

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT
IMMIGRANT WOMEN INTEGRATION PROGRAM (IWIP)

“COMMUNITY RESOURCES AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT”

Conducted by:

Olga Florean Cruz

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Acknowledgments

It is very important for me to give the acknowledgments to CCLD, each teacher, each trainee, and the staff member of this program. In this process I found very good friends.

I am very happy to complete this course and to get to know my neighbourhood, in this moment I feel part of the community. That is my space, my place to live for ever.

These works is dedicated to my Spanish community, with love and hope of a better future for us.

Especially to my friends Miriam and Omar for helping me with the survey, and for pusing me in this work.

And mainly for my daughters for their tolerance, their love, and for believing in my goals and our future.

Comments

The "Community Resources and Needs Assessment" report was conducted with great challenge. Engaging community residents to participate was difficult due to their hesitation to provide their opinions.

Methods used in collecting data included focus groups, one on one interviews and on line submission of survey. Data was collected in churches, malls, offices, public libraries, primary and secondary Schools. Community agencies, particularly the Mennonite New Life Centre and Catholic Cross Cultural Services (CCS) youth Host Program.

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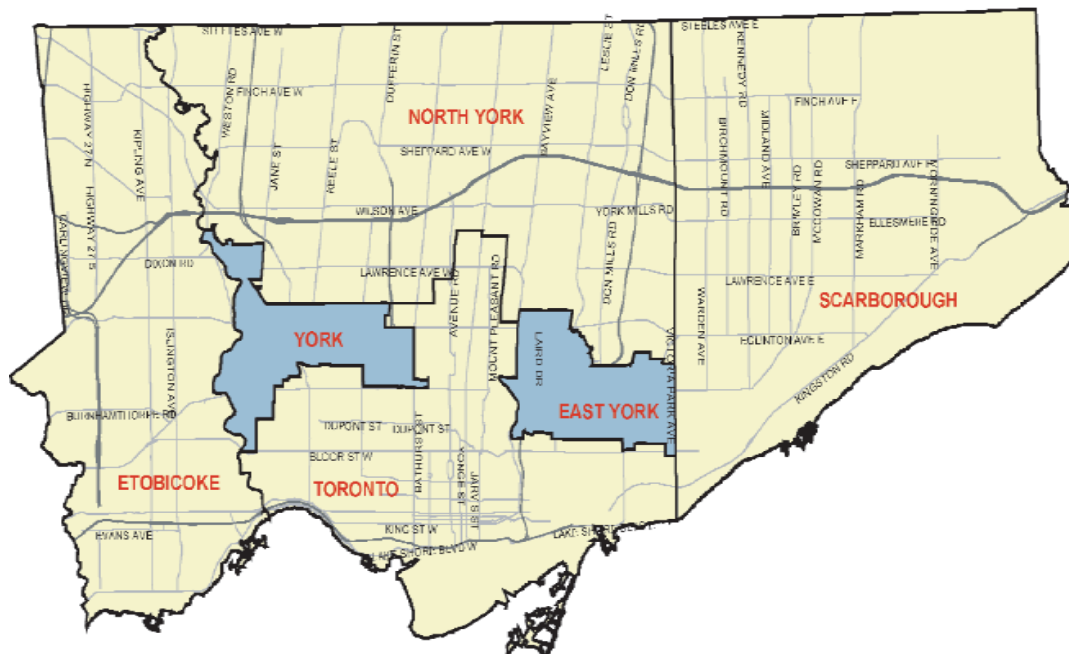
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Introduction

1. Toronto my city

Toronto is one of the best places to live in the world in 2003. It was ranked 12th of the 215 cities worldwide in William M. Mercer's Quality of Life Survey, which considers political, social economic, health, educational, recreational, housing and environmental factors. In 2009, it ranked has the 15th, based on job markets, cost of living, educational standards, quality of public transportation, health care, recreational facilities and crime rates.¹



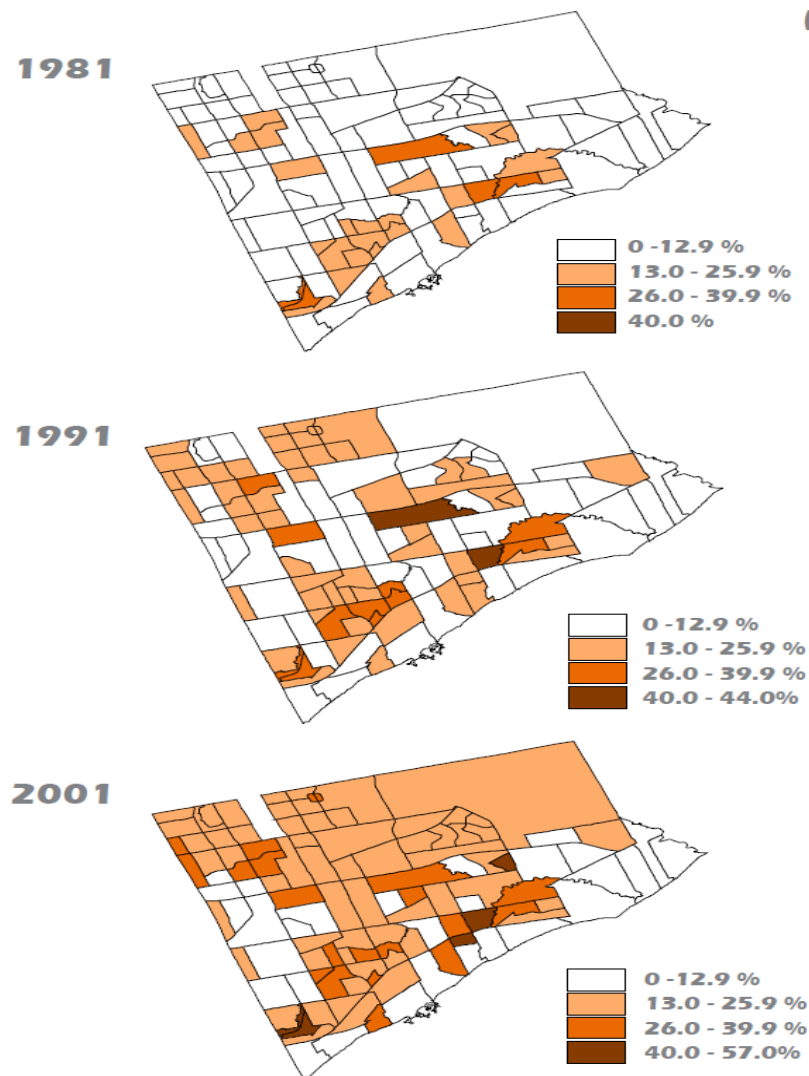
¹ Source: Poverty for Postal Code

2. Scarborough

Scarborough is divided in 3 specific Wards: Ward 36 (Scarborough Southwest), Ward 38 (Scarborough Centre), and Ward 43 (Scarborough East). The community covers a huge geographical area.

“Scarborough experienced a major intensification of poverty over the past twenty years. In 1981, the vast majority of its neighbourhoods had ‘lower’ poverty levels (70%), from just 13.9% of its ‘poor’ families living in higher poverty neighbourhoods in 1981 to 39.8% in 2001. In 20 years the level of poverty was increase near of 136%.²”

FORMER CITY OF SCARBOROUGH - POVERTY LEVEL BY NEIGHBO



² “Poverty by Postal Code, The Geography of Neighbourhood Poverty 1981-2001” by United Way of Great Toronto and the Canadian Council on social Development.

