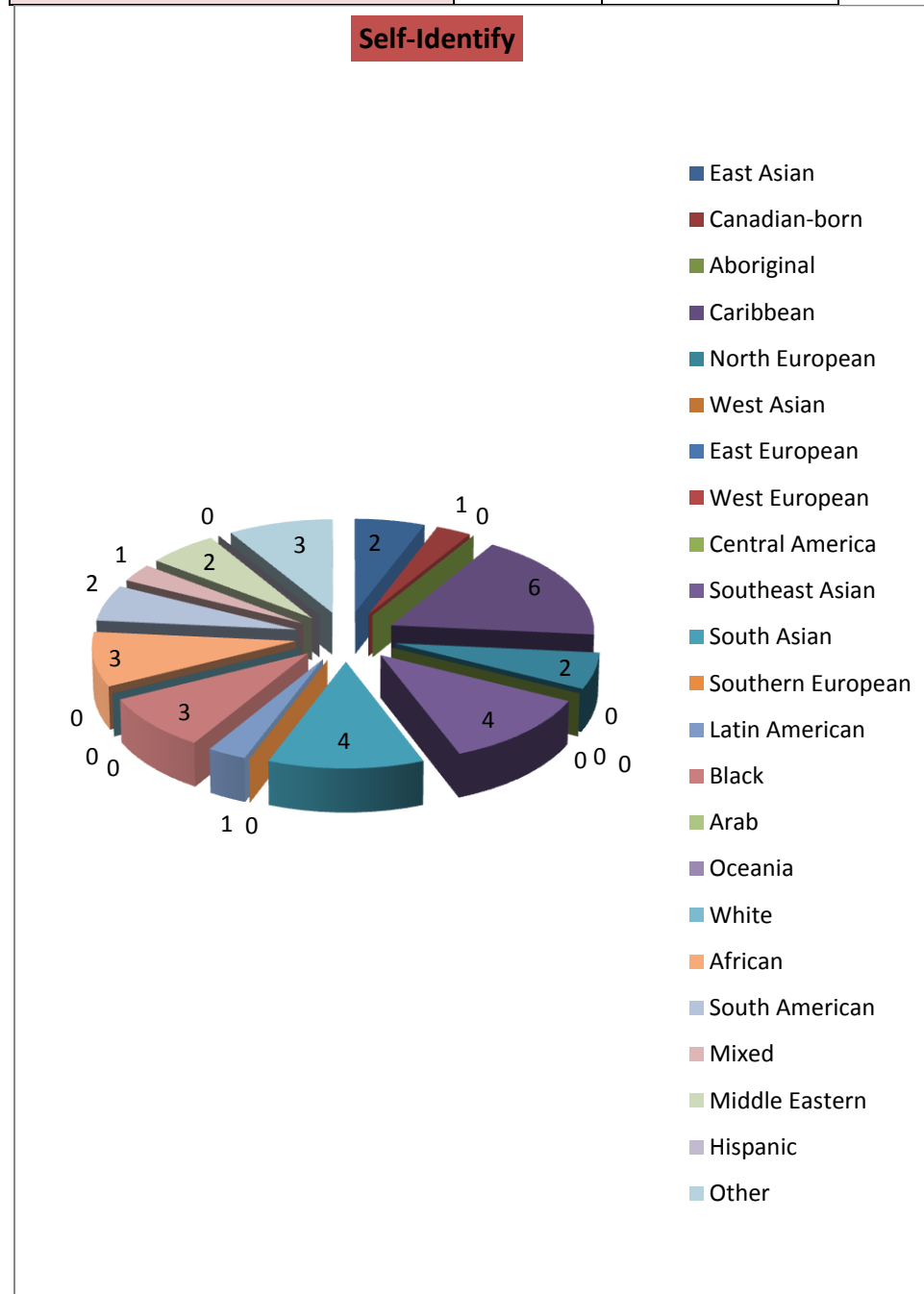
The table and graph above shows the majority of the people don't have children, and most of those who are living with their children (17.86 %) have only one child in a house.

Self – Identify

- Race, Ethnicity, Country, Region and Origin**

Description	Number	Percentage %
East Asian	2	7.14
Canadian-born	1	3.57
Aboriginal	0	0
Caribbean	6	21.43
North European	2	7.14
West Asian	0	0
East European	0	0
West European	0	0
Central America	0	0
Southeast Asian	4	14.29
South Asian	4	14.29
Southern European	0	0
Latin American	1	3.57
Black	3	10.71
Arab	0	0
Oceania	0	0
White	0	0
African	3	10.71
South American	2	7.14

Mixed	1	3.57
Middle Eastern	2	7.14
Hispanic	0	0
Other	3	10.71

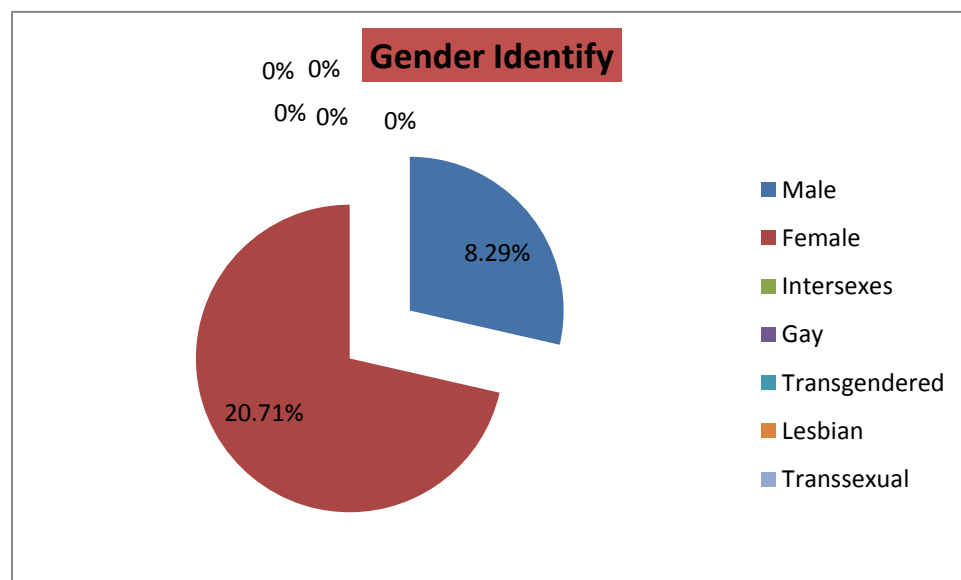


The Jane and Finch Neighborhood is very diverse. The largest population is Caribbean, which is 21.43%, Southeast Asian and South Asian has the second largest population, which is 14.29% for each of them.

The third biggest community in this neighborhood is black and other. East Asian, North European, South American and Middle East have the lowest population.

Self-Identify by Gender

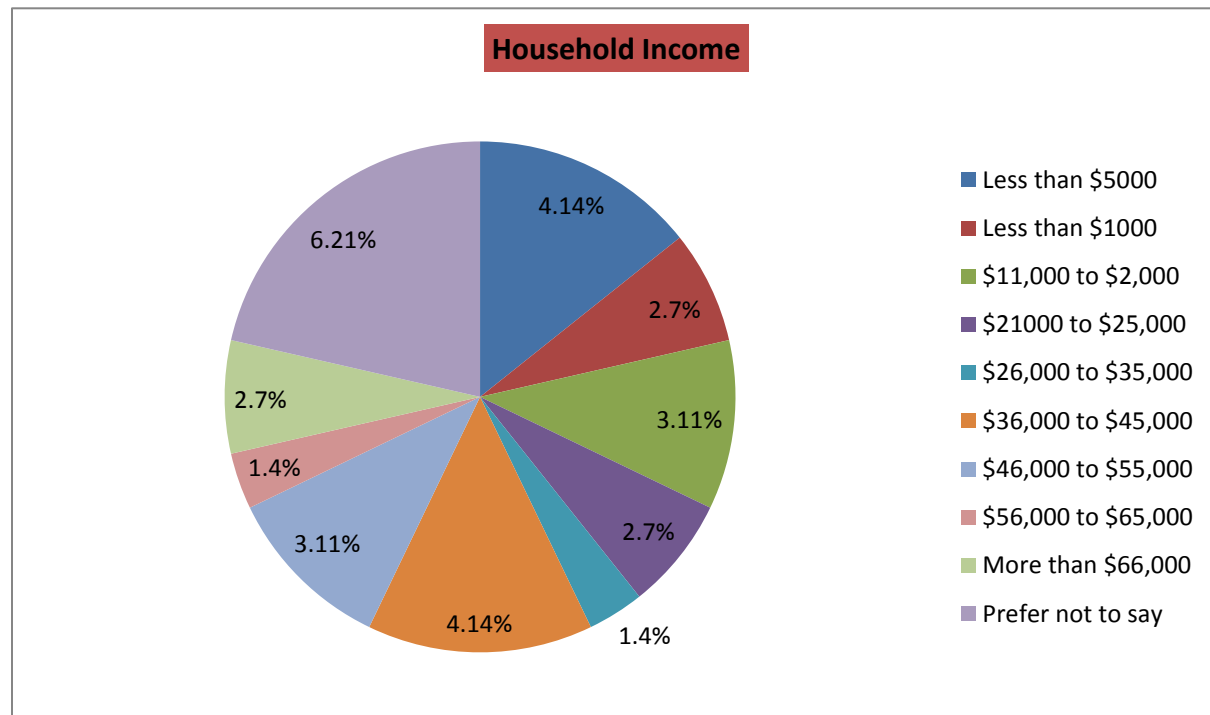
Description	Number	Percentage %
Male	8	28.57
Female	20	71.43
Intersexes	0	0
Gay	0	0
Transgendered	0	0
Lesbian	0	0
Transsexual	0	0



