

# **HILLCREST VILLAGE**

## **Community Needs Assessment Report**



**Toronto Centre for Community Learning and Development  
Immigrant Women Integration Program (IWIP)**

**By: Clara Patricia Galvis**

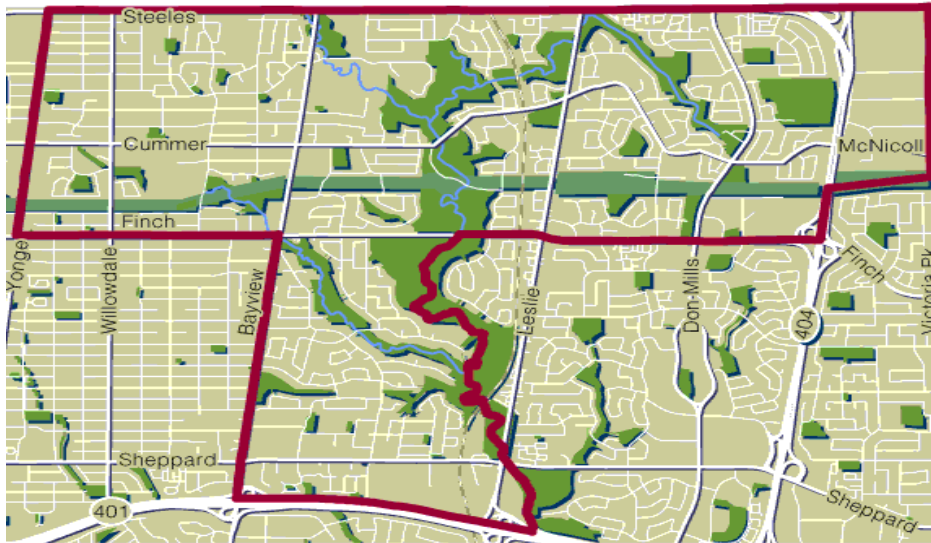
**2014 - 2015**

## **History**

Hillcrest village was originally settled by Jacob Cummer, who immigrated to Canada from the United States in 1797. Over the years, Cummer gained the esteem of his neighbours that this area was originally known as Kummer's Settlement. He was a self-trained doctor and a veterinarian. On the other hand, there was David Gibson, a distinguished land surveyor, another leader in this community. Like most of his neighbours, Gibson participated in the ill-fated Toronto Rebellion of 1837. Due to the rebellion, he escaped to the United States and returned to his Yonge Street farm in 1851, after being pardoned for his role in the Rebellion.

Gibson then helped to establish the "Willow Dale" post office, named after the many willow trees that once graced this district. Members of the Gibson family were still living in Gibson House in the 1920's when the residential subdivision of Hillcrest Village began to take place.

## Location



--- **24** Willowdale --- 

As the map shows, the borders are Steeles to the North, Highway 401 to the South, Yonge Street to the West and Victoria Park to the East. Hillcrest Village belongs to ward 24

The actual Member of Parliament (MP) is Leung, Chungsen from the Conservative Party of Canada.

The Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP) is Hon David Zimmer.

And The Willowdale councillor is David Shiner.

## **Overview**

Hillcrest Village is a lively and multi-ethnic urban centre filled with luxury condominiums, custom built homes, shining office towers, a newly renovated shopping mall and theatre complex, an ultra-modern civic centre, a world-class aquatic centre and a highly acclaimed Centre for the Performing Arts which hosts local and world class entertainment.

The area has multiple plazas, restaurants and shopping centres. There are also Middle and High schools and the Seneca College right at Don Mills and Finch Road which includes Seneca Residences and conference centre. There are also plenty of natural parks providing calm environment and a recreation area accessible to everyone.

Although there is not any subway station in the area, the TTC provides excellent service and various bus routes on the main streets as well as York Region transit that provide access to York Region via Don Mills Road.

### **Community Needs' Assessment Report 2014**

This Study has been made by using a survey and applying a quantitative analysis. It is all based on the different answers given by members of the Hillcrest Village Community.

The survey included six categories:

1. Demographic
2. Community Strength
3. Living Standard
4. Safety
5. Personal Health and Wellbeing
6. Civic Engagement

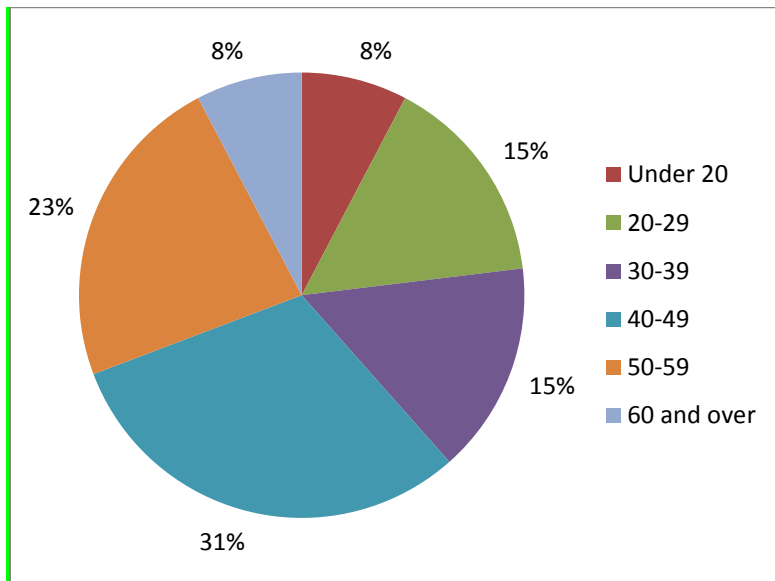
The main purposes are to understand the main issues surrounding our village and to help to determine the areas of risk, in order to improve the living conditions. To obtain a better understanding of the community strengths and the role it plays in the city of Toronto. To make recommendations to community leaders on how to improve general services.

## Demographic Profile

### “Understanding our neighbourhood”

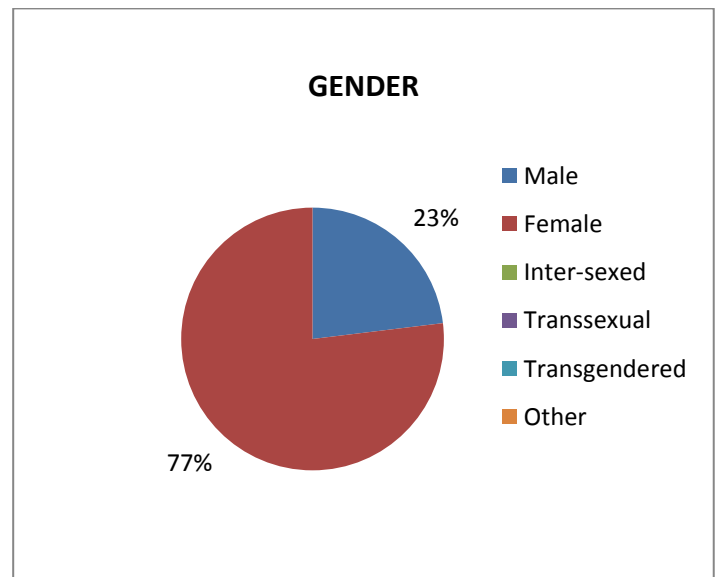
#### Age Groups of Residents of Hillcrest Village

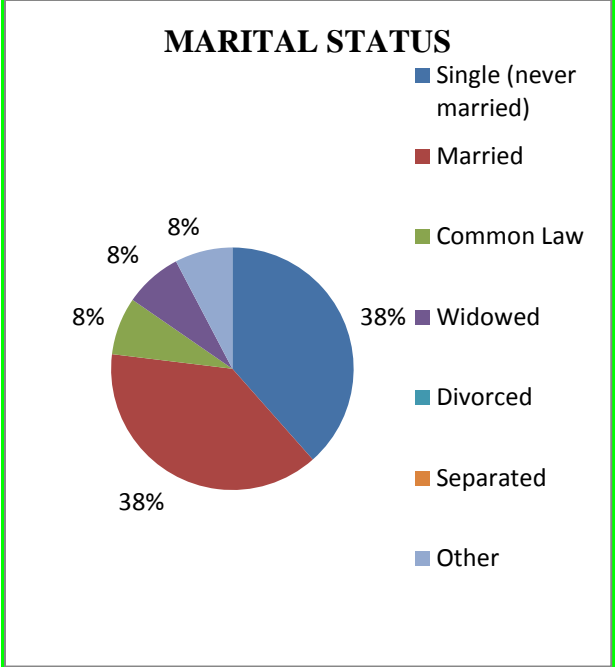
In the graphic below we can see that the survey involved a large number of people from the ages 40 to 59 which corresponds to more than half of the sample.



#### Gender category of Residents

We can see that 77% of the sample corresponds to female population while only 23% are part of the male gender. There are not other types of genders registered within the survey.

