Toronto Community Housing



2021 Tenant Survey

Your Feedback. Our Commitment.

Background

Toronto Community Housing has conducted tenant surveys every 1-3 years since the year 2000 to provide insights into how satisfied tenants are with the services provided by TCHC and which areas should be prioritized for improvement.

In 2021, TCHC worked with Forum Research Inc., to redevelop the survey format to focus on key priorities that matter to tenants, and to ensure it is as accessible as possible to any tenants wishing to participate.

The survey was conducted in the fall of 2021, and the initial survey results were compiled by February 2022. 8,852 households participated in the survey, which is the largest response ever received on the Tenant Survey. This level of response has given us invaluable insight into the needs and priorities of tenants, and will ensure we are focusing on the right things to improve tenant satisfaction moving forward.

Methodology

Redeveloped survey:

- Shorter and easier for tenants to access and complete
- Mailed to all households (~41,000 households) to ensure a larger, more representative sample size

Survey promotion:

- Social media
- TCHC website
- Building posters
- Tenant Loop newsletter
- SMS survey invitations
- T-shirt campaign for building staff

Improved digital access:

- More language options
- Online survey links provided in promotional materials
 - Mailed survey packages
 - On the website
 - Social media posts
 - SMS survey invitations



Sent to 41,000 Toronto Community Housing Tenants. n = 8,852 (total number of completes) Response rate = 22%



Tenants were contacted via mail with a unique access code to: complete and mail back the paper survey, complete the survey online, or complete the survey over the phone by calling the provided number.



October 11th – November 12th, 2021

Demographics

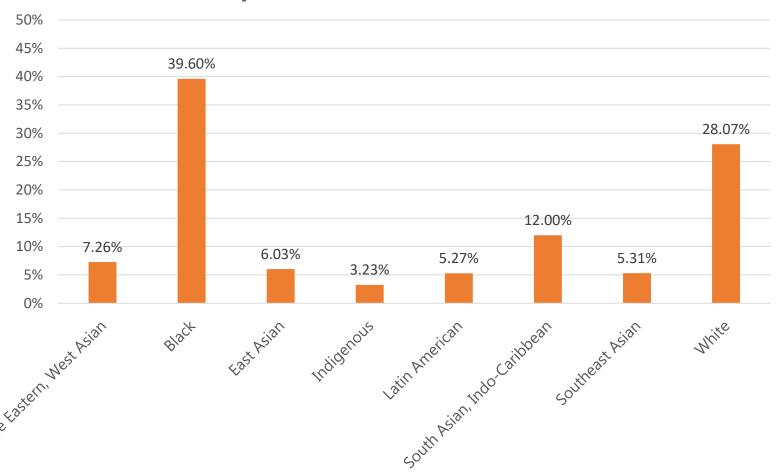
The large response from tenants on the 2021 Tenant Survey allowed TCHC to get an accurate picture of who our tenants are, what their needs are, and how different groups of tenants perceive our interactions and services differently.

The demographic findings from the survey are being used to inform the following work being done at TCHC:

- Confronting Anti-Black Racism (CABR) Strategy
- Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Strategy
- Programs and services targeted to specific groups (youth programs, etc.)
- Customer service improvements and training

Demographics – Race/Ethnicity





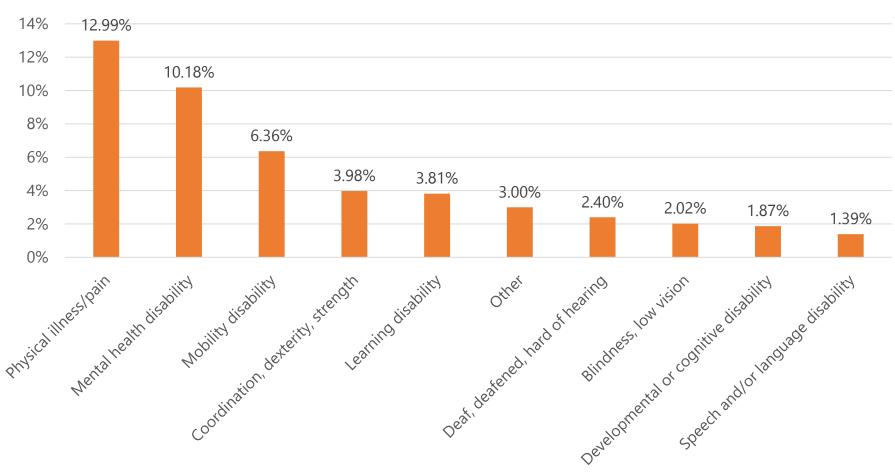
Based on survey
responses from 6,818
households, TCHC was
able to better understand
the racial/ethnic makeup
of tenants, and how their
perceptions of TCHC may
vary.

Demographics - Language Spoken at Home

- Based on 7,345 responses on the 2021 Tenant Survey, tenants told us that 30% of TCHC households primarily speak a language other than English at home.
- The top 5 primary languages (other than English) identified on the 2021 Tenant Survey are:
 - Spanish (2.98%)
 - Amharic (2.95%)
 - Chinese (Mandarin, Cantonese, other dialects) (2.90%)
 - Tamil (2.55%)
 - Bengali (2.15%)

Demographics - Disability





Disability data gathered from the survey demonstrated how prominent physical illness/pain disabilities and mental health disabilities are in TCHC communities (about 13% and 10% of households affected, respectively).

Key Findings

Three priority areas were identified in the analysis. Improvement in these areas will have a direct impact on improving overall tenant satisfaction.

1. Formerly Contract Managed Hubs

Formerly contract managed hubs in all regions had lower levels of tenant satisfaction.

2. Customer Service and Communication

 Satisfaction with communication was identified as key driver of overall tenant satisfaction and is strongly tied to customer service.

3. Community Safety

• Tenants are concerned with a number of problematic behaviours observed in their communities, including antisocial behavior and violent incidents.

Formerly Contract Managed (CM) Hubs

Formerly Contract Managed (CM) Hubs

Contract managed Hubs consistently ranked satisfaction in key service areas lower than Hubs directly managed by TCHC.

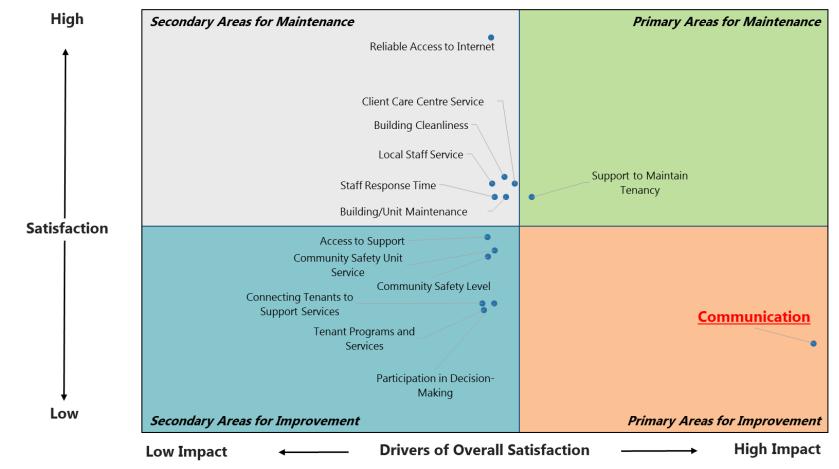
	Direct Managed	Former CM	Difference
Building/Unit Maintenance	55%	39%	-16%
Local Staff (building/community)	56%	41%	-15%
Perceives TCHC as Respectful	53%	39%	-13%
Building Cleanliness	58%	45%	-13%
Perceives TCHC as Accountable	47%	34%	-13%
Welcome in TCHC Offices and Common Spaces	58%	45%	-12%
Perceives TCHC as Proactive	50%	37%	-12%
Support to Maintain Tenancy	55%	43%	-12%
Response Time to Tenant Concerns	54%	42%	-12%
Proud to Invite People to Visit in Home	53%	41%	-12%
Perceives TCHC as Collaborative	48%	36%	-12%
Perceives TCHC as Solution-Oriented	46%	35%	-11%