In this neighborhood, the majority of the population is made up of females, which is 71.43% and the male population is 28.57% as shown in the chart and graph above.

Household, Income, Saving and Living

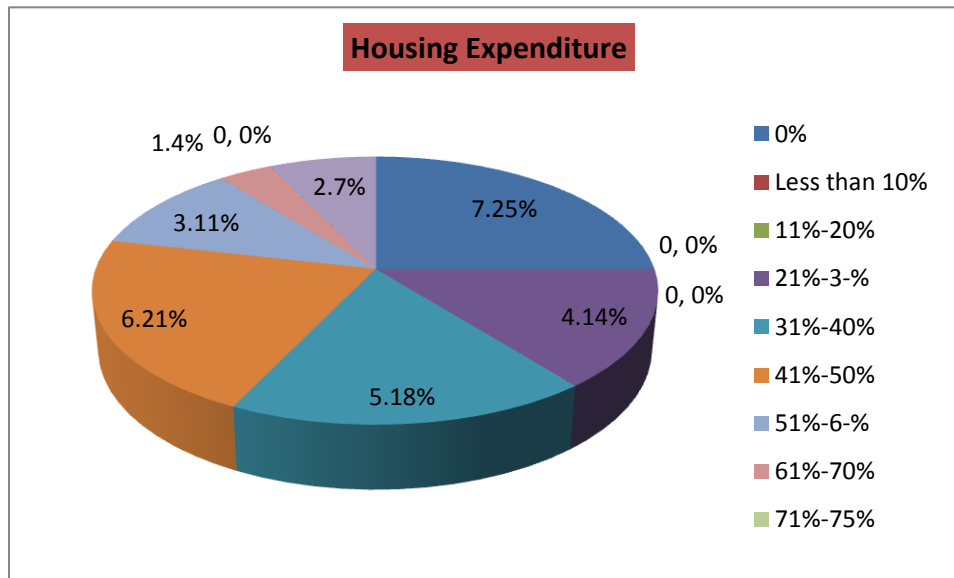
Description	Number	Percentage %
Less than \$5000	4	14.29
Less than \$1000	2	7.14
\$11,000 to \$2,000	3	10.71
\$21000 to \$25,000	2	7.14
\$26,000 to \$35,000	1	3.57
\$36,000 to \$45,000	4	14.29
\$46,000 to \$55,000	3	10.71
\$56,000 to \$65,000	1	3.57
More than \$66,000	2	7.14
Prefer not to say	6	21.44



The table above represents the income level of Jane and Finch respondents. The majority of the respondents preferred not to say, which is 21.44%. Less than \$5,000 and \$36,000 to \$45,000 have equal percentages of 14.29% each.

Housing

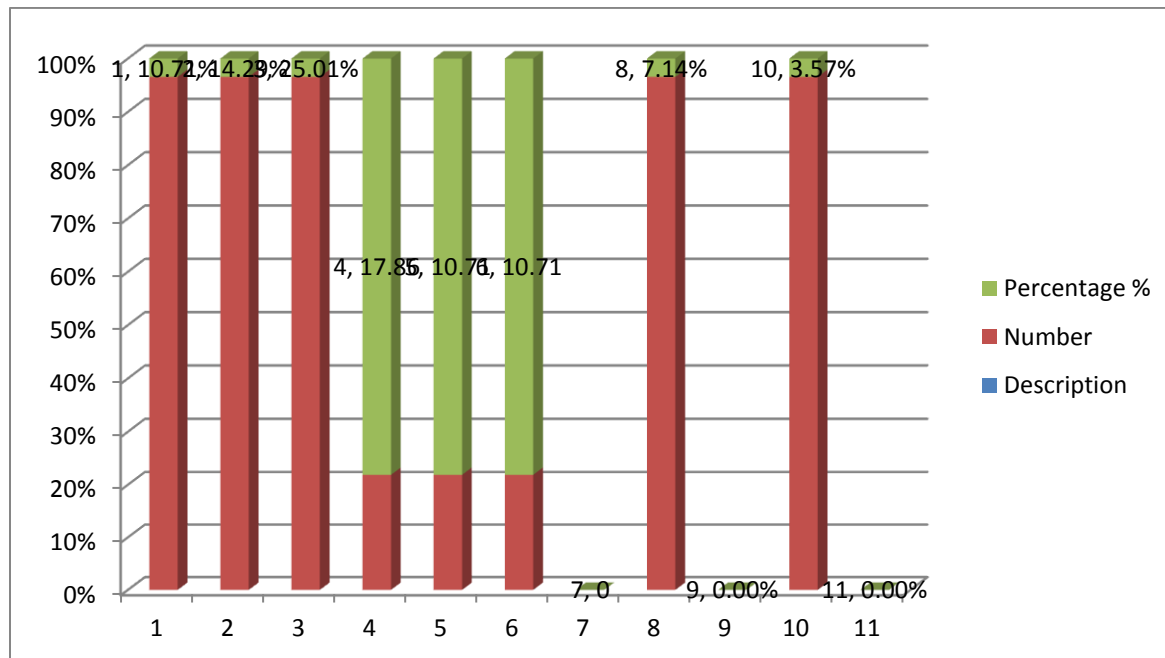
Description	Number	Percentage %
0%	7	25
Less than 10%	0	0
11%-20%	0	0
21%-30%	4	14.29
31%-40%	5	17.86
41%-50%	6	21.43
51%-60%	3	10.71
61%-70%	1	3.57
71%-75%	0	0
More than 76%	2	7.14



The chart and graph above show that housing spending has a high level of expenditure as 21.43% of the people are spending 41-50% of their income on housing, 17.86% of the people are spending 31-40%, 21-30% of the people are spending 14-29% of their income on housing.

