

2021 TCHC Tenant Survey

Item 6 March 29, 2022 Tenant Services Committee

Report:	TSC:2022-20
То:	Tenant Services Committee ("TSC")
From:	VP, Strategic Planning and Communications
Date:	March 7, 2022

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to provide the TSC with the results of the 2021 Tenant Survey for Toronto Community Housing Corporation ("TCHC").

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that the TSC receive this report for information.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

The 2021 Tenant Survey Report (Attachment 1) has been drafted to provide an understanding of tenants' experiences living in TCHC buildings, and their perception of the customer service they receive in key service areas.

BACKGROUND:

TCHC's Tenant Survey is a vital data collection tool used to assist TCHC in measuring the effectiveness of its operational and service models. The feedback received identifies what works well and areas where our tenants are less satisfied, as well as helping identify issues which are most important to them so they can be prioritized for future action. In the past, the TCHC tenant survey was quite lengthy, had limited translation options, and was not always relevant to measuring customer service/tenant experience. While the tool did collect meaningful data, the sample size was relatively small, which meant the results were not always statistically significant.

With this in mind, a large scale survey redesign project was undertaken by TCHC in 2020/2021, with a narrowed focus of customer service and the tenant experience. The survey was also designed to probe on key environmental factors such as digital connectivity as a contributor to satisfaction. The 2021 survey was shorter than in previous years, and used more accessible language to make the process easier for tenants.

The survey was mailed out to all households in the Family portfolio to ensure that all tenants had the most opportunity possible to participate, and online and phone options were made available for anyone who prefers them or requires them due to a disability or language barrier.

The survey results have been compiled, and a 22% response rate from all households in the Family portfolio (8,852 responses total) was achieved which is well in line with industry standards for this types of survey (5 – 30%). For reference, the total responses received in 2018 amounted to 5% of all households (2,718 responses total). The total survey response in 2021 was more than 3x the response in 2018, and the larger sample will provide statistical significance even with more nuanced analysis. The demographic profile of the respondents appears to much more closely approximate the TCHC tenant population, which makes the results much more reliable.

In 2018, only 5% of survey responses were completed online. In 2021, there was a focused effort on increasing digital engagement, including the use of social media promotion, and text message survey invites. The 2021 survey saw 45% of all responses completed online (a year-over-year increase of 40%).

The 2021 Tenant Survey laid the groundwork for measuring current strategic priorities year-over-year, and included questions regarding

internet connectivity, the impacts of restructuring, and matters of interest to the CABR Strategy. In addition, the survey garnered strong demographic data enabling the ability to analyze the data in ways not previously possible. Further analysis will be completed in 2022 to better understand satisfaction and performance trends seen in the survey, and results will be shared with operations teams to guide their areas of focus going forward. The 2021 survey will serve as a benchmark for TCHC's new operational model and provides a better understanding of who our tenants are and what is important to them.

SIGNATURE:

"Paula Knight"

Paula Knight VP, Strategic Planning and Communications

ATTACHMENT:

1. 2021 Tenant Survey Report

STAFF CONTACT:

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Item 6 - TSC:2022-20 - Attachment 1



Item 6 – 2021 TCHC Tenant Survey Report TSC Public Meeting –March 29, 2022 Report#: TSC:2022-20 <u>Attachment 1</u>

Tenant Satisfaction Survey

Toronto Community Housing

January 2022



Background

Toronto Community Housing

- Largest social housing provider in Canada serving over 110,000 residents in Toronto
- In 2020, Toronto Community Housing (TCH) went under a restructuring plan to better serve their tenants
 - Also implemented a Culture Model

Overall Goals

- Increase tenant engagement
- Improve survey for length and clarity
- Maximize response rate
- 20% response rate from tenant sample list
- Deliver actionable insights and inform strategic planning

Research Objectives

Measure tenant satisfaction and find ways to better understand their tenants

Access TCH's current performance relative to the results of past surveys (where possible)

Accurately measure the demographic makeup of tenants to inform program service delivery



Research Methodology

Quantitative Survey

The survey assessed tenant satisfaction with a focus on:

- Communication evaluation
- Customer service (Client Care Centre, local staff, Community Safety Unit)
- Annual Rent Review
- Annual Unit Inspection
- Satisfaction with cleanliness/maintenance
- Satisfaction with security/safety
- Satisfaction with additional support services
- Involvement of the community
- Impressions of Toronto Community Housing
- Sentiment towards being a TCH member
- demographics
- A paper version of the survey was sent to all TCH tenants
- Each address was given a unique access code to fill out the survey
- Survey completions were obtained through:
 - Option for phone completes (none were used)
 - Paper completes through mail (n=4857)
 - Online completes (n=3995)
 - SMS (n=2895)
 - Online link (n=1100)



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.

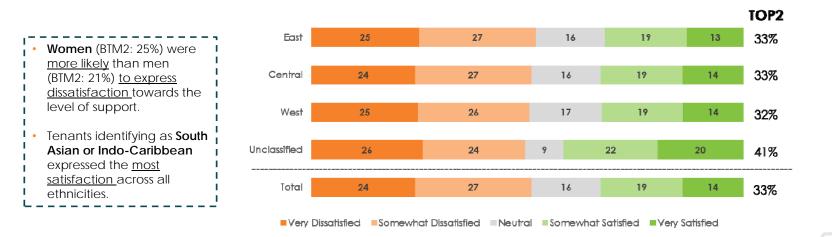


October 11th – November 12th, 2021



Interpreting This Report

- Where applicable, mentions of TOP2 reference the collected top two positive responses. For example, a TOP2 grouping referred to as "aware" may be the combined result of "very aware" and "somewhat aware".
- Due to rounding, numbers presented throughout this report may not add up to the totals provided. For example, in some cases, the sum of all question values may add up to 101% instead of 100%. Similar logic applies to TOP2 groupings.
- The footnote in each page indicates the related question from the survey questionnaire, the sample sizes of the related data, and the sample framework used in the analysis.
- Throughout the report significant differences between groups have been called out in text boxes along side charts. An example is shown below:



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Key Findings

Executive Summary & Recommendations



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Executive Summary

Overall satisfaction with Toronto Community Housing is low (TOP2:33%). When asked about specific areas within TCH, the following key measures are opportunities for growth and improvement:

- Connecting tenants with support services (TOP2:37%).
- Involving tenants in the decision-making process (TOP2:37%).
- TCH's current programming and services offered (TOP2:37%).
- (Slide 10-17)

Tenants aren't actively recommending TCH as a good place to live (NPS:-17), working to improve overall satisfaction and support offered will increase promotion of TCH by residents. *(Slide 18)*

Tenants feel that TCH's communications could be improved and reaching out to tenants through additional communication channels is a welcomed change. *(Slide 20-22)*

- 31% of tenants are satisfied with TCH's communications with them, and 23% are unsure of what to say. Text/email messages are welcomed by 58% of tenants.
 - TCH should consider including communications about how tenants can be more involved in the decision-making process and support services.

Majority of tenants (68%) have access to reliable internet in their residence, however 20% do not primarily due to issues in pricing or connectivity. *(Slide 24-25)*

- ONLINE LINK 47% of tenants that do not have reliable access to internet say the internet is too costly, while 39% mention the internet speed being too slow.
- SMS 53% of tenants that do not have reliable access to internet say the internet is too costly, while 41% mention the internet speed being too slow.

Executive Summary

The Client Care Centre and local staff have the highest customer service scores, although there is still room for growth. (Slide 27-31)

- 45% are satisfied with the Community Safety Unit.
- 47% are satisfied with access to one-on-one support.
- 53% are satisfied with TCH's response time to concerns.
- 55% are satisfied with Client Care Centre and local staff.