Formerly Contract Managed (CM) Hubs

2022/2023 Updates and Improvements:

- In 2021, TCHC began the process of transferring management of these buildings back to TCHC, but at the time of the 2021 survey (fall 2021) most of these buildings were still under contract management.
- One of the few formerly managed hubs which had already moved back to direct management at the time of the survey had very high satisfaction levels compared to the majority of hubs which were still under contract management
 - This tells us we are moving in the right direction by moving formerly contract managed hubs back to direct TCHC management and making investments and improvements in these buildings to improve tenant satisfaction

Customer Service/communications was identified as a primary area of improvement to increase overall tenant satisfaction with TCHC.



- The 2021 Tenant Survey demonstrated that when tenants think about communication, they are primarily focused on their experience with front line staff and the Client Care Centre (customer service).
- Tenants would like frontline staff to improve *how* they communicate, including being more available to take calls, and responding to messages in a more timely manner.
- Tenants commented that they are sometimes made to feel dismissed or like an inconvenience to staff; ensuring that tenants are treated with respect in every interaction is vital to improving tenant satisfaction overall.
- The majority of tenants (68%) have reliable access to internet in their units, while 20% do not primarily due to prohibitive prices or slow/unstable connections.
- The majority of tenants (58%) would like to receive communications from TCHC through text or email.

2022/2023 Updates and Improvements:

- In fall 2022, all tenants were sent a letter letting them know that we heard through the Tenant Survey that
 many of them are interested in receiving text and email communications. An online form was created for
 tenants to provide a current email and/or cell phone number to receive updates from TCHC
 (https://www.torontohousing.ca/emailupdates). To date, 2778 tenants have provided their contact details
 to receive text/email communications, and will receive customized updates for their building, community,
 and individual needs.
- A new website will be launching in 2023, with up to date information, resources, and services for tenants.
- The Client Care Centre has updated their processes in order to improve service and response times to tenants when calling or emailing for service and support.
- The tenant complaint process has also been improved, including bi-monthly complaints resolution training for relevant staff, and quarterly reporting to identify and proactively manage service gaps.

Community Safety and Security

Community Safety and Security

Top issues identified by tenants affecting their perceptions of safety:

- Anti-social behavior of other tenants and trespassers, loitering in halls and stairwells, and late night disruptions;
- Drug trafficking/ drug use taking place in buildings;
- Gun violence in the community; and
- Theft/ destruction of property and packages.

Community Safety and Security

2022/2023 Updates and Improvements:

- Staffing shortages in the Community Safety Unit's (CSU) Violence Reduction Program (VRP) were addressed in 2022, and VRP sites are now staffed at appropriate levels to maintain staff consistency and improve service to tenants
- The Community Safety Unit (CSU) is working with the City of Toronto and Toronto Police to ensure CSU has more accurate shooting data to address gun violence in TCHC communities
- CSU continues to conduct safety audits in the ongoing effort to reduce and prevent crime on TCHC property. CSU makes recommendations based on the audits for site staff to make the neighbourhood safer for tenants
- Security guard presence, CSU patrols, security cameras, and FOB building entry systems continue to be updated as needed to meet the safety needs of each building and community
- Additional feedback will be gathered to better understand differences in perceptions of community safety within different tenant groups (age groups, race/ethnicity, etc.)

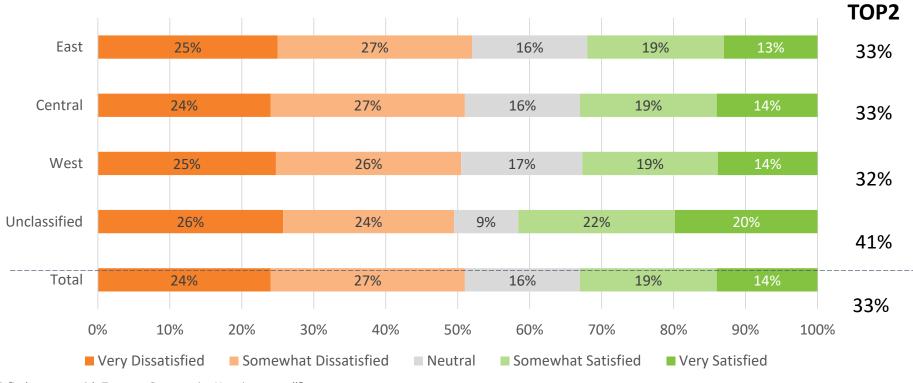
Next Steps

- The 2021 Tenant Survey provided vital feedback to ensure TCHC is focused on improving areas that matter most to tenants. In 2022, TCHC worked on several initiatives to respond to tenants' feedback and improve tenant satisfaction.
- Feedback and levels of tenant satisfaction in key service areas will be incorporated into planning and reporting processes to ensure accurate tenant experiences are captured.
- The next Tenant Survey is currently scheduled for early 2024, and will build on the work already being done to improve tenant satisfaction.

2021 Tenant Survey Results

Overall Satisfaction

- Overall, one third (TOP2: 33%) of tenants mention that they are satisfied with TCH.
- The scores are consistent over region and most demographics however, those aged 50 and older (BTM2: >53%) were more likely to be
 dissatisfied than those younger than 50 (BTM2: <45%).





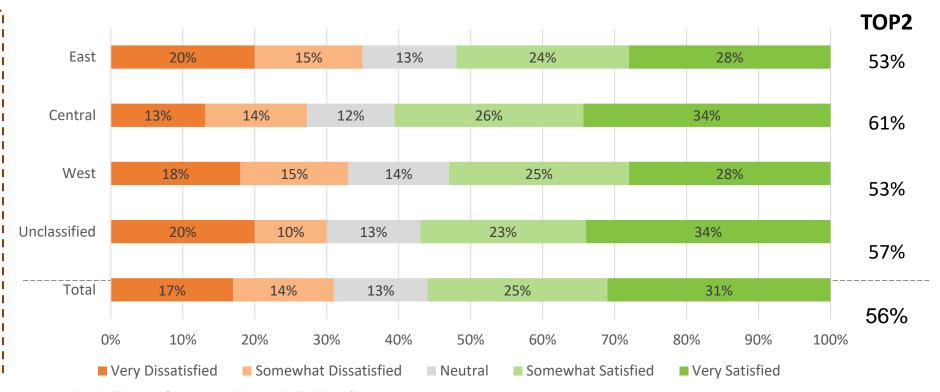
As a tenant, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with Toronto Community Housing overall? Total sample n=8242

East n=2881 Central n=2778

West n=2537

Satisfaction – Building Cleanliness

- More than half (TOP2:56%) of tenants across all buildings were satisfied with the overall cleanliness.
- Among these, tenants in the central region reported the most satisfaction on building cleanliness (TOP2: 61%), while eastern tenants reported
 the least (53%).
- Senior tenants aged 70+ (TOP2: 68%) are the most satisfied with building cleanliness of all age groups (TOP2: 50-69: 63%, 30-49: 49%, 16-29: 38%).
- As well, men (TOP2: 62%) are more satisfied than women (TOP2: 54%) with the cleanliness conditions.



