



Final Report of Thorncliffe Park

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Introduction

Thorncliffe Park was originally settled by George Taylor in the early 1800's. Taylor named his house "Thorn Cliff" because it was tradition at that time to name their house. In 1888 his daughter Margaret and her husband Robert Davies bought this property and created Thorncliffe farms for race horses. After Robert Davies's death in 1916 his sons sold Thorncliffe farms to a group of investors from Baltimore Maryland. The new owner operated a popular race track on this site from 1920 until 1952. Then they sold it to Thorncliffe Park Ltd, which developed the present day neighbourhood in the late 1950's and early 1960's.

Thorncliffe Park has both industrial and residential sections. Overlea Boulevard used to be the dividing line between the industrial and residential sections. Residential section has high rise buildings, and some Town houses. It is a multicultural area. The industrial section has factories such as Coca Cola etc.

There is the TNO (Thorncliffe Neighbourhood Office) service. They are working at 4 different locations such as 18 Thorncliffe Park, 28 Overlea Blvd, 45 Overlea Blvd, and inside the East York Mall. Ontario March of Dimes and Salvation Army are located in Thorncliffe Park too.

I surveyed people in Thorncliffe Park from November 20, 2009 until January 8, 2010. The survey was conducted online and face to face interviews. There were a total of 119 survey respondents. 75 were face to face and 44 online.

Chapter 1 will describe the demographics of the people who were surveyed. It includes the age group, house hold income, level of schooling, highest level of schooling required for job, martial status, employment situation, number of people in house hold, number of children living at home, resident status, race/ethnicity, gender, disability and languages. Chapter 2 is divided into 3 subsections. The first section will describe community engagement in brief and will have information on the respondents' English fluency, their involvement with internet, their length of residency, residence, day to day involvement and group & organization. The second section will describe the spirit of my neighbourhood. The third section will describe the provision of services such as grocery shops, banking, medical, recreation, library, childcare and schools in Thorncliffe Park.

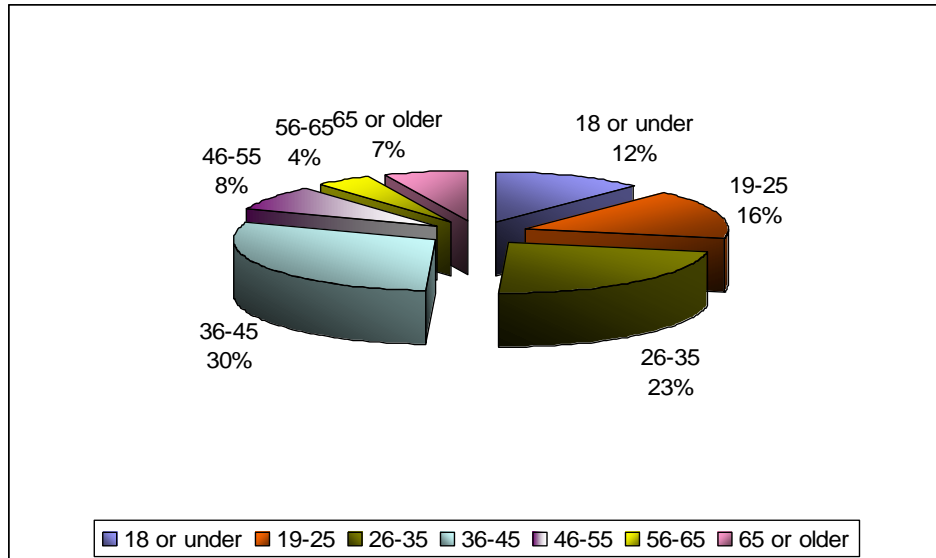
Chapter 3 will describe access to different services such as public transportation TTC, housing, policing, availability of organic food and community spirit. Chapter 4 will explain the different types of services for women; people with disabilities, youth, employment, immigrant and families. Additionally it will describe programs for seniors, youth, immigrant and families. Chapter 5 will explain the recycling services and the different ways of protecting the environment. Chapter 6 will explain assets and support, availability and accessibility of positive role models, home work assistance, youth centre, mentoring program, relevant information, volunteering information, peer listeners, job support, parental involvement, and the program which is led by youth. Chapter 7 will explain different programs for youth such as mentoring, youth participation, transportation support tutoring program, digital story telling, skills building and leadership. The next section will describe safe place for children, day care facilities, job development and employment program, counselling and recreation services and programs and social activities.

The survey found the rate of unemployed and isolated women in Thorncliffe Park to be 10.8% which is double the city's rate of 5.5%. They are highly educated from back home and still facing unemployment. Through using Theory of Change we will try to reduce their stress through different activities.

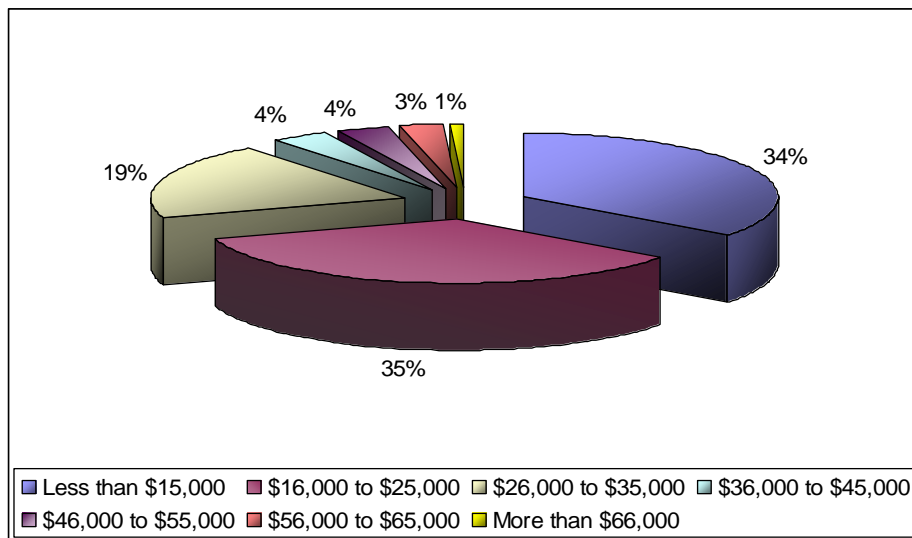
Chapter 1

Demographics:

1.1 Age Group

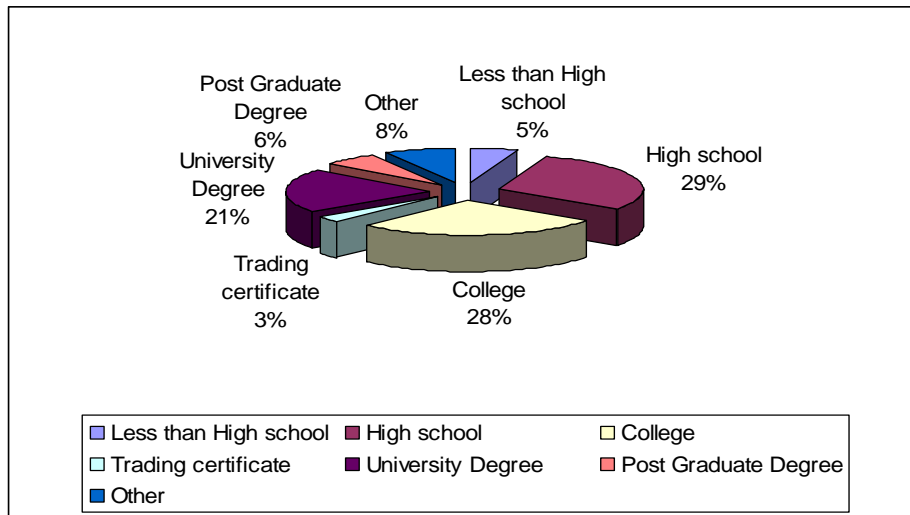


1.2 House hold income



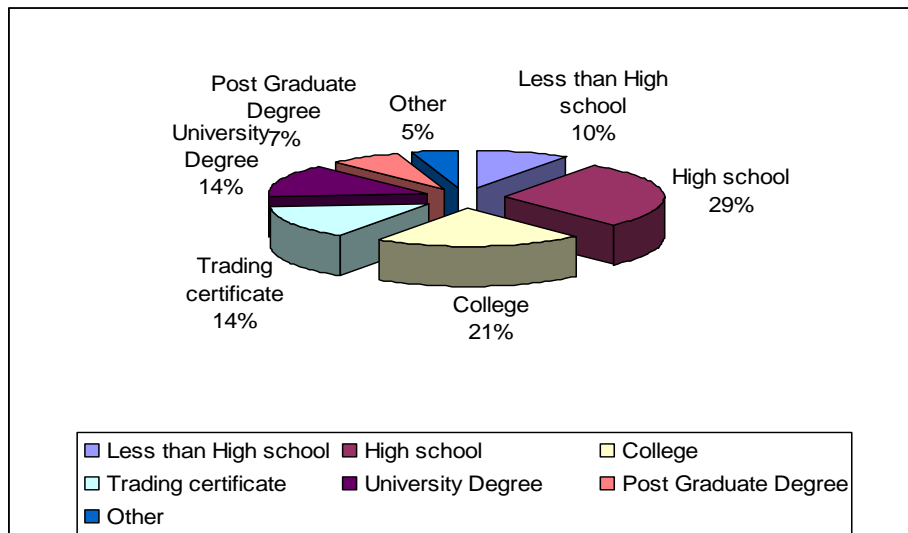
Form the above graph we can see that more than half of people's income is below \$25,000. The median household income has dropped, from \$40,157 in 2001 to \$38,456 in 2006, and is 40% below the \$64,128 for the city. (Toronto Star January, 12, 2010).

1.3 Highest level of schooling



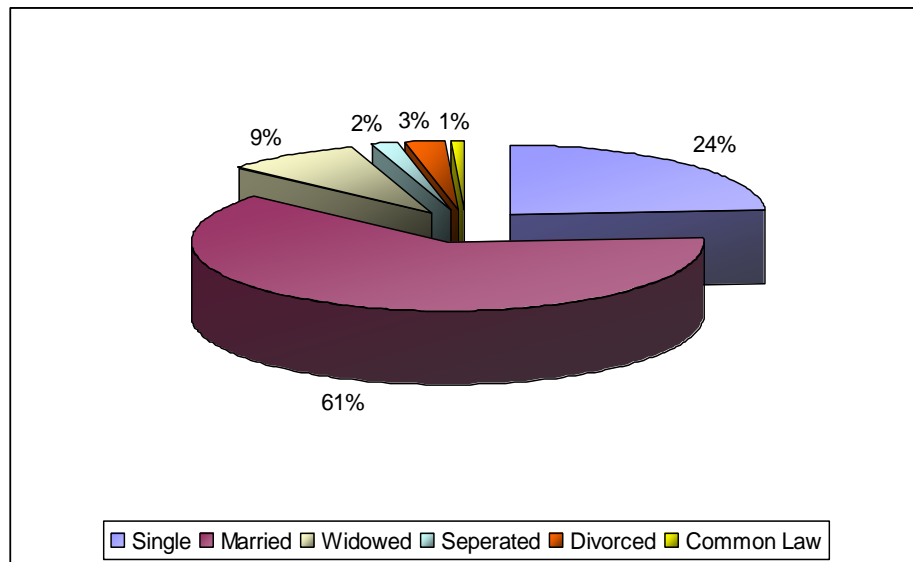
The study shows that 63% of the adults have post secondary education (twice the city's average). (Toronto Star January, 12, 2010).

1.4 Schooling required for job



The above chart shows that 29% schooling required for job is High school which means the job which people are involved in are not their professional jobs.

1.5 Marital Status



The graph above shows that 61% of the people are married and 24% are single which covers most of the area's population. According to the statistics of Canada 55% of people are married and 30% of them are single.