Food Expenditure

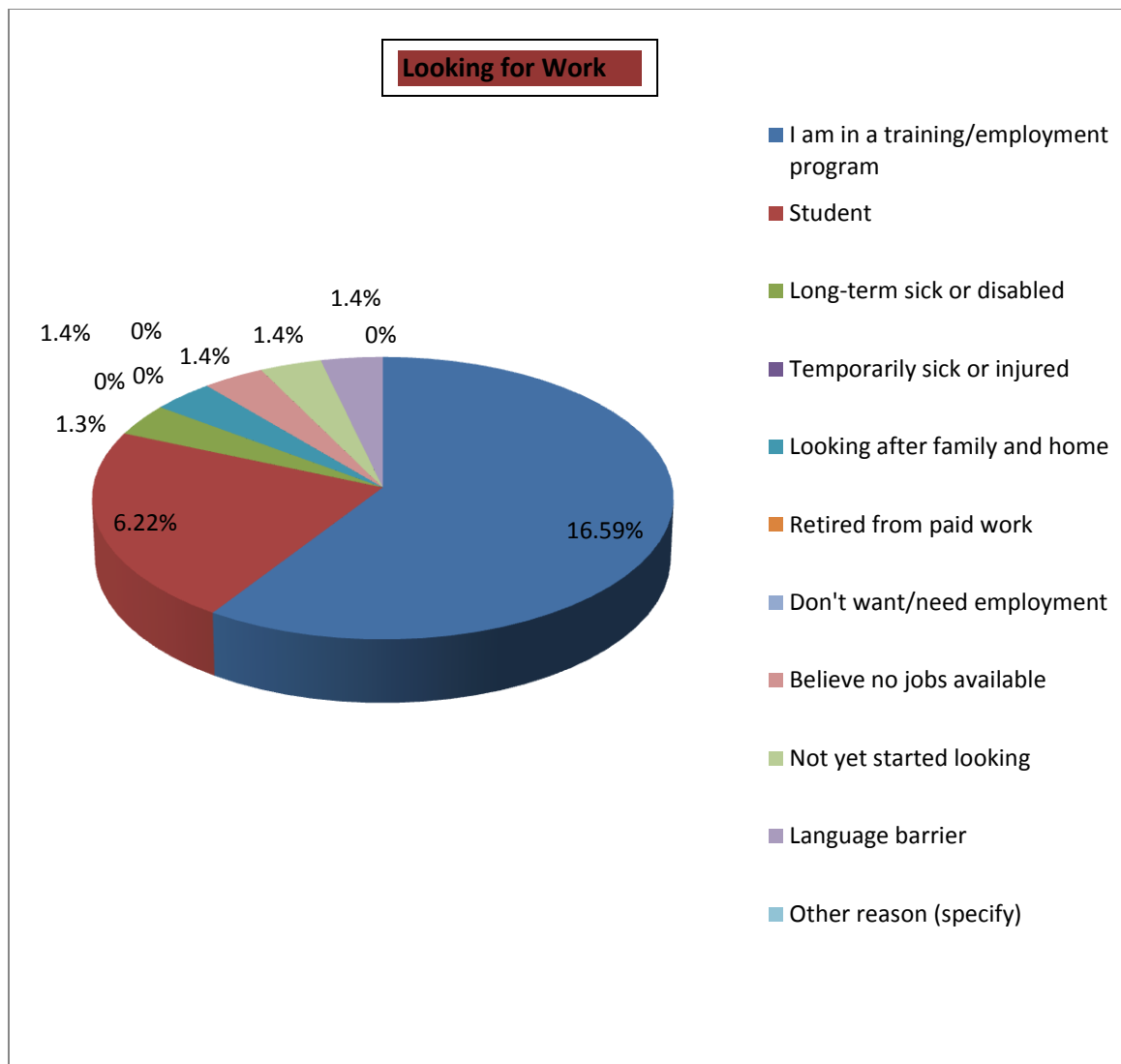
Description	Number	Percentage %
Less than 10%	3	10.71%
11%-20%	4	14.29%
21%-30%	7	25.01%
31%-35%	5	17.86
36%-40%	3	10.71
41%-50%	3	10.71
51%-60%	0	0
61%-70%	2	7.14%
71%-75%	0	0.00%
More than 76%	1	3.57%
0%	0	0.00%



As we are seeing in the graph and table above, most people are spending 36-50% of their income on food, which a high level of population and the range of people who are spending 61-70% are less than them.

Looking for Work

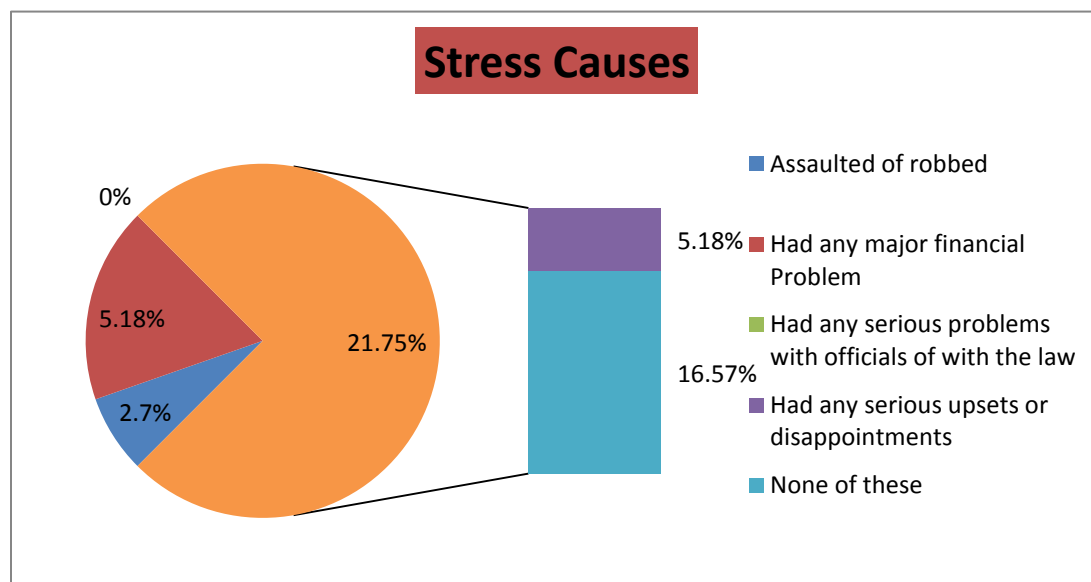
Description	Numbers	Percentage%
I am in a training/employment program	16	59.28%
Student	6	22.22%
Long-term sick or disabled	1	3.70%
Temporarily sick or injured	0	0
Looking after family and home	1	3.7
Retired from paid work	0	0
Don't want/need employment	0	0
Believe no jobs available	1	3.70%
Not yet started looking	1	3.70%
Language barrier	1	3.70%
Other reason (specify)	0	0.00%



More than 59.28% of population is in training/employment programs, which was the majority and 22.22% of the people in this neighborhood are students.

Things that Can Cause Stress

Description	Number	Percentage%
Assaulted or robbed	2	7.14%
Had any major financial Problem	5	17.86%
Had any serious problems with the officials with the law	0	0
Had any serious upsets or disappointments	5	17.86%
None of these	16	57.14%

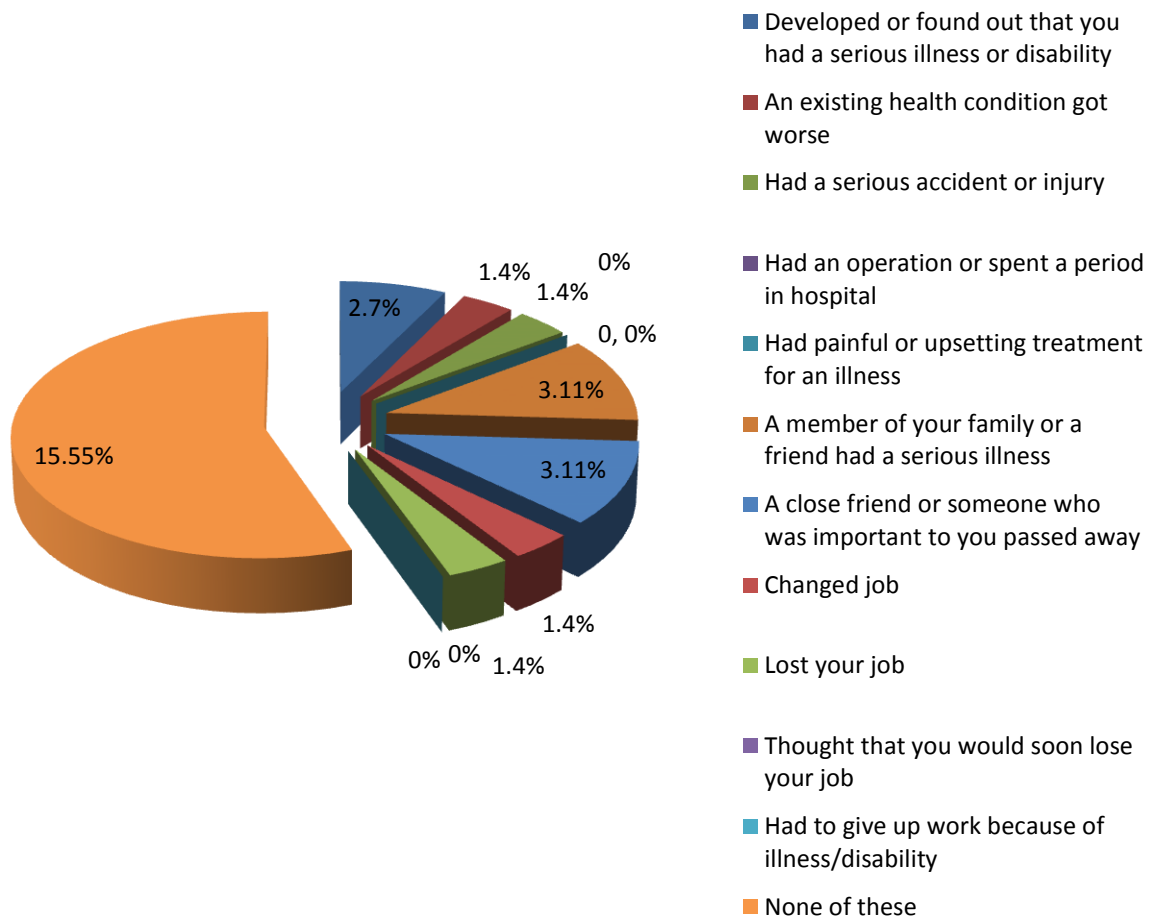


It is clear in the table and graph above that most of the population has financial problems (17.86%) or serious upsets or disappointments (which is again 17.86%).