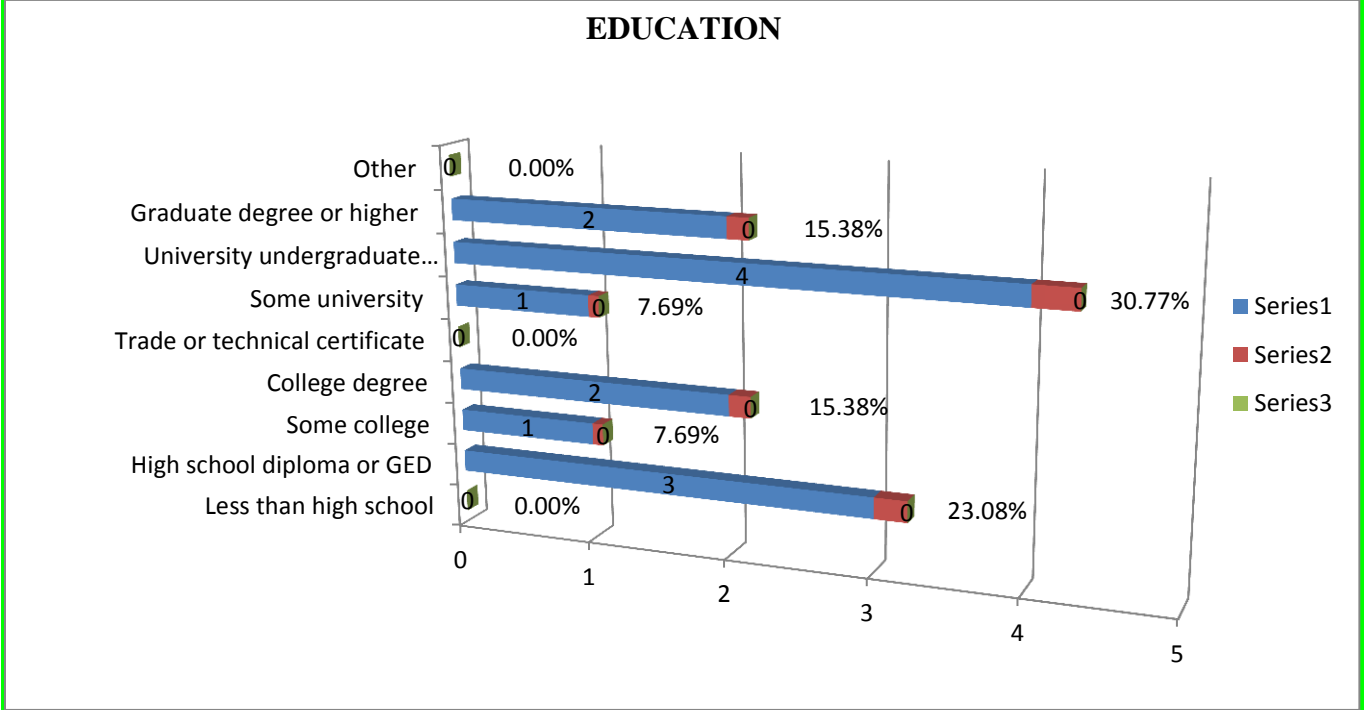




Marital status of Residents

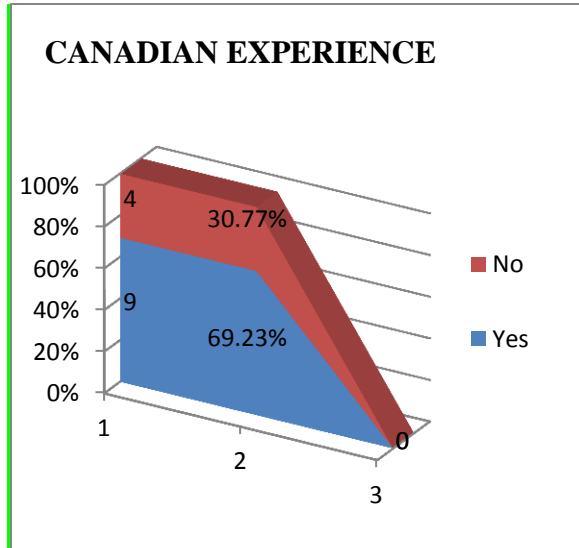
According to the survey most of the people that live around the area are single (38%) or married (38%). The other 24% is divided between common law, widowed and other.

Level of Education of Residents



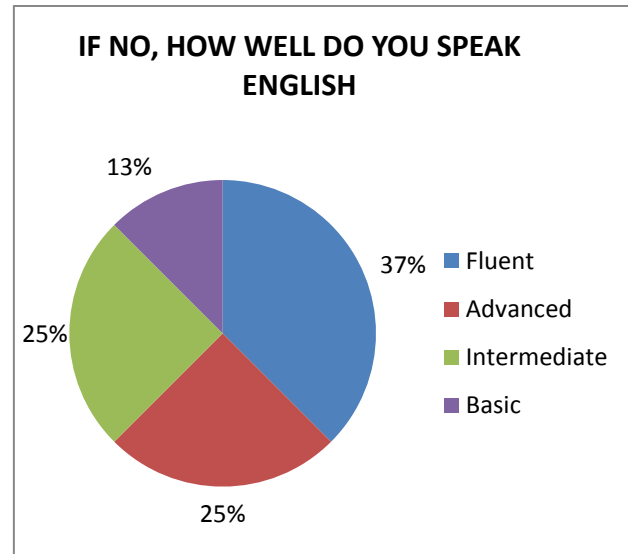
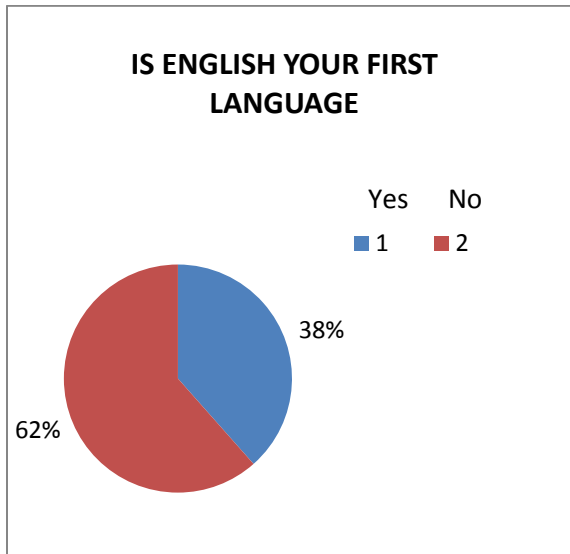
30.77% of the population of Hillcrest Village has a University Undergraduate Degree and 23.08% have a high school diploma. The survey does not register anyone with less than high school education. It concludes that all people from the area have had some formal education.

## Canadian Education and Training Experience from Residents



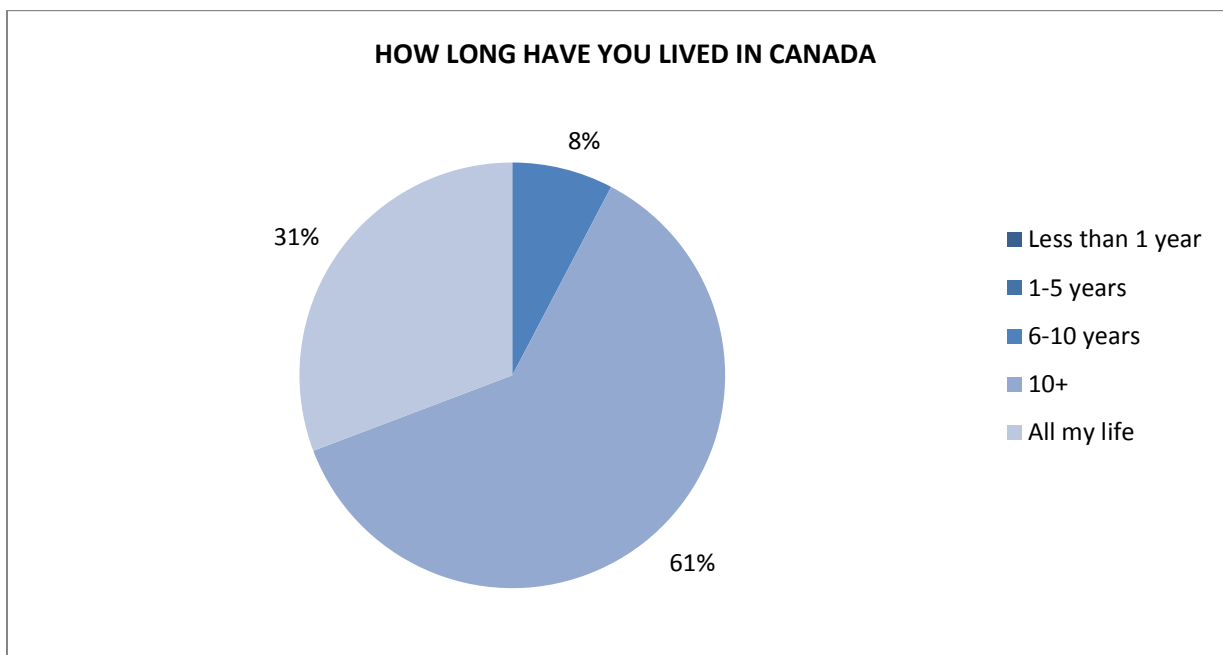
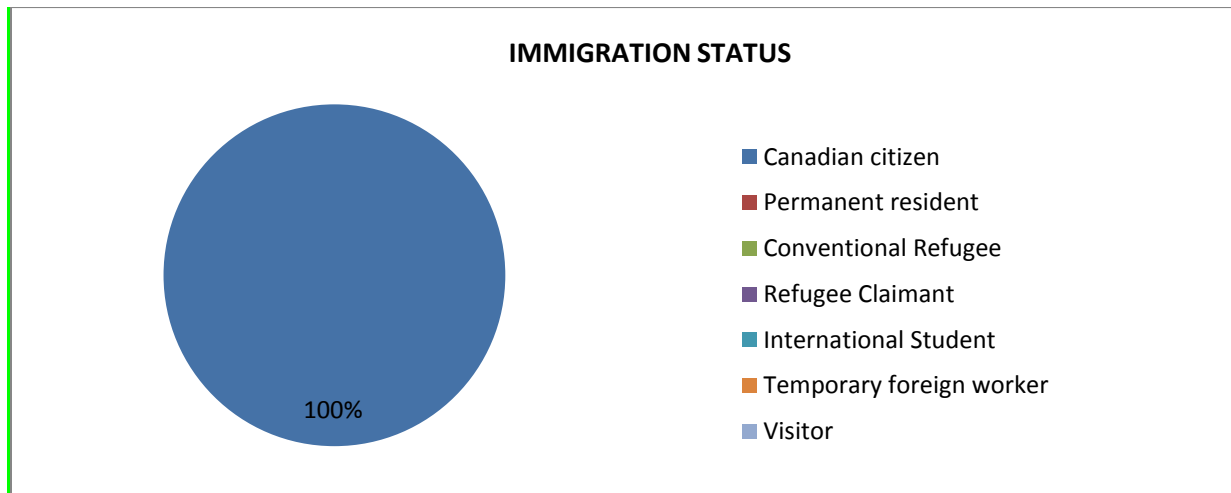
According to this graph, most of the population in this area developed their schooling within Canada since 69.23% of the people do have Canadian experience and/or training.