1.6 Employment situation

Description	Number	%
Yes	39	33.62%
No	77	66.38%

The above table shows that 34% of the people are employed which means most of the people are unemployed. Statistics Canada shows that unemployment rate for women age 25 and over is 10.6% and in Toronto is 5.5%. For men is 8.9% and in Toronto is 4.3%. The total labour force unemployment rate for Thorncliffe Park is 10.44% and in Toronto is 5.9%.

1.7 People in household

Description	Number	%
One	5	4.24%
Two	12	10.17%
Three	32	27.12%
Four	26	22.03%
Five	23	19.49%
More than 5	20	16.95%

The study found each household has an average 1.4 bedroom compared to 2.7 across the city, but twice as many sleeping in a bedroom as in an average Toronto home. Half live below Statistics Canada's low income cut off, three times the rate for Toronto.

1.8 Children living at home

Description	Number	%
No children	32	29.36%
One child	26	23.85%
Two children	33	30.28%
Three children	10	9.17%
Four children	8	7.34%
Five or more children	0	0.00%

Statistics Canada shows that 25% of population are children in this area.

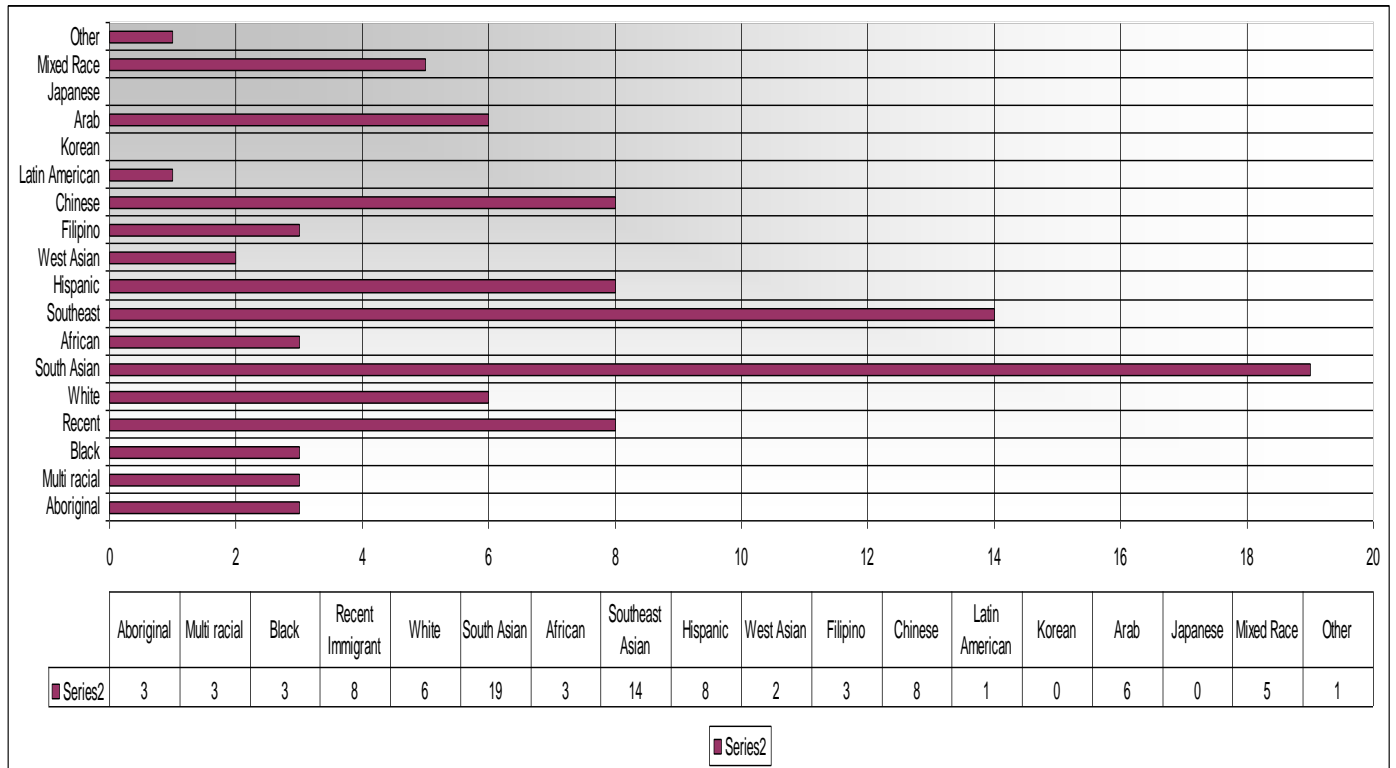
1.9 Resident status

Description	Number	%
Canadian Citizen	39	33.05%
Permanent Resident	75	63.56%
Refugee	4	3.39%
Visa student	0	0.00%
Visitor	0	0.00%

The table above shows that 64% of the people are Permanent Residents which means they are mostly newcomers. Statistics Canada shows that in 2006 31.4% of the people were recent immigrants in this area. In 1996 the recent immigrants were from Philippines 550, India 510 and Pakistan 425. In 2001 the recent immigrants were from Pakistan 1740, India 905, and Philippines 410. In 2006 49% were South Asian.

Self Identity

1.10 Race/Ethnicity



1.11 Gender

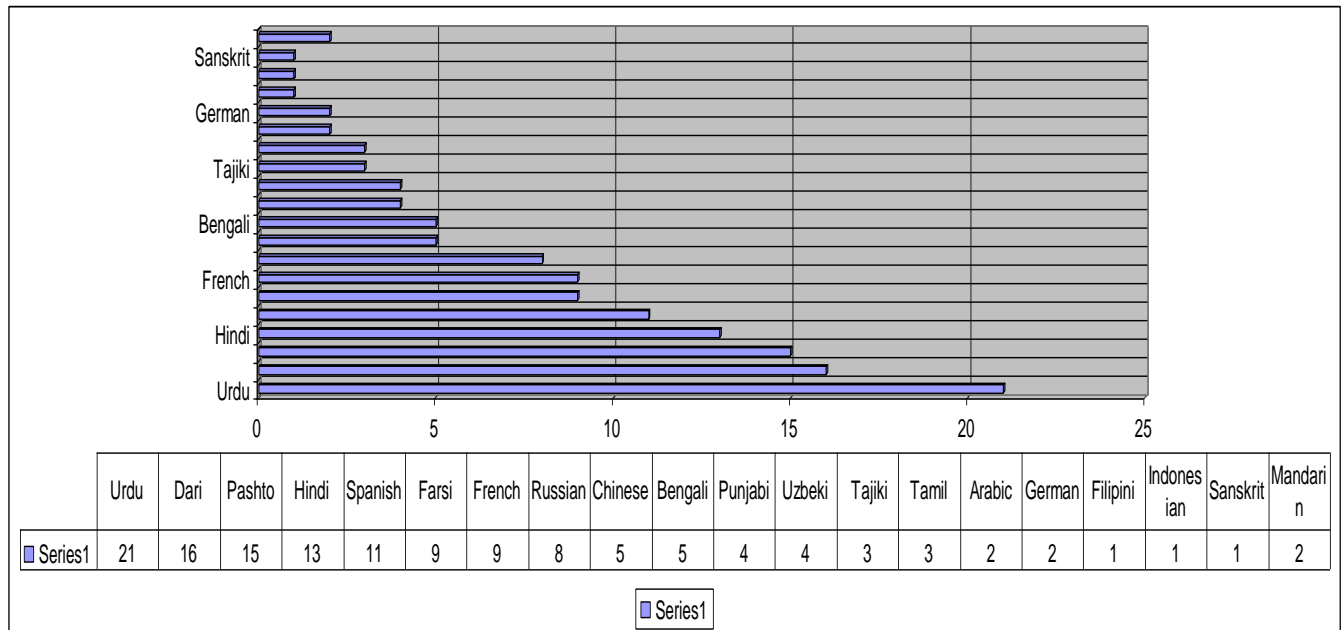
Description	Number	%
Male	51	42.86%
Female	62	52.10%
Intersexed	0	0.00%
Gay	2	1.68%
Transgender	0	0.00%
Lesbian	0	0.00%
Transsexual	0	0.00%
Other	1	0.84%

The table above shows that 52% of the population are female and 43% are male. According to Statistics Canada female are 52% and male are 48%.

1.12 Disability

Description	Number	%
Yes	6	5.17%
No	110	94.83%

1.13 Languages



The graph above summarizes the results from the section of survey called languages shows that most of the people are Urdu speaker. According to the Statistics Canada most of the people in this area are Urdu speaker.

Chapter 2

2.1 Community engagement

When people work collaboratively through inspired action and learning to create and realize vision for their future is called community engagement. The people of Thorncliffe Park are involved in community in many different ways such as community works religious, cultural, volunteer etc. some of them are at adult school (CALC), LINC classes, ESL classes etc.

English Fluency

Description	Number	%
Fluently	62	52.99%
Basic	45	38.46%
Not well	8	6.84%
Not Applicable	2	1.71%

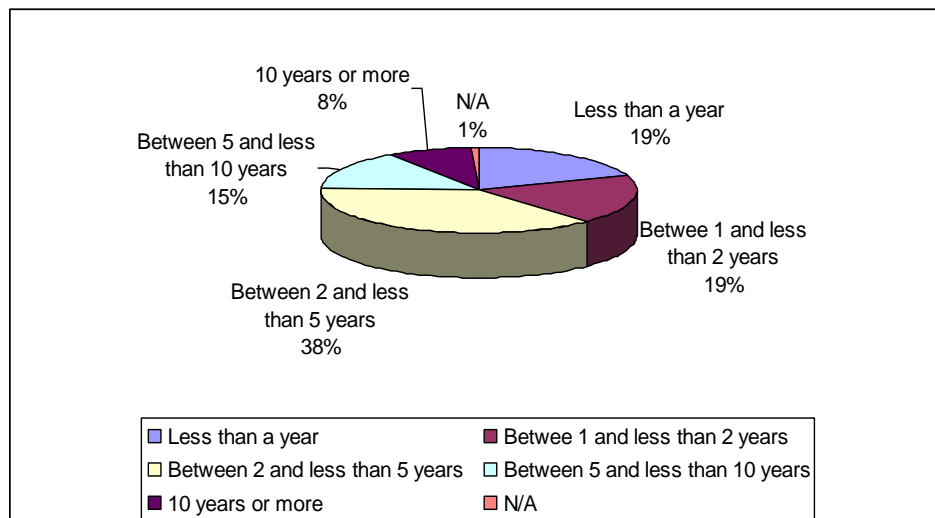
You and Internet

Description	Number	%
Never or almost never	10	8.55%
At least once a month	5	4.27%
At least once a week	24	20.51%
Every one or two days	26	22.22%
Everyday	52	44.45%

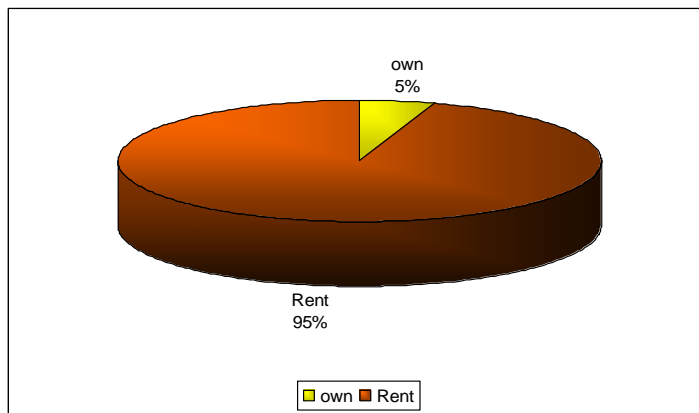
Contact information

Description	Number	%
Yes	29	34.12%
No	56	65.88%

Length of residency



Residence



The graph above shows that 95% of the apartments are rented by the people. According to the Statistics of Canada 91% of the apartments are rented and 9% of them are owned.