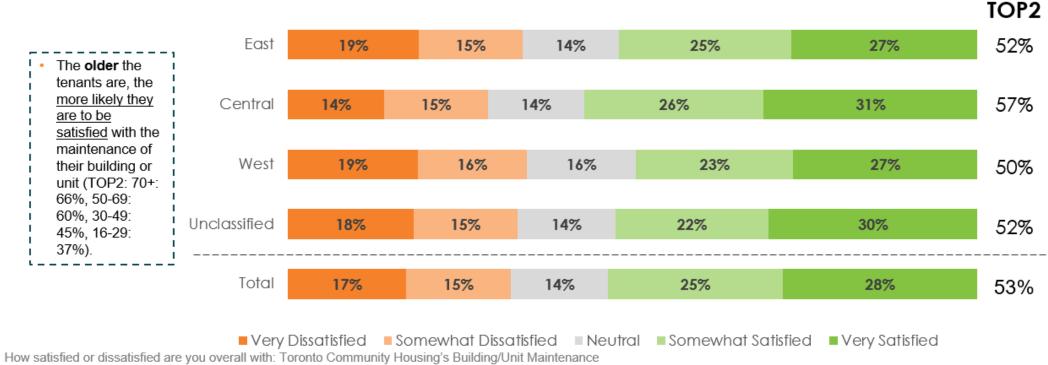
How satisfied or dissatisfied are you overall with: Toronto Community Housing's Building Cleanliness Total sample n=7766

East n=2685 Central n=2579 West n=2352



Satisfaction – Building/Unit Maintenance

- Tenants are divided in their opinion on building/unit maintenance.
- While other areas rate their satisfaction around 50-52% (TOP2), central tenants are the most satisfied (TOP2: 57%) with the maintenance of their living space.



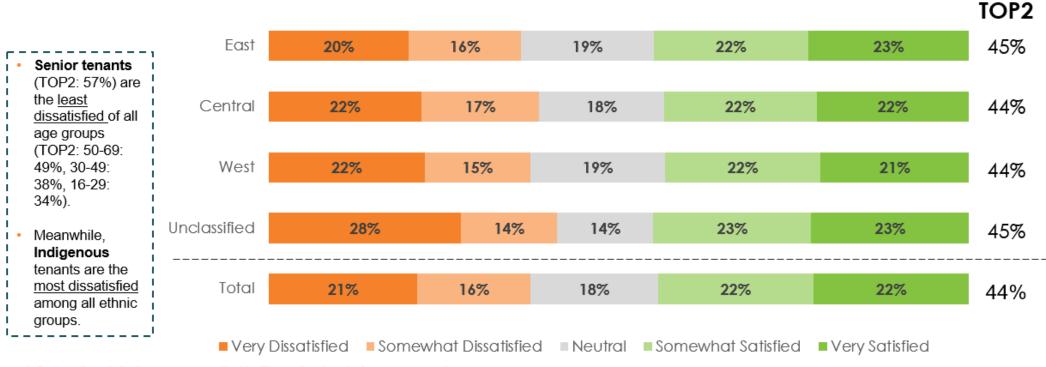


Total sample n= 7762 East n=2692 Central n=2574

West n=2341

Satisfaction – Community Safety Levels

 Safety is a concern among tenants of Toronto Community Housing, with only 4 in 10 (44%) respondents expressing satisfaction towards the safety levels of their community.





How satisfied or dissatisfied are you overall with: The safety level of your community Total sample n= 7625

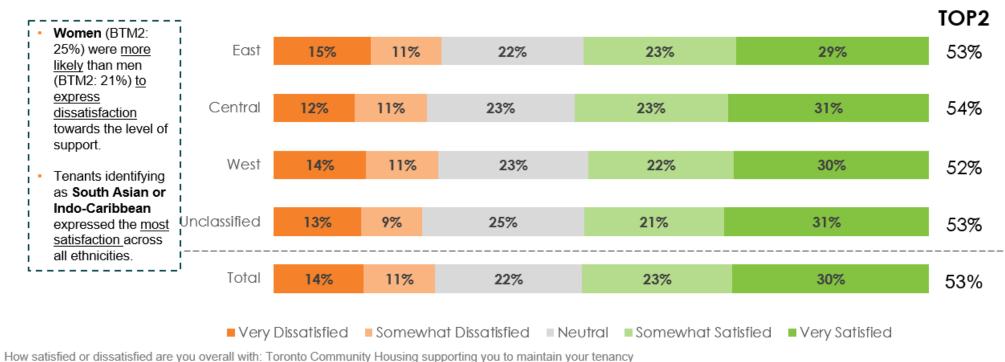
East n=2650

Central n=2568

West n=2327

Satisfaction – Support to Maintain Tenancy

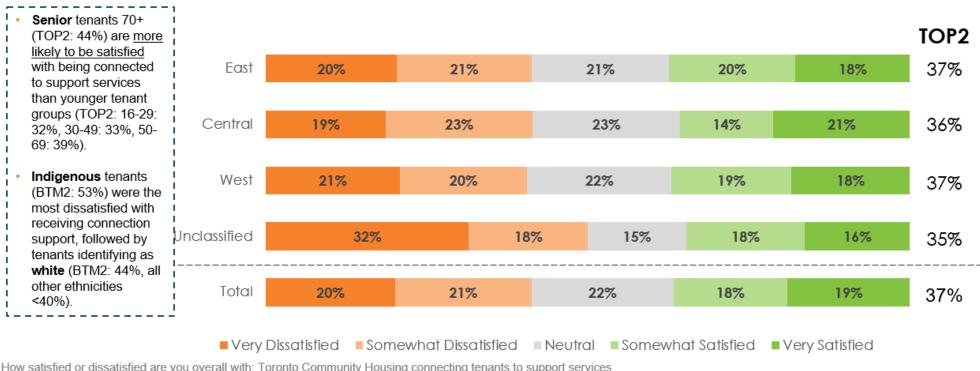
- 1 in 2 (TOP2: 53%) tenants express satisfaction towards the support offered by Toronto Community Housing to maintain their tenancy.
- While dissatisfaction does not surpass 26% (BTM2) across all regions, around 1 in 5 (22%) respondents are neutral in their stance.