Potential Stress Factors

Description	Number	Percentage%
Developed or found out that you had a serious illness or disability	2	7.14%
An existing health condition got worse	1	3.57%
Had a serious accident or injury	1	3.57%
Had an operation or spent a period in hospital	0	0.00%
Had painful or upsetting treatment for an illness		3.57%
A member of your family or a friend had a serious illness	3	10.71%
A close friend or someone who was important to you passed away	3	10.71%
Changed job	1	3.57%
Lost your job	1	3.57%
Thought that you would soon lose your job	0	0.00%
Had to give up work because of illness/disability	0	0.00%
None of these	15	53.59%

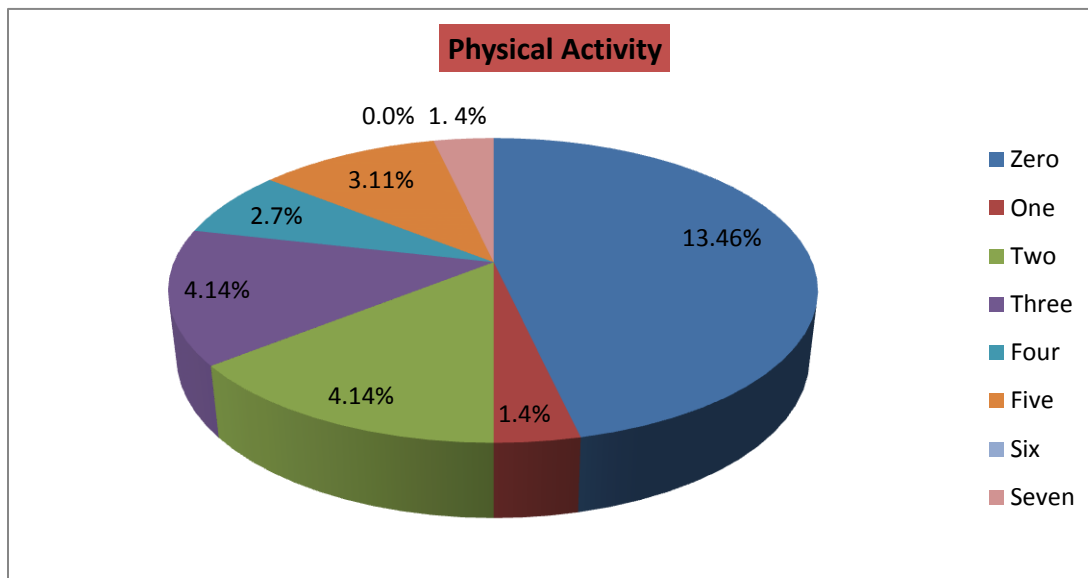
Stress Factors



A high percentage of people shown in the chart and graph above had to deal with a serious illness of their family member and/or a friend or family member passed away.

Physical Activity

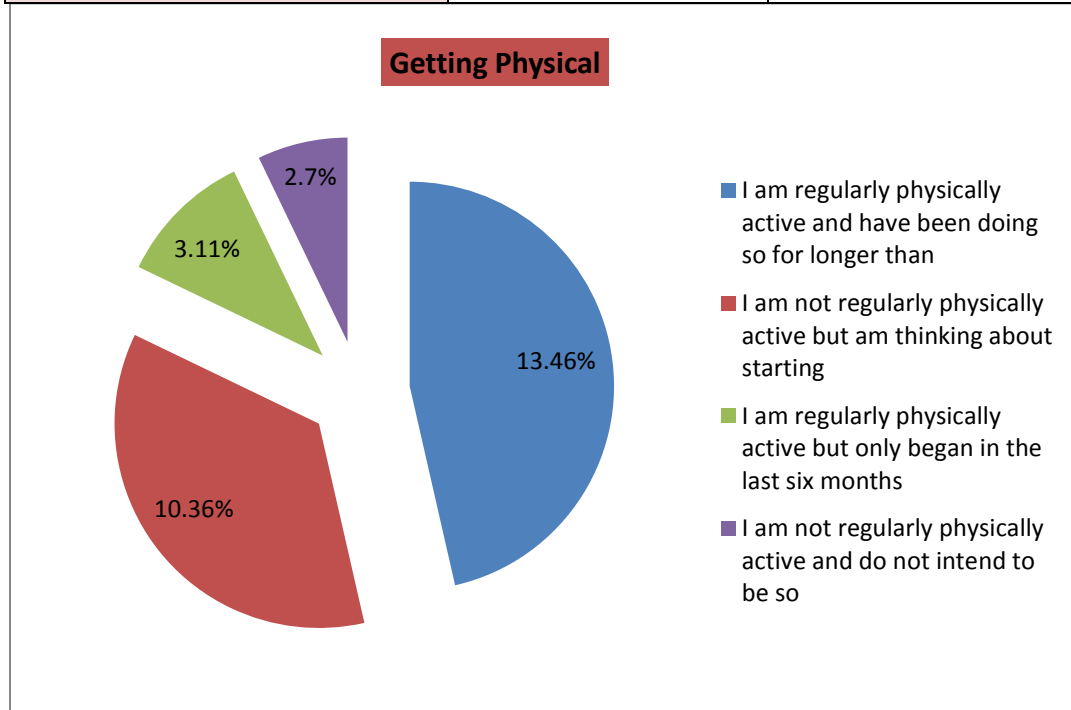
Description	Number	Percentage%
Zero	13	46.43%
One	1	3.57%
Two	4	14.29%
Three	4	14.29%
Four	2	7.14%
Five	3	10.71%
Six	0	0.00%
Seven	1	3.57%



The chart and graph above show that most people don't do any activity during their week days and some of them do two or three days a week which is the second largest group of the respondents.

Getting Physical

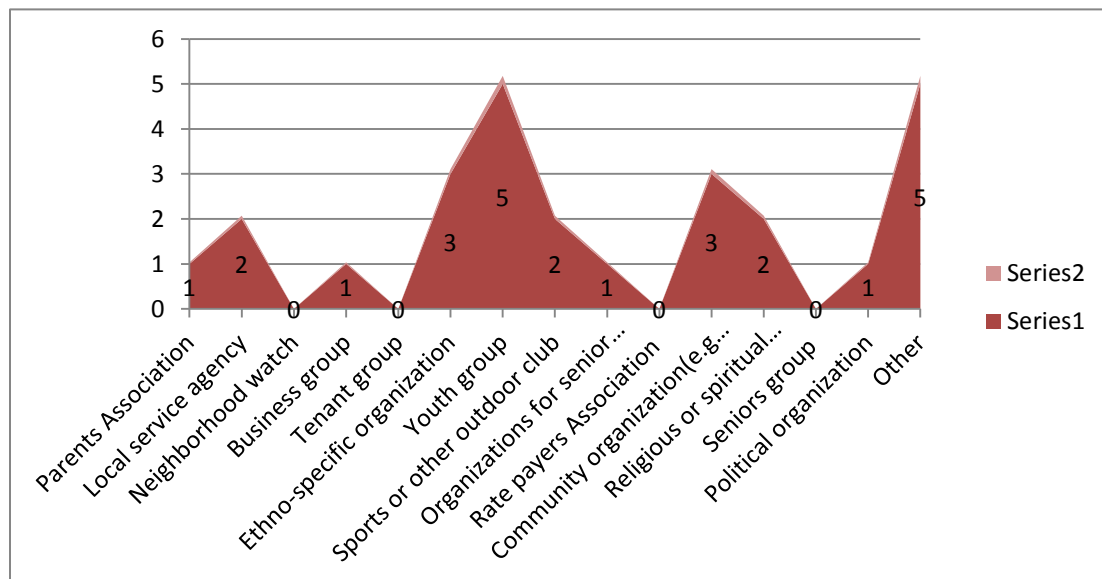
Description	Number	Percentage%
I am regularly physically active and have been doing so for longer than	13	46.44%
I am not regularly physically active but am thinking about starting	10	35.71%
I am regularly physically active but only began in the last six months	3	10.71%
I am not regularly physically active and do not intend to be so	2	7.14%



The table shows that 46.44% of people are active and 35.71% of them are not regularl involved in activities in this community.