Day to day involvement

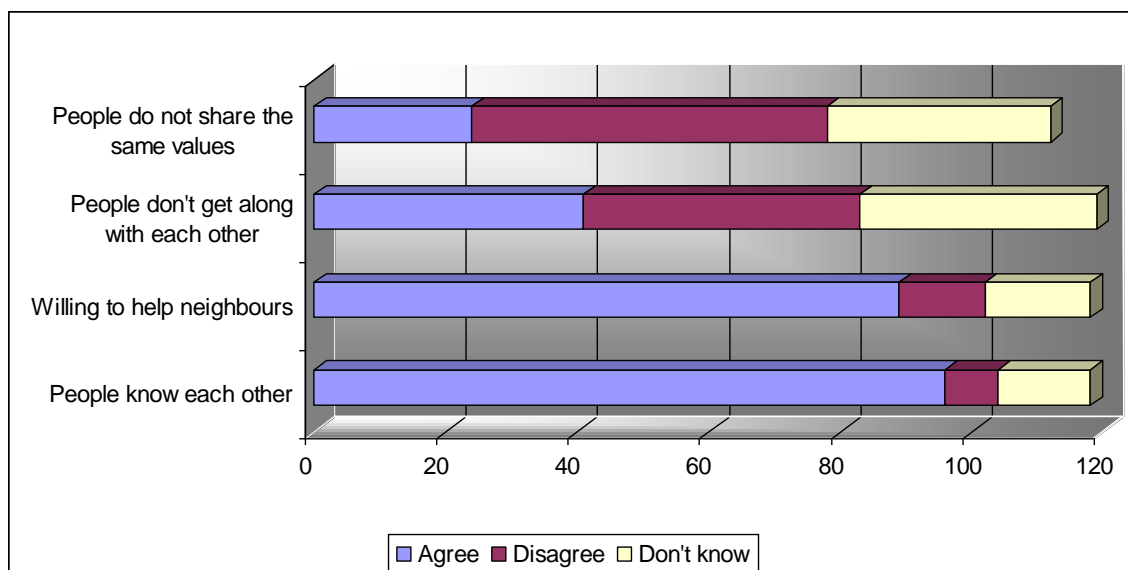
- ✚ 21% of people are involved in youth/student
- ✚ 18% are in volunteering
- ✚ 8% are employed locally
- ✚ 3% are local business owner
- ✚ 14% are at home
- ✚ 12% are working outside the community.

Groups and organizations

5% participates in parents association, 0.84% in local service agency, 7% in neighbourhood watch, 6% in business group, 4% in tenant group, 5% in youth group, 14% in sports and other outdoor club, 0.84% in organizations for seniors citizens, 3% in ratepayers associations, 4% in community organizations, 13% in religious/spiritual organization and 51% in other groups.

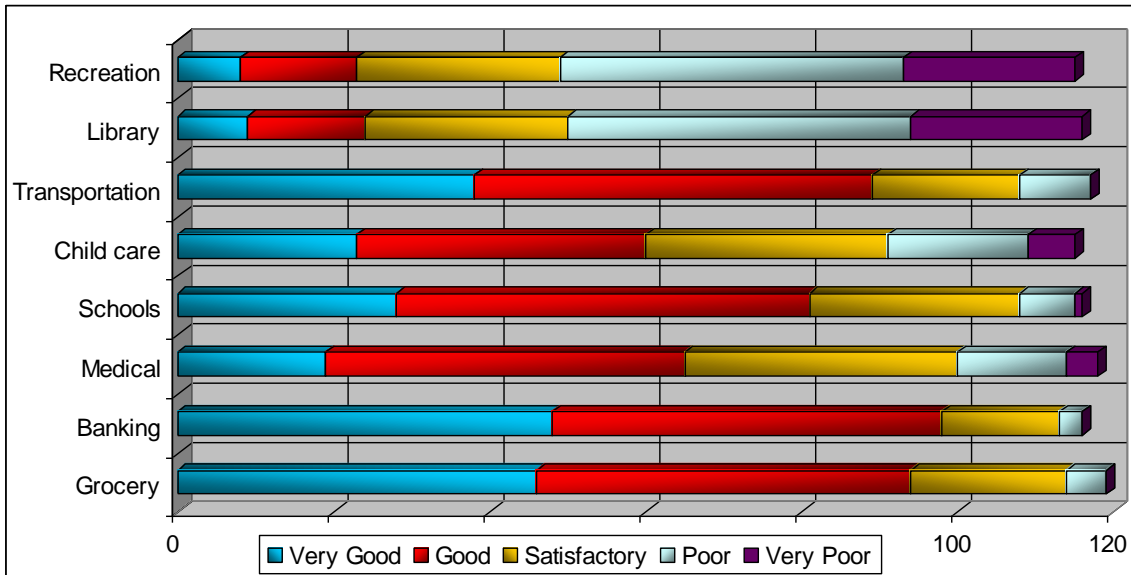
Some of them are student in College, high school, adult high school, LINC classes, ESL classes, working in restaurant, and volunteering in community.

2.2 Spirit of my neighbourhood



The above graph summarizes the results from the section of survey called the spirit of my neighbourhood. From this graph you can see that most of the people know each other and willing to help each other.

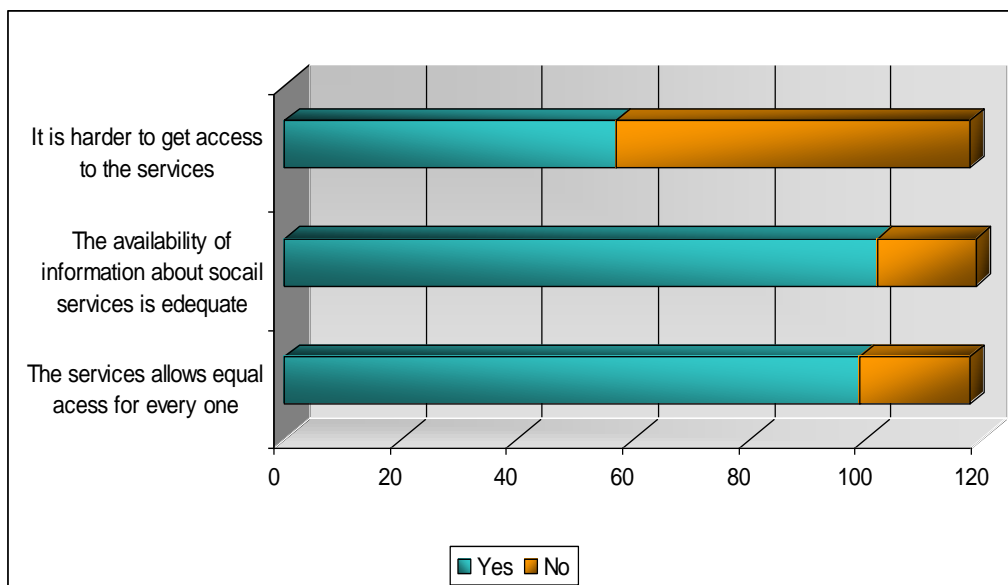
2.3 Provision of services



The above graph summarizes the results from the section of the survey called the provision of services in Thorncliffe Park. As you see most of the people agree that grocery shops and banking system in this area are good, but the recreation especially the library is poor.

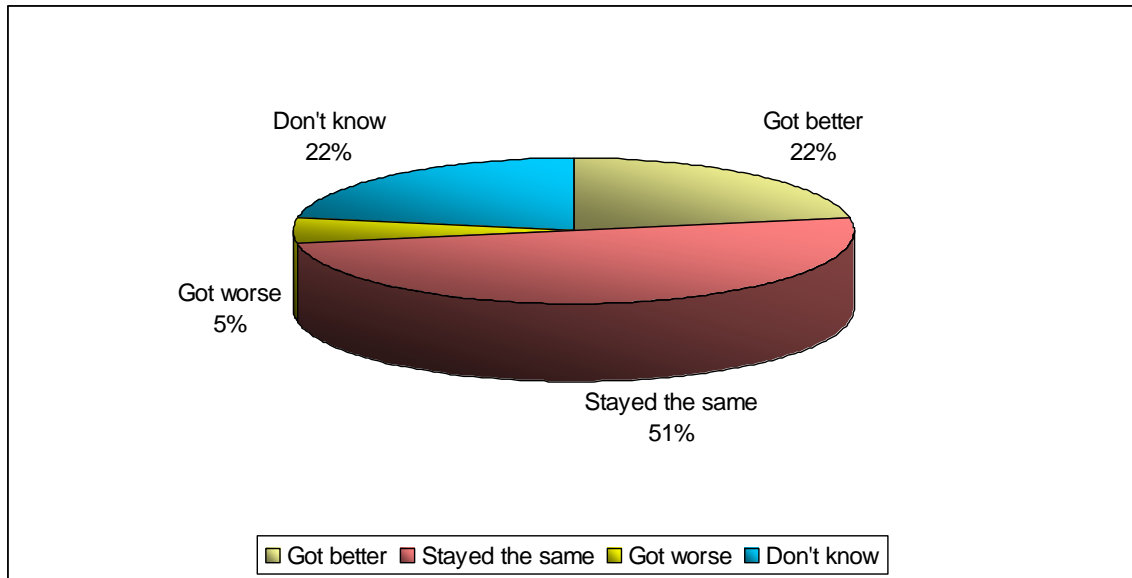
Chapter 3 **Equity of Access**

3.1 Access to services



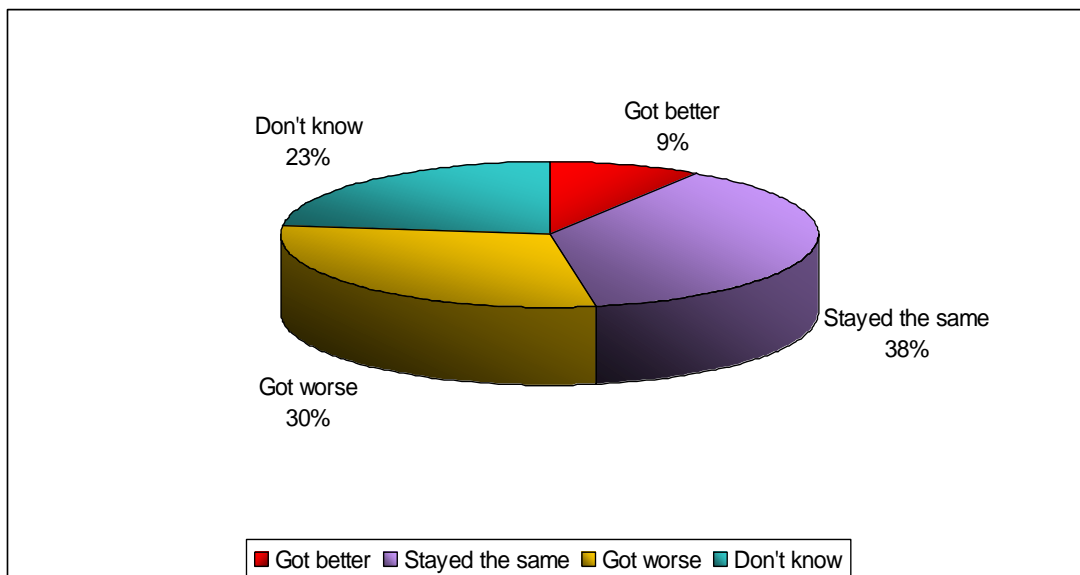
The graph above summarizes the result from the section of the survey about equity of access in Thorncliffe Park. Most of the people are agree that services allows equal services to every one which are positive for this community and the agencies which provide different services for people.