Total sample n= 7464 East n=2601 Central n=2434 West n=2279 Unclassified n=150

Satisfaction – Connecting Tenants to Support Services

- Connect tenants to support services is only deemed satisfactory by about 4 in 10 (TOP2: 37%) tenants.
- This is an opportunity for growth for TCH, they should re-evaluate their current methods and look to improve communications and allocate more resources to this service





How satisfied or dissatisfied are you overall with: Toronto Community Housing connecting tenants to support services Total sample n= 7417

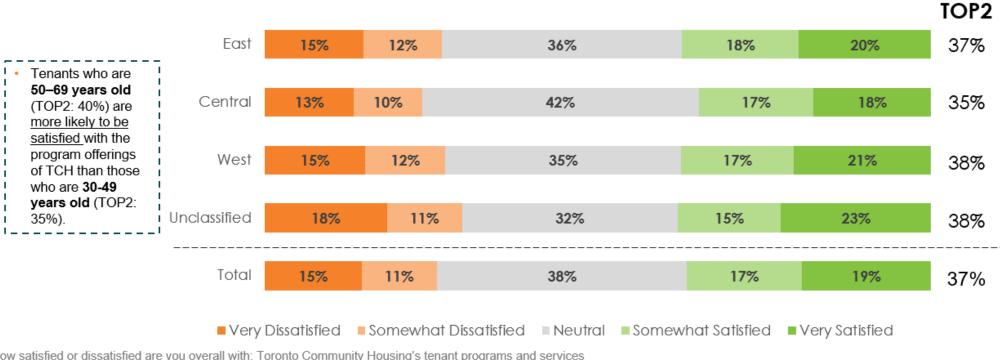
East n=2644

Central n=2379

West n=2302 Unclassified n=92

Satisfaction – Tenant Programs & Services

- Overall, programs and services offered by the Toronto Community Housing is a neutral ground for 4 in 10 (38%) tenants.
- Similarly, just over one third (TOP2: 37) of tenants are satisfied with tenant programs and services, indicating that this is an opportunity for growth for TCH.





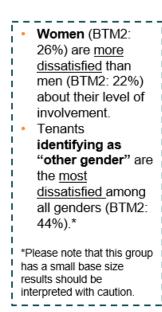
How satisfied or dissatisfied are you overall with: Toronto Community Housing's tenant programs and services Total sample n= 6317

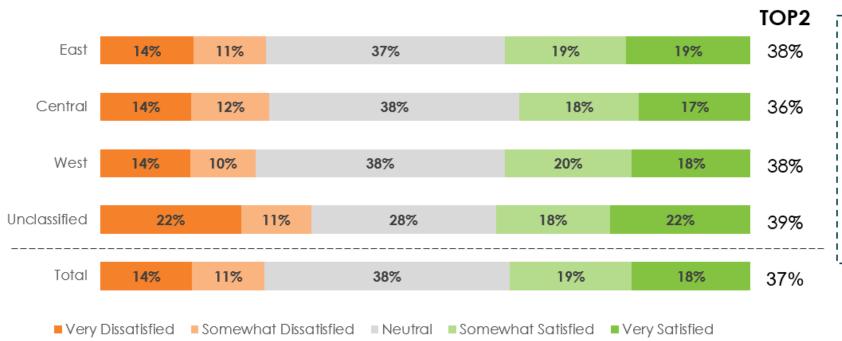
East n=2245 Central n=1994

West n=2007

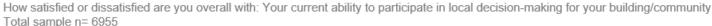
Satisfaction – Participation in Decision-Making

- Nearly 2 in 5 (38%) tenants are unsure about their satisfaction with their ability to participate in local decision-making for their building/community. Meanwhile another 2 in 5 (TOP2: 37%) express being satisfied with their level of involvement.
- Tenants in central regions express less satisfaction (TOP2: 36%) compared to other regions.





Tenants who are white (BTM2: 29%) and Indigenous (BTM2: 41%) are the least satisfied with their involvement in decision-making compared to all other ethnic groups (BTM2: all other ethnic groups <24).

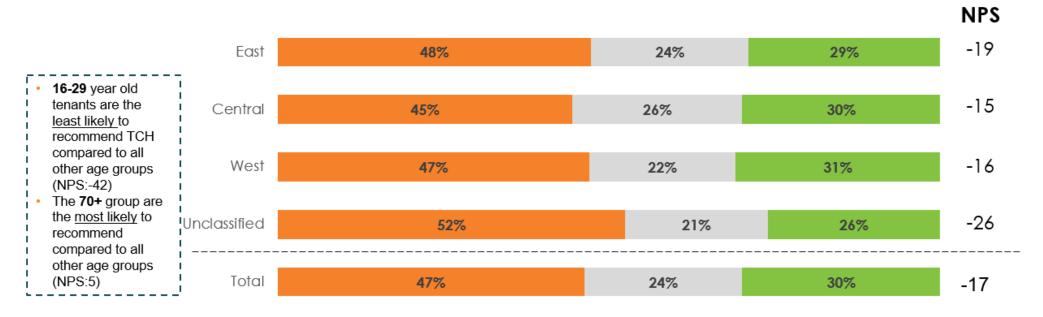


Total sample n= 699 East n=2424 Central n=2312 West n=2145 Unclassified n=74



Net Promoter Score (NPS)

- Just under a third of tenants (Promoters: 30%) would recommend Toronto Community Housing as a good place to live. Meanwhile, about half (Detractors: 47%) would not recommend TCH to others. The scores are consistent across all tenants living in identified areas.
- It is important to note that Indigenous (NPS: -29) and those that don't identify with a binary gender (NPS:-29) were the lowest and Latin
 Americans (NPS: 1) and Spanish speakers (NPS: 12) were the highest scores when comparing demographics.





How likely are you to recommend Toronto Community Housing as a good place to live? With 1 being not likely and 10 being very likely. Please select your response below. Total sample n=8087

East n=2829

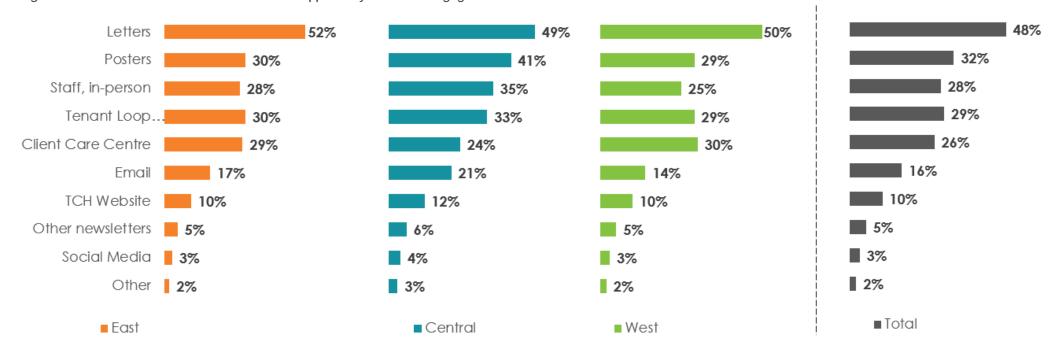
Central n=2711

West n=2505



Communication Sources

- TCH is currently focused on offline methods of engagement, and this is reflected in the results. The most common communication source for tenants is letters and posters.
- Central tenants are most likely to use emails to receive information when compared to other regions.
- Digital methods can be visited in the future as an opportunity for further engagement.