Most tenants found the process of completing the annual evaluations/reviews easy and stated that they received adequate notice beforehand. *(Slide 33-34)*

- 63% of tenants say the <u>Annual Rent Review</u> was easy to complete, 62% find it easy to navigate. 55% rate the experience as positive overall.
- 75% say the proper notice was given for the <u>Annual Unit Inspection</u>. 72% find the process easy and non disruptive, 68% rate the experience as positive overall.

Tenants do not have overly negative perceptions of TCH but there is room for improvement. (Slide 36-45)

Opportunities for improvement:

- Being accountable (45% agree).
- Searching for solutions (45% agree).
- Being open-minded (46% agree).



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Detailed Findings

In-depth analysis of results



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Tenant Satisfaction

Satisfaction Levels and Net Promoter Score



Overall Satisfaction

East n=2881

West n=2537

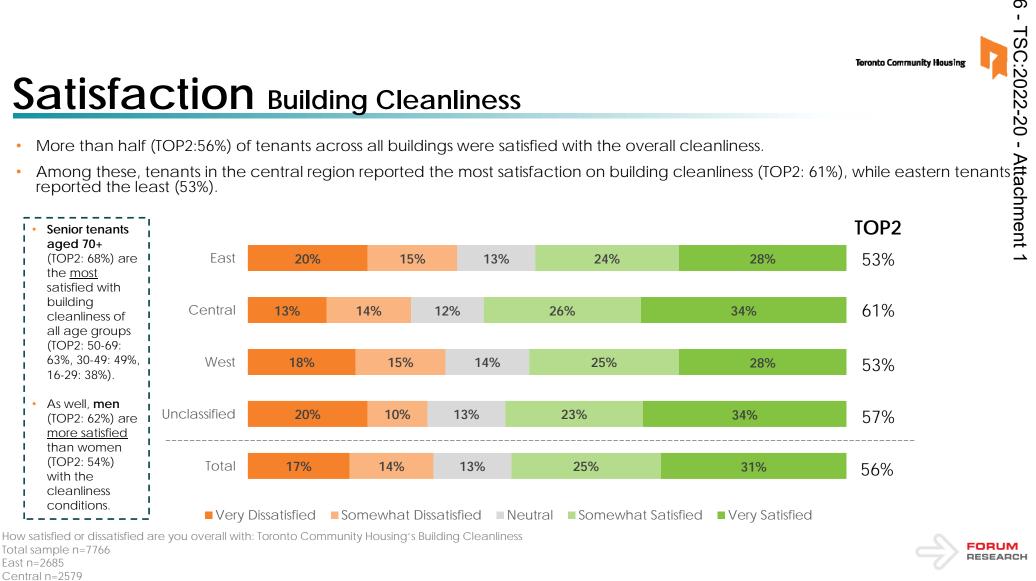
- Overall, one third (TOP2: 33%) of tenants mention that they are satisfied with TCH. ٠
- The scores are consistent over region and most demographics however, those aged 50 and older (BTM2: >53%) were more likely to • be dissatisfied than those younger than 50 (BTM2: <45%).



Satisfaction Building Cleanliness

West n=2352 Unclassified n=150

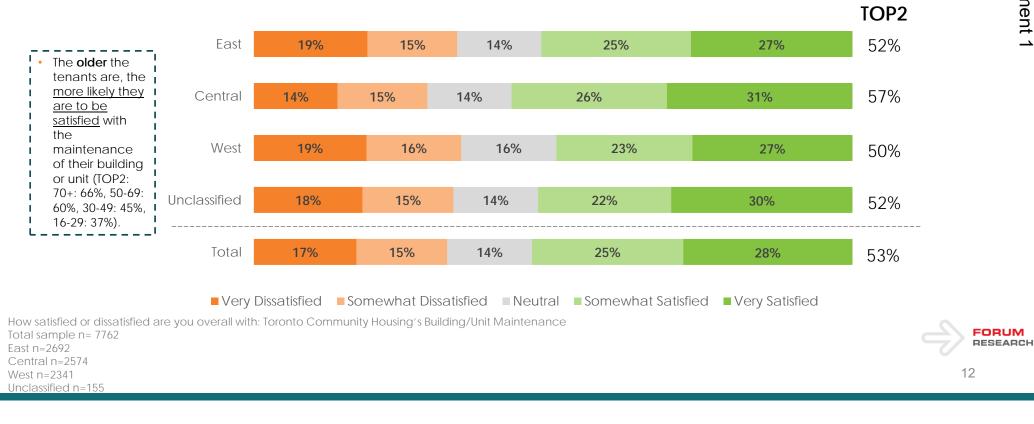
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Satisfaction Building/Unit Maintenance

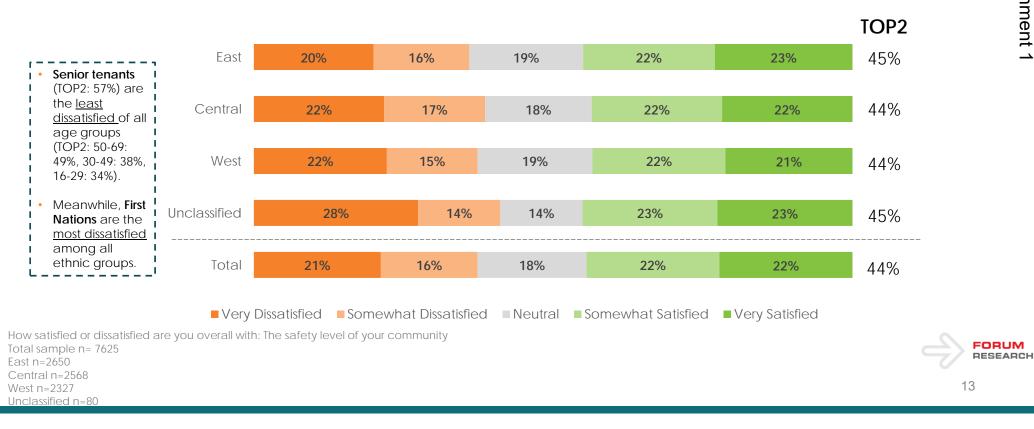
• Tenants are divided in their opinion on building/unit maintenance.

• 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.



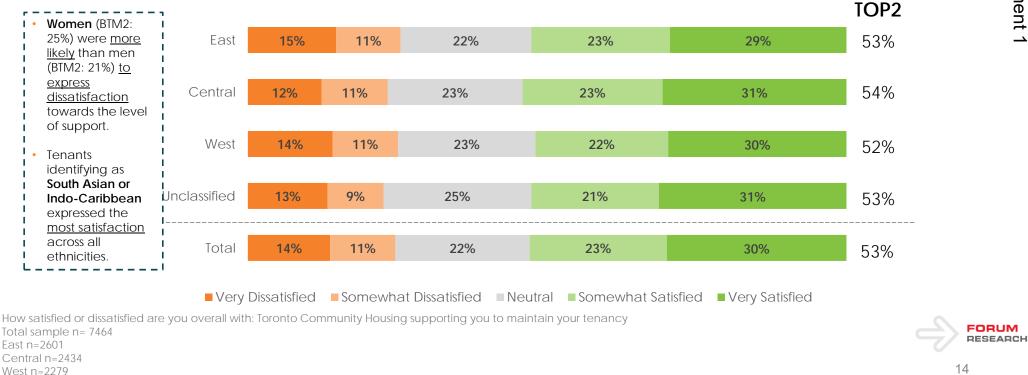
Satisfaction Community Safety Levels

 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.



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.