3.2 Public Transportation



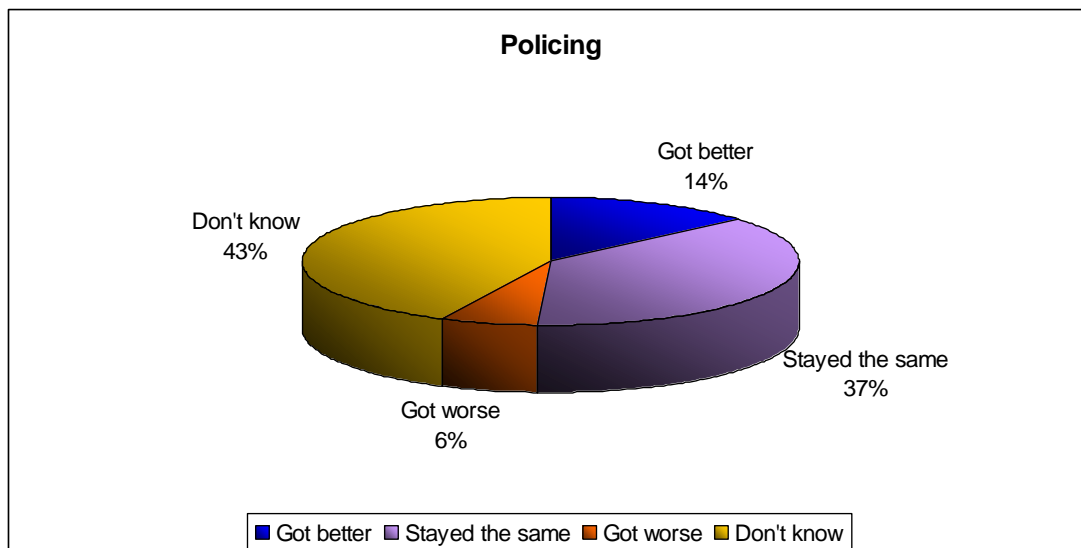
The above graph shows that the public transportation stayed the same in last five years. According to the increasing population in Thorncliffe Park the TTC services didn't increase.

3.3 Housing



The above graph shows that the affordable housing services stayed the same and even get worse during the last five years. According to survey in 2006, 91% rented and 9% were owned dwellings. More than 30,000 residents are mostly newcomers are crowded into 34 high rise and low rise apartments in a 2.2 square km concrete jungle behind Don Mills Road, and Don Valley Parkway. Each house hold has an average of 1.4 bedroom compared to 2.7 across the city, but twice as many sleeping in a bedroom as in an average Toronto home. Half live below statistics Canada's low income cut-off, three times the rate for Toronto. (Toronto Star January 12, 2010).

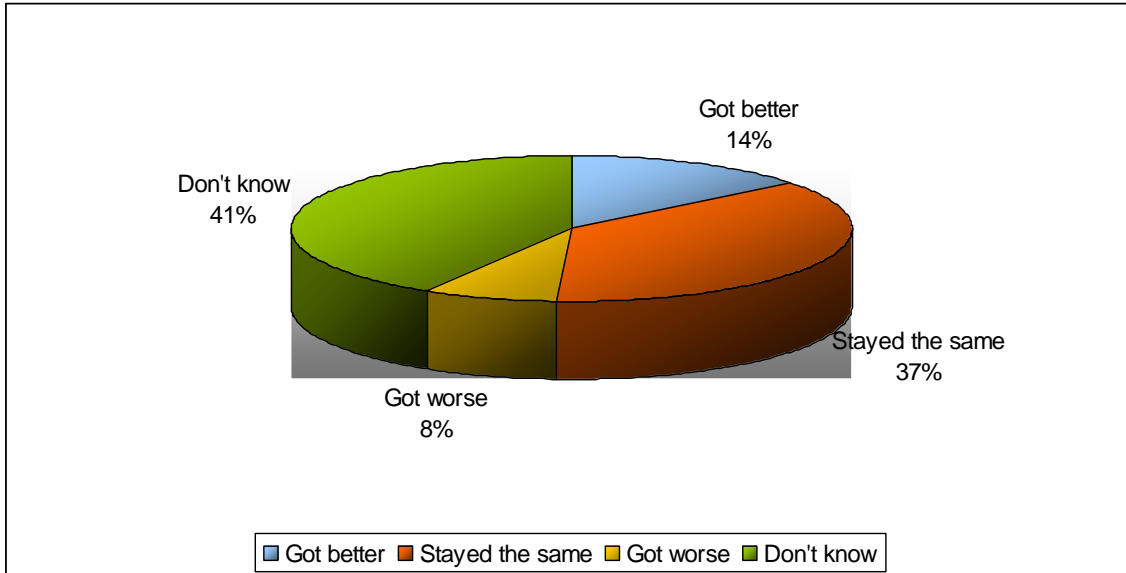
3.4 Policing:



The graph above shows that 37% of the people agree that policing in this area stayed the same in last five years. Comparing to the rest of the city the crime rate in this area is low. (The Toronto Globe and Mail reported in 2004).

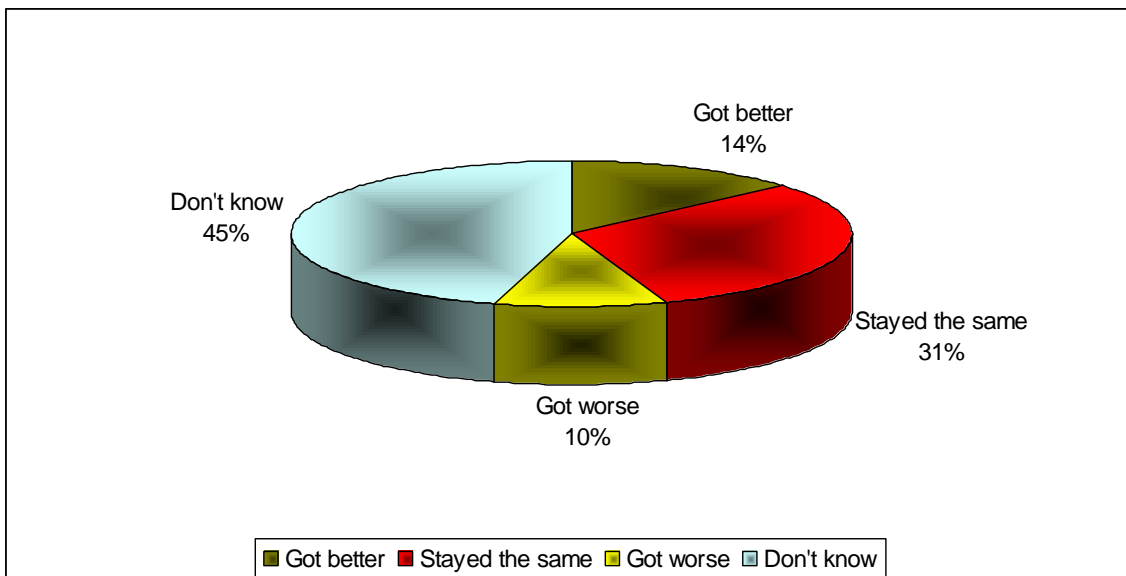
Availability of Food

3.5 Local Organic Food:



The above graph shows that most of the people don't know about local organic food. 37% of them said the availability stayed the same in the last five years.

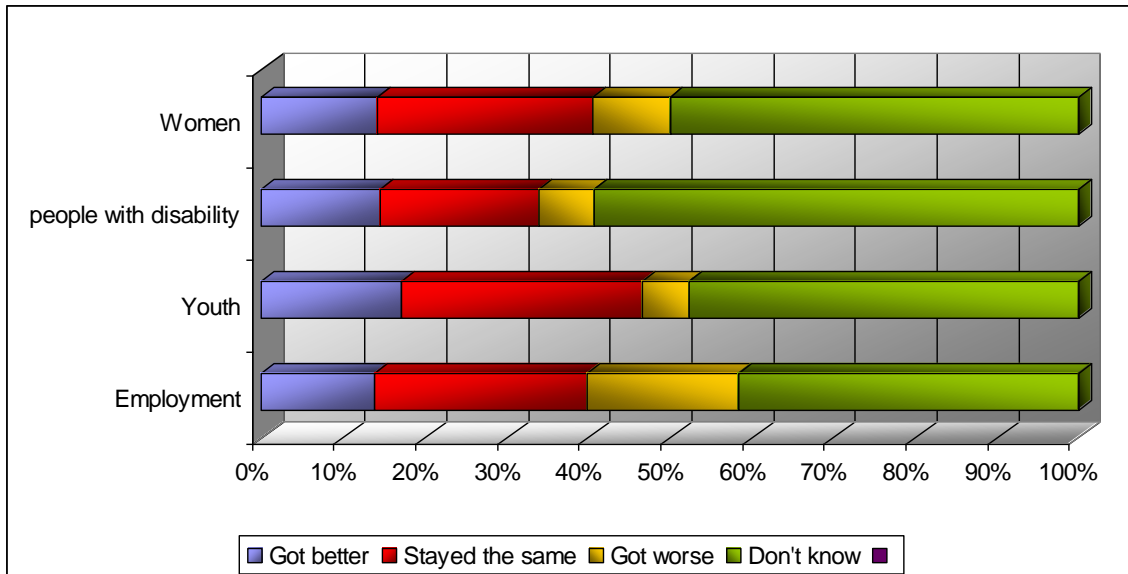
3.6 Community spirit



The graph above shows that most of the people don't know about the community spirit, but 31% of them agree that it stayed the same in last five years.

Chapter 4

4.1 Services

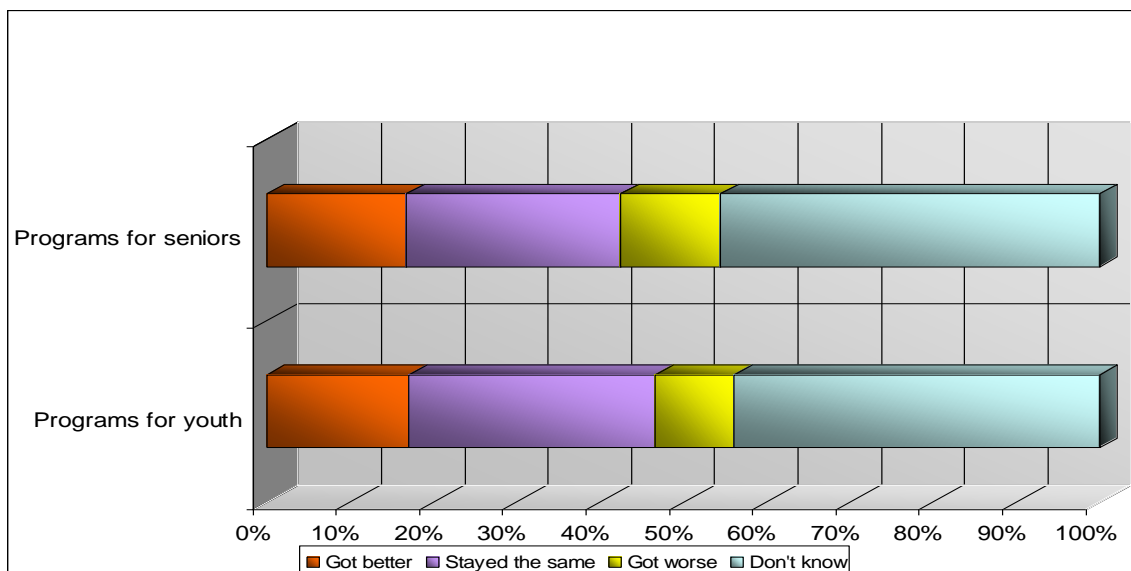


The graph above shows that the percentage of those who don't know about services is higher in every stage. The reason is that most of the people are newcomer and didn't spend five years in this area, but still the youth services got better during five years.

Summarizing the results from the chart above shows that in last five years there is not enough improvement in the services in this area. Overcrowding and unemployment are the biggest concerns for the community, where 63% of adults have post-secondary education (twice the city's average), yet only 57% of adults in Thorncliffe fully participate in the workforce. (Toronto Star January 12, 2010).