Group and Organization

Description	Number	Percentage%
Parents Association	1	3.57%
Local service agency	2	7.14%
Neighborhood watch	0	0.00%
Business group	1	3.57%
Tenant group	0	0.00%
Ethno-specific organization	3	10.71%
Youth group	5	17.86%
Sports or other outdoor club	2	7.14%
Organizations for senior citizens	1	3.57%
Rate payers Association	0	0.00%
Community organization(e.g sports, arts, culture, ethno cultural, religious based)	3	10.71%
Religious or spiritual organization	2	7.14%
Seniors group	0	0.00%
Political organization	1	3.57%
Other	5	17.86%



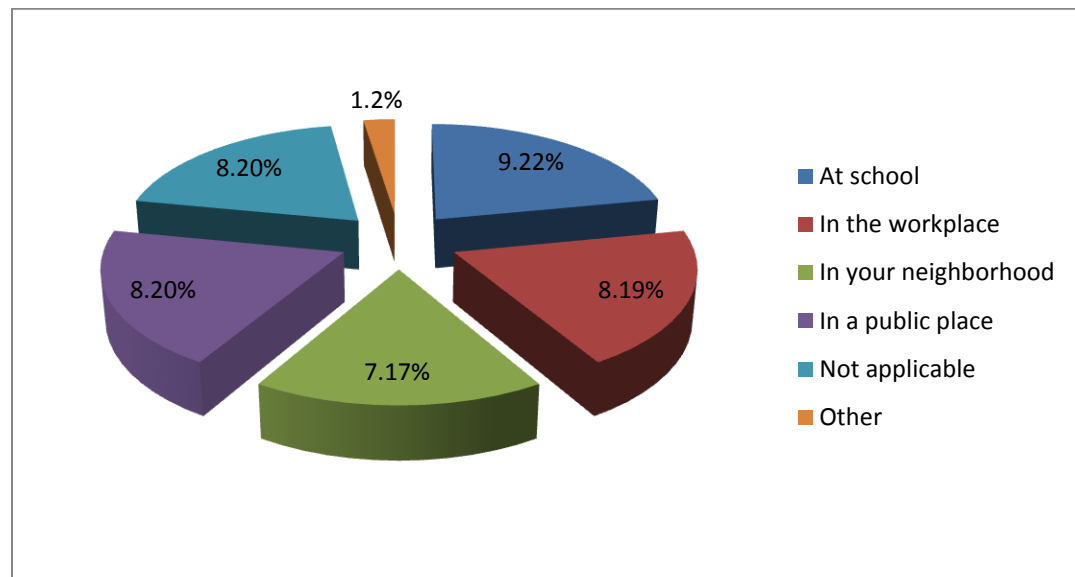
As we can observe in the table and graph above, 17.86% of people are involved in youth groups and the same percentage are engaged with other groups. 10.71% are involved in ethno-specific organizations and 10.71% are involved in community organizations, sports, arts, culture and ethno-cultural, religious-

based. 7.14% of people are engaged in local services agency and the same level of people are involved in religious spiritual organization.

Knowledge of Rights

- **Discrimination or Harassment chart**

Description	Number	Percentage%
At school	9	32.14%
In the workplace	8	28.57%
In your neighborhood	7	25.00%
In a public place	8	28.57%
Not applicable	8	28.57%
Other	1	3.57%

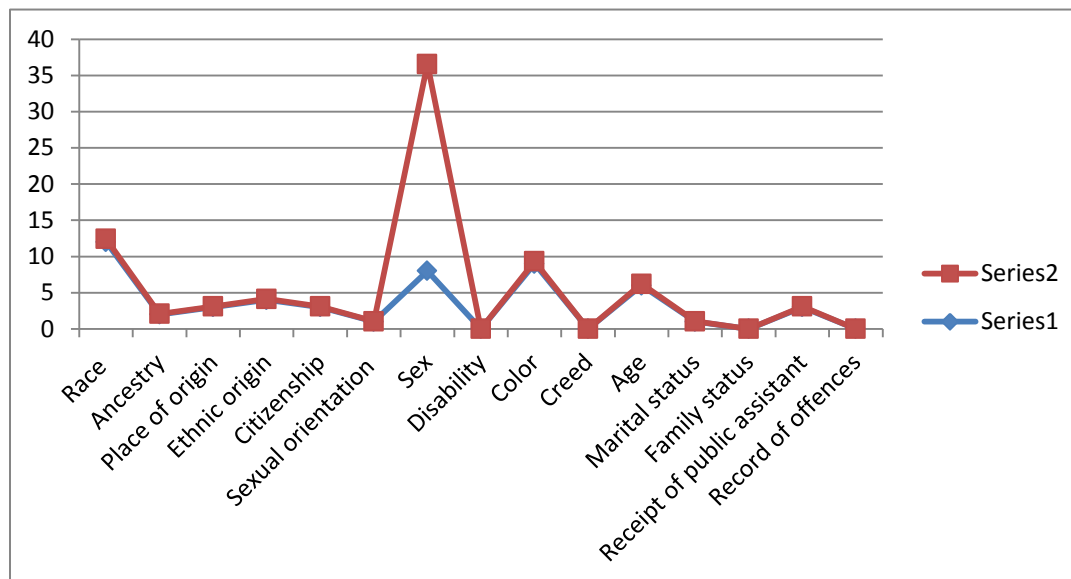


The high percentage of people who are facing with discrimination or harassment is at schools and workplace. Public places has the second highest rate of discrimination. Neighbourhood and “other” have less discrimination than other places.

Prohibited Grounds

Description	Number	Percentage%
Race	12	42.86%
Ancestry	2	7.14%
Place of origin	3	10.71%
Ethnic origin	4	14.29%
Citizenship	3	10.71%
Sexual orientation	1	3.57%
Sex	8	28.57%
Disability	0	0.00%
Color	9	32.14%
Creed	0	0.00%
Age	6	21.43%
Marital status	1	3.57%
Family status	0	0.00%
Receipt of public assistant	3	10.71%
Record of offences	0	0.00%

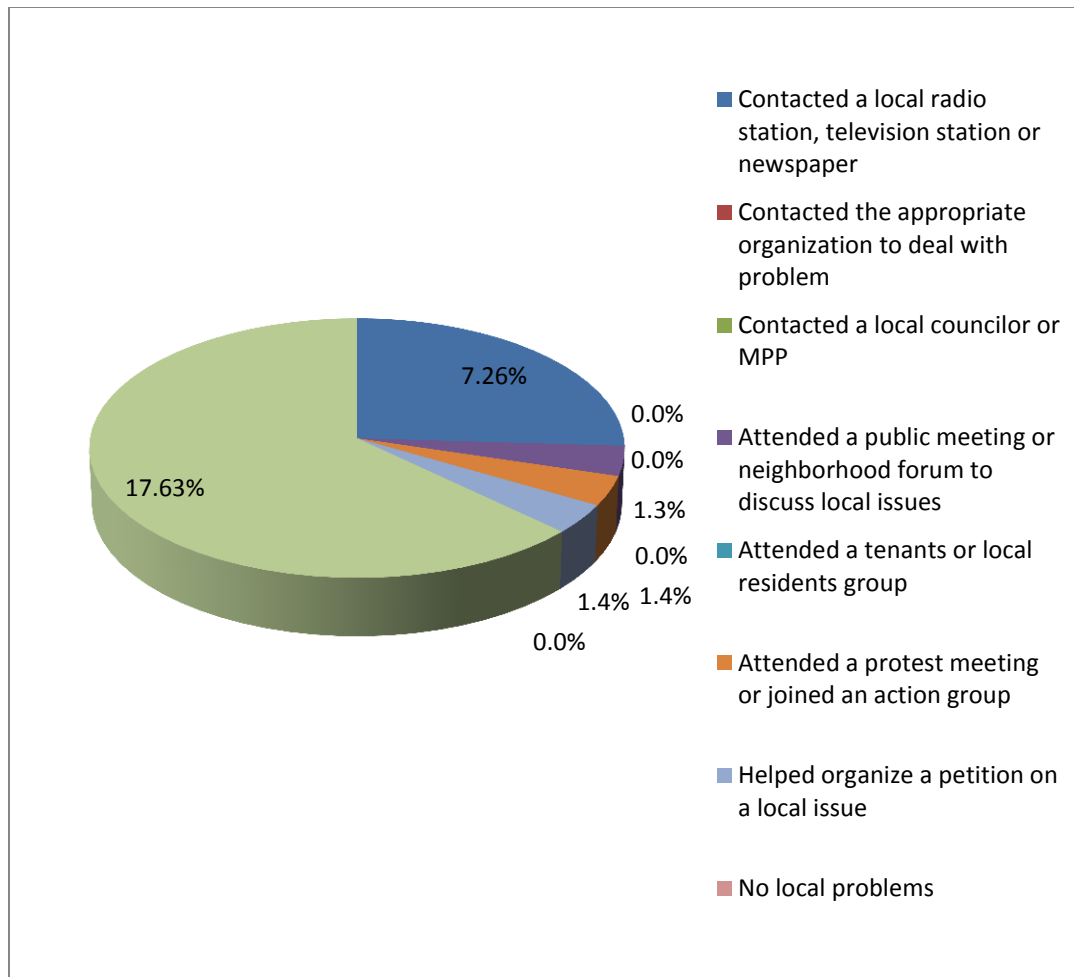
Prohibited Grounds



Discrimination has a high rate in Canada as we can see in the chart and graph. 42.86% is related to race, 32.14% is colour, 28.57% is sex, 21.43% is age, 14.29% ethnic origin, 10.71% place of origin and the same level is public receipt and last one which is ancestry is 7.14% in Jane and Finch.