2.1 Scarborough my Neighbourhood

Neighbourhoods with very high poverty rates in 2001, ranked by poverty level

Community in which census tract is located	Poverty Rate
Oakridge	57.1%
Morningside	50.9%
Woburn	45.0%
Scarborough Village	42.4%

Source: Poverty by Postal Code

2.1.1 Scarborough Village

In 2004 Scarborough Village was identified as one of 13 priority neighbourhoods on the city; they are under-served and require infrastructural investment.

Scarborough Village

Region Priority



According to the 2006 census, the total population of Scarborough Village was 15,595 a 7.5% decrease from the 2001 census (*Statistics Canada, 2006 Census Area Profile*). Of the total population 47.5% are male and 52.5% are female.³

The population comprised of residents aged 14 years and younger is 3.7% higher than the same age range in the City of Toronto. The population aged 65 and over is in Scarborough Village a little over than the same age range in the City of Toronto.

Scarborough Village neighbourhood includes two areas considered 'high' poverty (26% to 39.9% of families living below the low-income cut-off) and 'very high' poverty (indicates 40% or greater rate of families living below the low-income cut-off).⁴

47% of the population have a non-official language as their mother tongue, in contrast to 42.6% in Toronto. Of these non-official languages, 10.12% speak Tamil, 6.89% Urdu, 3.88% Persian (Farsi), 1.94% Tagalog, 1.26% Bengali and, 0.68% Spanish 5.14% indicate "neither French nor English," as their mother tongue. The remaining languages each make up less than 1% of the population⁵.

55% of all residents are immigrants, compared to 46% in the City of Toronto. 19% identified as newcomers, 21% of whom have been in Canada for three years or less, while 79% have been in Canada for more than three years.

A large number of Scarborough Village residents who participate in the labour force fall into the following occupations:

- 26.9% in Sales and Services
- 22.0% in Business, finance and administration
- 11.7% processing, manufacturing and utilities.

³ Source: Statistics Canada 2006 census tracts: 535 (Toronto), 0331.03, 0331.04, 0332.00 (Scarborough Village)

⁴ Poverty by Postal Code, the Geography of Neighbourhood Poverty 1981-2001 " by United Way of Greater Toronto and the Canadian Council on Social Development.

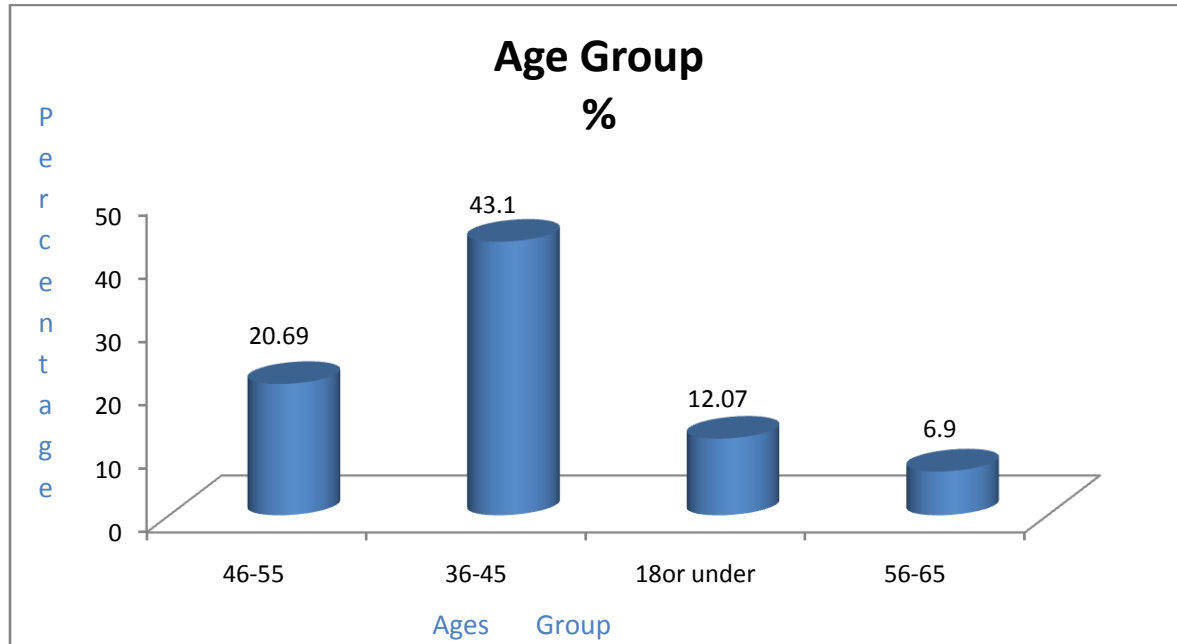
⁵ Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006

3 My Community

In this Survey "Community Resources and Needs Assessment" I found important dates:

3.1 Demographic

3.1.1 Age

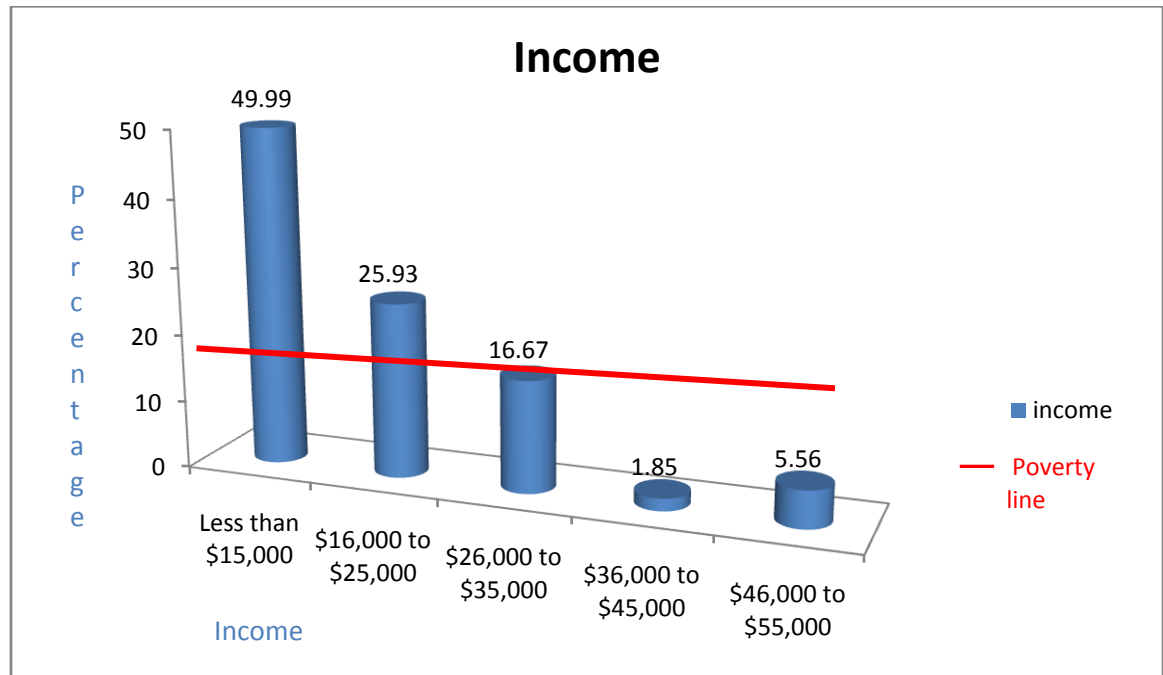


The principal population in the survey is comprised of residents:

- 43% in age to work 36 to 45,
- 21% in possibilities for retirement 46-55 ages,
- 12% youth people,
- 7% elderly age.