## English Proficiency



62% of the participants responded that English is not their first language, however, 37% of the participants responded that their English is fluent and other 25% of them said to have an advanced level of the language.

## Immigration Status

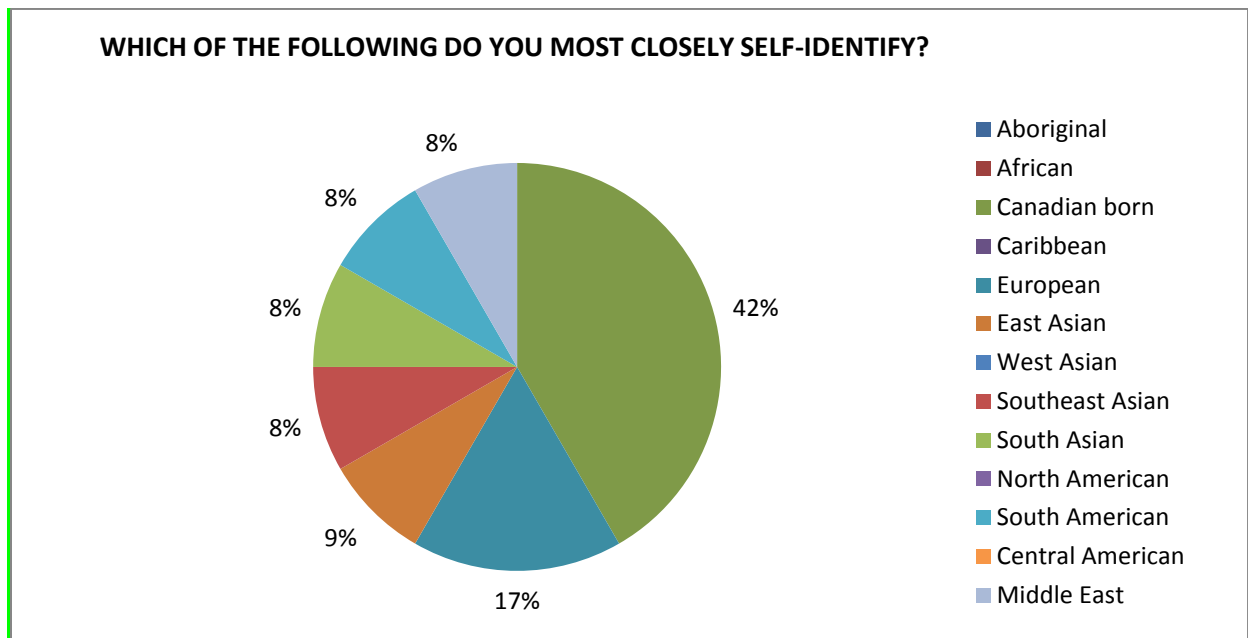


All of the survey participants responded to be Canadian Citizens; similarly, 31% of them said that they have lived in Canada all their life and 61% responded to have been here for more than 10 years. Only 8% of the sample has been in Canada between 6 and 10 years with also makes them eligible to be Canadian citizens already.



## Ethnic Groups

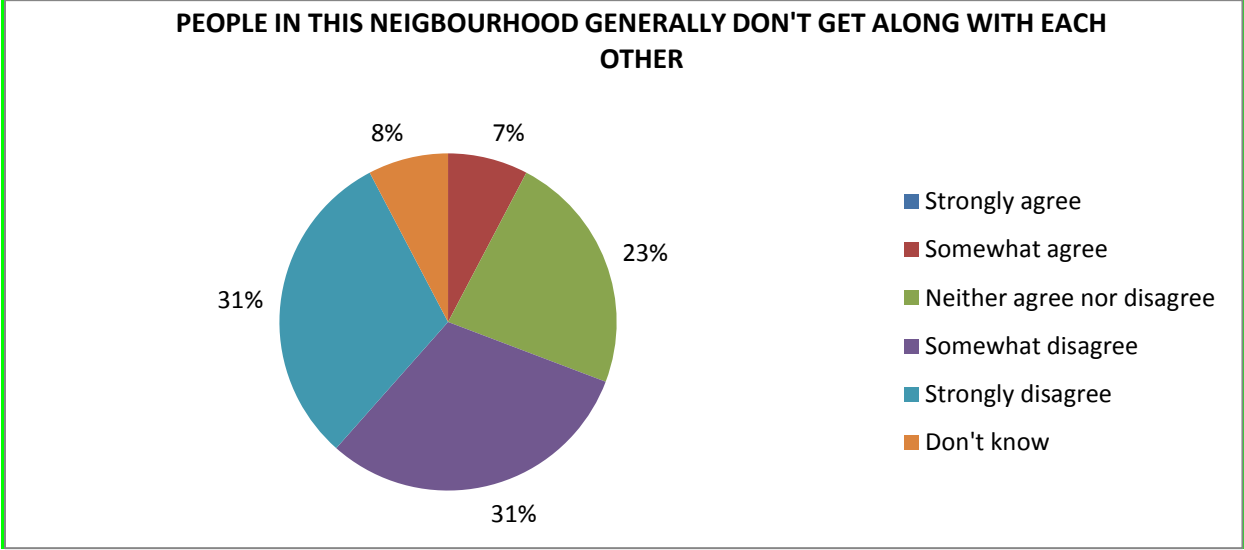
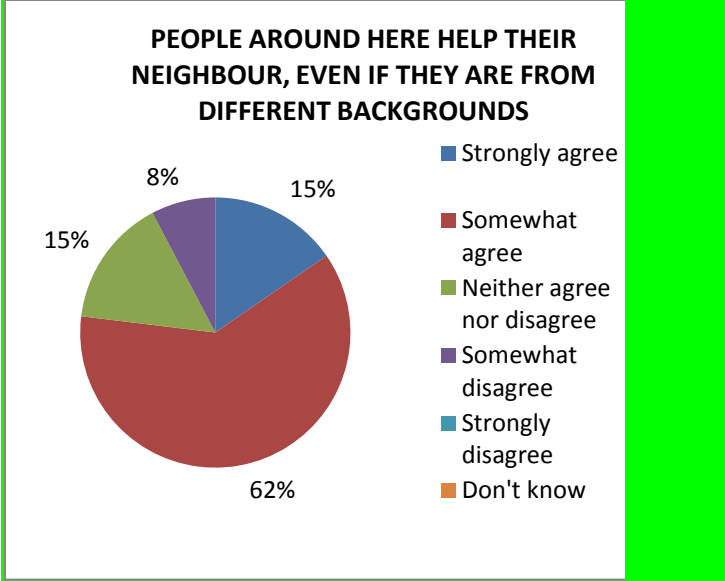
According to the previous graph, 61% of the sample has live their entire life in Canada; this information is confirmed by the following graph, which shows that 42% of the area's population are Canadian born. The other 58% is divided into European, Middle East, South American, South Asian, African and East Asian.