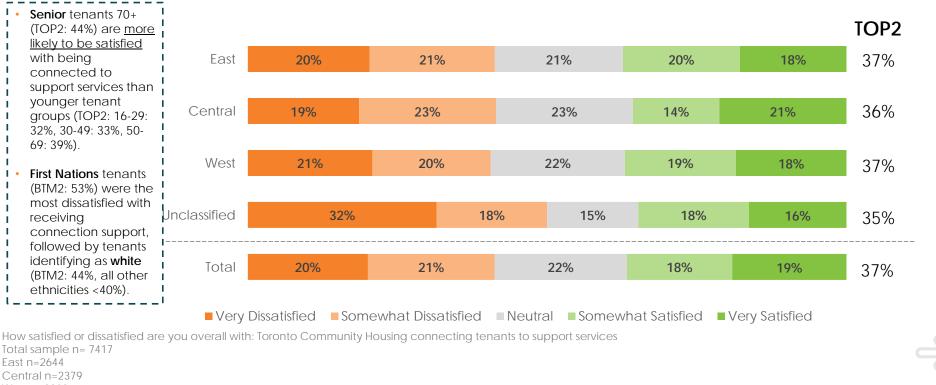
Unclassified n=150

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Satisfaction Connecting Tenants to Support Services

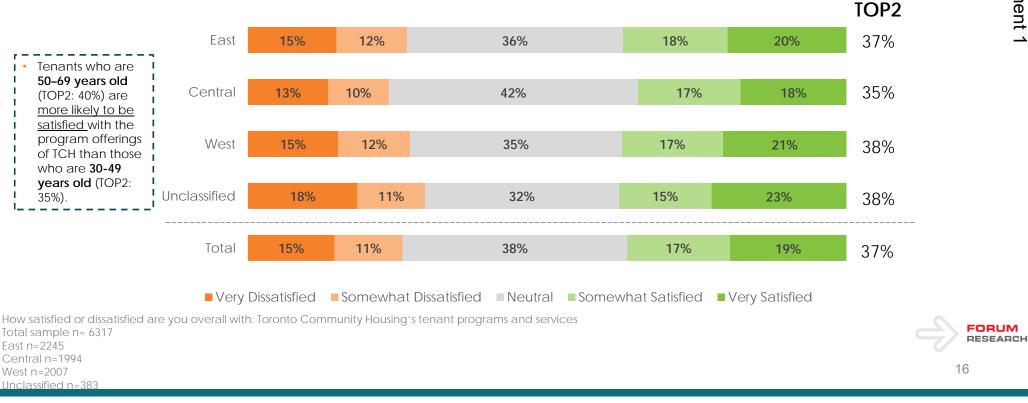
- Connect tenants to support services is only deemed satisfactory by about 4 in 10 (TOP2: 37%) tenants.
- This is an opportunity for growth for TCH, they should re-evaluate their current methods and look to improve communications and allocate more resources to this service



- 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.

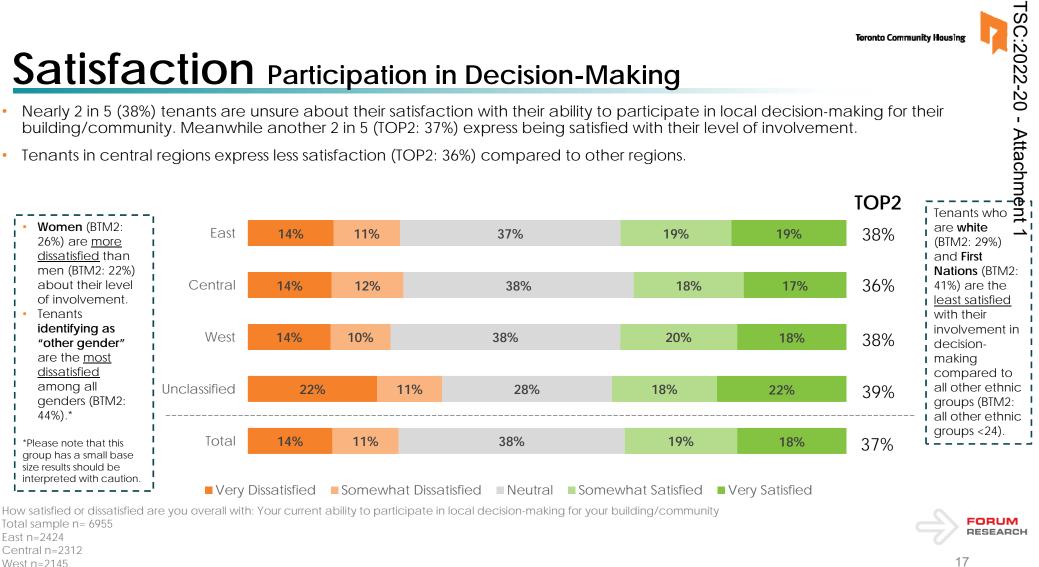


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Satisfaction Participation in Decision-Making

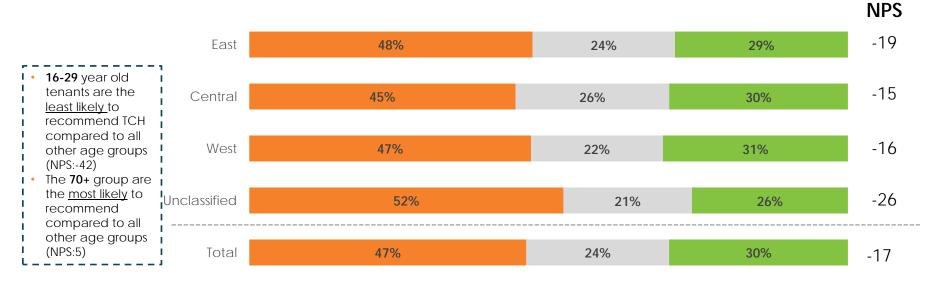
- Nearly 2 in 5 (38%) tenants are unsure about their satisfaction with their ability to participate in local decision-making for their building/community. Meanwhile another 2 in 5 (TOP2: 37%) express being satisfied with their level of involvement.
- Tenants in central regions express less satisfaction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



- 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 First Nations (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.



■ Detractors (1-6) ■ Passive (7-8) ■ Promoters (9-10)

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
- Unclassified n=42

18

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Communication Evaluation

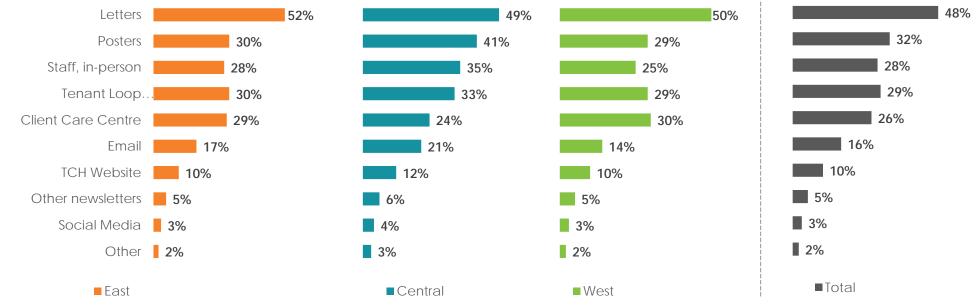
Preferred methods & Satisfaction



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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

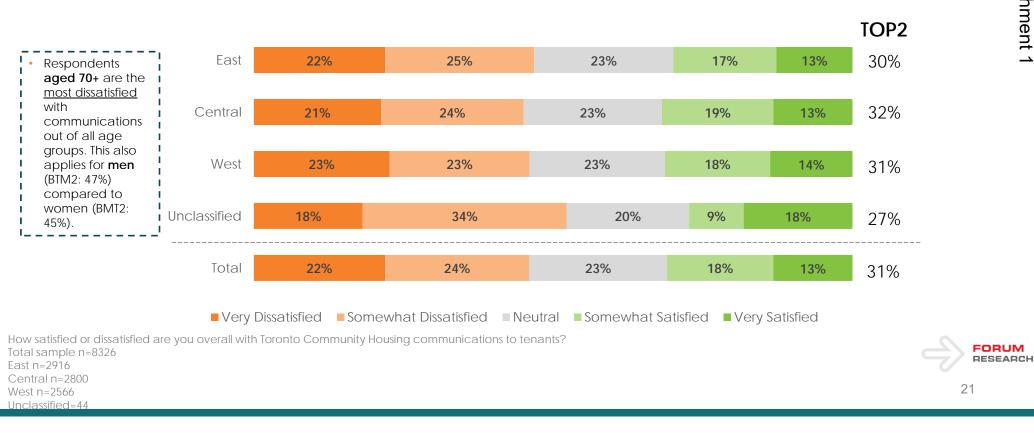
- East n=2957
- Central n=2883
- West n=2607