3.2 Economic

3.2.1. Income



A Toronto family of a husband and wife and two children in 2004 is considered poor if their income is less \$36,247⁶.

We can view the big difference between the people that live below the line of the poverty and the people that have enough for live.

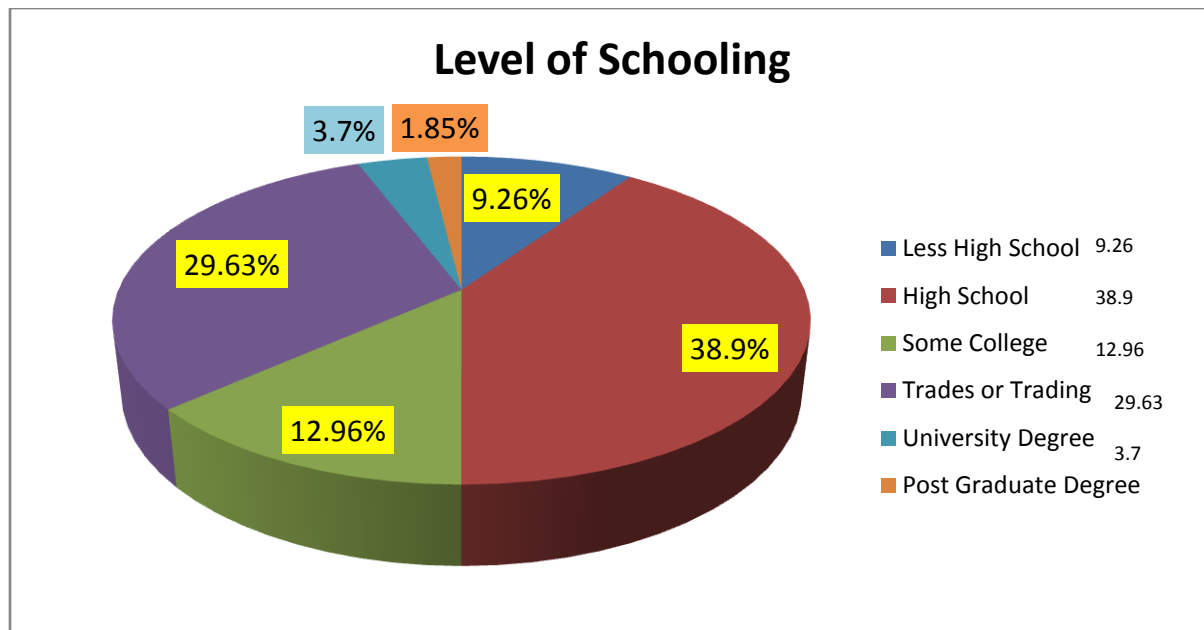
- 50% the main group live with less than \$15,000,
- 26% live with less of \$25,000,
- 17% live with less \$35,000

All together in this three blocks, them living in poverty. Most of they have 2 or 3 children in their house.

⁶ Poverty by Postal Code, the Geography of Neighbourhood Poverty 1981-2001 " by United Way of Greater Toronto and the Canadian Council on Social Development.

3.3 Education

3.3.1 Level of education

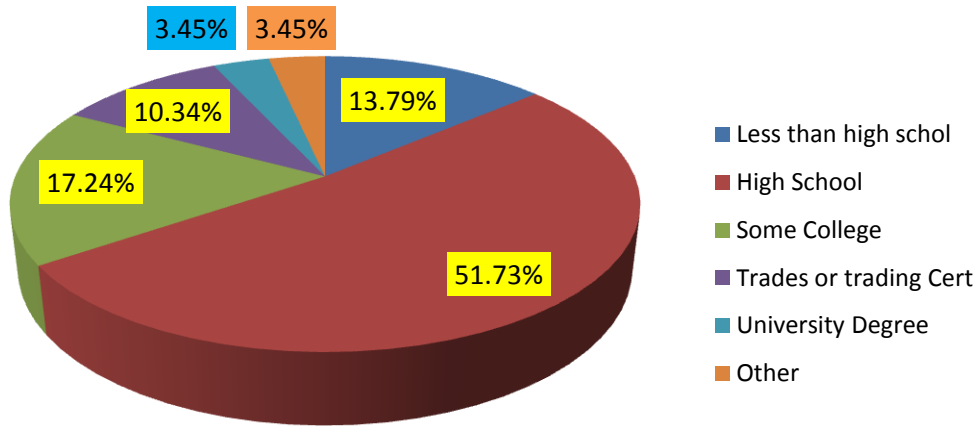


The level of the education does not match with employment requirements. In Canada many New Immigrants actually have credentials from their home country:

- 39% High School,
- 30% Specific Training,
- 13% College.

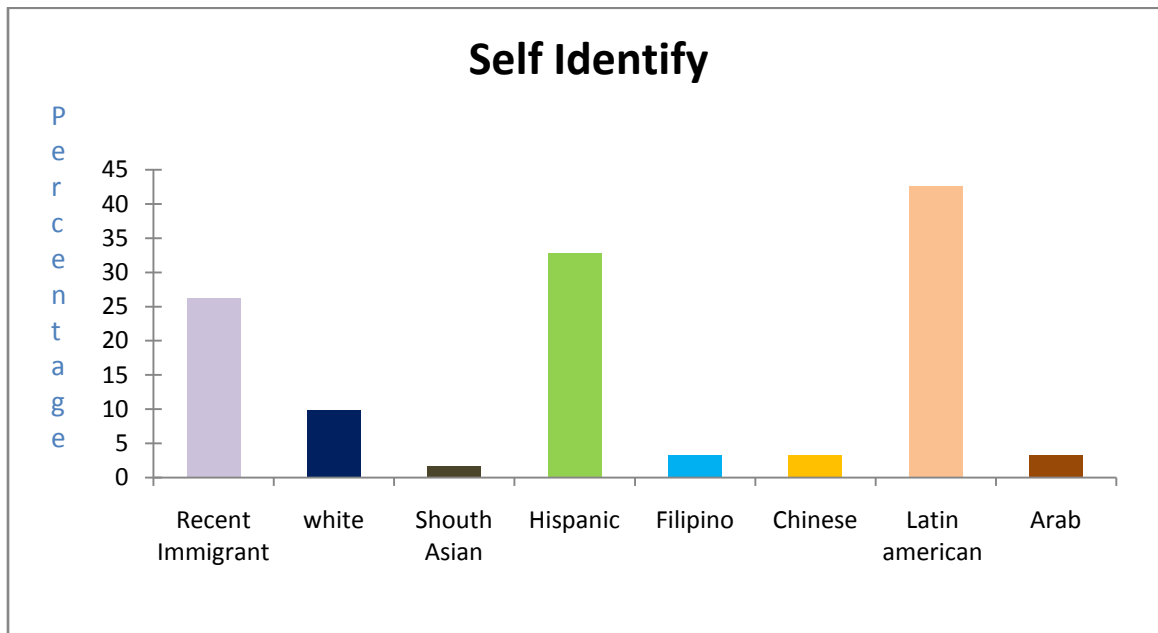
They are only accepted in jobs that require Secondary level of education (52%).