Community Action

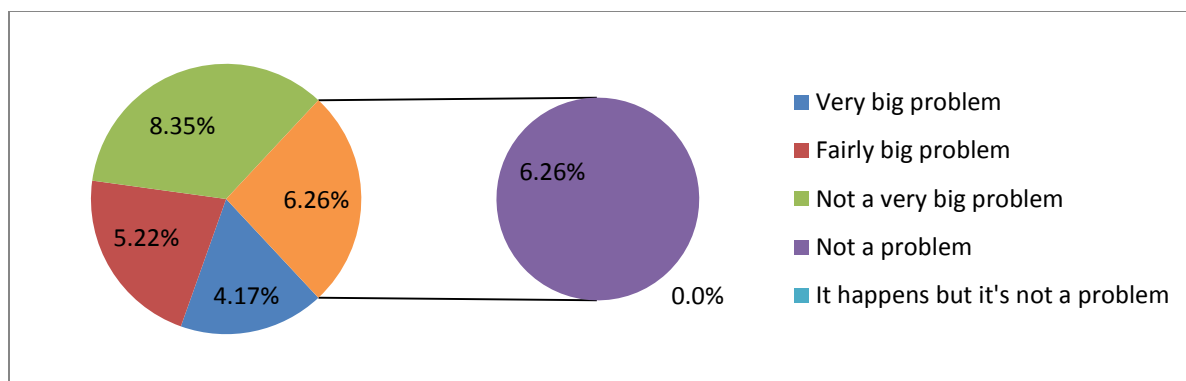
Description	Number	Percentage%
Contacted a local radio station, television station or newspaper	7	25.00%
Contacted the appropriate organization to deal with problem	0	0.00%
Contacted a local councilor or MPP		
Attended a public meeting or neighborhood forum to discuss local issues	1	3.57%
Attended a tenants or local residents group	0	0.00%
Attended a protest meeting or joined an action group	1	3.57%
Helped organize a petition on a local issue	1	3.57%
No local problems	0	0.00%
None of these	17	60.72%



According to this chart, 60.72% of people are not participating in community action. Only 25% of people have contacted a local radio, television station or newspaper. Attending in a public meeting, protest meeting or joined an action group is 3.57% of people in this neighborhood.

Drunk and Rowdy

Description	Number	Percentage%
Very big problem	4	17.39%
Fairly big problem	5	21.74%
Not a very big problem	8	34.78%
Not a problem	6	26.09%
It happens but it's not a problem	0	0.00%



According to this survey 35.78% of people said that drunk is not very big problem in this community and 21.74% of population said that it is a fairly big problem.

Drugs

Description	Number	Percentage%
Very big problem	8	34.78%
Fairly big problem	6	26.09%
Not a very big problem	7	30.43%
Not a problem	2	8.70%
It happens but it's not a problem	0	0.00%

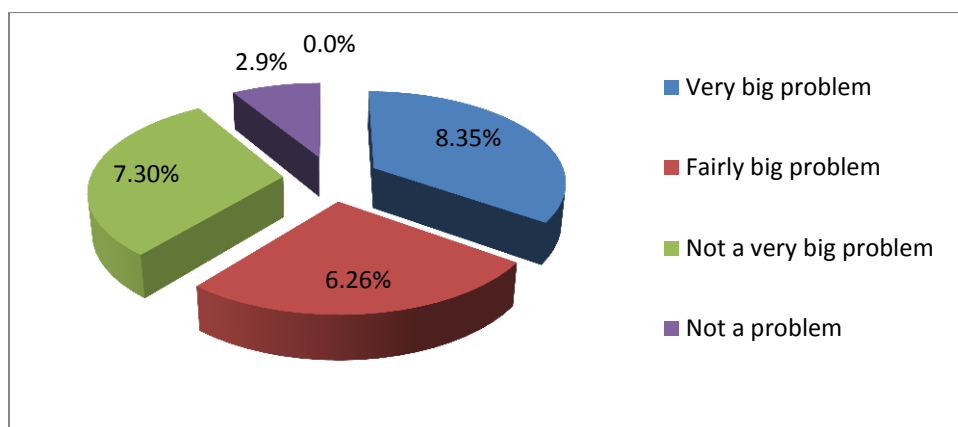
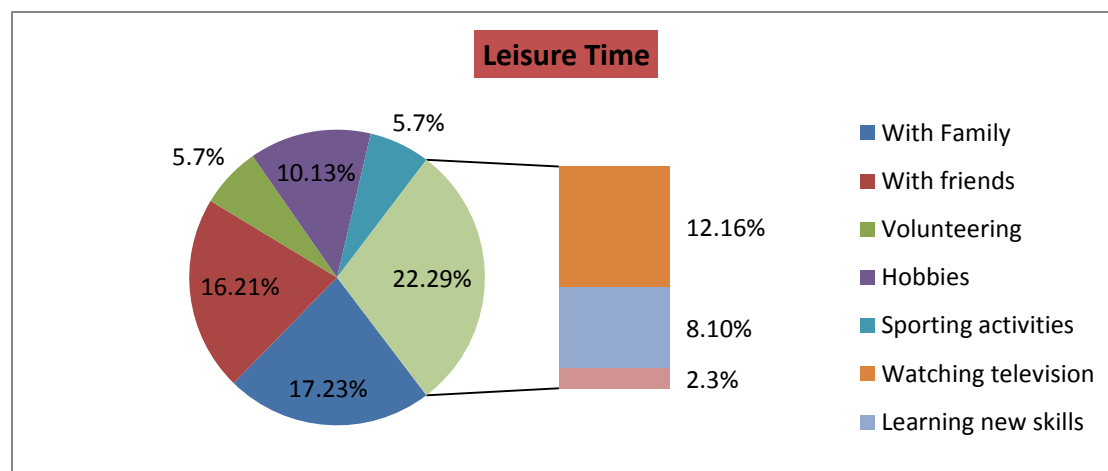


Table and graph show that 34.78% of people mentioned that drugs is a very big problem, 26.09% said fairly big problem and 30.43% of population said it is not a very big problem in Jane and Finch.

Leisure Time

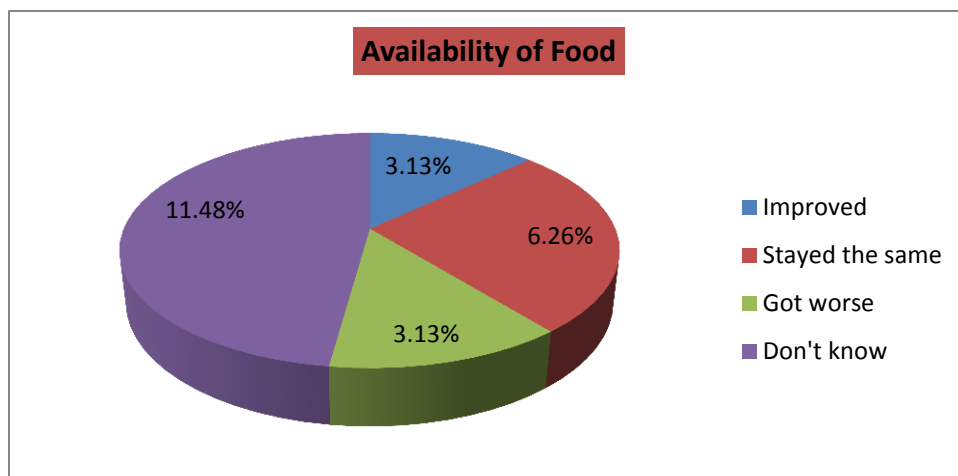
Description	Number	Percentage%
With Family	17	60.71%
With friends	16	57.14%
Volunteering	5	17.86%
Hobbies	10	35.71%
Sporting activities	5	17.86%
Watching television	12	42.86%
Learning new skills	8	28.57%
Other	2	7.14%



60.71% of the people's leisure time is with their families, 57.14% is with friends, 42.86% is watching television, 35.71% is hobbies, 28.57% is learning new skills, 17.86% is volunteering and 7.14% is other as the table above shows.