Unknown - base size is too small to report on



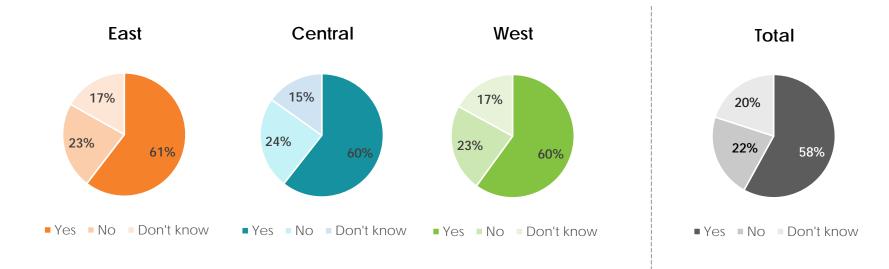
Communication Satisfaction

• 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 East n=2957 Central n=1709 West n=1575



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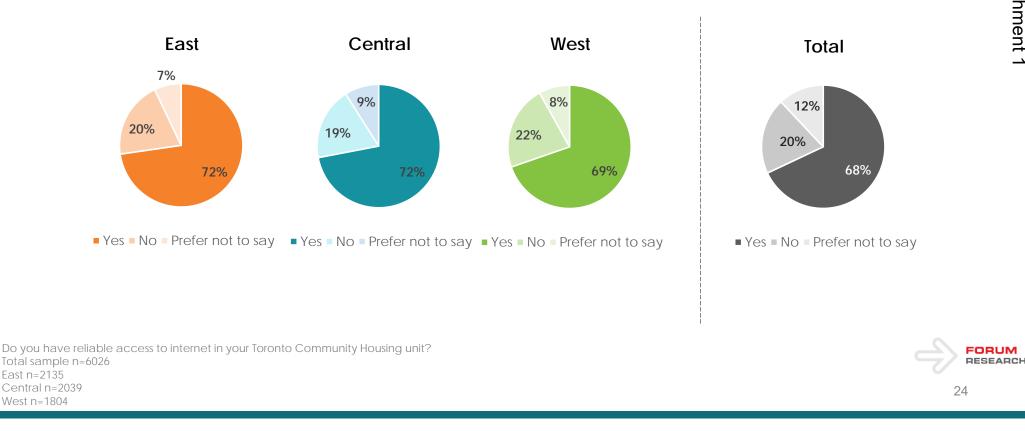
Internet Access

Access & Barriers to Access



Reliable Access to Internet

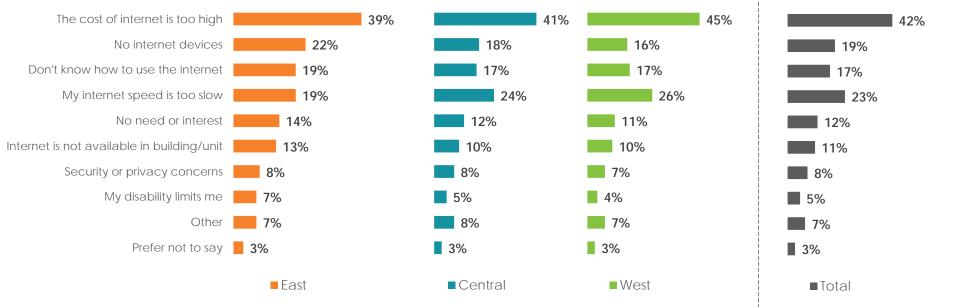
- 7 in 10 (68%) respondents mentioned that they had reliable access to internet in their Toronto Community Housing unit.
- Those in the west region had slightly lower scores of agreement (69%), compared to those in the east (72%) and central (72%).



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.



What barriers to internet access exist in your household? Please select all that apply.

Total sample n=1765

East n=586

Central n=606

West n=547



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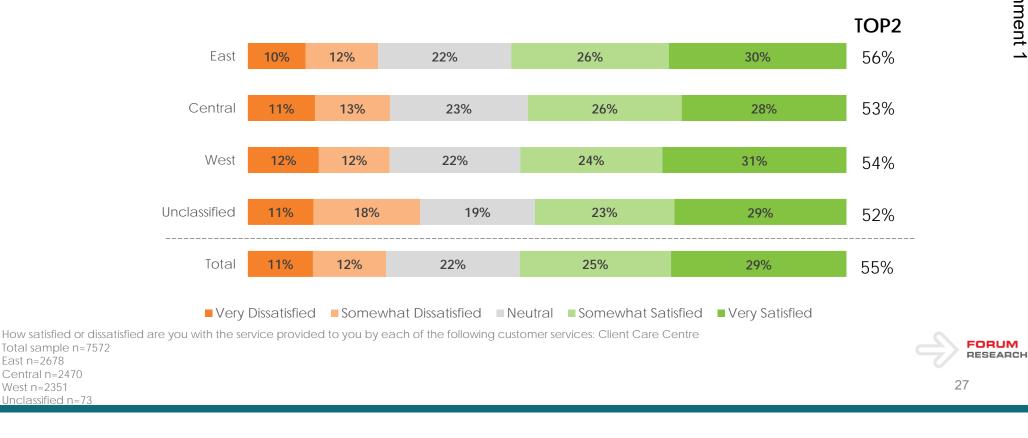
Customer Service

Satisfaction Levels & Evaluation



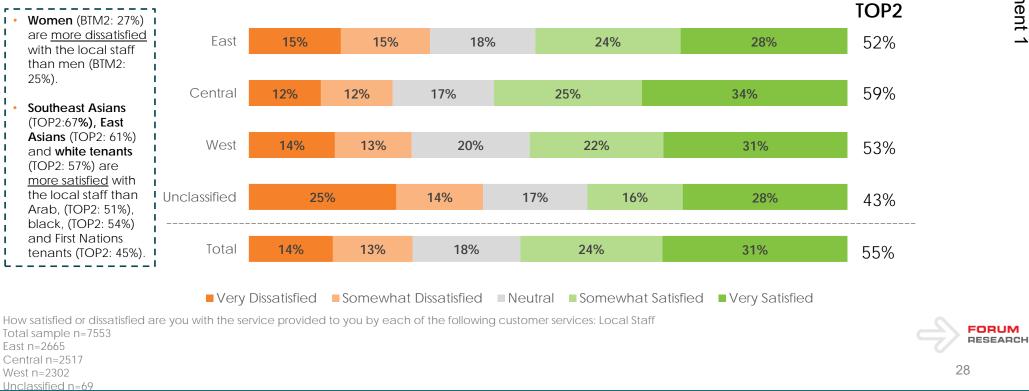
Customer Service Satisfaction Client Care Centre

- 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.