Schooling required for job

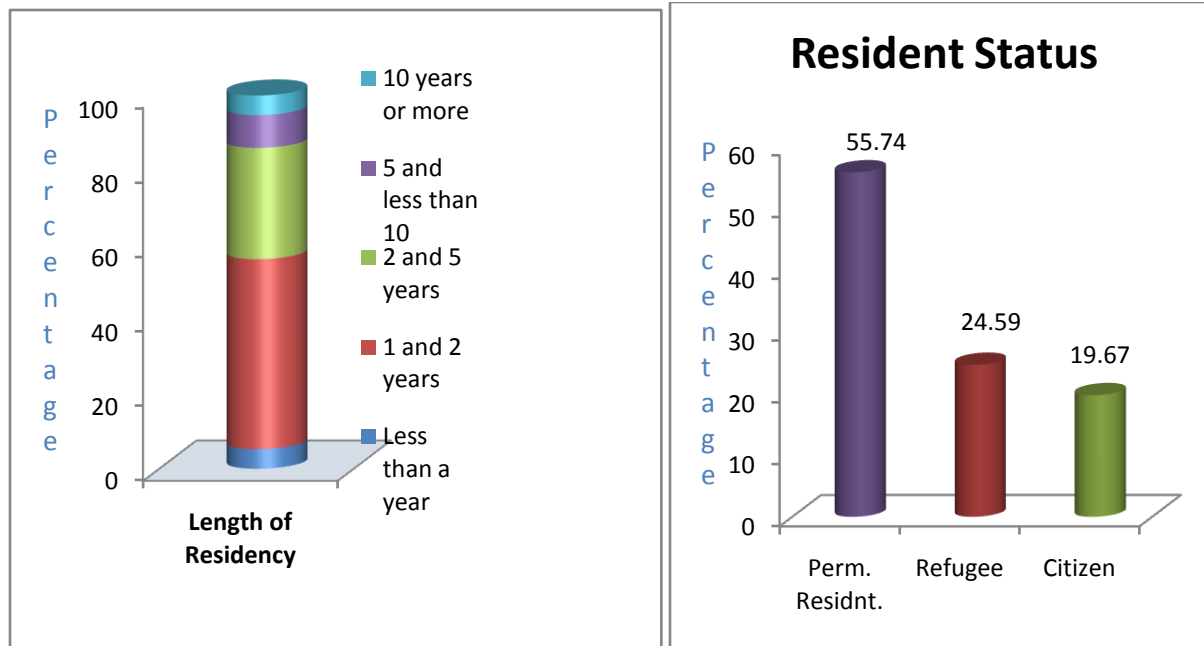


3.4 Self Identity

3.4.1 Identity

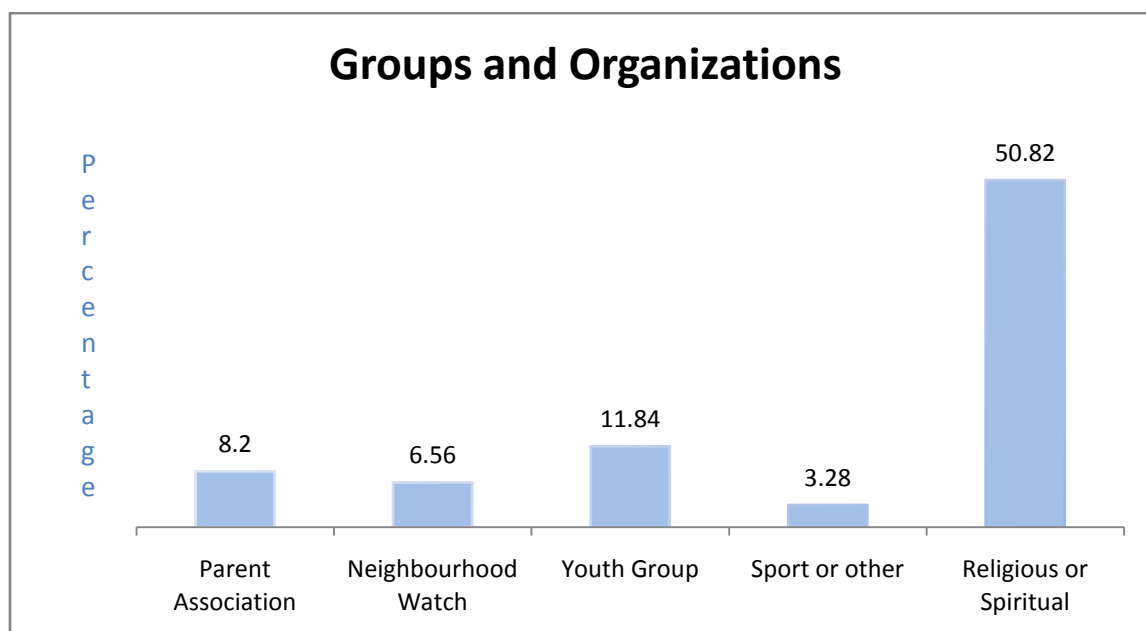


Majority of the population are recent immigrant, mostly Spanish speaking.



Majority of the population are living in Scarborough between 1 to 5 years, 56% are Permanent Resident, 25% are Refugee Claimant or in process of applying as refugees, and 20% are Citizens.

3.5 Organizations

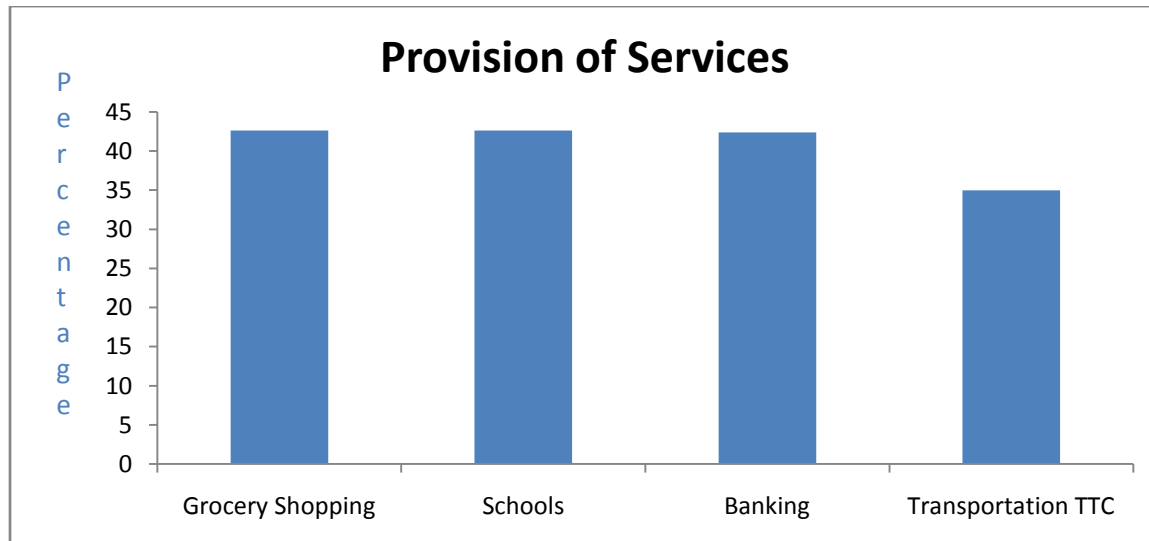


Majority of the population are involved in different Organizations:

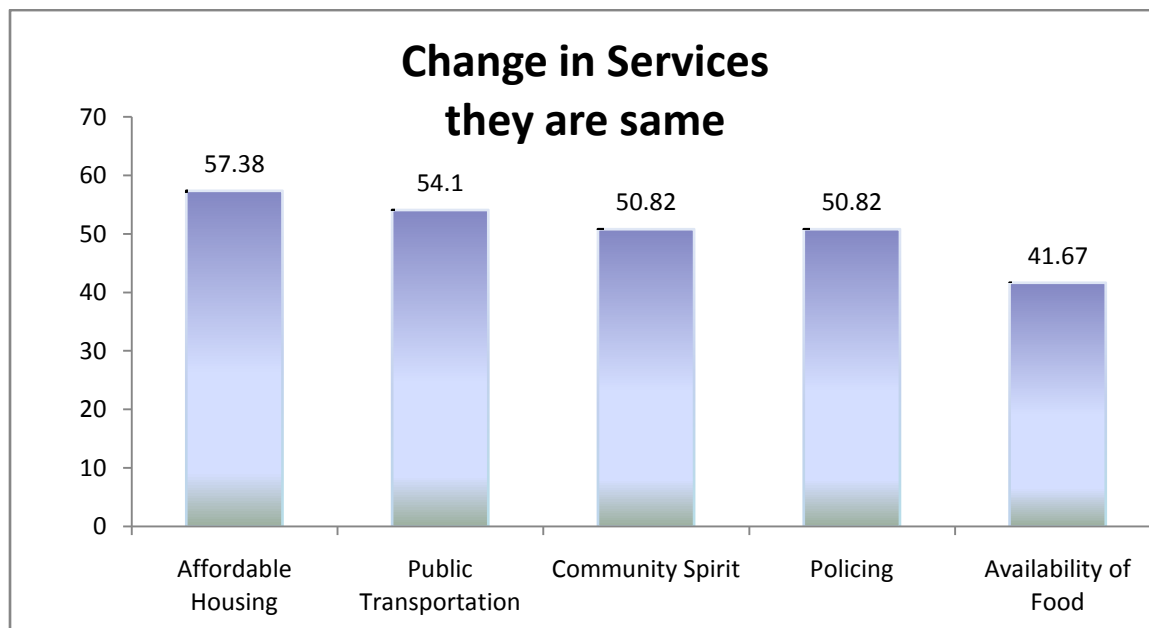
- 50.8% in Religious or Spiritual Organizations,
- 11.8% in Youth Groups,
- 8.2% in Parents Associations.

3.6 Services

3.6.1 Provision of Services



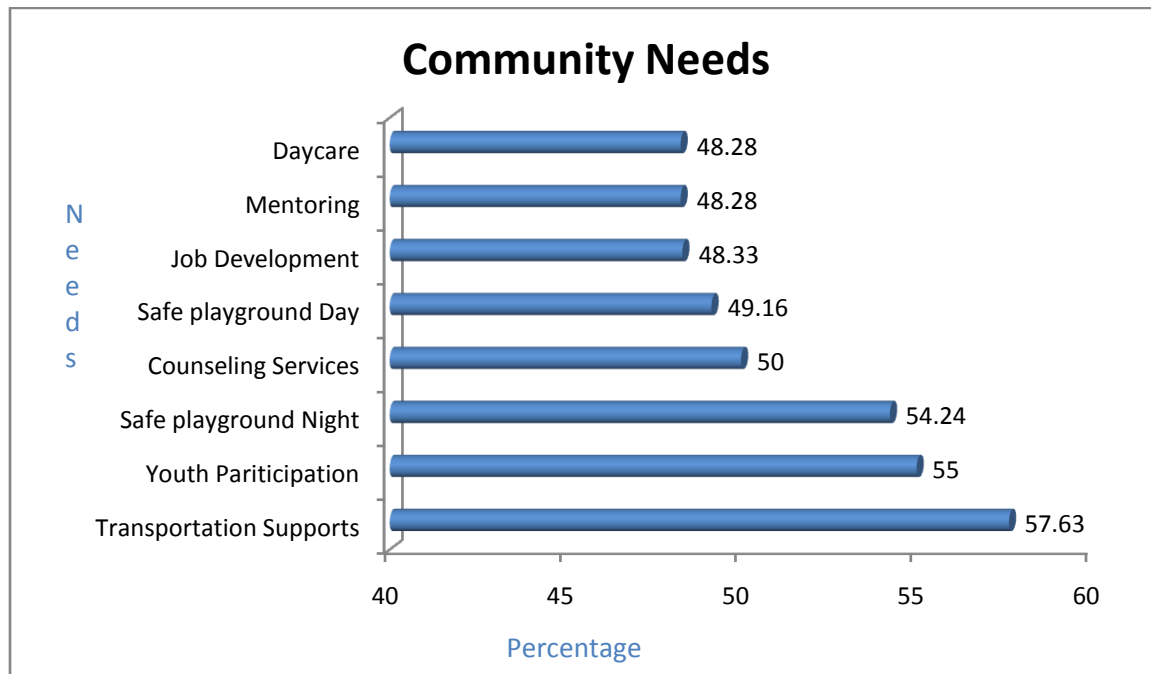
3.6.2 Equity of Access



Regarding services, the perception in the community is that the provision of services stayed the same over the past 5 years. Over 50% experienced the same service in affordable housing, public transportation and policing.

The community think that the neighbourhood has a same Community Spirit, they are integrated in Church and Organizations with same values and customs.

3.7 Needs



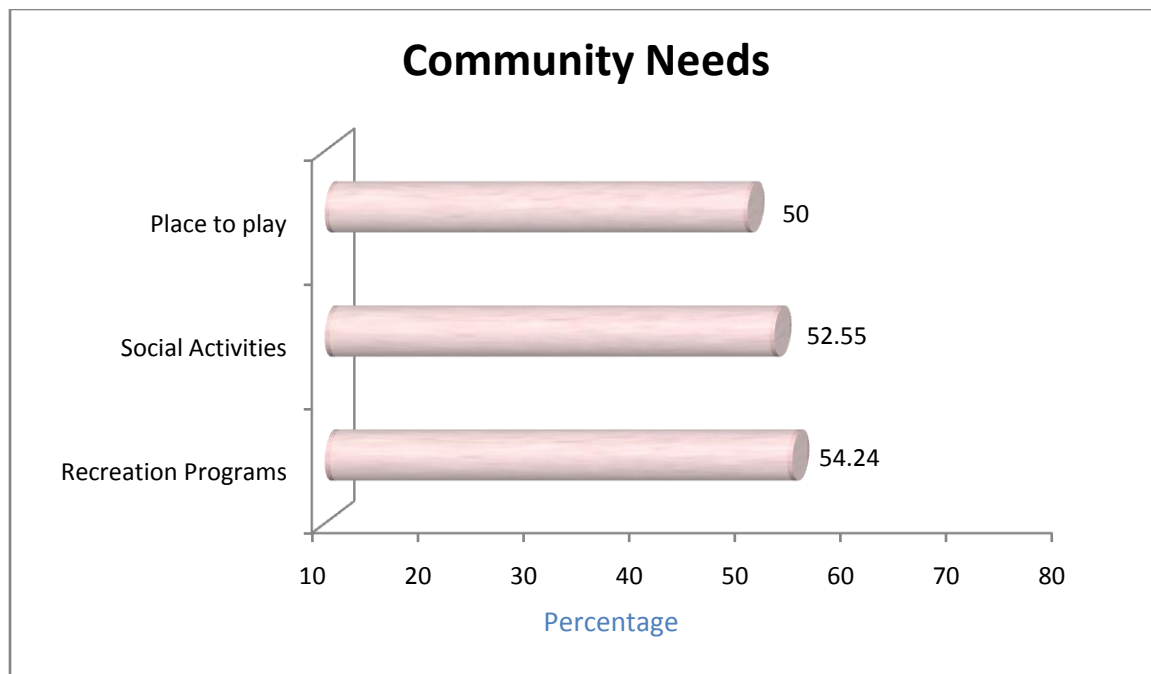
51.37% of the community expressed their needs for a variety of services. The most common needs were:

- Transportation supports,
- Youth participation,
- Safe playground night,
- Counselling services.