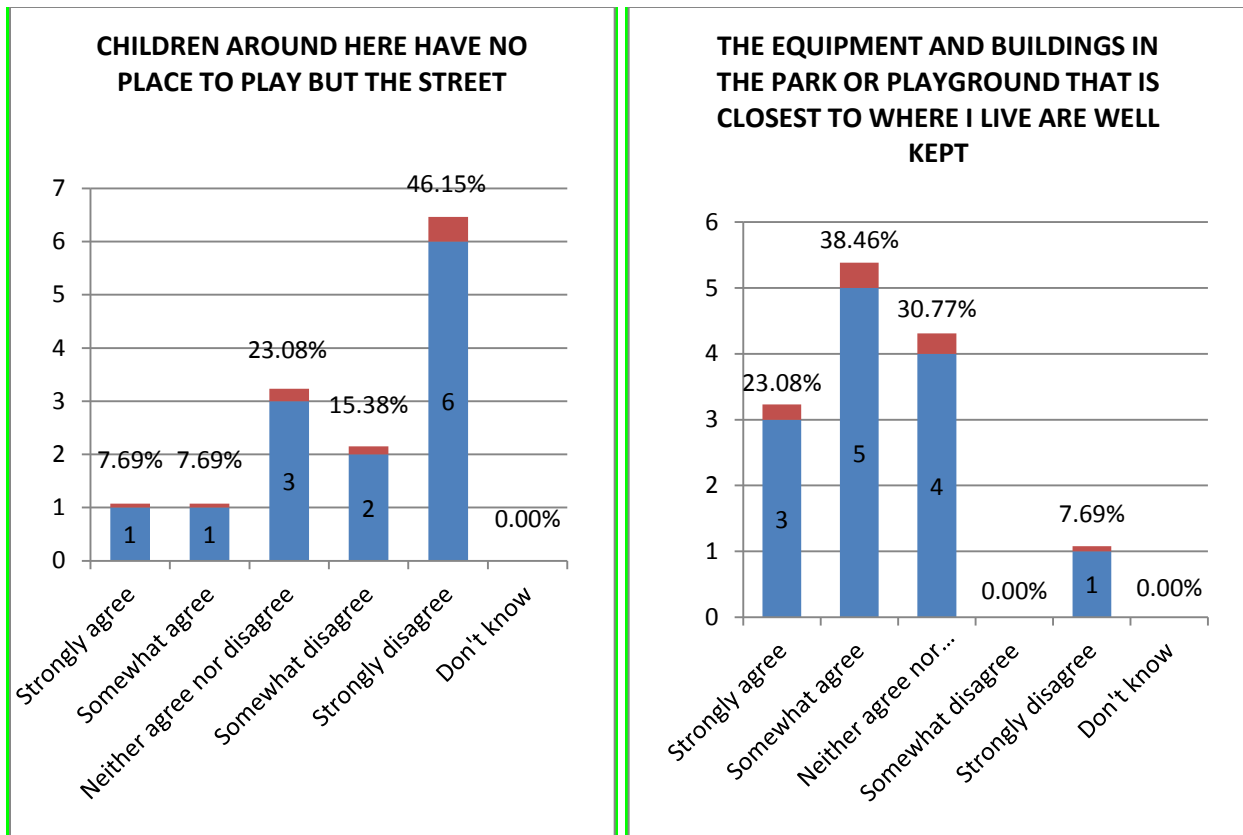
## Civic and Community Engagement

The sample population were given some questions on how they perceive the community to be.

We can tell that the answers vary from question to question but one of the issues that can be perceived is that members of the community do not seem to be very open to integrating other cultures different than their own.

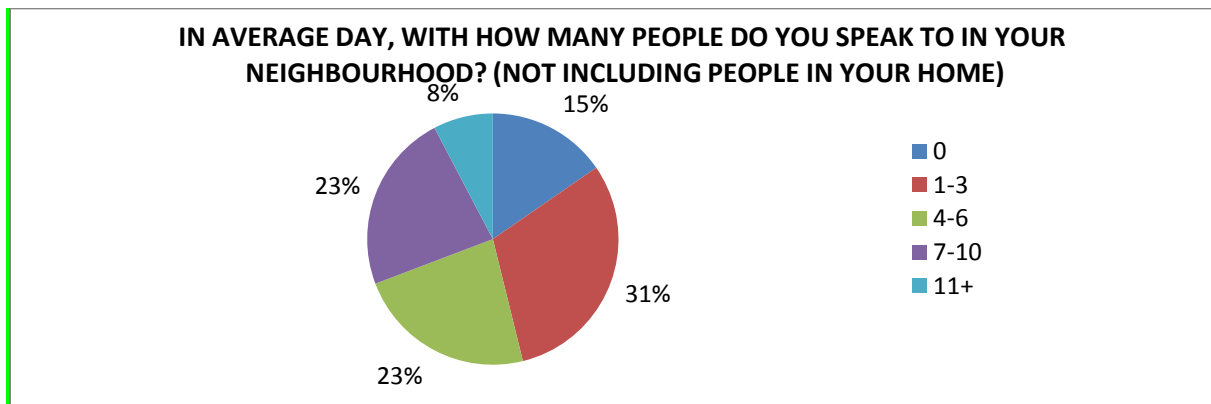


In terms of recreational space, it seems to be that most of the population of the area do have easy access to playgrounds and parks, especially children.

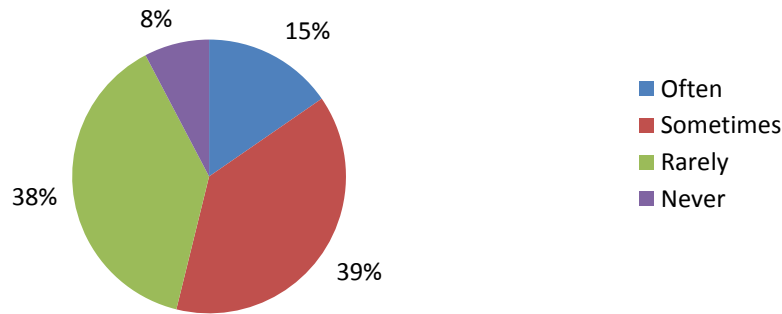


## Social Support

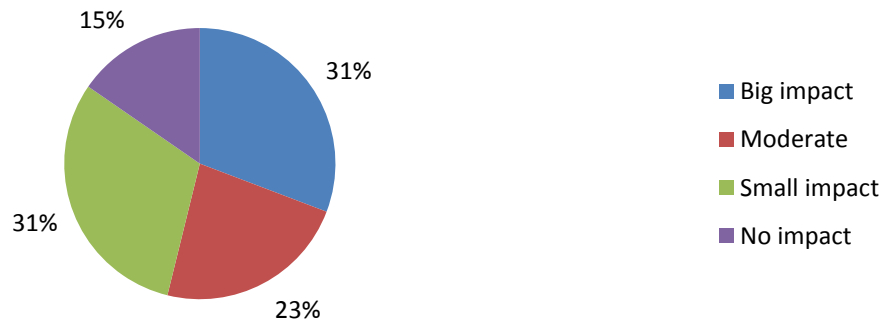
The following graphs shows that people in this neighbourhood do not socialize and/or interact often with each other since only 31% of the population speak with 1 to 3 people per day, other than their family. Therefore, the possibilities of engaging the community into programs for the improvement of the area are less, although few people believe that they can make a positive impact on their neighbourhood.



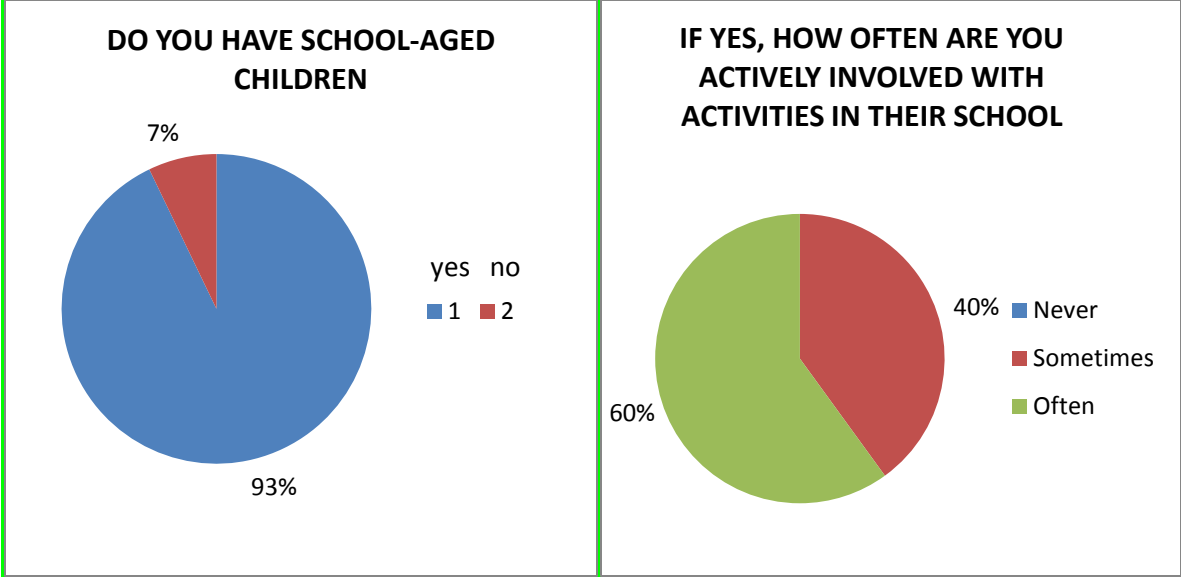
**IN AN AVERAGE WEEK, HOW OFTEN DO YOU AND YOUR NEIGHBOURS VISIT OR CHAT WITH EACH OTHER**