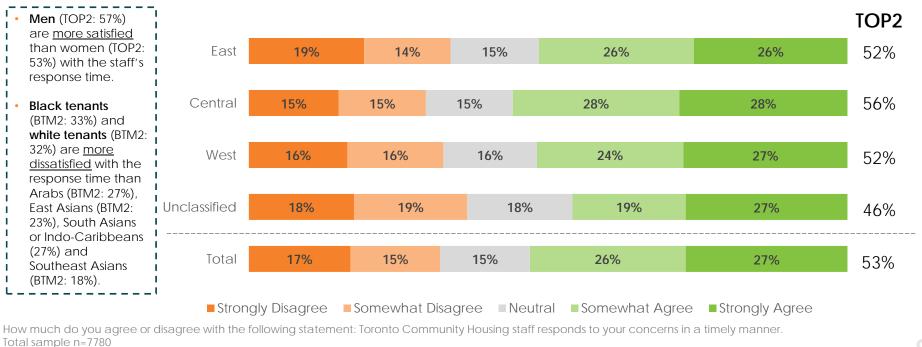
Customer Service Satisfaction Local Staff

- 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.



Customer Service 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

29

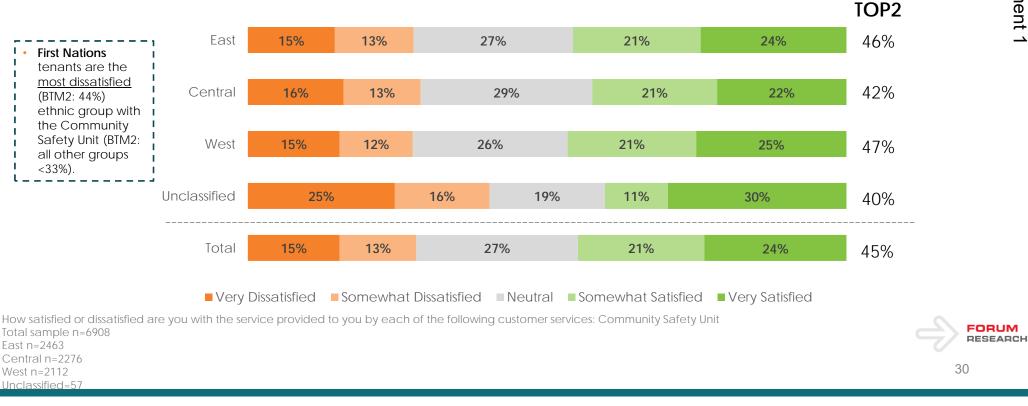
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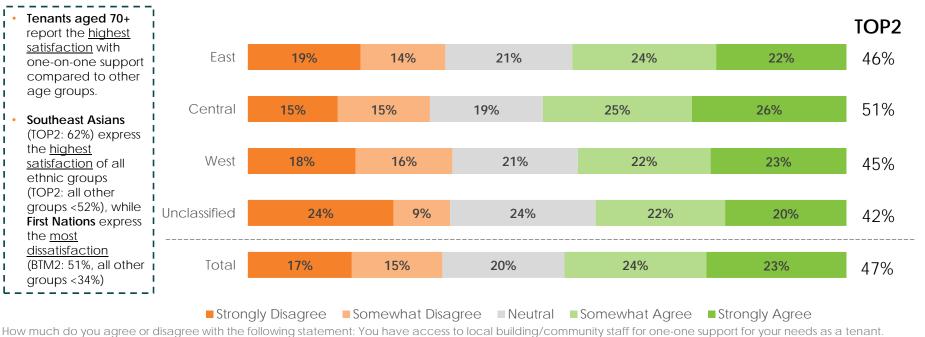
Customer Service Satisfaction Community Safety Unit

- 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%).



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.



Total sample n=7529

East n=2631

Central n=2515 West n=2309

Unclassified n=74

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Tenant Touch Point Evaluation

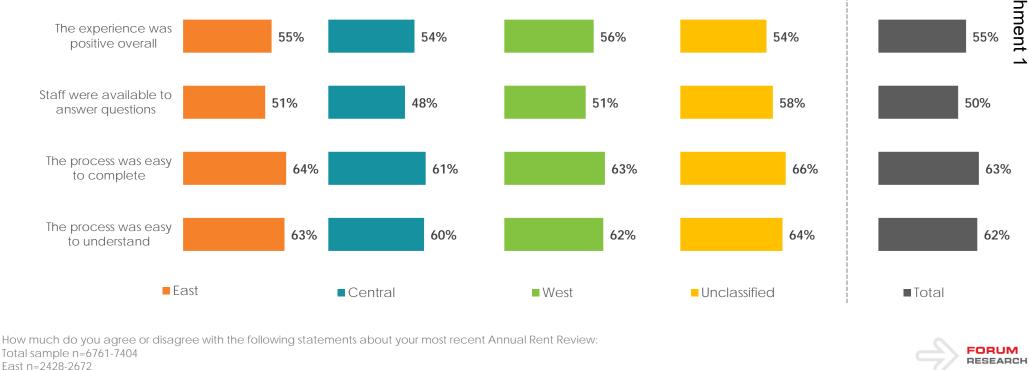
Annual Rent Review & Annual Unit Inspection



33

Annual Rent Review Evaluation (TOP2)

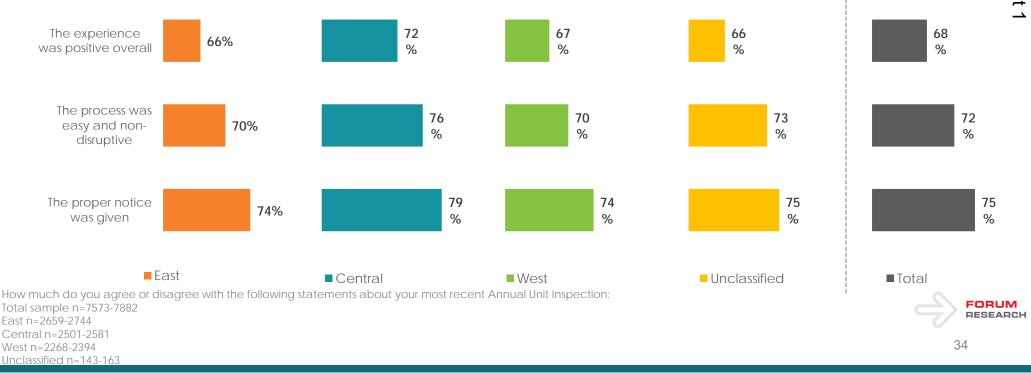
- 3 in 5 tenants agree that the process was easy to complete (TOP2: 63%) and easy to understand (TOP2: 62%).
- Meanwhile, about half of tenants agree that the experience was positive (TOP2: 55%) and that the staff were readily available for assistance (TOP2: 50%).



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

Annual Unit Inspection Review (TOP2)

- 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.



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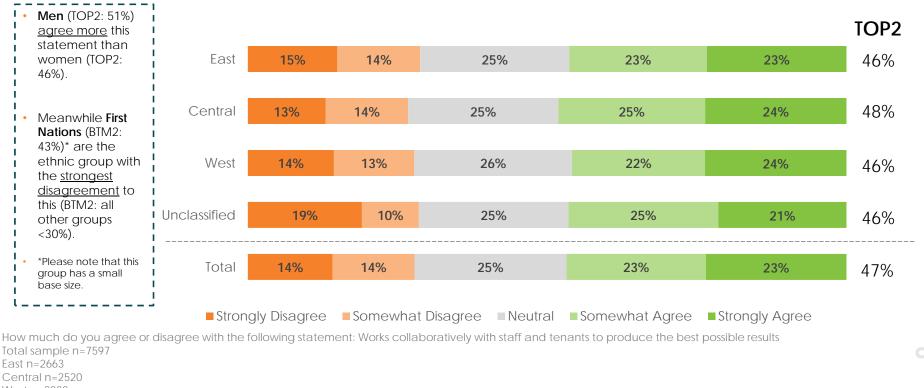
Tenant Sentiment

Sentiment towards Toronto Community Housing



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%).