Which of the following communications sources do you regularly use to receive Toronto Community Housing-related information? Please select all that apply Total sample n=8852

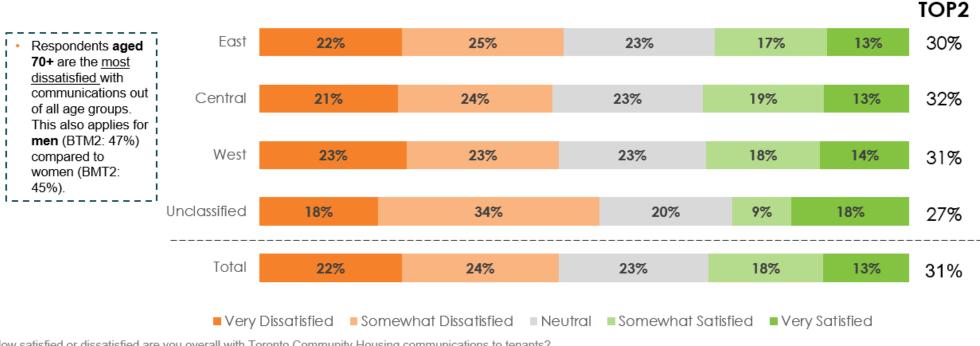
East n=2957 Central n=2883

West n=2607
Unknown – base size is too small to report on



Communication Satisfaction

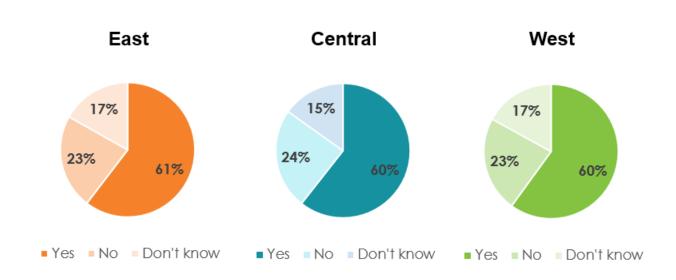
Tenants are dissatisfied (BTM2: 46%) with the overall communications they receive from TCH, while 3 in 10 (TOP2: 31%) are satisfied.

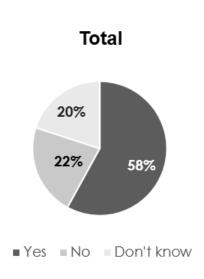




Receive Text/Email Communications

- The majority of tenants (58%) would like to receive communications from Toronto Community Housing through text messages or emails.
- As expected, the 70 years of age or older tenants are least interested in receiving texts/emails from TCH.



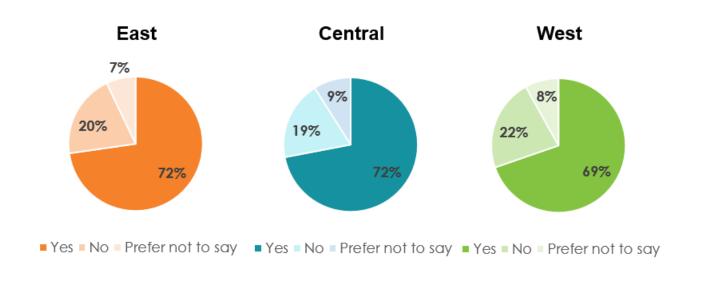


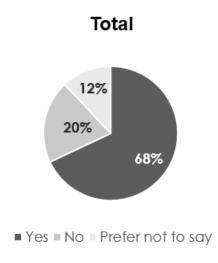


Would you like to receive Toronto Community Housing communications through text messaging or email, if these were made available? Total sample n=8852

Reliable Access to Internet

- 7 in 10 (68%) respondents mentioned that they had reliable access to internet in their Toronto Community Housing unit.
- Those in the west region had slightly lower scores of agreement (69%), compared to those in the east (72%) and central (72%).



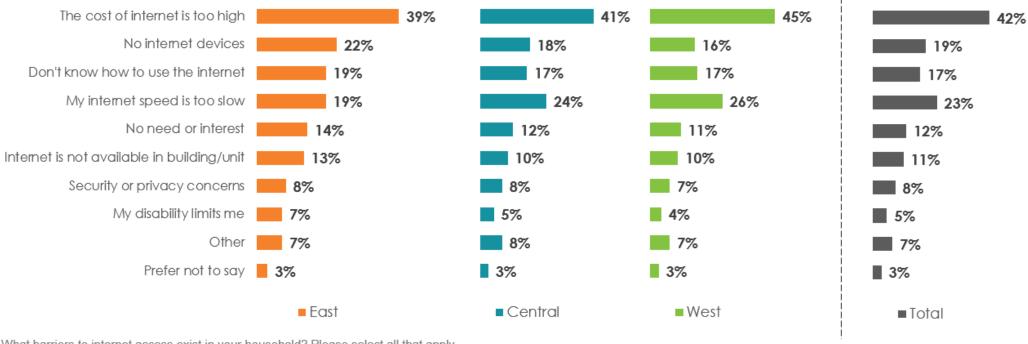


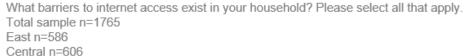


Barriers to Reliable Internet

The biggest barrier to reliable internet for tenants is the costliness of the internet ((42% selecting this option). 23% of respondents also experience problems due to not having a device that connects to the internet or not knowing how to use the web.

It is important to note that 1 in 10 (11%) tenants mention not having internet service in their building, hence struggling to establish a reliable internet connection.



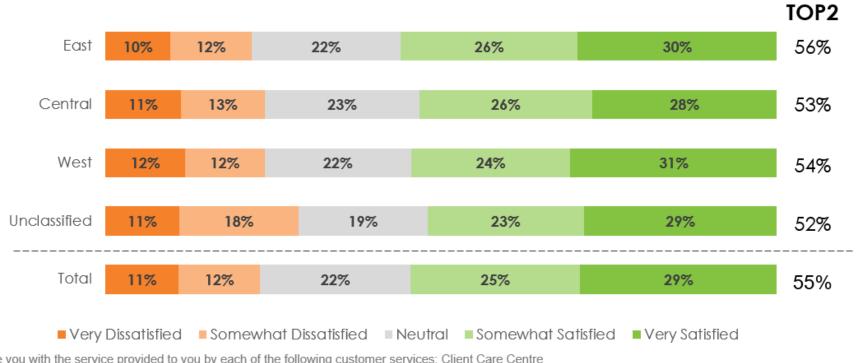


West n=547



Customer Service Satisfaction – Client Care Centre

- More than half (TOP2: 55%) of respondents are satisfied with the Client Care Centre's services.
- Among the regions, eastern tenants (TOP2: 56%) are more satisfied than tenants in the central (TOP2: 53%) regions.



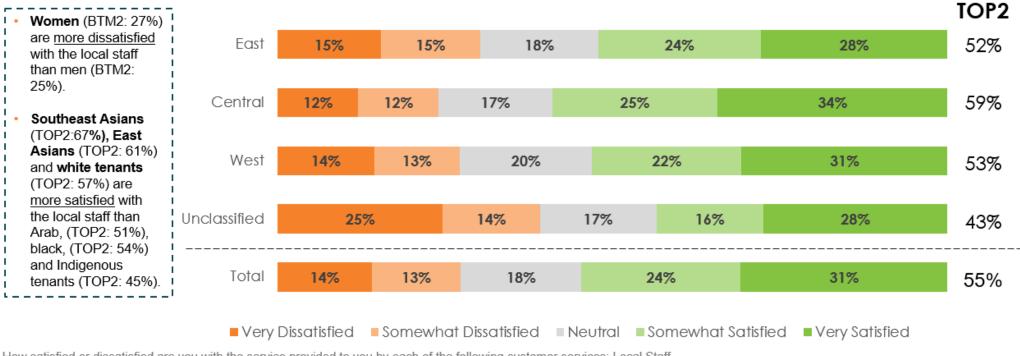


How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the service provided to you by each of the following customer services: Client Care Centre Total sample n=7572

Fast n=2678

Customer Service Satisfaction – Local Staff

- Just over half (TOP2: 55%) of all tenants are satisfied with the costumer service offered by the local staff, with 3 in 10 (31%) being very satisfied.
- Tenants of the central region (TOP2: 59%) expressed the most satisfaction towards local staff among all groups, while tenants in the east (TOP2: 52%) had the lowest satisfaction.