Availability of Food

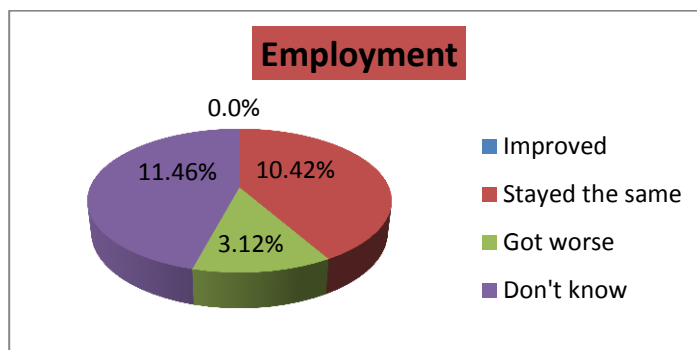
Description	Number	Percentage%
Improved	3	13.04
Stayed the same	6	26.09
Got worse	3	13.04
Don't know	11	47.83



The chart and graph show that 26.09% food availability stayed the same, 47.83% of people don't know, 13.04% said got worse and 13.04% said that availability of food improved.

Employment

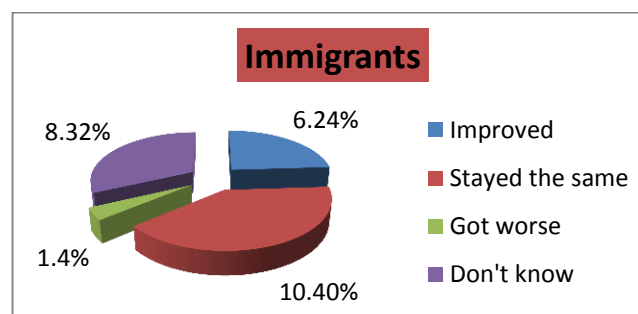
Description	Number	Percentage%
Improved	0	0%
Stayed the same	10	41.67%
Got worse	3	12.50%
Don't know	11	45.83%



This survey shows that more than 45.83% have no idea about employment. 41.67% said stayed the same and 12.50% of employment got worse.

Immigrants

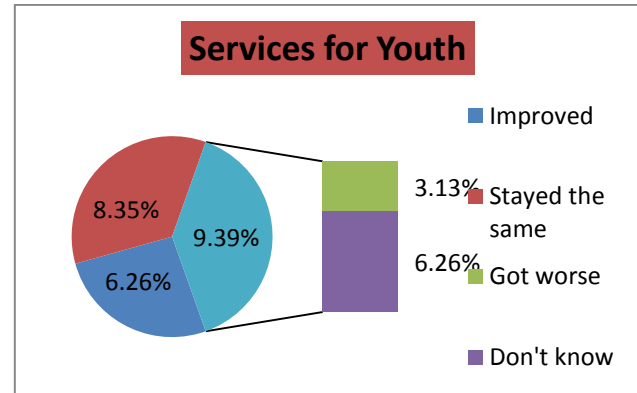
Description	Number	Percentage%
Improved	6	24.00%
Stayed the same	10	40.00%
Got worse	1	4.00%
Don't know	8	32.00%



According to this survey 40% of immigrant status stayed the same, 24% of people said improved and 4% of population said got worse.

Services for Youth

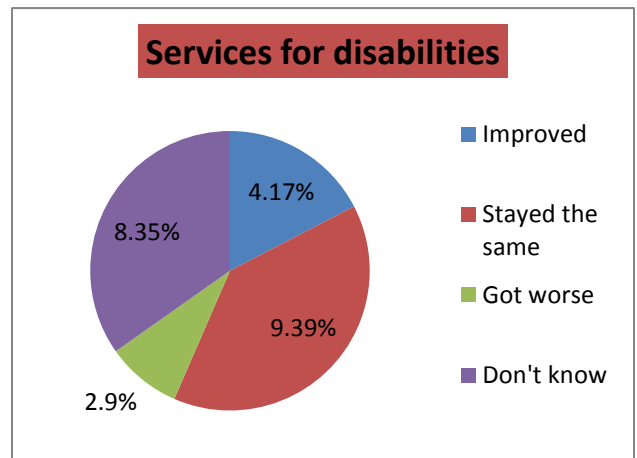
Description	Number	Percentage%
Improved	6	26.09%
Stayed the same	8	34.78%
Got worse	3	13.04%
Don't know	6	26.09%



The table shows that 34.78% of respondents felt the services stayed the same. 26.09% indicated they thought services improved and 13.04% thought it got worse. 26.09% of people have no information about services.

Services For People with Disabilities

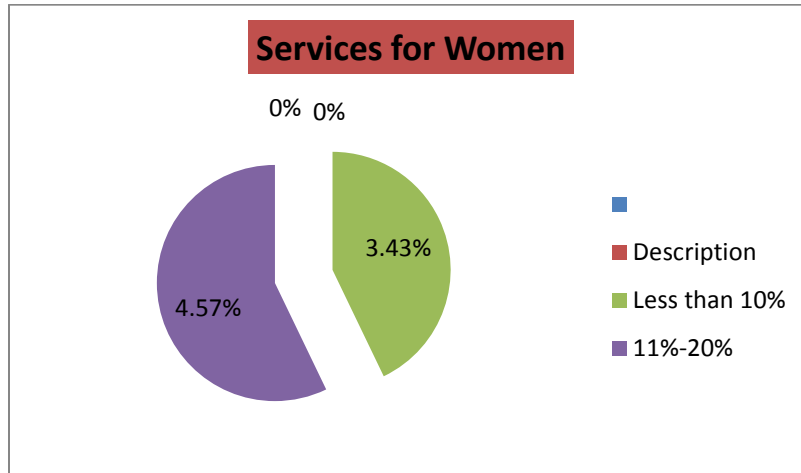
Description	Number	Percentage%
Improved	4	17.39%
Stayed the same	9	39.13%
Got worse	2	8.70%
Don't know	8	34.78%



Regarding services for the disabled, 39.13% thought it stayed the same, 34.78% of the people have no idea, 17.39% thought it improved and 8.70% said it got worse.

Services For Women

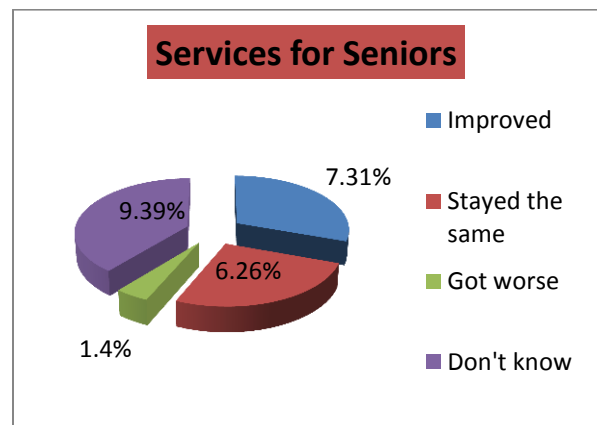
Description	Number	Percentage%
Improved	7	31.82%
Stayed the same	4	18.18%
Got worse	1	4.55%
Don't know	10	45.45%



In this survey, 45.45% have no idea about the services, 31.82% thought it improved, 18.18% thought it stayed the same and 4.55% thought it got worse in this community.

Services For Seniors

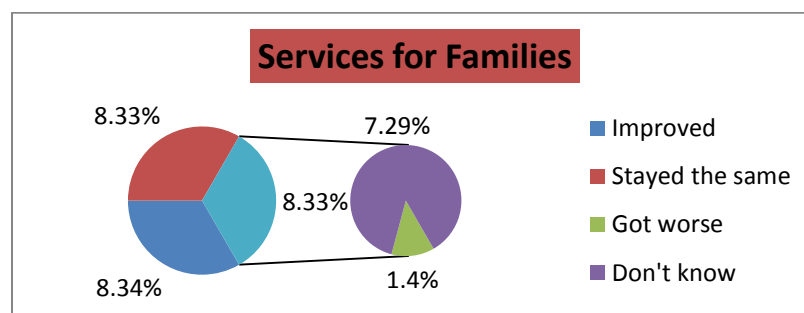
Description	Number	Percentage%
Improved	7	30.43%
Stayed the same	6	26.09%
Got worse	1	4.35%
Don't know	9	39.13%



As we can see in the chart and graph, 30.43% felt senior services improved. 26.09% thought it stayed the same, 39.13% have no idea about senior services and 4.35% thought it got worse in Jane and Finch.