- West n=2330
- Unclassified n=84

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Tenant Sentiment Considerate of Others

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



■ Strongly Disagree ■ Somewhat Disagree ■ Neutral ■ Somewhat Agree ■ Strongly Agree

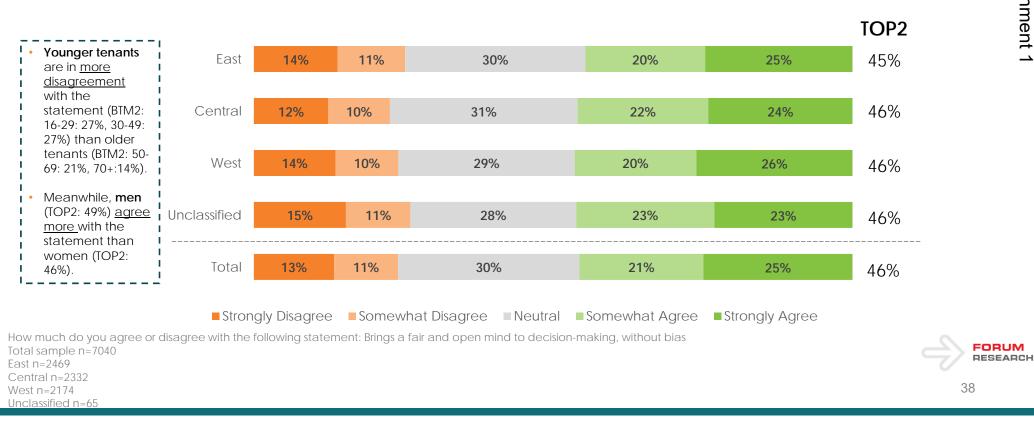
How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement: Considers the rights and needs of others, being respectful of feelings and values Total sample n=7649 East n=2678 Central n=2539 West n=2346

Unclassified n=86



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.



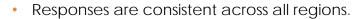
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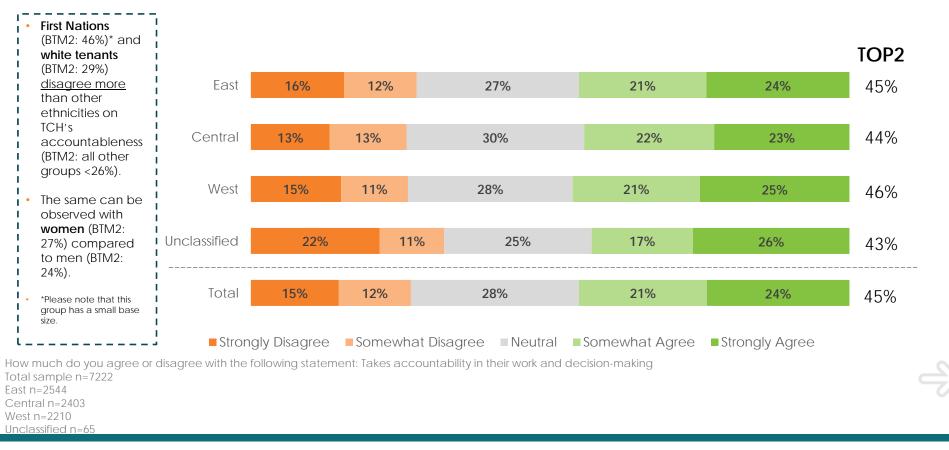
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Tenant Sentiment Accountable

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



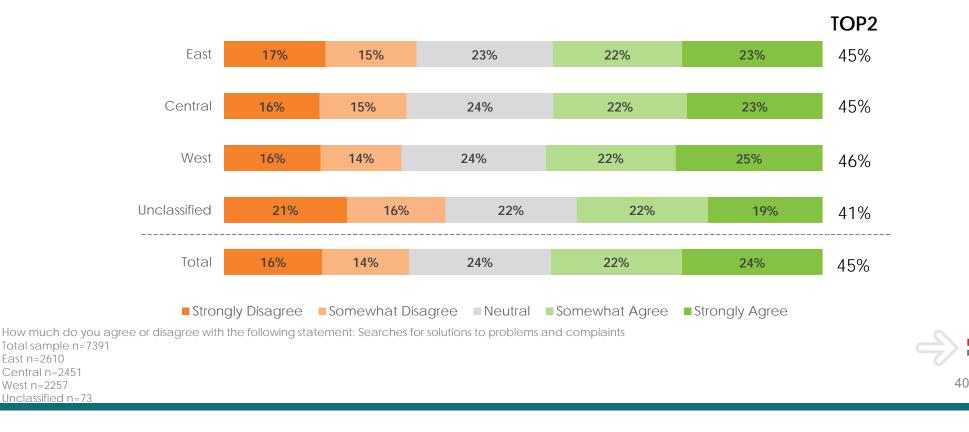


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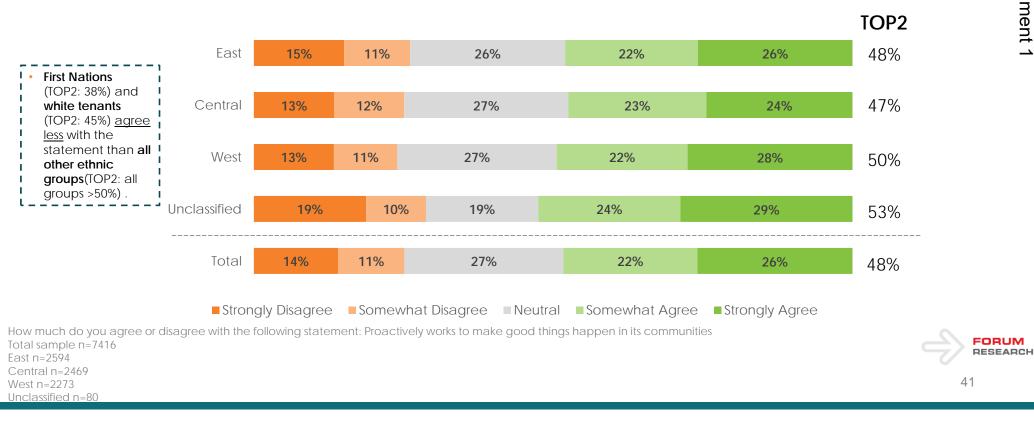
Tenant Sentiment Searches for Solutions

- 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%).



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.



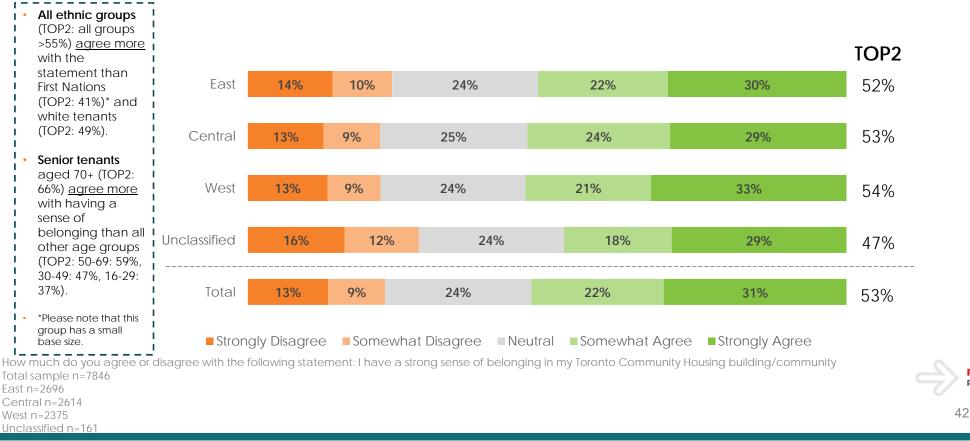
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Tenant Sentiment Sense of Belonging

• 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%).