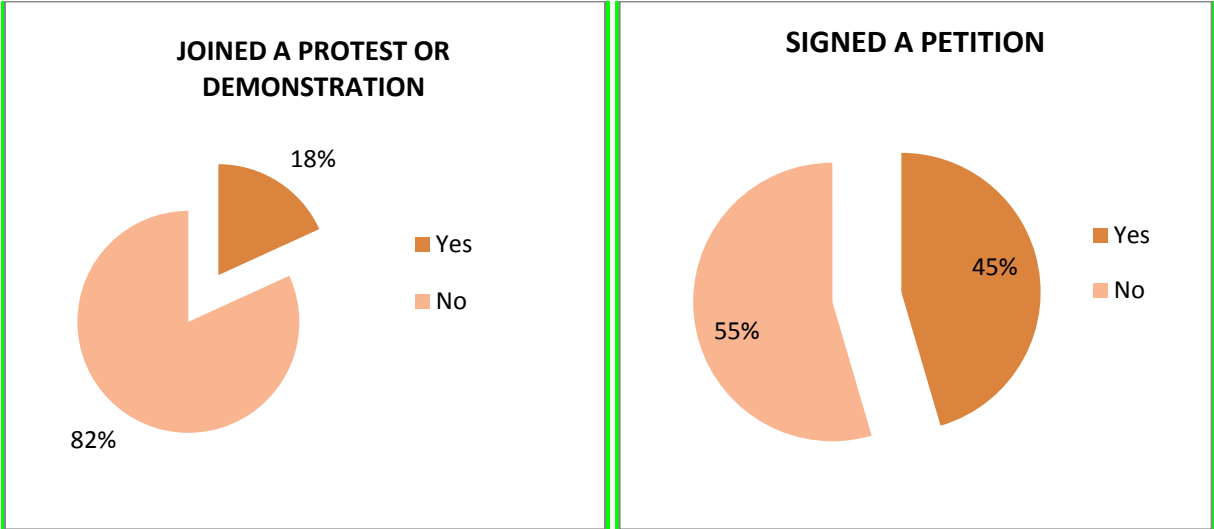
**HOW MUCH IMPACT DO YOU THINK YOU CAN HAVE IN MAKING YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE**



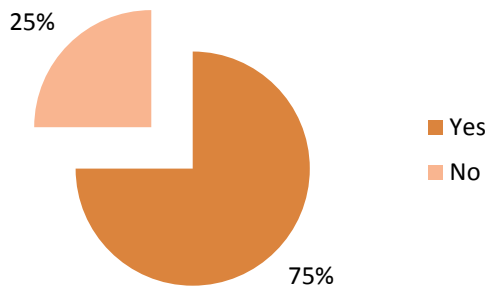
Continuing with the social support and/or engagement, the following graphs show that even though people in the community do not interact with each other, the children and youth of the community have family support in terms of education and schools' activities. Nevertheless, it is important to work with the 40% of families that somehow struggle with being actively involved on their children's school; to help them improve their time management or any other issues they might be facing.



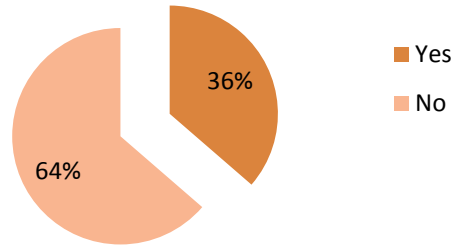
In the last 12 months the participation of the Willowdale Village in the community was pretty ok since 75% of the community volunteered and/or attended the community events. Although, it is important to recall that there is always a good percentage of people that seem to be inactive and/or maybe unaware of everything that happens around the community. This issue needs to be treated in terms of spreading the word around the neighbours to create some interest.



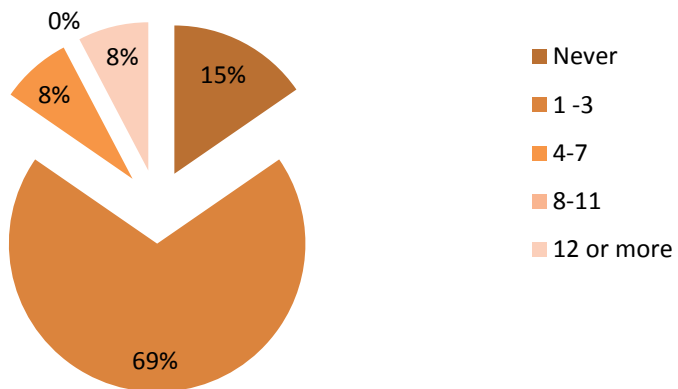
### VOLUNTEERED



### HAVE YOU MET WITH, CALLED, OR SENT A LETTER TO ANY LOCAL POLITICIAN

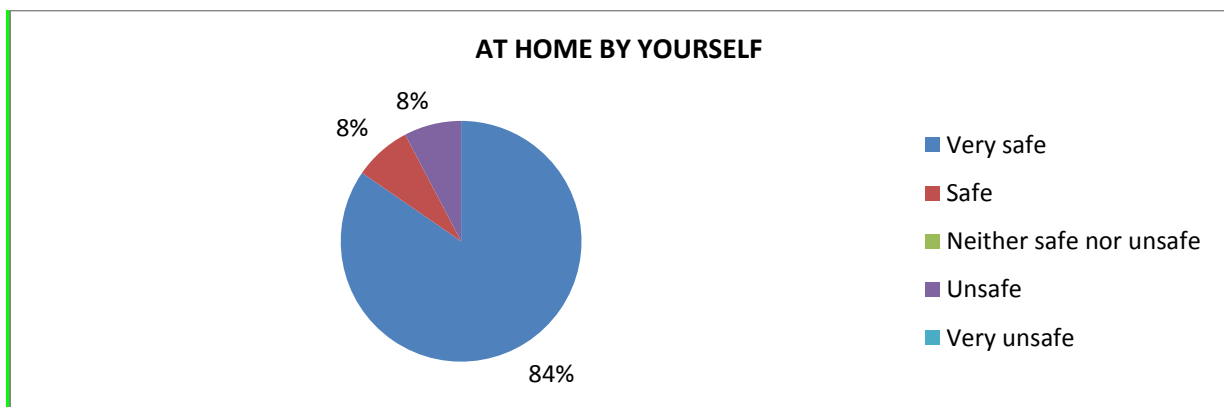
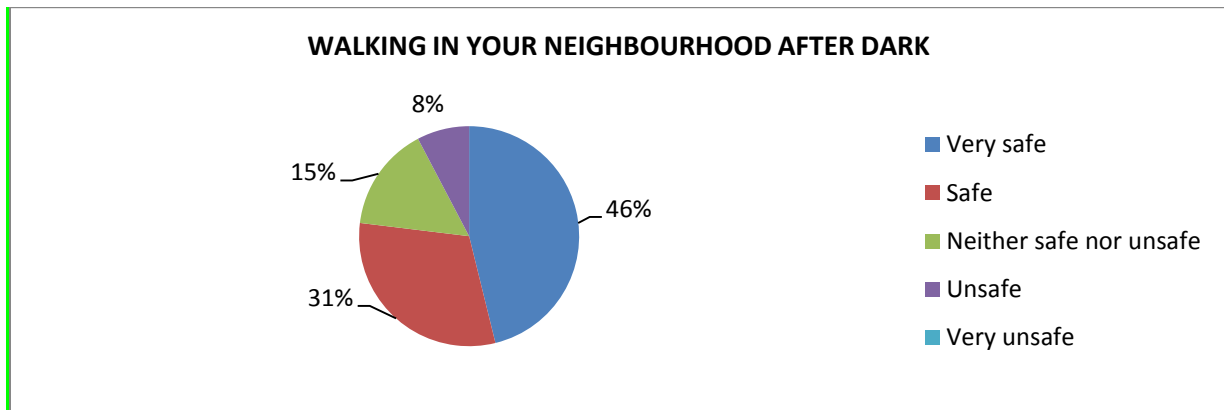
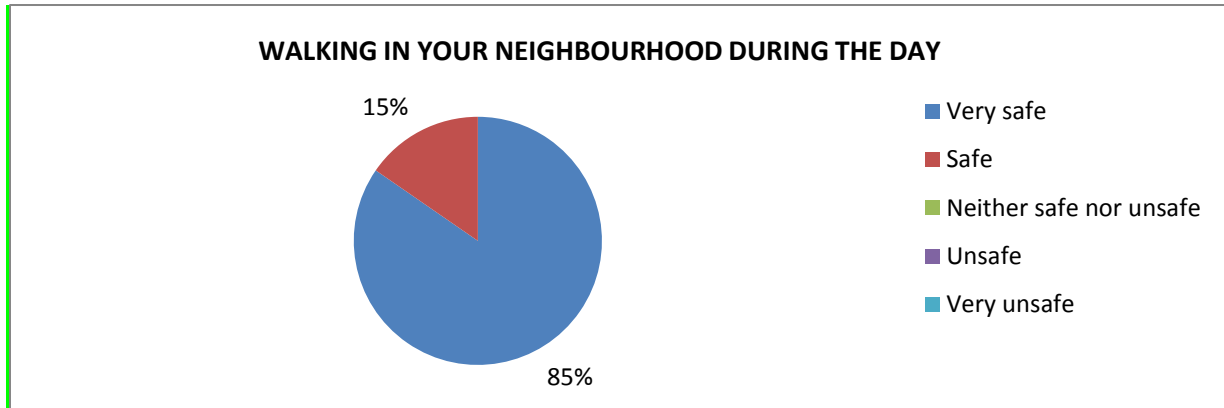