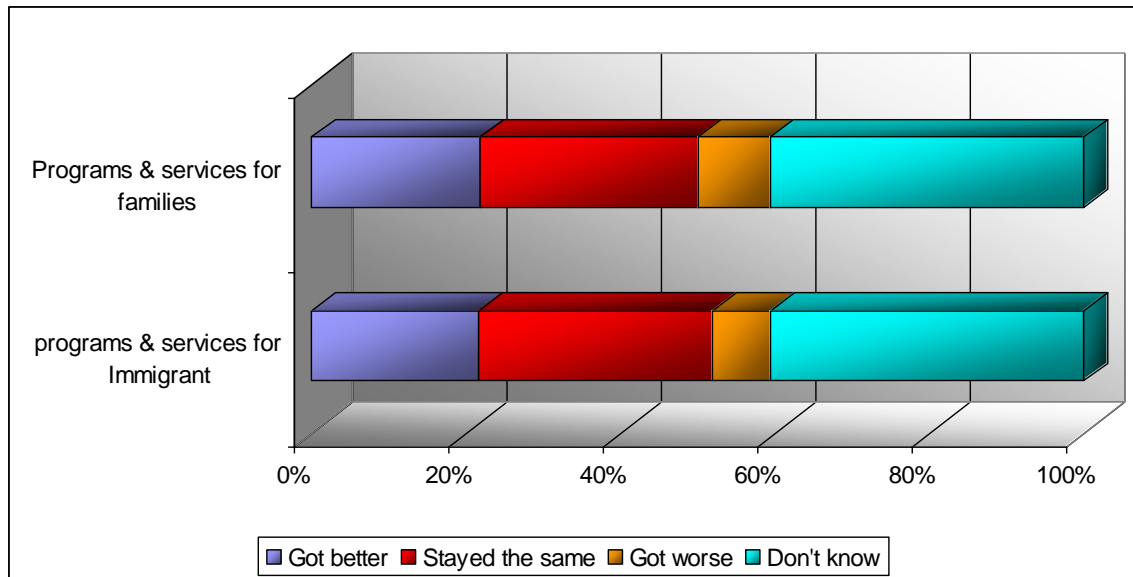
One quarter of Thorncliffe population is under 14 and is lack of youth programs.

4.2 Programs



The graph above shows that 20% of the people agree that programs for seniors and youth got better in last five years.

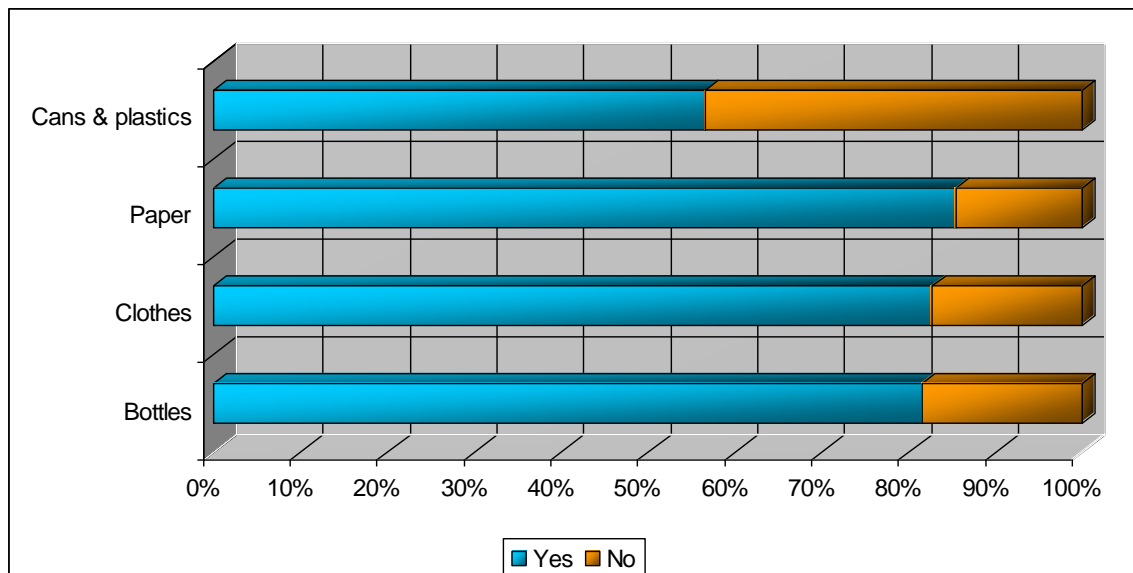
4.3 Program and services for immigrants and families



The graph above shows that almost 20% of the people agree that the programs and services for families and immigrants got better, but some of them don't know because they are new in this area.

Chapter 5

5.1 Recycling services



The graph above shows that most of the people recycle their items. 78% of the people agree with the provision of recycling in this area. 22% of the people disagree with the process.

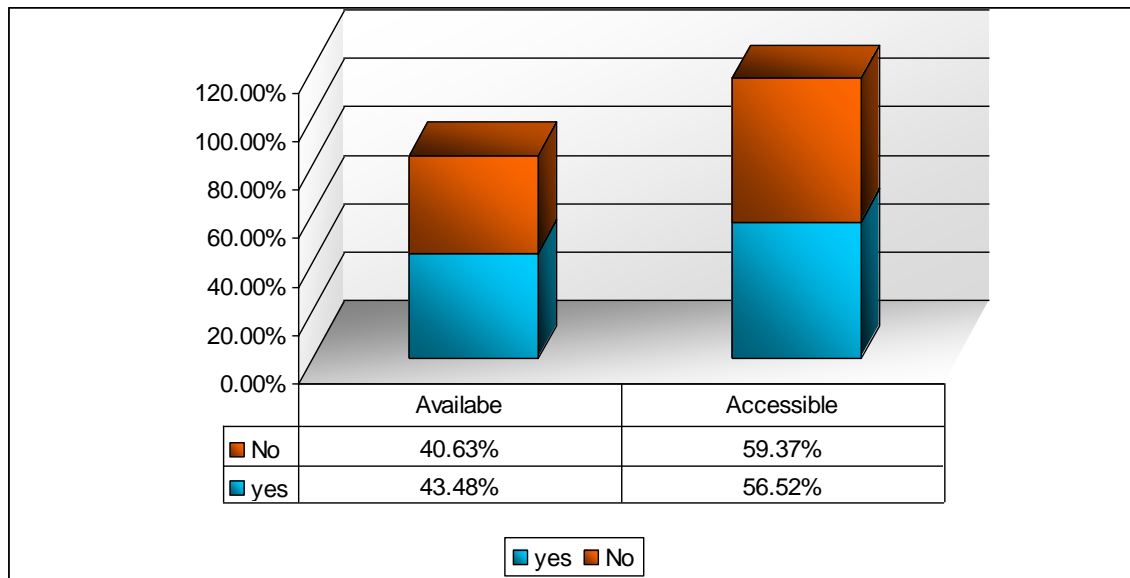
5.2 Protecting the environment

People have different ways of protecting the environment such as 43.12% of people prefer recycling, 16.38% use low flow shower heads, 1.72% use low flow toilets, 26.72% use TTC buses, carpooling, biking, and walking, 6.03% use eco friendly light bulbs. Some people gave different ideas like they use rechargeable batteries, turns off the unnecessary lights for saving electricity which is good for environment. Some one wrote they plant trees every year which is very good for environment.

Chapter 6

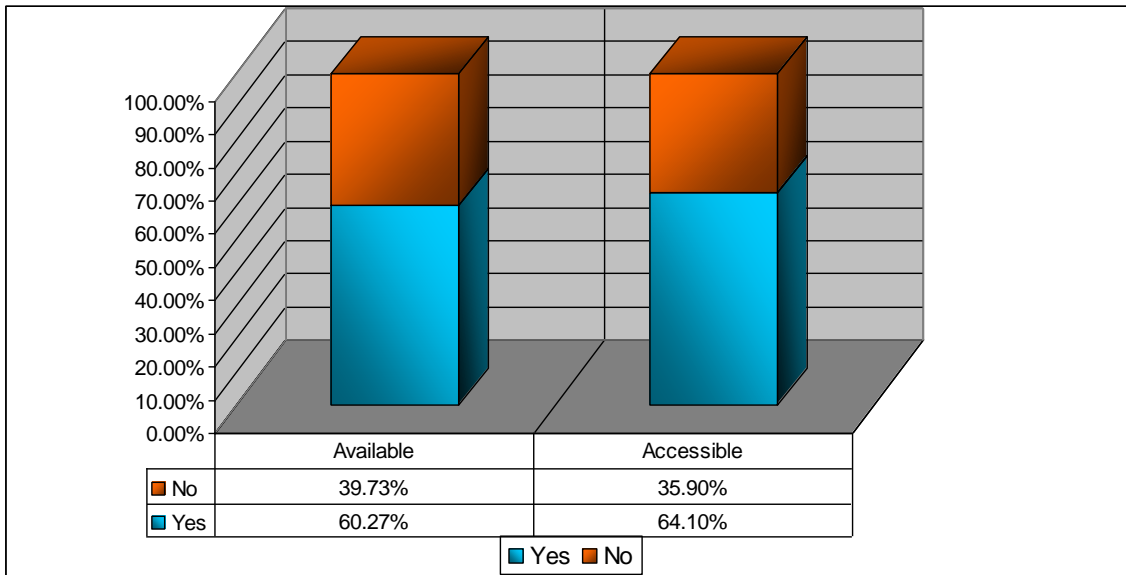
Assets and Support

6.1 Role models



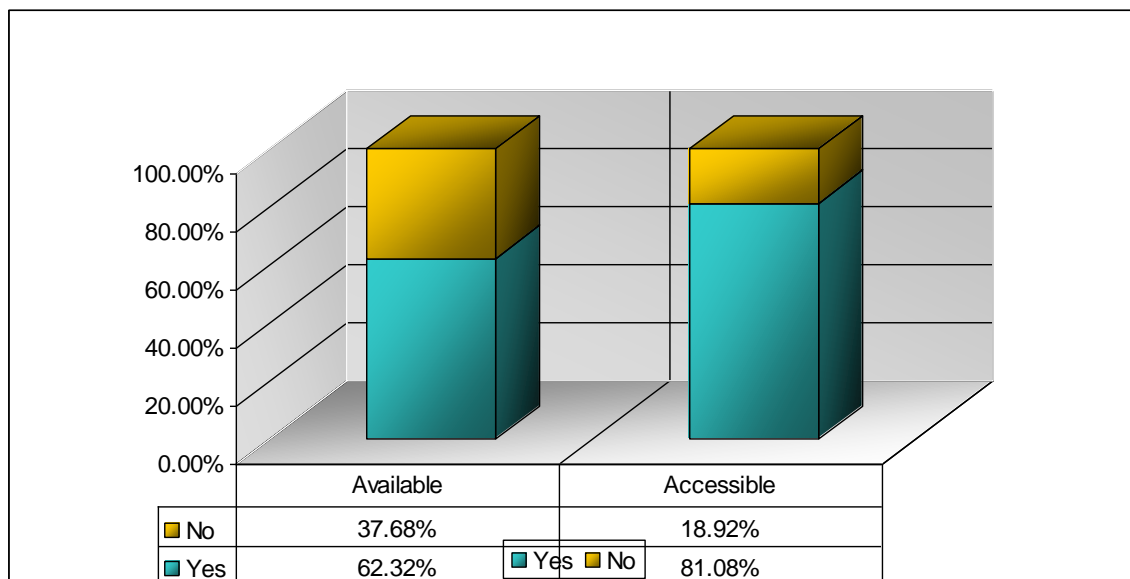
The above graph shows that 43.48% of positive role model is available, but 40.63% of it is accessible for people. The overall survey for this part shows even though there are services available they are not as accessible.