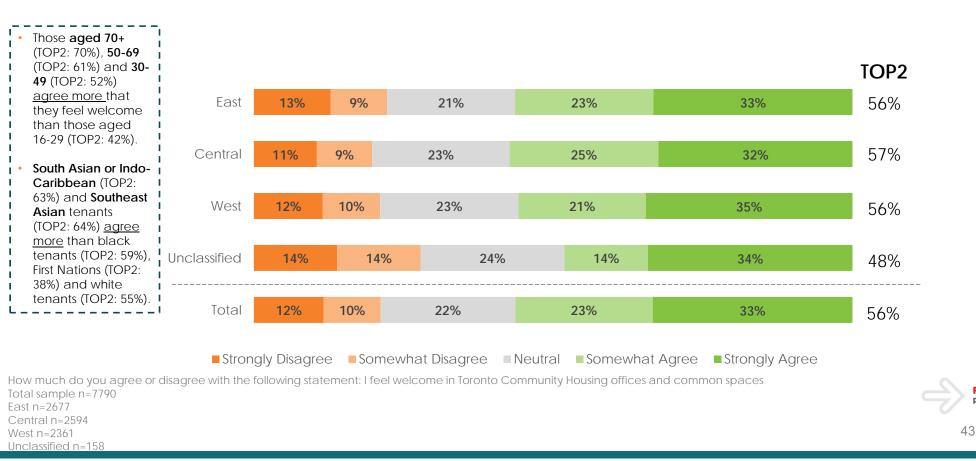


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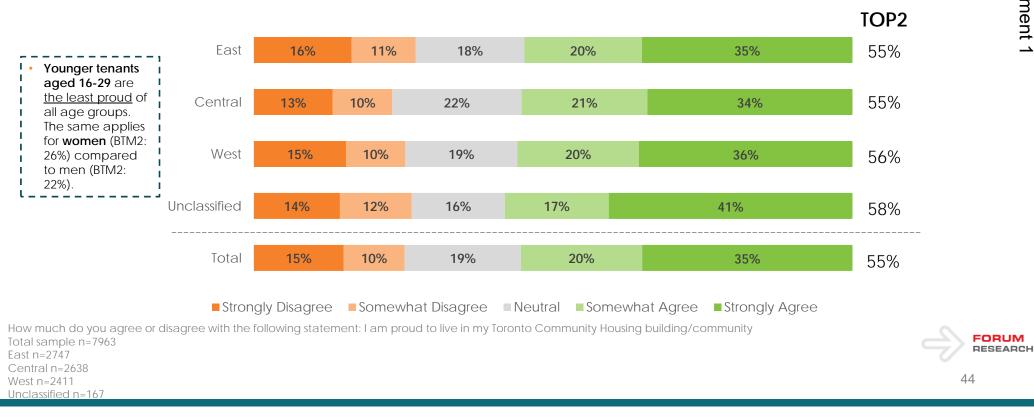
Tenant Sentiment Feel Welcome in Communal Spaces

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



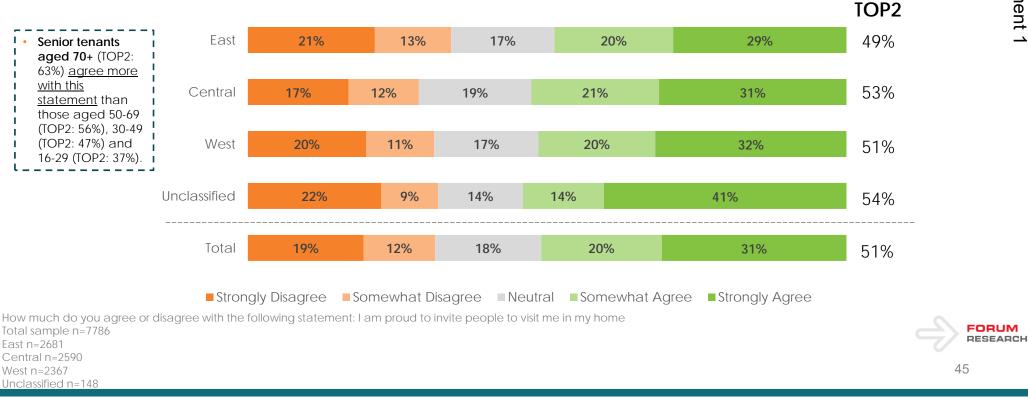
Tenant Sentiment Pride in Community

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



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.



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Driver Analysis

Regression Model



Drivers Analysis

The Drivers Analysis in the following slides shows the difference between how satisfied the residents are with each service and the impact of the services to residents' overall service satisfaction.

Impact on overall satisfaction scores are plotted horizontally across the bottom of the chart (along the X-axis). They are based on a regression analysis that determines how a specific service ("independent variable") contribute to residents' overall satisfaction with the services ("dependent variable").

Satisfaction scores are plotted vertically (along the Y-axis). They represent overall stated satisfaction (TOP2%) with each of the individual services.

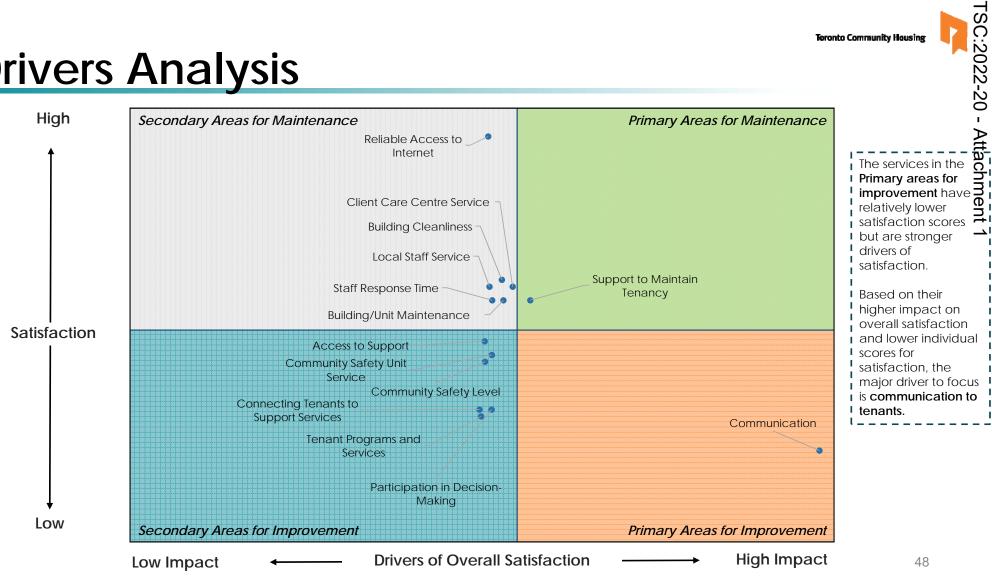
As a result of the analysis, TCH scores have distributed among four areas:

Primary Areas for Improvement – services that have highest impact on overall satisfaction, but with lower individual satisfaction scores. This is stated as the primary area for improvement because the regression analysis identifies that these services are the strongest drivers of satisfaction. If TCH can increase satisfaction in these areas, this will have the largest impact on overall satisfaction with City services.

Secondary Areas for Improvement – services that have relatively lower impact on overall satisfaction and have lower individual satisfaction scores. This should be the secondary area of focus to improve satisfaction scores.

Primary Areas for Maintenance – services that have relatively high impact on overall satisfaction and high individual satisfaction scores. The focus here is on maintaining the current level of satisfaction.

Secondary Areas for Maintenance – services with low impact on overall satisfaction but high individual satisfaction scores. The focus here should be to maintain satisfaction levels.