### HOW MANY TIMES IN THE LAST YEAR HAVE YOU ATTENDED COMMUNITY EVENTS IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD



## Safety

The safety and unsafety feeling of the Residents of the neighbourhood

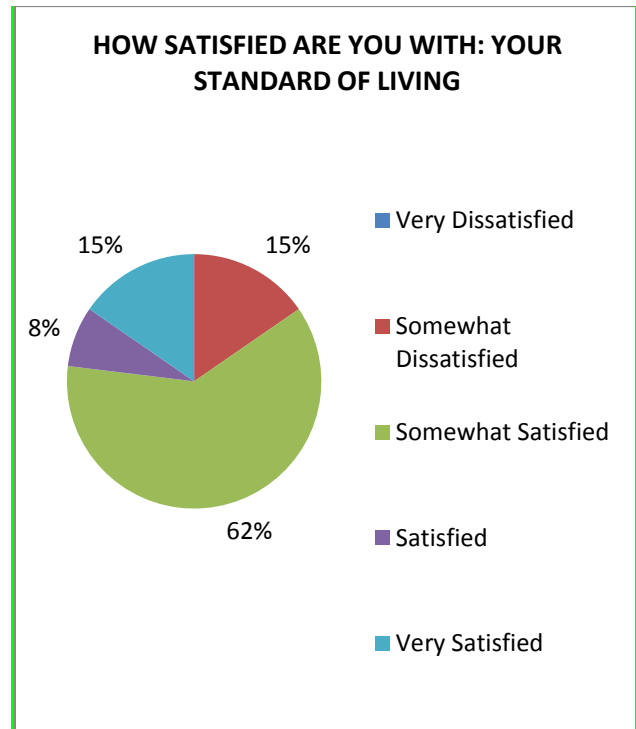
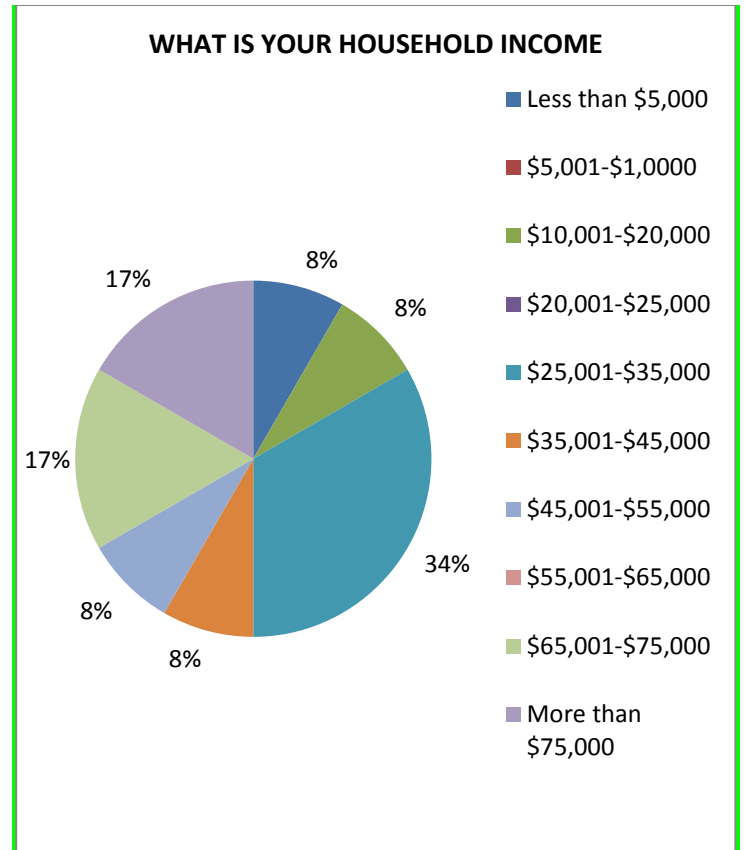


According to the results seen in the graphs, the majority of the population in the community of Hillcrest Village experience a high level of safety and trust the agencies or organizations offering them the service of public security.

They feel safe at home and walking in their neighbourhood at any time of the day. Therefore, we can conclude that this is a pretty safe area and its population must be happy with it.

## Economic and Social Wellbeing

This graphic shows the income level on average in the population of Hillcrest Village. It is in the range of \$25,000 to \$35,000 and corresponds to the 34% of the sample.

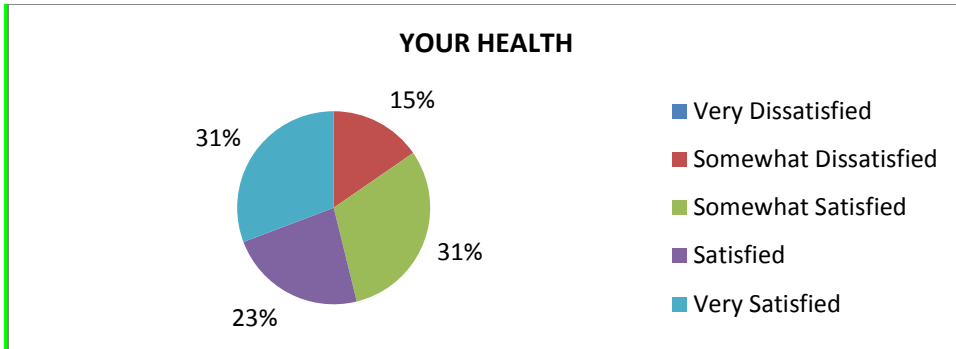


The outcomes shows that more than half of the population is not satisfied with their standard of living while only 23% of the area's population is satisfied with it.

Therefore, there should be a study done to find the overall reasons of this outcome.

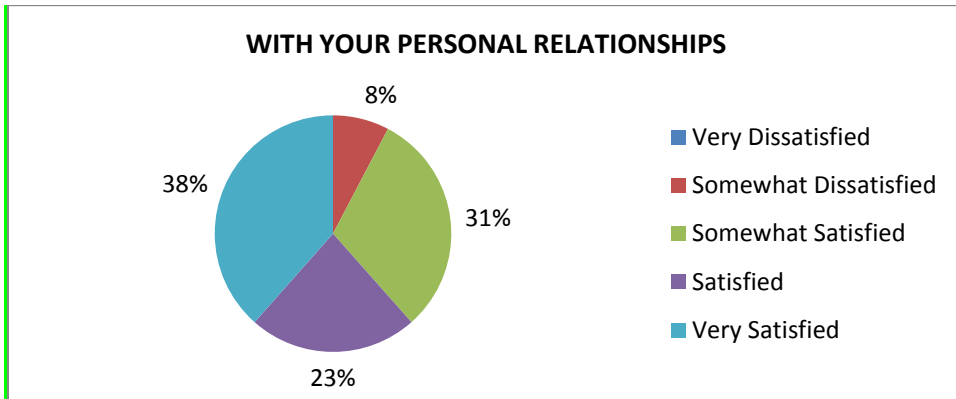
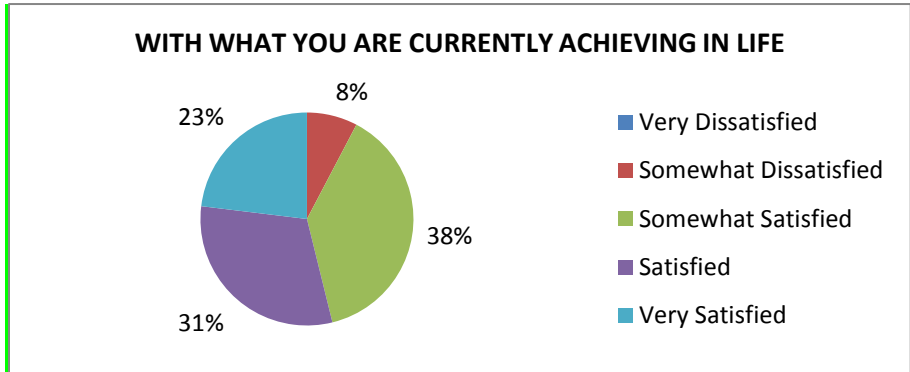