Security for this neighbourhood is very important because they think the playground in the day and the nights are not safe.

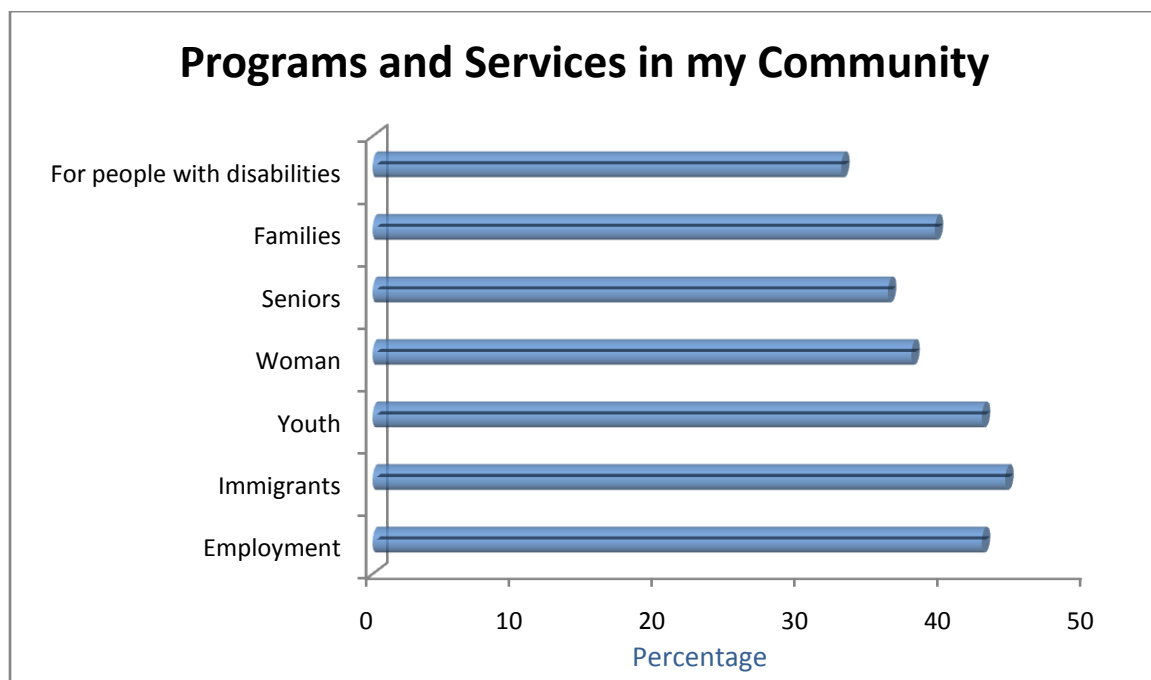
The other important needs are:

- Job Development,
- Mentoring programs,
- Daycare.



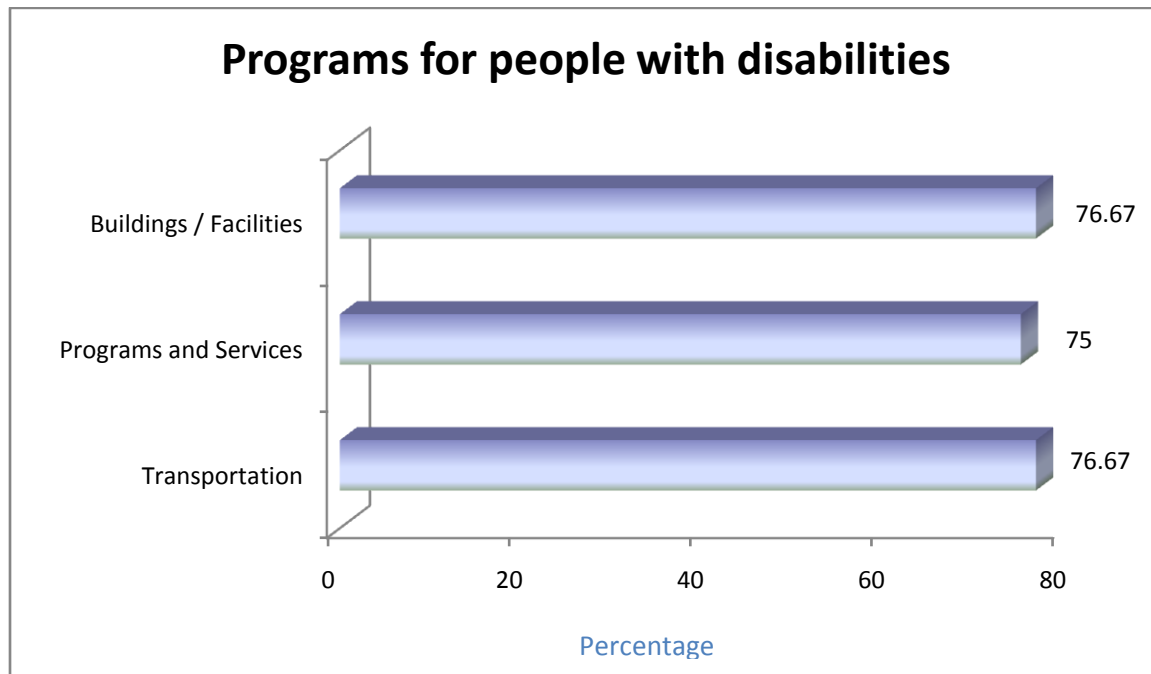
The community agrees that the neighbourhood needs recreation programs (54%) and unite the population in social activities (52.5%), and the children need a place to play (50%).

3.8 Programs and Services



The community agrees that the neighbourhood programs and services are stayed the same above the 30% in attention.

3.8.1 Programs for people with disabilities



Majority of population think that the people with disabilities are a priority to attention near of 70% in average:

- Buildings and Facilities,
- Programs and Services,
- Transportation.

THEORY OF CHANGE

In this section I will explain some recommendations firstly for my Latin American community, and secondly part for the Government on some specific topics. . My theory of change suggested actions in the short and long-term to combat problems such as family disintegration and lack of community spirit and engagement.

Poverty is affecting both level in the complex city in Toronto and my particular neighbourhood as well. For example, my community has increased in rates of violence, and crime and language barriers due to the principal agent of poverty.