Services For Families

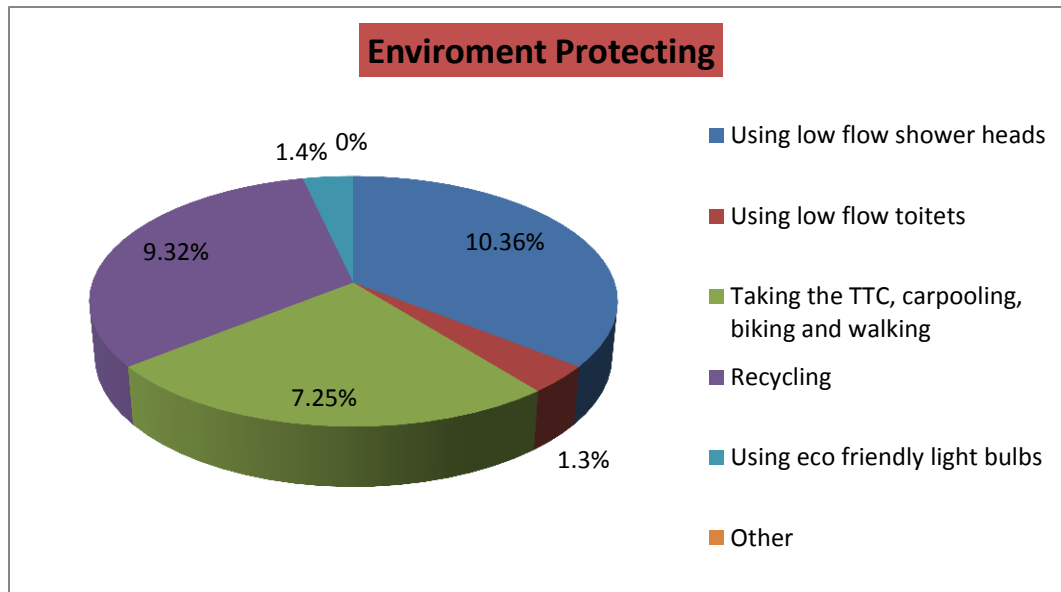
Description	Number	Percentage%
Improved	8	33.33%
Stayed the same	8	33.33%
Got worse	1	4.17%
Don't know	7	29.17%



According to this survey, 33.33% thought services for families improved, 33.33% thought it stayed the same, 29.17% don't know and 4.17% said the services got worse in this neighborhood.

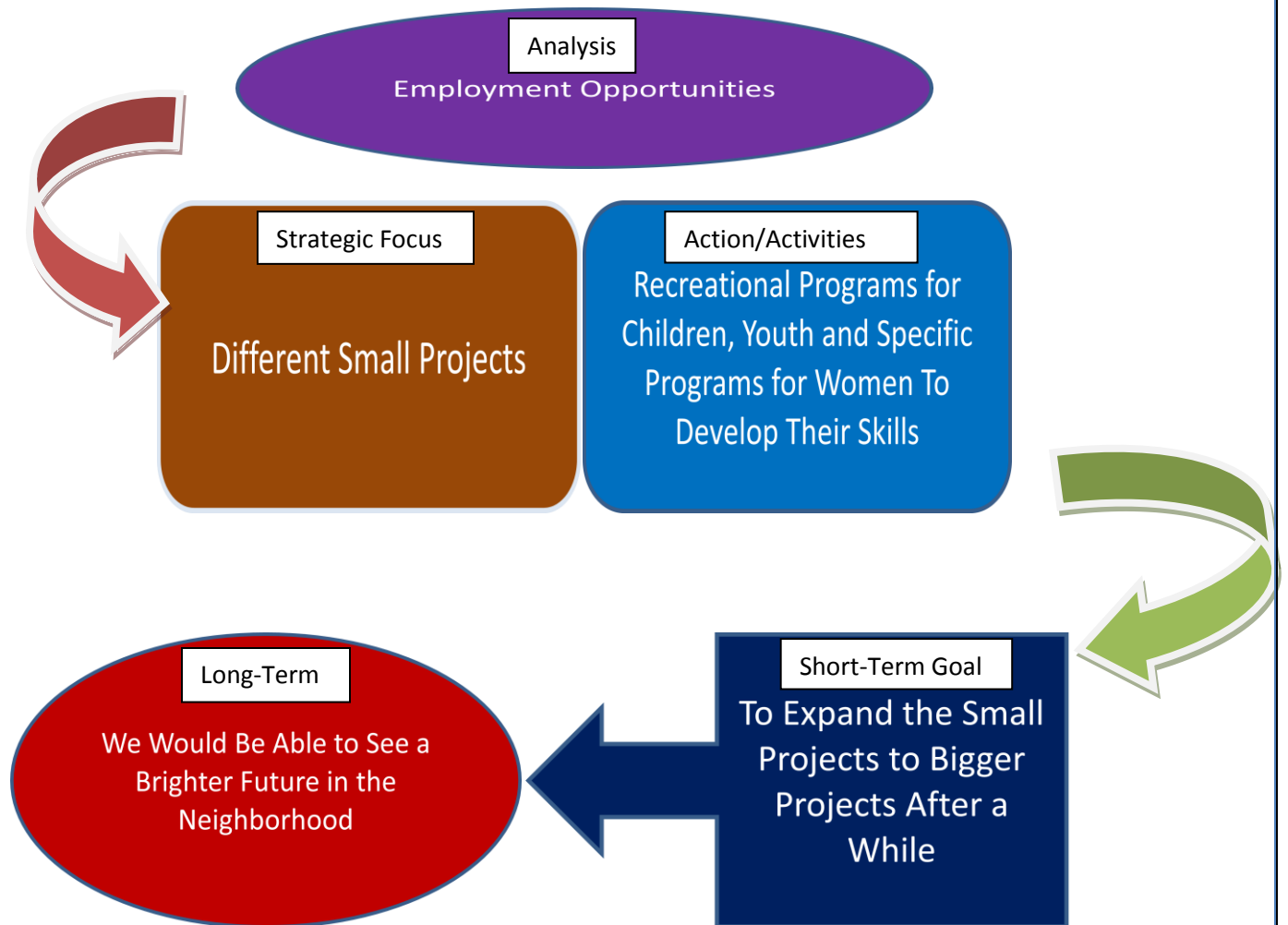
Protecting the Environment

Description	Number	percentage%
Using low flow shower heads	10	35.72%
Using low flow toilets	1	3.57%
Taking the TTC, carpooling, biking and walking	7	25.00%
Recycling	9	32.14%
Using eco friendly light bulbs	1	3.57%
Other	0	0.00%



The table above shows that 35.72% of people are using low flow shower heads, 32.14% are recycling, 25.00% are taking the TTC, carpooling, biking and walking to protect the environment of the community.

Theory of Change



Conclusion:

The Community needs assessment survey has been done in Jane and Finch from 2010 to 2011. The community members, organizations, community centers and individuals have shared their views, ideas and comments regarding the survey. It means that they have concerns about the existing problems and challenges in this neighbourhood and really want to solve the problems to have a developed community to improve their skills and contribute them to the neighbourhood. The most important issue is employment opportunities. We need to focus on different small projects and attract the government's support. Programs for children, youth and specific programs for women need the governments efforts. By expanding the small projects to bigger projects we will achieve our short-term goals. To bring positive social changes in the neighbourhood, we would be able to see a brighter future in the community which is our long-term goal.

Recommendations:

- More employment opportunities
- More leadership programs should be run in the schools, parks, community centers and organizations.
- Government should put more effort into training and job placement.
- There are lots of gaps in the community, to cover these gaps we do need government's support and foundations to close these gaps.
- Recreational programs have to be expanded and have more accessible services on Friday nights and weekends because most violence happens during that time.

Appendix:

<http://www.toronto.ca/demographics/neighbourhoods.htm>

<http://jane-finch.com/history/ruralroots.htm>

<http://www.cbc.ca/fifth/lostinthestruggle/hood.html>

<http://hubpages.com/hub/deadliestintersection>

<http://www.torontopolice.on.ca/statistics/stats.php>