6.2 Home work assistance



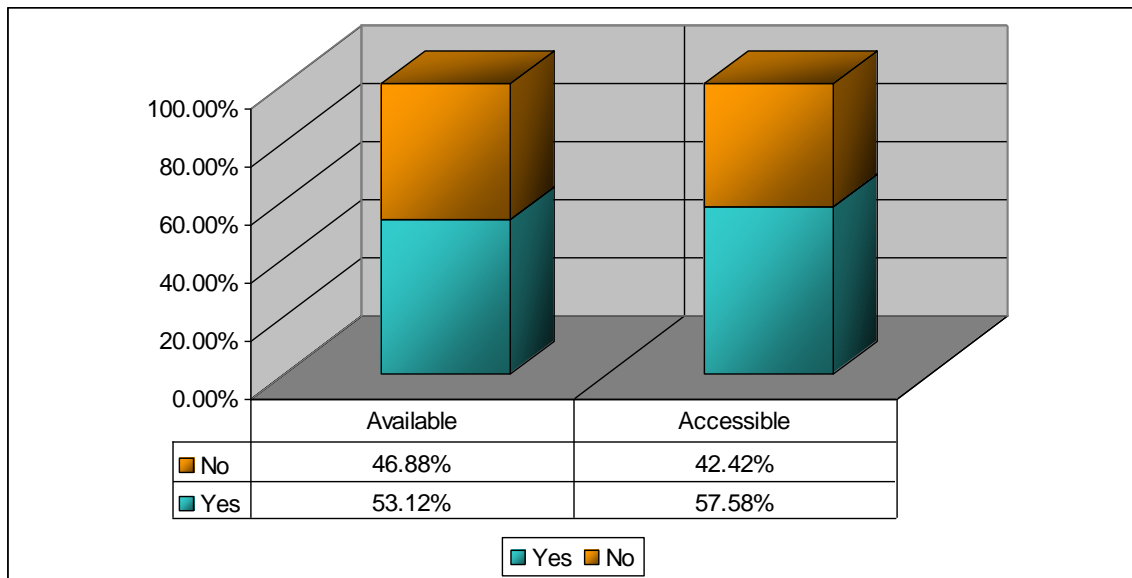
The graph above shows that 60% of people are agreeing that home work assistance is available, but 40% of them disagree. TNO has home work club in this area, but the space is very limited and has along waiting list for new students. They have 25 students ages 7-12 in this club.

6.3 Youth Centre



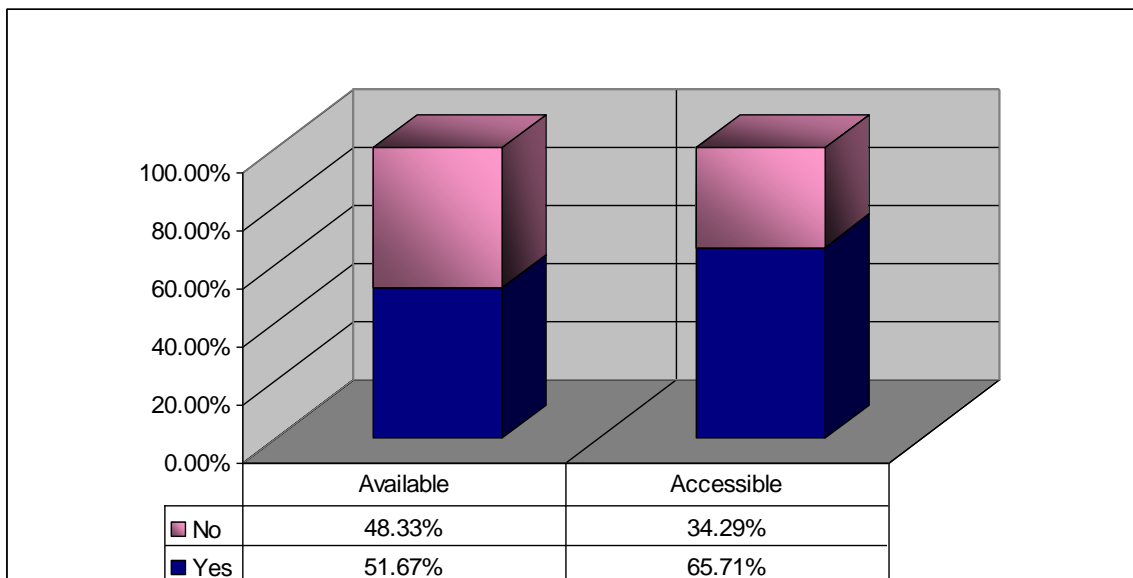
The graph above shows that 62% of the people are agree that youth centre is available for youth, but 38% of them are disagree.

6.4 Mentoring program



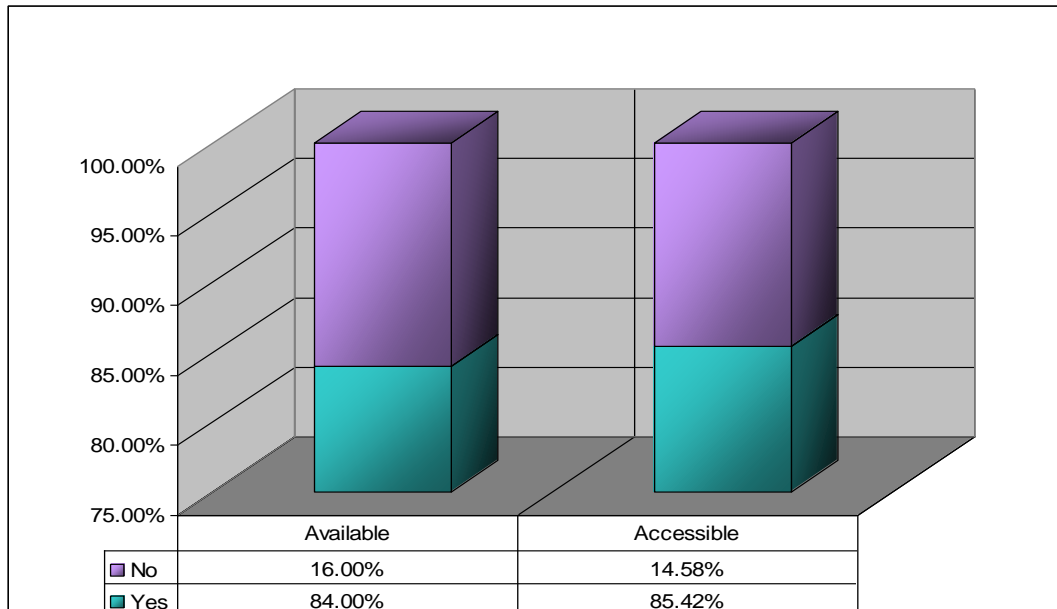
The above graph shows that 53% of the people are agree that mentoring program is available, but 46% of them are disagree that it is not accessible for people.

6.5 Relevant information



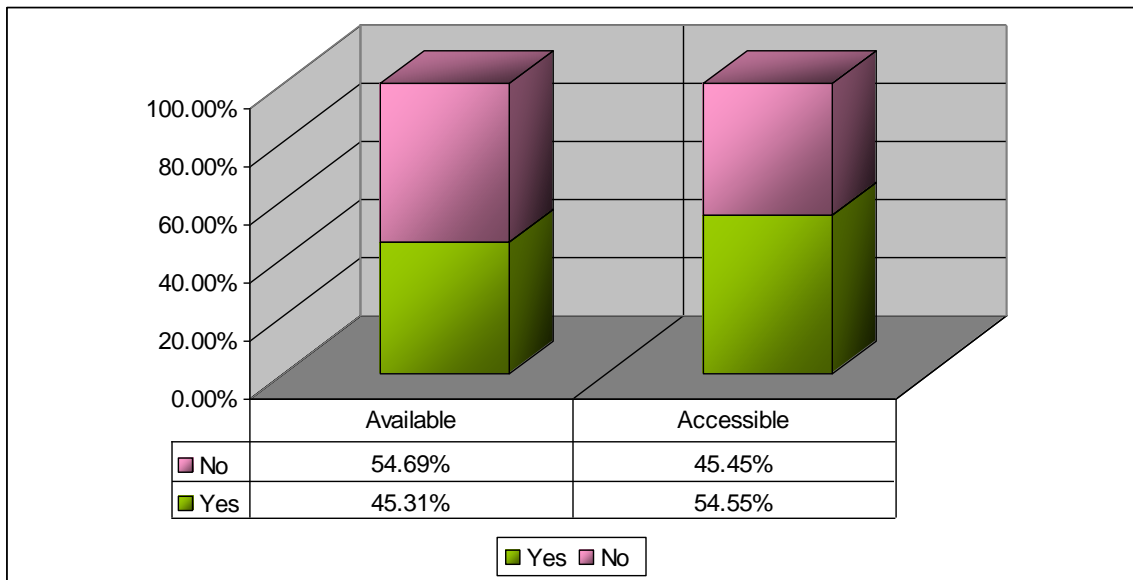
The graph above shows that the accessibility of the relevant information is more than the availability of it.

6.6 Volunteering information



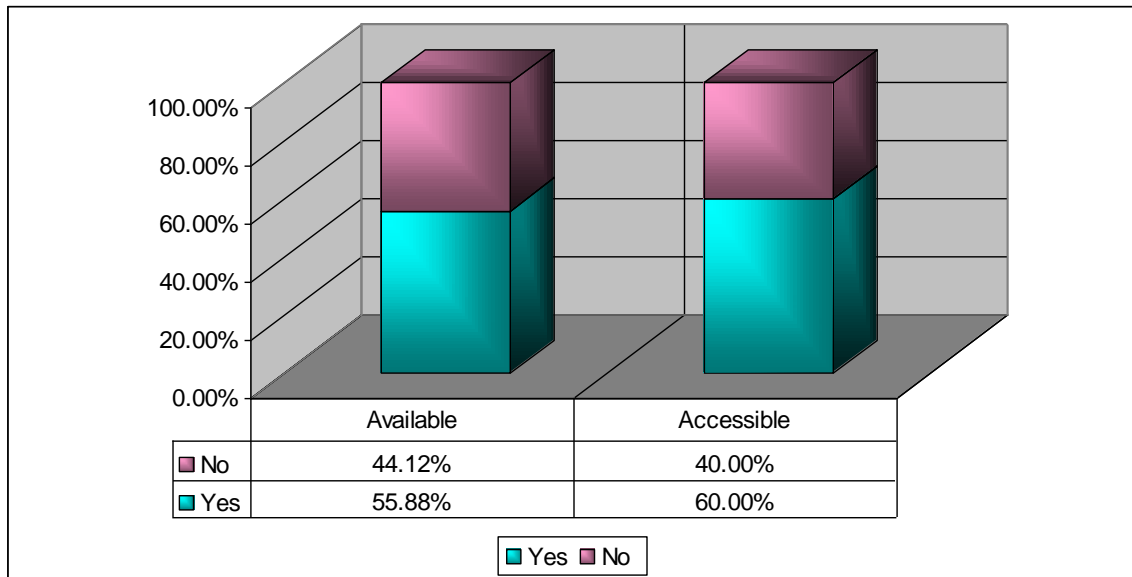
The above graph shows that volunteering information and opportunity are available in this area. TNO has many volunteers in 4 locations.