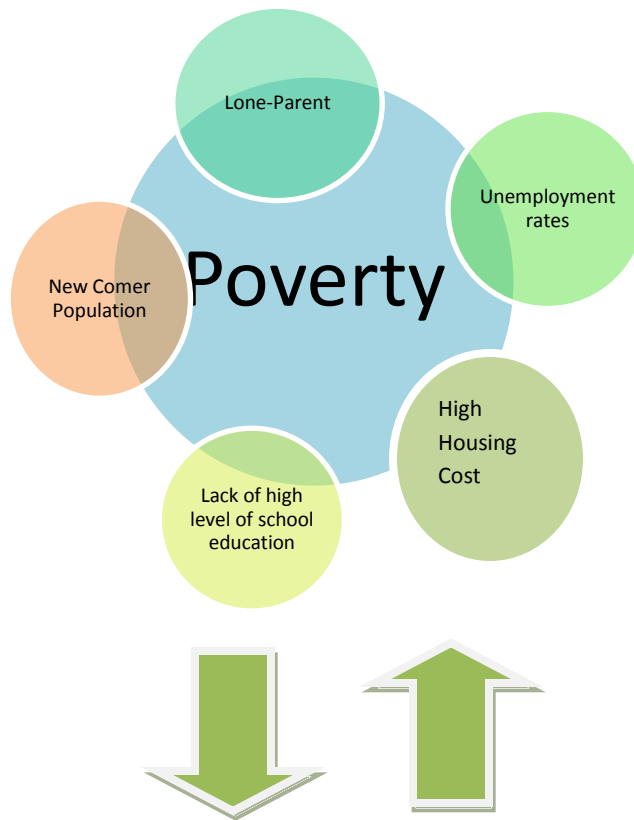
My community needs assessment recommends us to create in the civil society a positive cycle with strong community building, to encourage the people to believe in their power for change, because we are not alone and isolated and each person needs one another for help and increase a sense of belonging because we are important part in this “Canadian society”.

In this way engagement can be created by involving families and residents in changing community spirit. For example, new immigrants can foster community cohesion and a sense of belonging in their neighbourhood by participating in workshops volunteer and training opportunities, and digital storytelling.

However, we are also connected to external forces such as government policies and decisions. They need to consider changing policies to: recognize foreign work experience and credentials, allow immigrants to practise skills acquired back home, bridge volunteers into employment, create a foster process of immigration for Latin American people and to develop different options for different groups of people on social assistance (i.e. programs for people looking for employment, programs for people looking for training). Currently, our social assistance program cannot attend to the different needs of the people

When we all together build the community we can obtain equal opportunity of develop for all newcomers the better future.