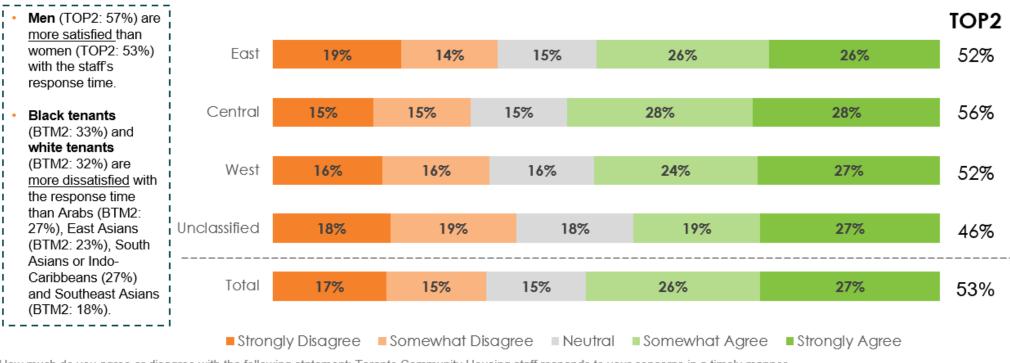
How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the service provided to you by each of the following customer services: Local Staff Total sample n=7553

East n=2665

Central n=2517 West n=2302

Customer Service Satisfaction – TCH Staff Response Time

- More than half (TOP2: 53%) of respondent report being satisfied with the timeliness of the staff in responding to their concerns.
- Tenants in the central regions (TOP2: 56%) are most likely to agree with this statement.



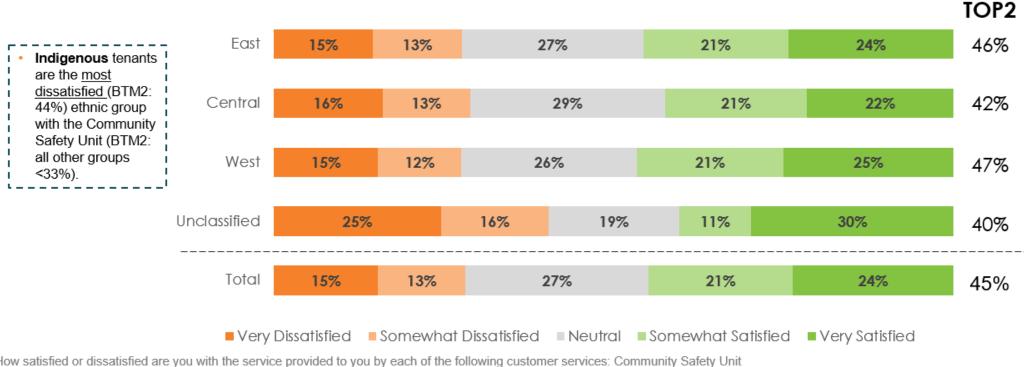


West n=2382 Unclassified n=74



Customer Service Satisfaction – Community Safety Unit

- Less than half (TOP2: 45%) of tenants are satisfied with the Community Safety Unit.
- Tenants in the west (TOP2: 47%) and east regions (TOP2: 46%) are more satisfied than tenants in the central region (TOP2: 42%).





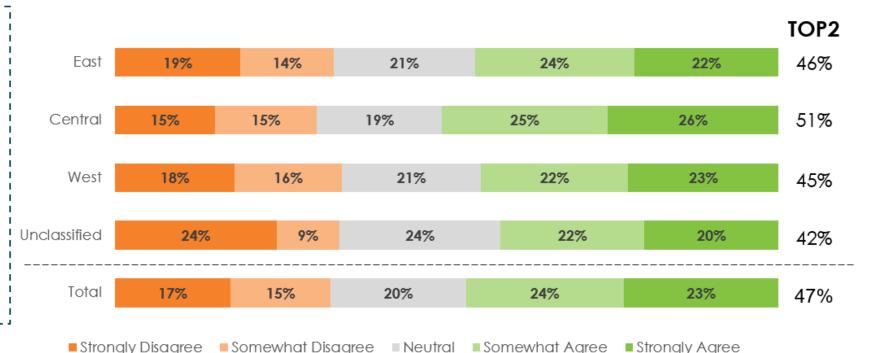
How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the service provided to you by each of the following customer services: Community Safety Unit Total sample n=6908

East n=2463

Central n=2276 West n=2112

Customer Service – Access to Support

- About half (TOP2: 47%) of tenants are satisfied with the access they have to local staff for one-on-one support.
- Tenants in the central region (TOP2: 51%) report higher levels of satisfaction with this metric compared to all other regions.
- Tenants aged 70+
 report the <u>highest</u>
 <u>satisfaction</u> with one on-one support
 compared to other
 age groups.
- Southeast Asians
 (TOP2: 62%) express
 the highest
 satisfaction of all
 ethnic groups (TOP2:
 all other groups
 <52%), while
 Indigenous express
 the most
 dissatisfaction
 (BTM2: 51%, all other
 groups <34%)





East n=2631

Central n=2515

West n=2309



Annual Rent Review Evaluation (Top 2)

- 3 in 5 tenants agree that the process was easy to complete (TOP2: 63%) and easy to understand (TOP2: 62%).
- Meanwhile, about half of tenants agree that the experience was positive (TOP2: 55%) and that the staff were readily available for assistance (TOP2: 50%).



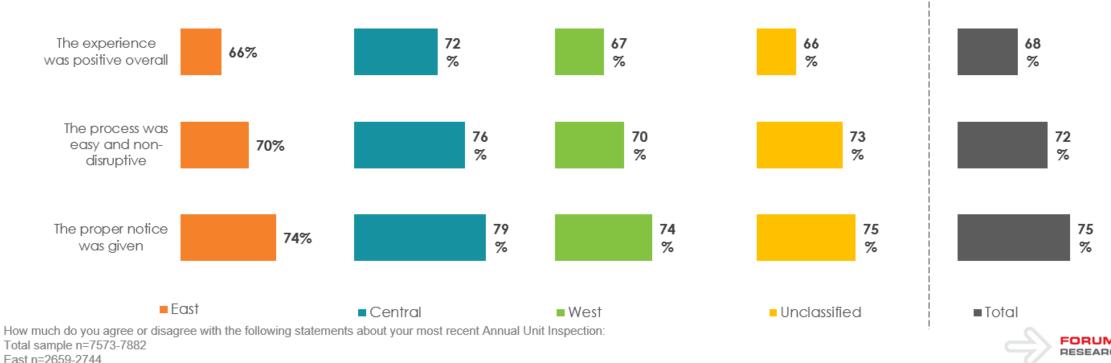


Central n=2101-2301 West n=2102-2283 Unclassified n=130-148



Annual Unit Inspection Review (Top 2)

- The majority of tenants (TOP2: 75%) agree that they received proper notice before their Annual Unit Inspection.
- 7 in 10 (TOP2: 72%) think that the process was easy and non-disruptive, and just over two thirds (TOP2: 68%) would rate the overall
 experience as positive.
- Residents of the central region are overall in more favour of the review process than tenants in other regions.