Level of Satisfaction in the Following Categories:

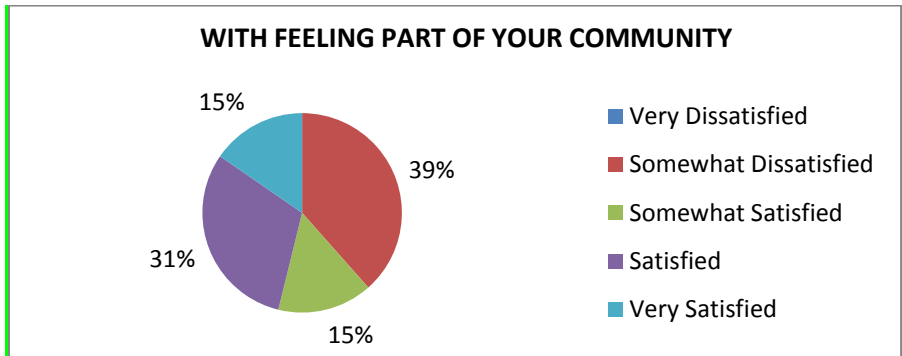


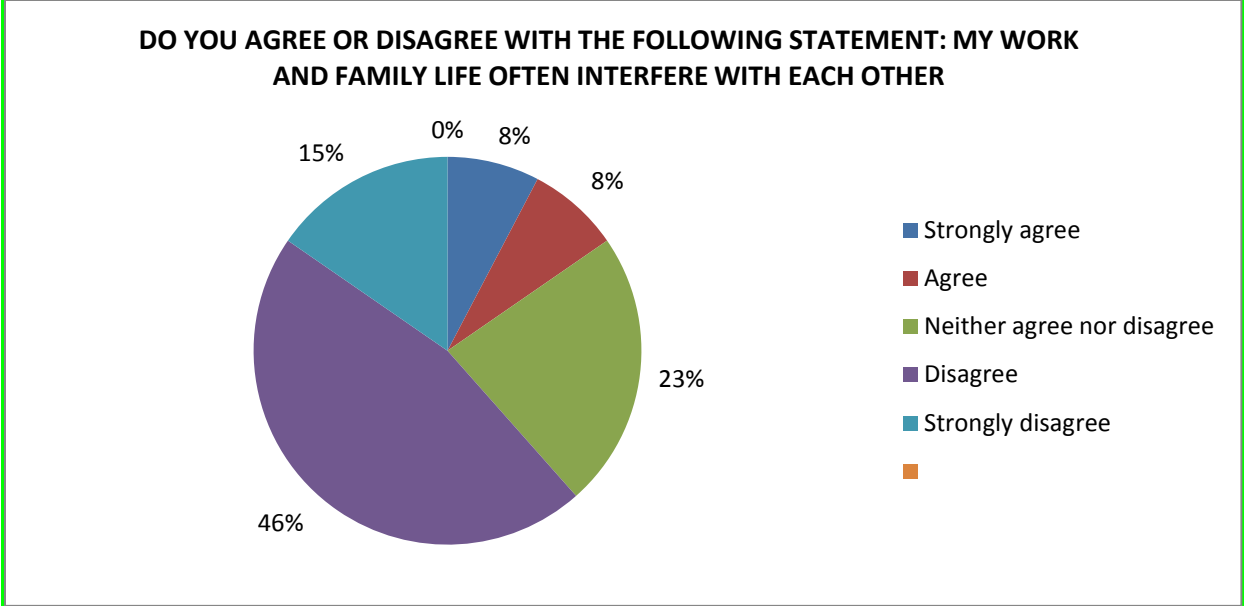
Here, we can see that people are satisfied with the health care they are receiving which means that the Ontario health system is accomplishing its purpose.

Also, the population seems to be happy with their won achievements even though there is some minority that are not.

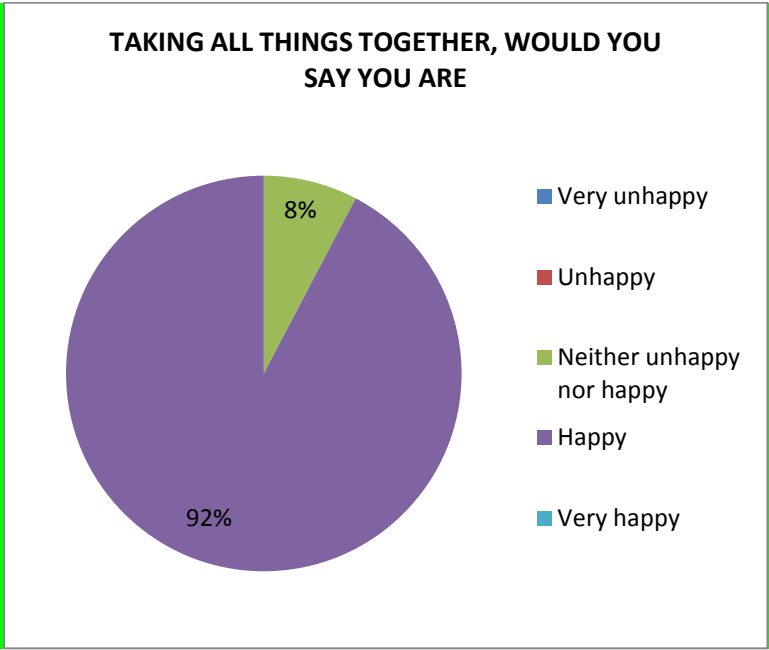


As seen in the previous charts, the Hillcrest Village community are not very engaged within the community but the chart on the right shows that they are also dissatisfied and do not feel part of the community. This could be a good chance to take advantage and develop some interest on them to participate and connect.



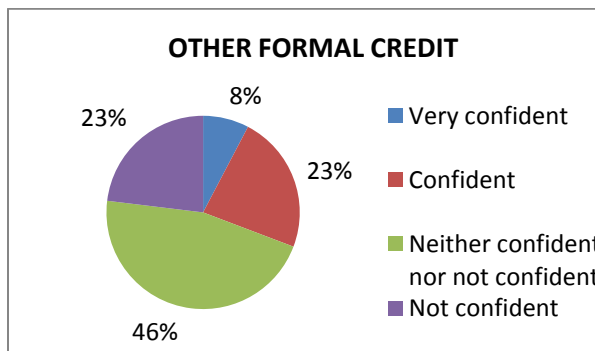
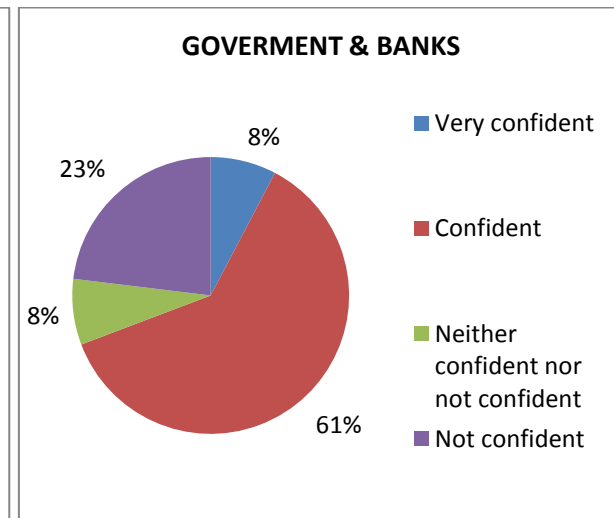
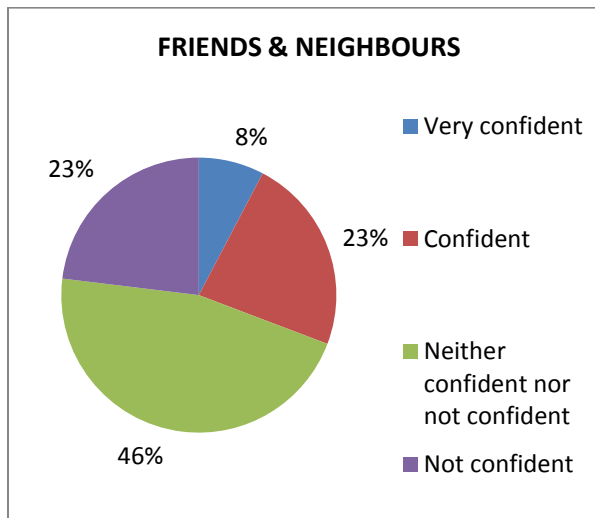
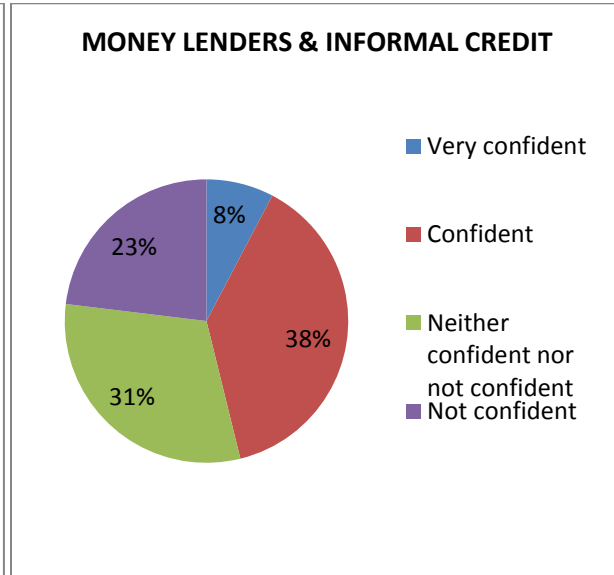
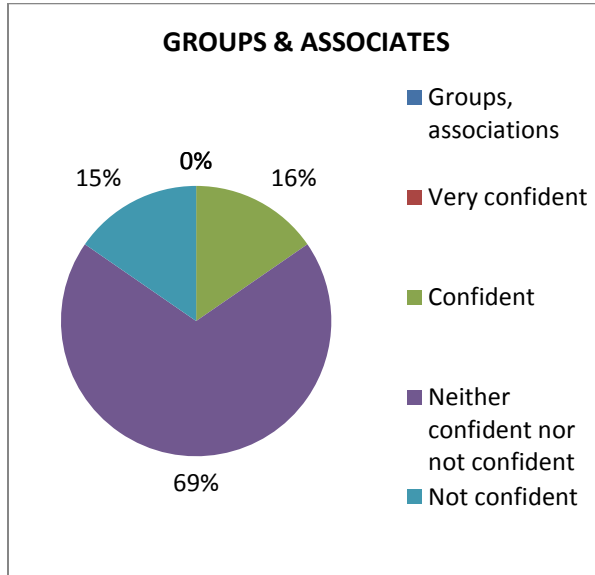