6.7 Peer listeners



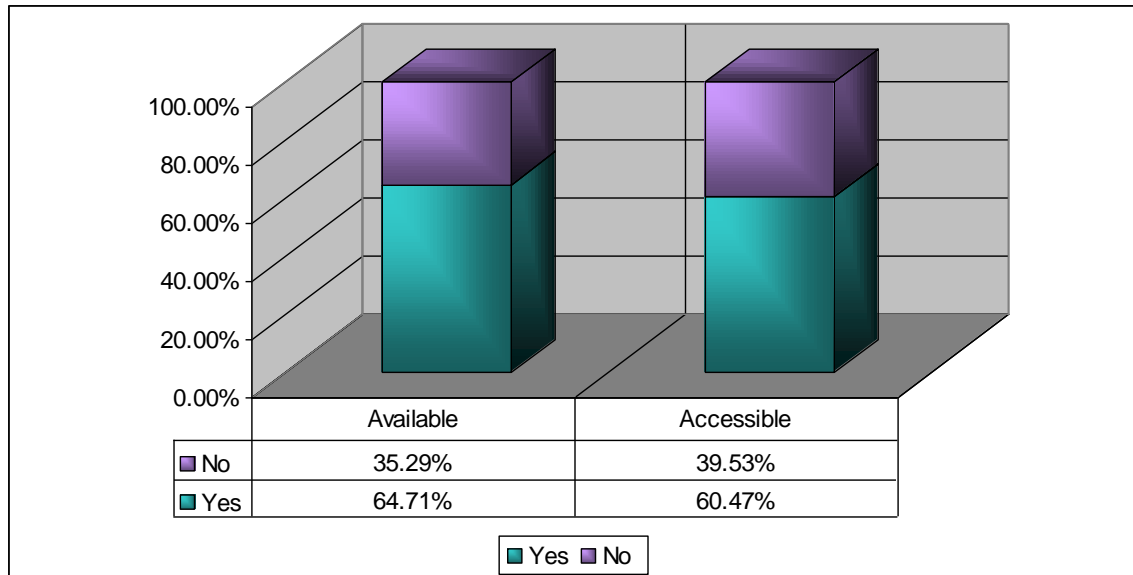
The above graph shows that people are agree that peer listeners are available, but not accessible. At the same time more than half of them are disagree.

6.8 Job support



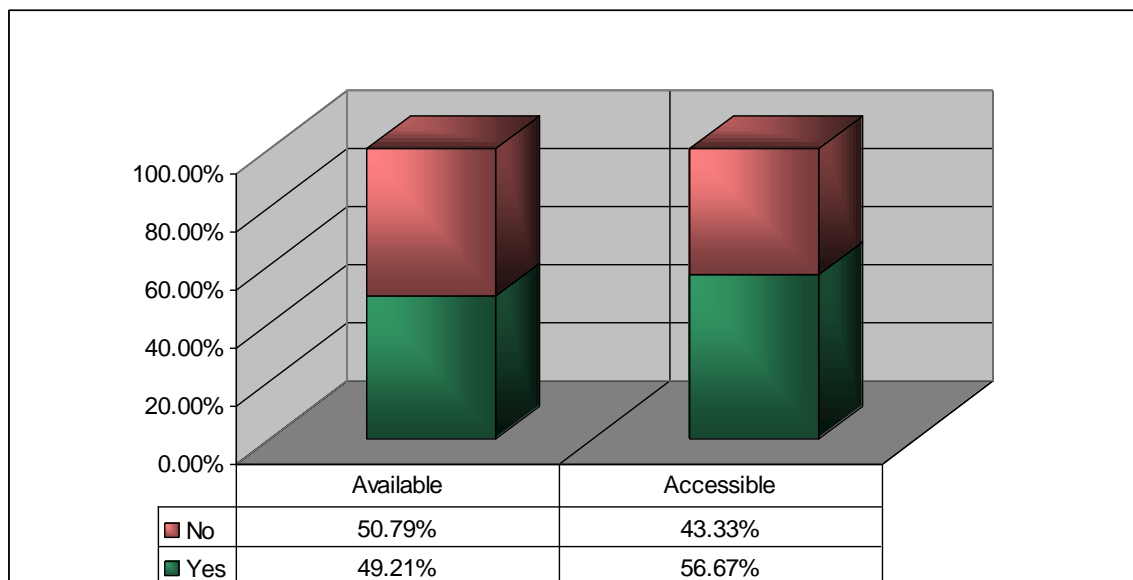
The graph above shows 56% the job support program are available, but not accessible for people.

6.9 Parental involvement



The above graph shows that 65% of the people agree that parental program is available, but is not accessible for every one. TNO has parental program every Tuesday for parents.

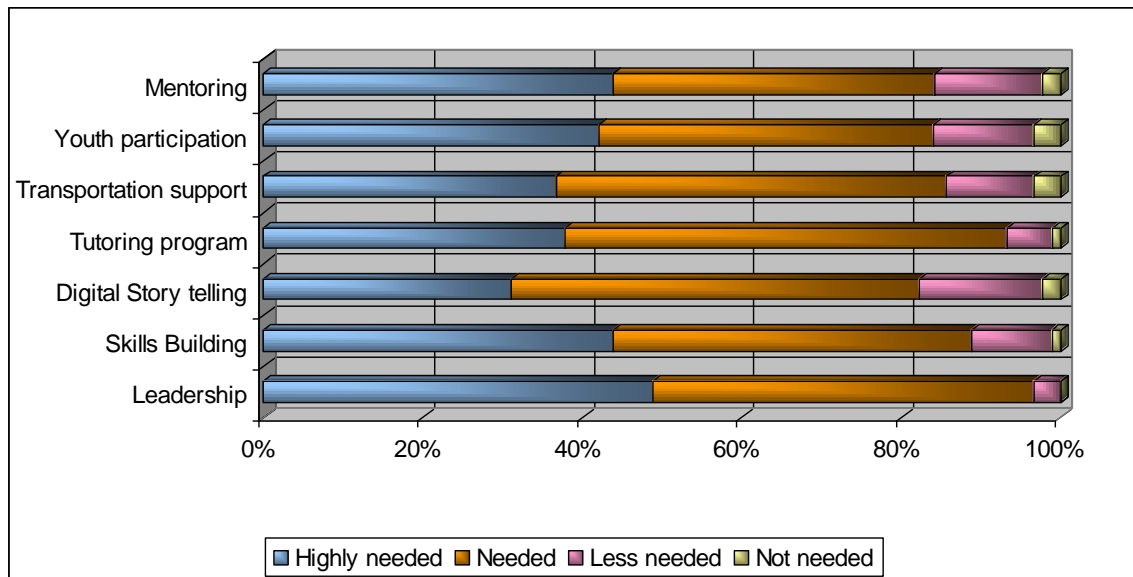
6.10 Youth-led program



The above graph shows that most of the people agree that programs which are led by youth instead of adult are not available according to their need, but still they have some involved youth in some activities.

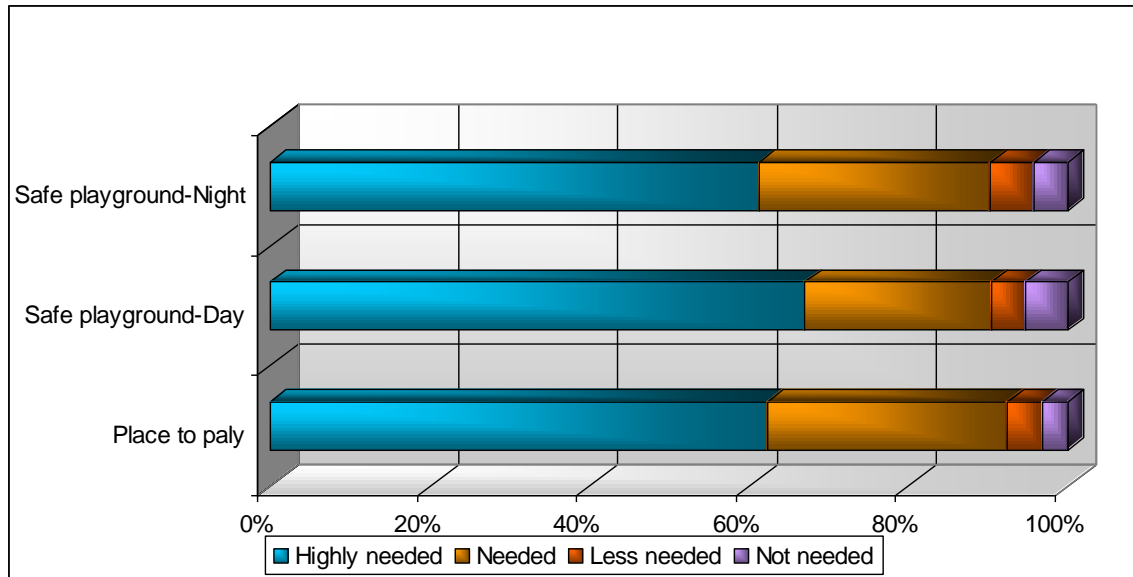
Chapter 7

7.1 Programs for youth



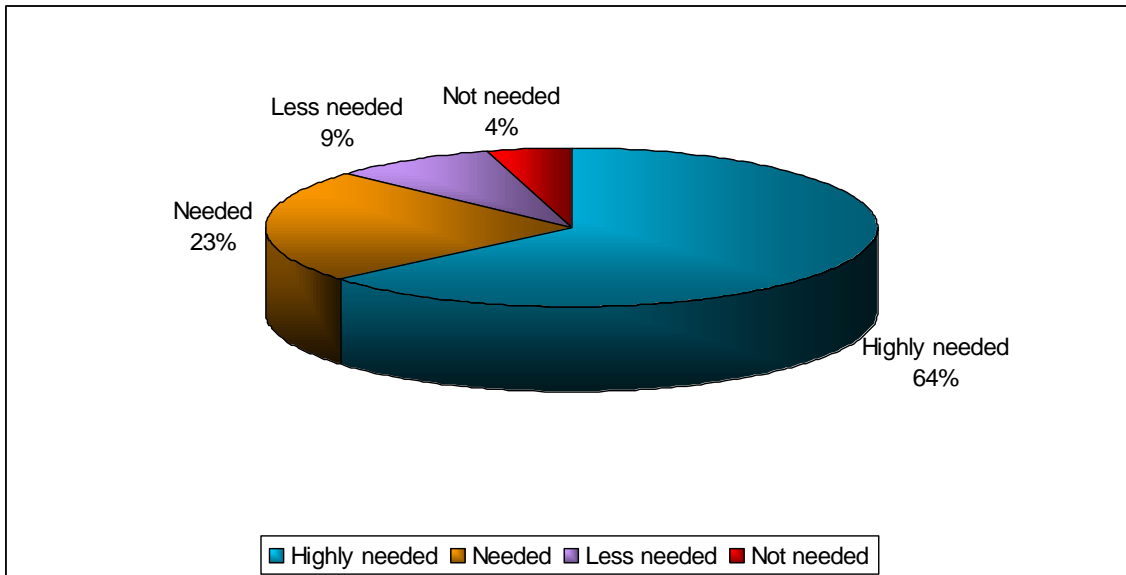
The above graph summarizes the results from the section of the survey called programs for youth which shows most of the youth need all of the above activities and workshops, but mostly their interests are in leadership development activities, skills building workshops including art, music, mentoring and activities that promote youth engagement. Their thoughts and suggestion in survey were that they need tutoring programs, cultural and religious programs, and the library which is on renovation from long time. The study also found a lack of youth programs, yet one quarter of Thorncliffe population is under 14. “Thorncliffe Neighbourhood Office opened the community’s only youth centre 3 years ago, but young people need more structured and quality programs” said Marijana Cuvalo the agency’s youth service coordinator. (Toronto Star January, 12, 2010).