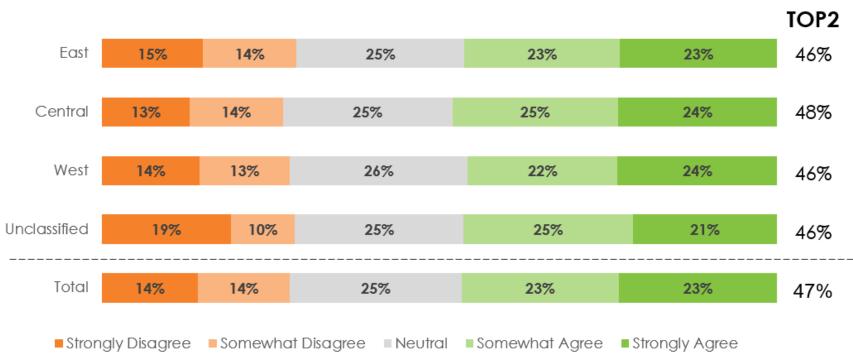
Total sample n=7573-7882 East n=2659-2744 Central n=2501-2581 West n=2268-2394 Unclassified n=143-163

Tenant Sentiment - Works Collaboratively

- Nearly half (TOP2: 47%) of tenants agree that TCH collaborates with staff and tenants for the best possible results.
- This sentiment received the most support by tenants in the central region (TOP2: 48%).



- Meanwhile
 Indigenous (BTM2: 43%)* are the ethnic group with the strongest disagreement to this (BTM2: all other groups <30%).
- *Please note that this group has a small base size.





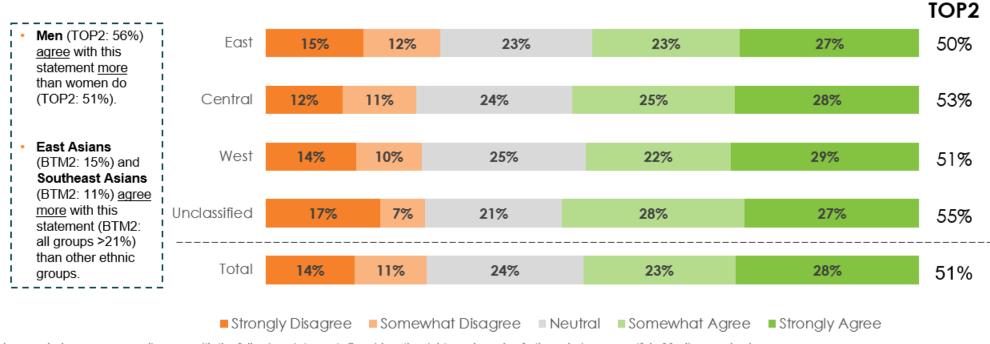
East n=2663

Central n=2520 West n=2330



Tenant Sentiment – Considerate of Others

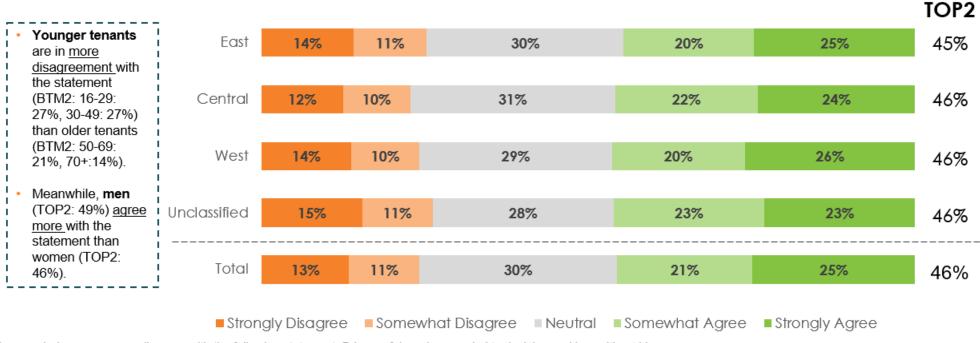
1 in 2 (TOP2: 51%) tenants agree that TCH considers and respects the rights, needs and values of others.





Tenant Sentiment – Fair & Open Minded

- About half (TOP2: 46%) of tenants express their agreement with TCH's fairness and open-mindedness in the decisions they make.
- However, about 3 in 10 (30%) are unsure of what to say.





How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement: Brings a fair and open mind to decision-making, without bias Total sample n=7040

East n=2469

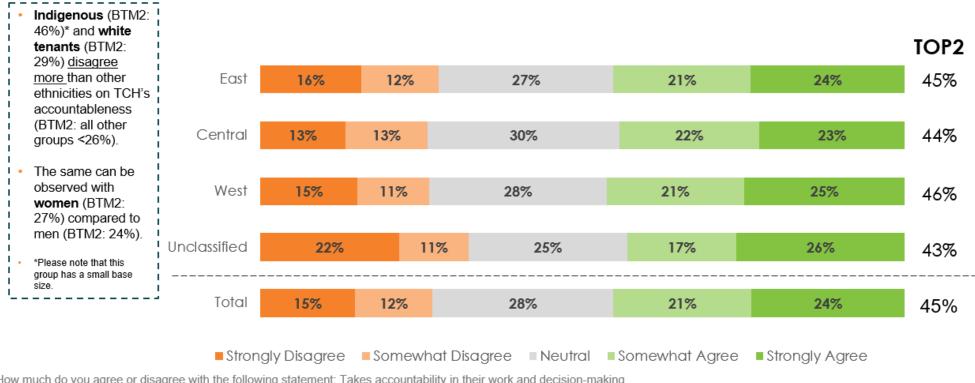
Central n=2332

Unclassified n=65

West n=2174

Tenant Sentiment – Accountable

- Less than half (TOP2: 45%) of tenants mention that they agree with TCH's accountability in their work and decision-making.
- Responses are consistent across all regions.





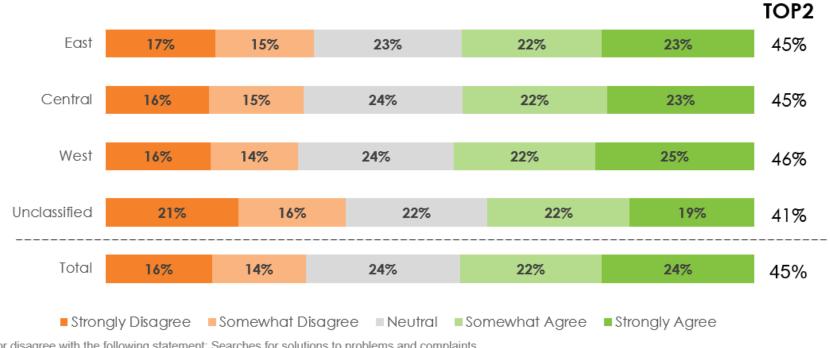
How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement: Takes accountability in their work and decision-making Total sample n=7222
East n=2544

Central n=2403

West n=2210

Tenant Sentiment – Searches for Solutions

- About half of tenants (TOP2: 45%) agree that TCH searches for solutions to problems and complaints.
- This score was slightly higher in tenants of the west region (TOP2: 46%).