This one, I consider is a good outcome since people seem to be taking good care of family and work. For the 46% of the population, none of them interfere with the other. While for only 8% of the population they both interfere with each other.



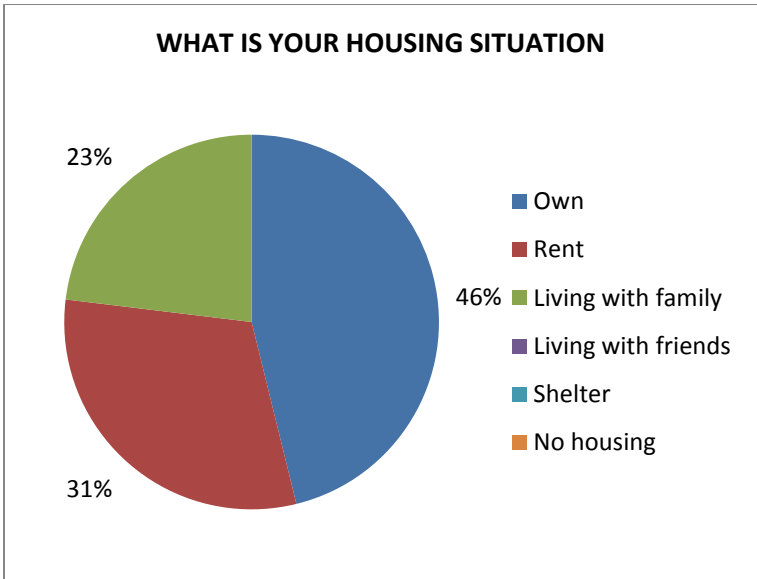
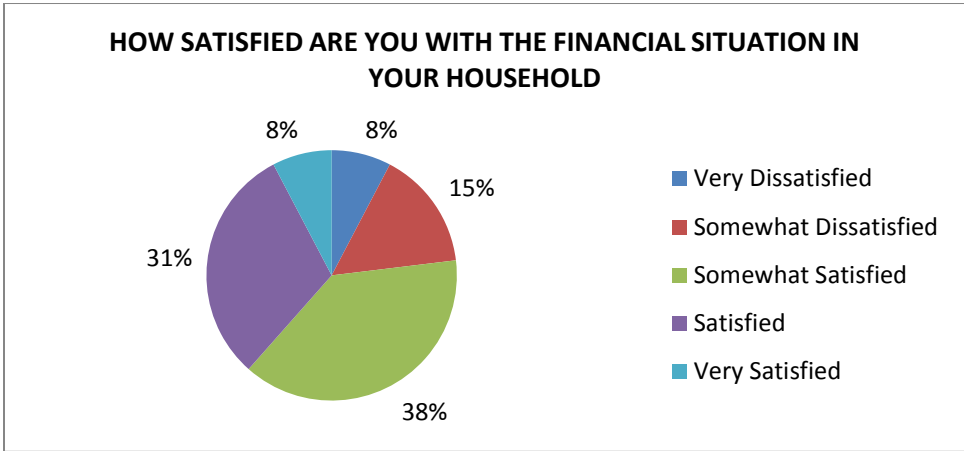
## A bit more on social support...

If faced with financial difficulty, how confident are you that you can get help from the following groups?



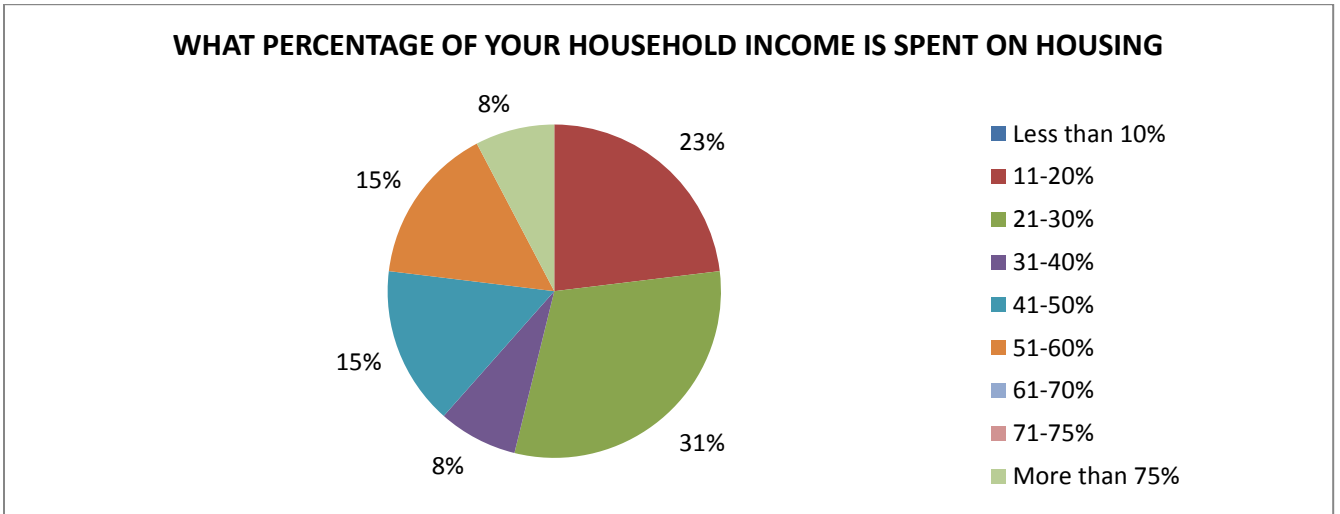
People, as it should be obvious, feel confident and safe within their families and close friends, but it seems to be that most of them do not know what to feel when it comes to relying on formal/informal credits, money lenders, groups or associations; although they feel confident with the government and banks.

# Housing



^ On the upper picture, we see that more than half of the population are satisfied with their household situation, while there is only 8% who are very dissatisfied. It would be nice to find out the reasons and try to create a change.

< Here, we see that almost half of the community's population own a house (46) while 31% of them are paying rent.



## **Conclusion**

Although, the majority of the residents of the Hillcrest Village feel happy have a good standard way of living, own a house and seem to have everything under control; it seems to be that the population of this area do not have a high sense of belonging. The good point of it is that it can be easily developed since most of them showed an interest in becoming part of the community.

## **Bibliography**

- (1) <http://www.torontoneighbourhoods.net/neighbourhoods/north-york/willowdale/history>
- (2) [www.toronto.ca/demographics/neighbourhoods.htm](http://www.toronto.ca/demographics/neighbourhoods.htm)
- (3) [www.App.toronto.ca/wards/jsp/wards.jsp](http://www.App.toronto.ca/wards/jsp/wards.jsp)