7.2 Place for children



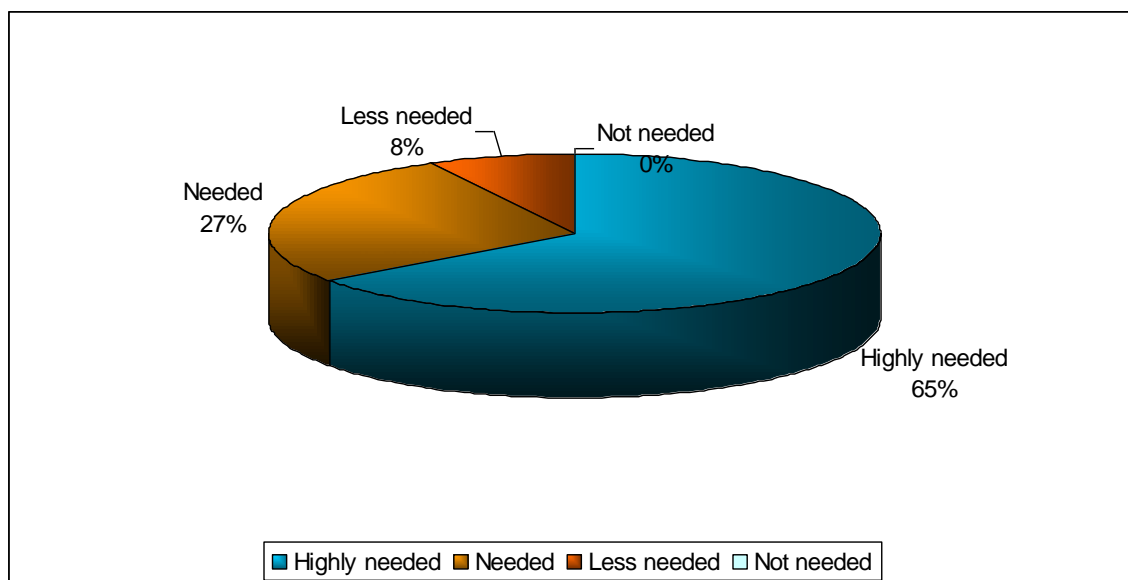
The above graph shows that the children mostly need a safe playground. Most of the parents wrote about needs like bigger spaces in the community centre for children, breakfast program for children at school, and tutoring program for children.

7.3 Daycare facilities



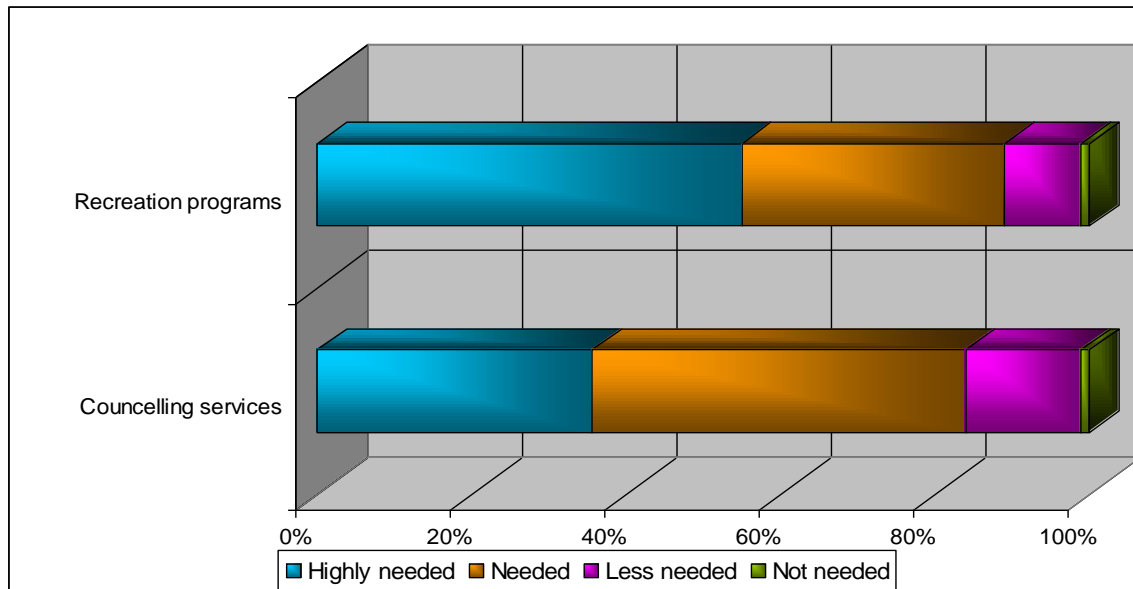
The above graph shows that 64% of the families need daycare facilities. Thorncliffe Park has one daycare centre which has a very limited space and a long waiting list for children. Statistics Canada shows that 25% of the population in Thorncliffe Park are children. There are home daycares, but it is not still enough for the growing population of this area.

7.4 Job development & Employment program



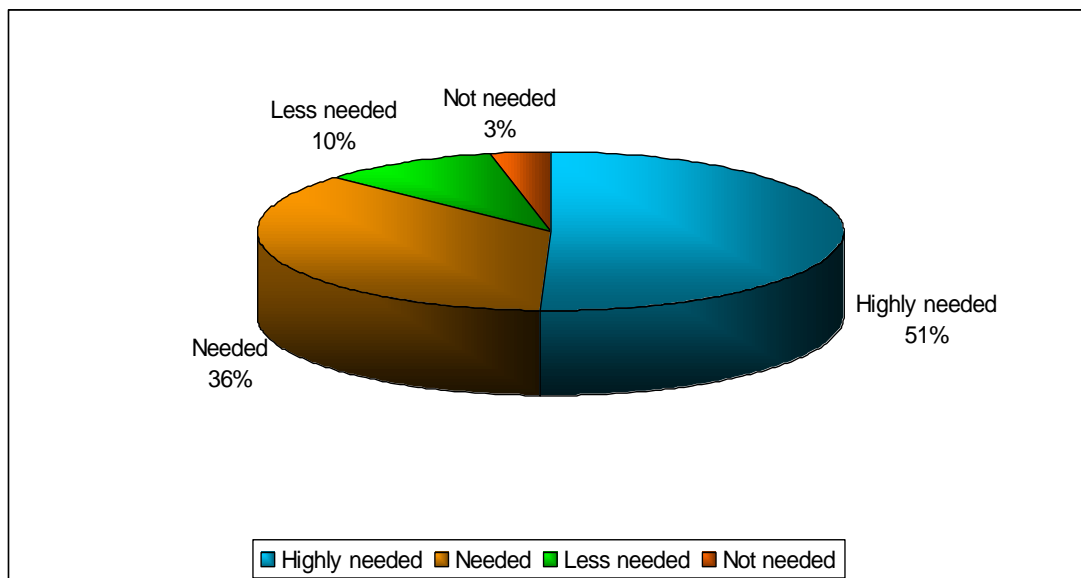
The above graph summarizes the result from the section of the survey called job development shows that 65% of the people need job development and employment programs. Unemployment is the biggest concern in Thorncliffe Park where 63% of the adults have post secondary education (twice the city's average), yet only 57% of adults are fully participated in work force. (Toronto Star January, 12, 2010).

7.5 Counselling and recreation services & programs



The graph above shows that more than 50% of the people need after school recreation programs, and 36% of them highly need confidential counselling and support services.

7.6 Social activities



The graph above shows that 51% of the people need social activities at local community centres which mean most of them are isolated and stays at home. Thorncliffe Park is the most populated immigrant neighbourhood in Toronto. According to the statistics Canada

31.4% the number of recent immigrant and 68.1% the number of immigrant increased from 2001 to 2006.

Conclusion

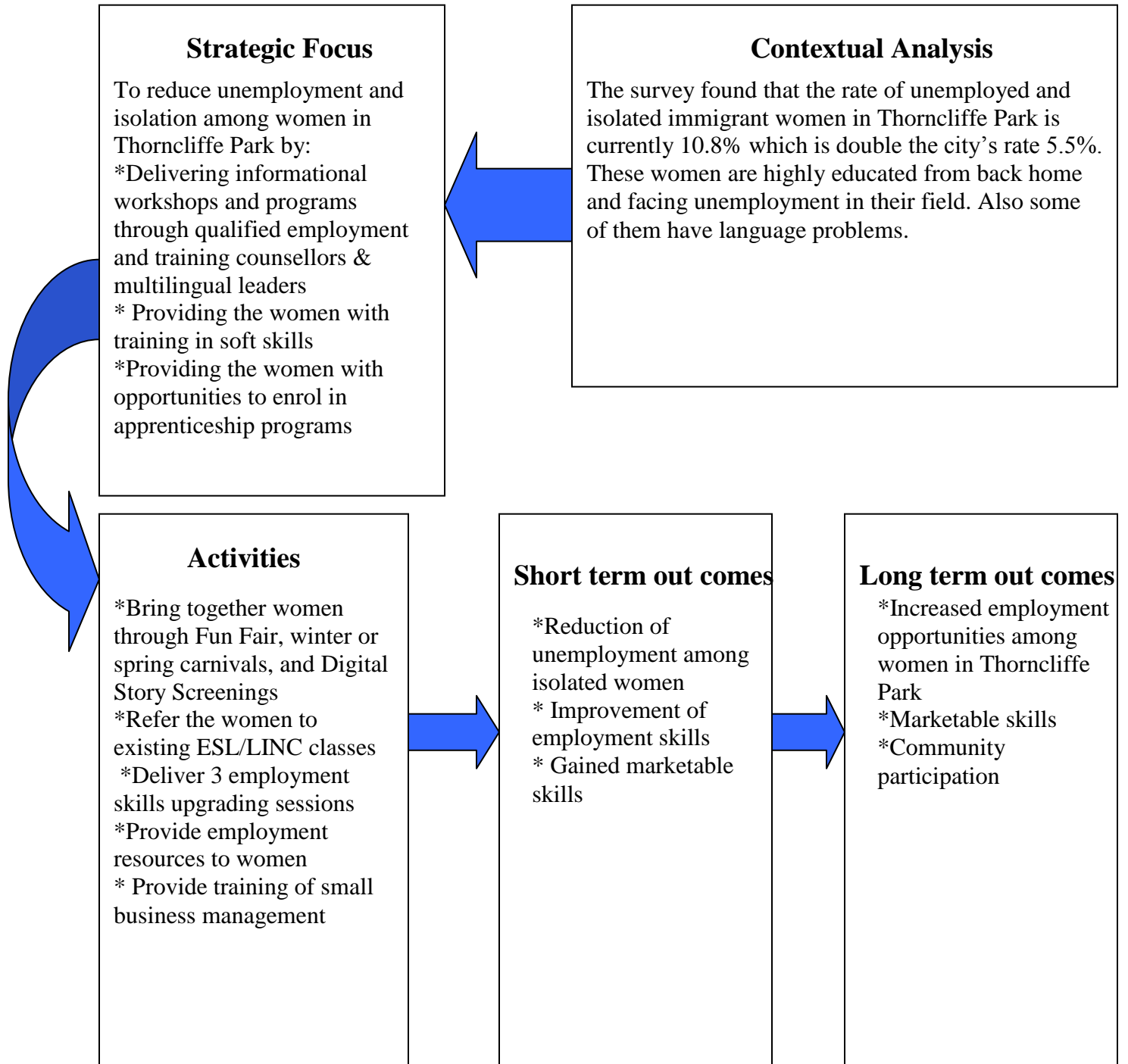
The findings of Community Resource and Needs Assessment confirms that unemployment rate in Thorncliffe Park is double than the city, especially most of the women are unemployed. The survey indicates that there are services, but are not enough for residence. There is lack of access to information. The people need more social activities, job development and employment programs, activities and programs for youth, children and seniors. According to the growing population the daycare centres are not enough. They highly recommend reopening of the library.

Recommendation







The survey found that 66% of the people are unemployed in which most of them have high education from their countries. The rate of unemployed and isolated immigrant women in Thorncliffe Park is double the city's rate. I suggest that the government and local community centre should include more job finding workshops and activities which involved the women who are isolated.

95% of the residents rented apartments which indicate poverty and lack of social housing. The government should provide social housing in this area. There is lack of home work assistance especially for new comer students. TNO should increase the number of students in home work club. 25% of the population in this area are children and 64% of the families need daycare facilities. There is only one daycare centre with a limited space and a long waiting list. The government should extend the space for daycare centre or build another daycare centre for this area.

Finding opportunities for unemployed and isolated women



Appendices

-  Community Resource and Needs Assessment
-  Thorncliffe Neighbourhood Office's community needs assessment report 2003
-  City profiles
-  Statistics Canada
-  An article from Toronto Star news paper 2/01/2010
-  www.thetorontolife.com/4a_custpage_18791.html