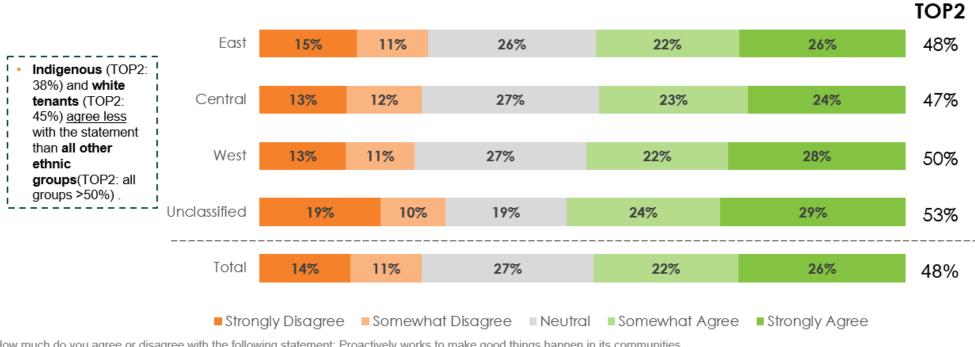
How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement: Searches for solutions to problems and complaints Total sample n=7391

East n=2610

Central n=2451 West n=2257

Tenant Sentiment – Proactive

- Nearly half of tenants (TOP2: 48%) agree that TCH proactively works to make good things happen in its communities.
- Tenants of the west (TOP2: 50%) agree with this statement more than east and central tenants.

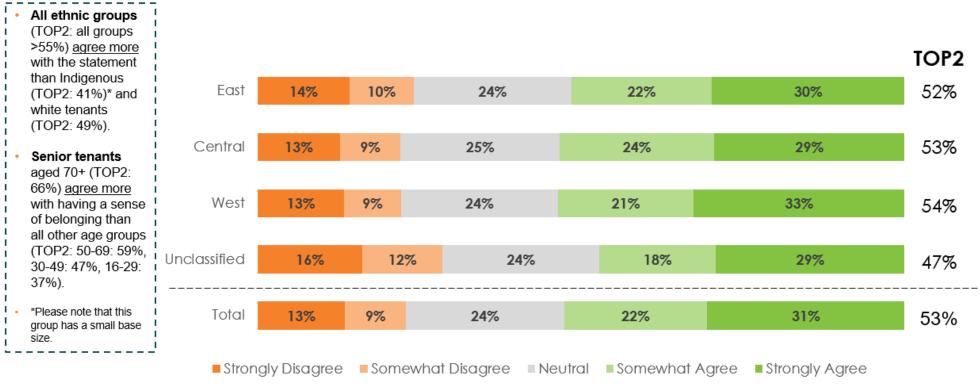




How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement: Proactively works to make good things happen in its communities Total sample n=7416

Tenant Sentiment – Sense of Belonging

- Over half (TOP2: 53%) of tenants agree that they have a strong sense of belonging in their TCH building or community.
- Tenants living in the west region (33%) strongly agree with this statement more than tenants of central (29%) and east regions (30%).





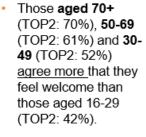
East n=2696 Central n=2614

West n=2375 Unclassified n=161

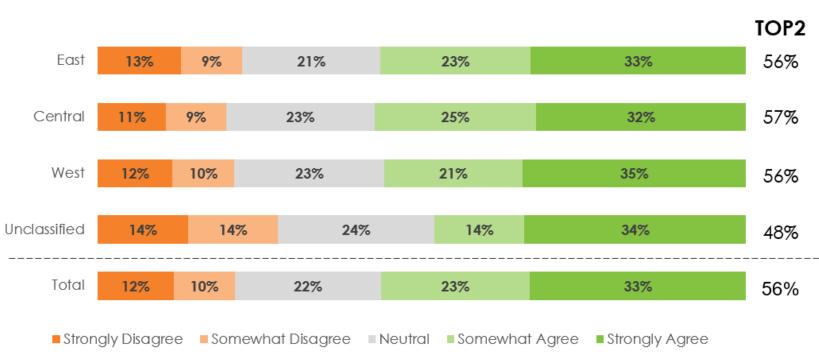


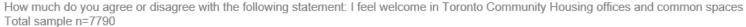
Tenant Sentiment – Feel Welcome in Communal Spaces

Nearly 3 in 5 (TOP2: 56%) tenants agree that they feel welcome in communal spaces.



South Asian or Indo-Caribbean (TOP2: 63%) and Southeast Asian tenants (TOP2: 64%) agree more than black tenants (TOP2: 59%), Indigenous (TOP2: 38%) and white tenants (TOP2: 55%).





East n=2677

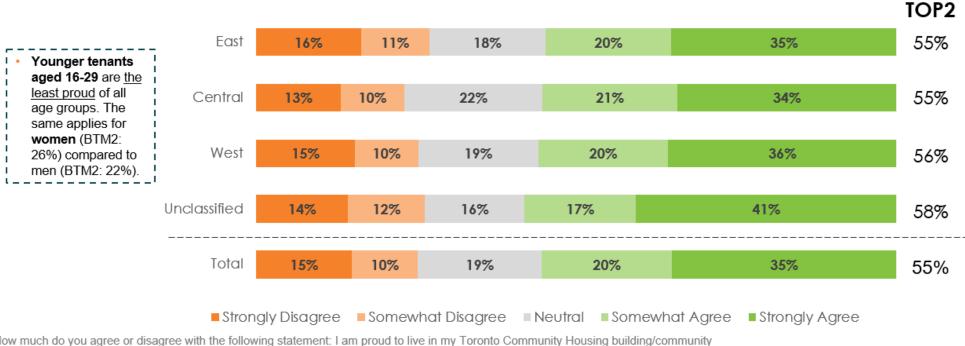
Central n=2594

West n=2361



Tenant Sentiment – Pride in Community

Just over half (TOP2: 55%) of tenants agree that they are proud to live in TCH building or community.





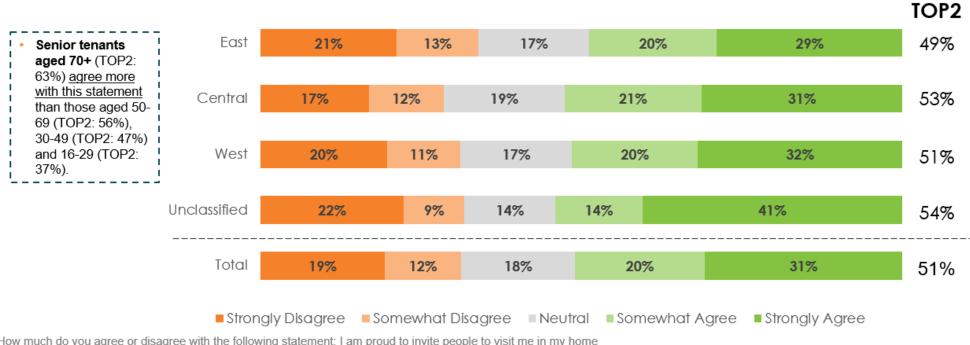
How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement: I am proud to live in my Toronto Community Housing building/community Total sample n=7963

East n=2747

Central n=2638 West n=2411

Tenant Sentiment – Pride in Home

5 in 10 (TOP2: 51%) tenants are proud to invite people to visit their homes, while 3 in 10 (BTM2: 31%) disagree that this is the case.





Central n=2590 West n=2367