Circle of Poverty in Toronto



Circle of Poverty in my Community

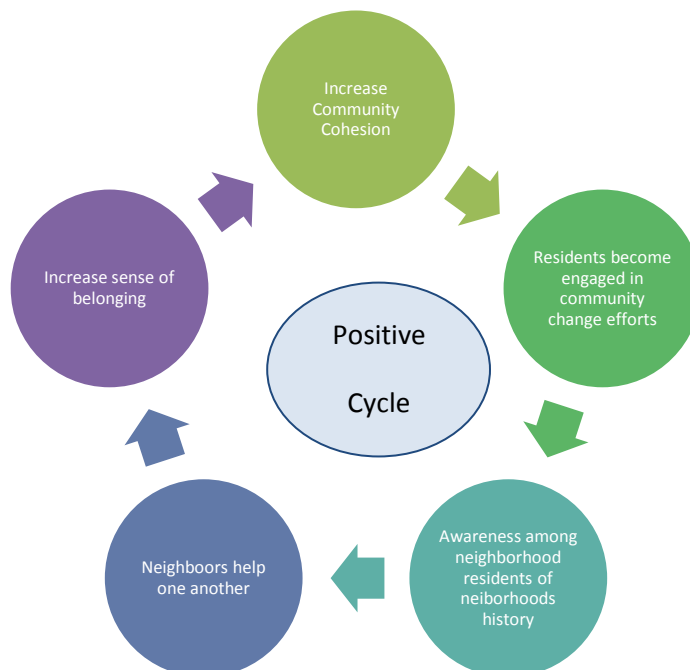


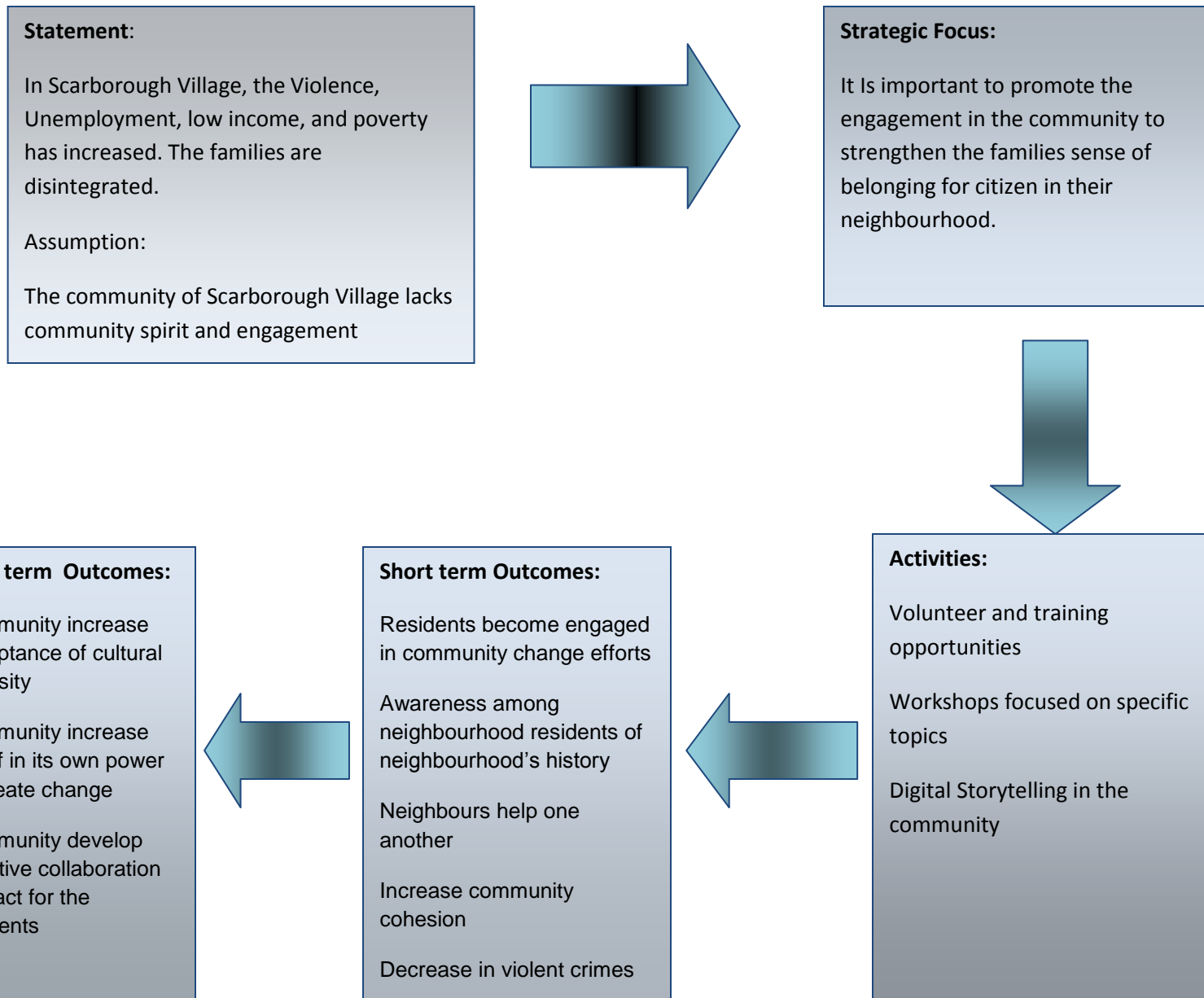
Necessities of my Community

Scarborough

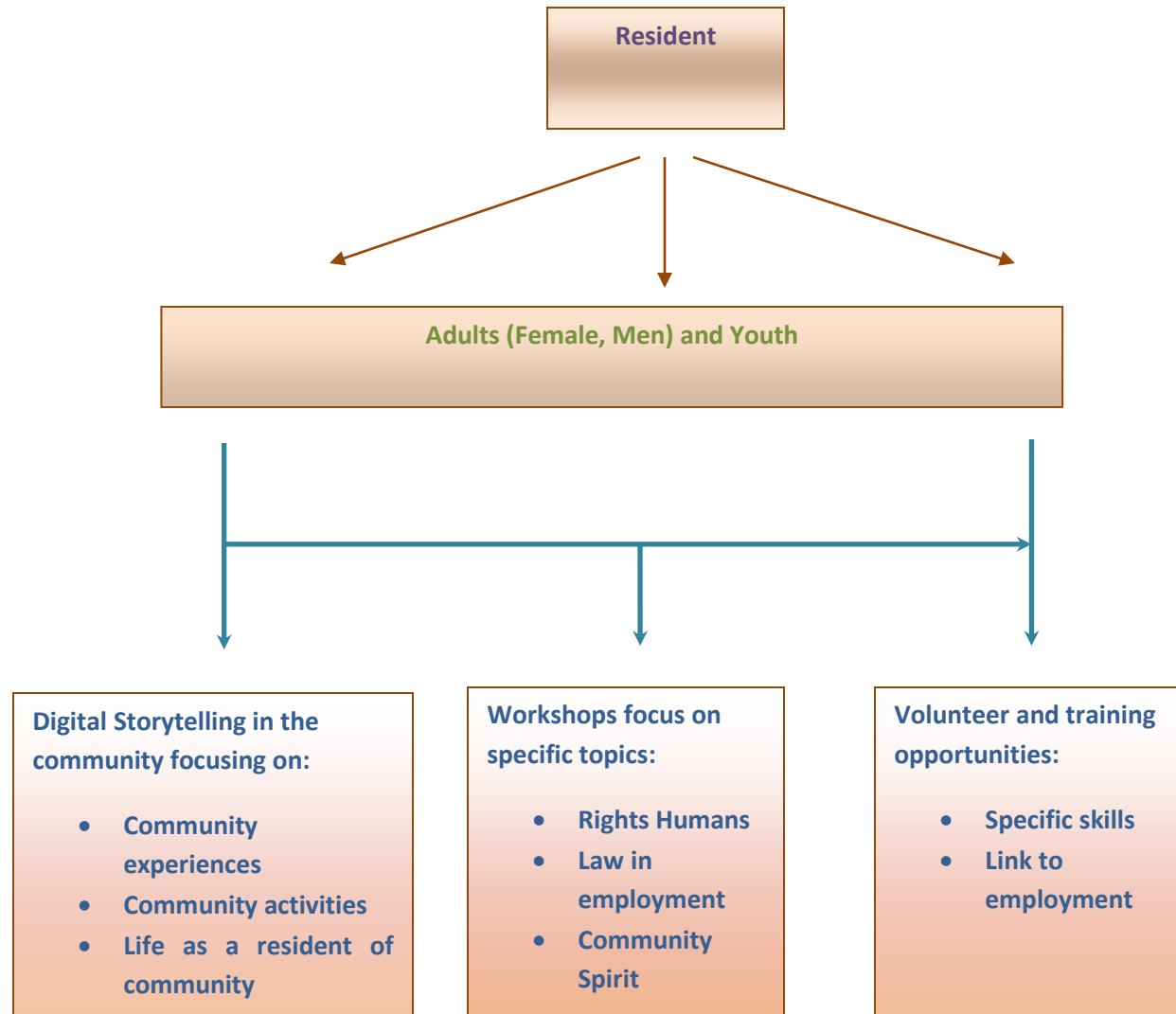


Building Community Capacity in my Neighbourhood

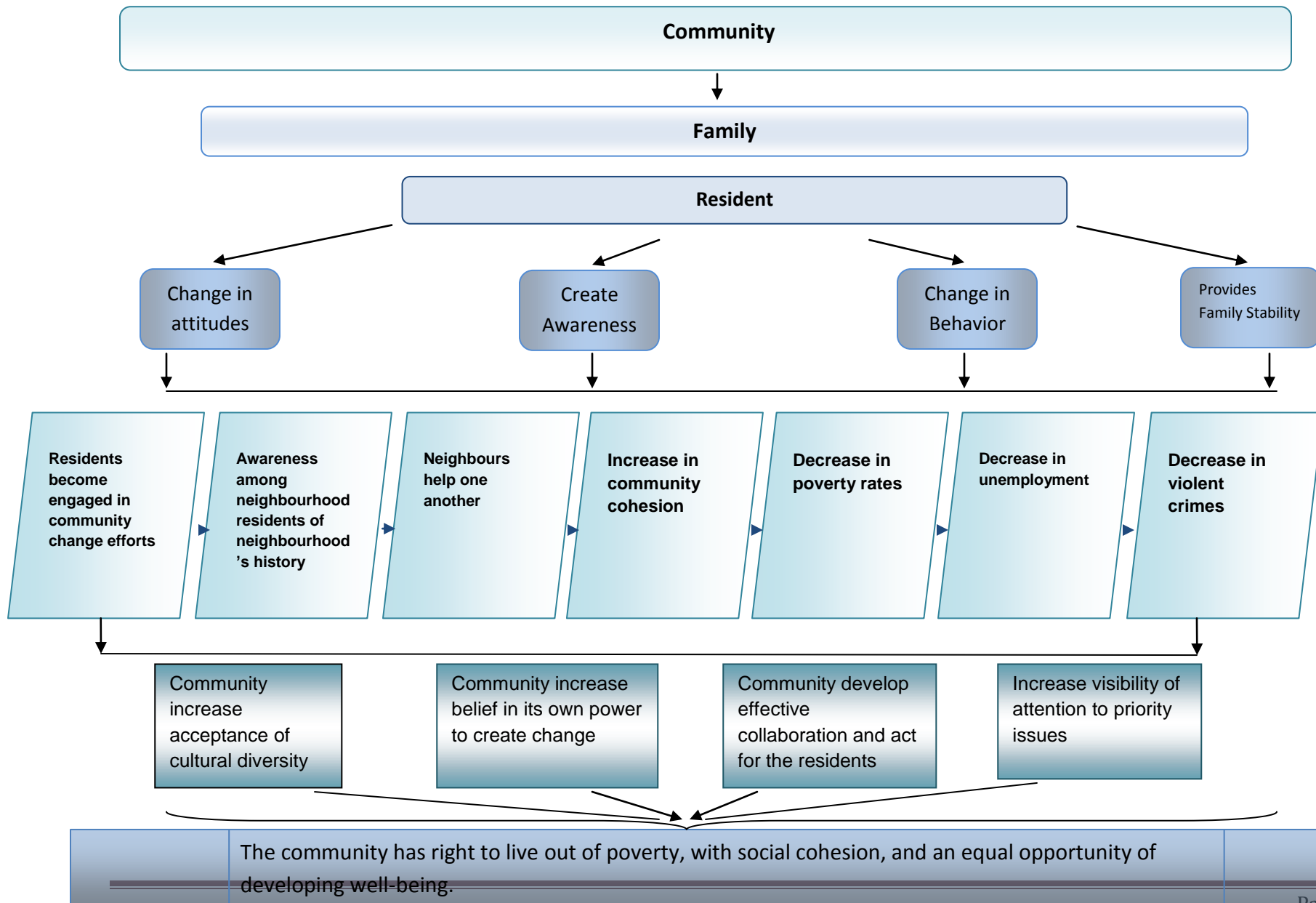




Community Engagement



Recommendations



Recommendations

Government