Drivers Analysis

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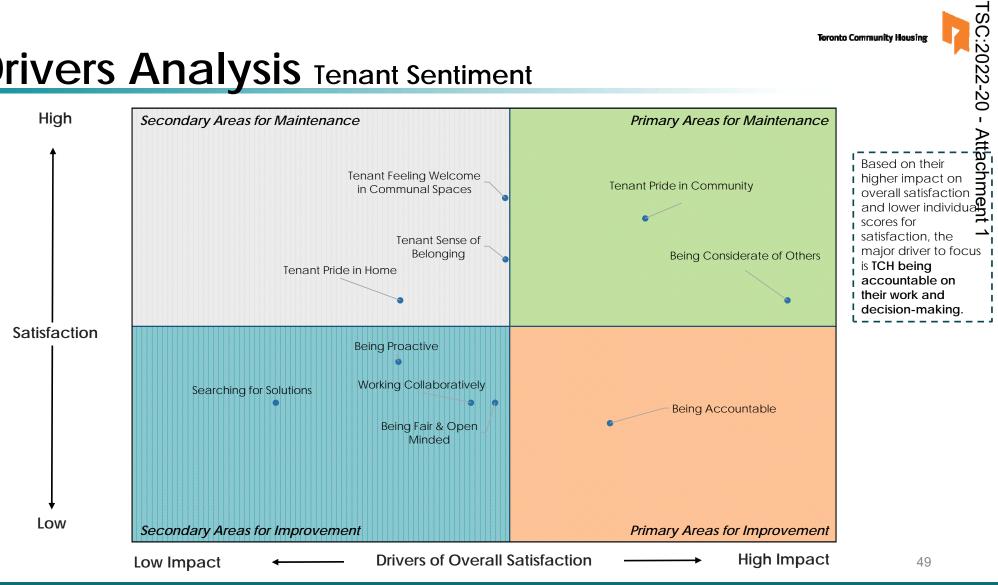
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Drivers Analysis Tenant Sentiment



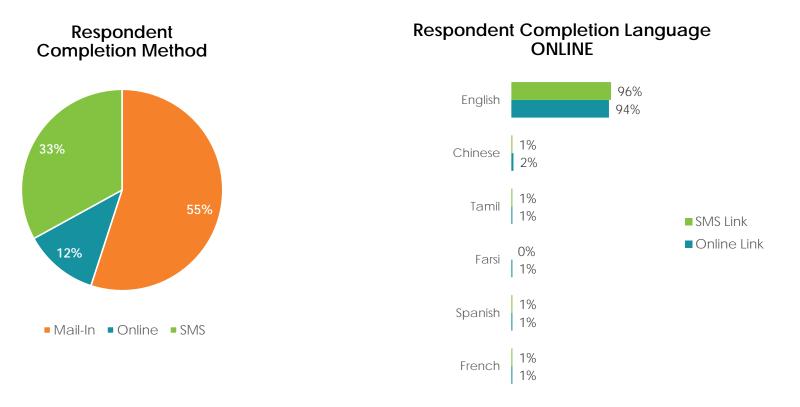
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Respondent Profile

Demographics



Respondent Breakdown



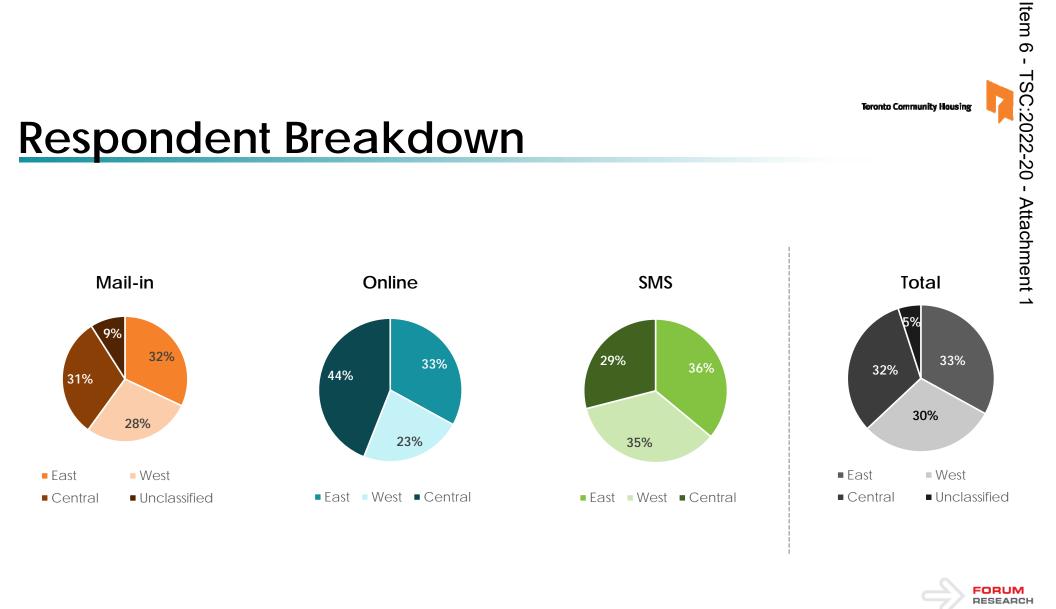
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52

Respondent Breakdown



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Respondent Breakdown



Mail-In Respondents

Respondents who answered the survey through mail-in are evenly distributed across all regions (central, east, west – only classified tenants).

They are more likely to be:

- Aged 50-69 and 70+
- Men
- White, Southeast Asian, and East Asian
- Speakers of English, Chinese, Greek, Polish, Spanish, and Tamil.



Online Link Respondents

Respondents who answered the survey through an online link are more likely to be:

- Living in Central region
- Aged 16-29
- Men
- East Asian, South Asian or Indo-Caribbean
- Speakers of Bengali, Gujarati, Tamil, and Russian.



SMS Invite Respondents

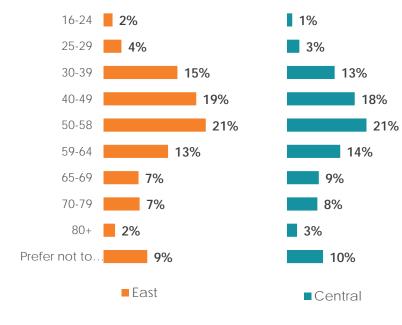
Respondents who answered the survey through the SMS invite are more likely to be:

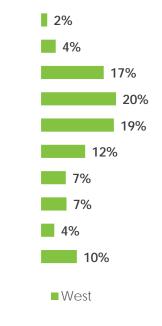
- Living in West region
- Aged 16-29 and 30-49
- Women
- Arab, Black, First Nations, and Latin American
- Speakers of English, Amharic, French, Somali, and Twi.

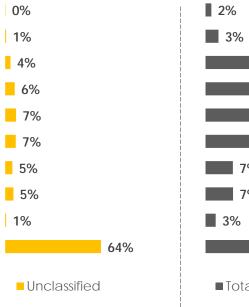


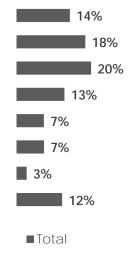


Demographics Age





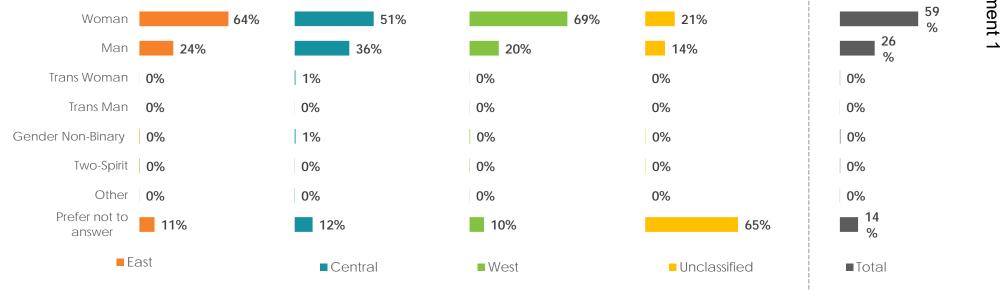






Toronto Community Housing

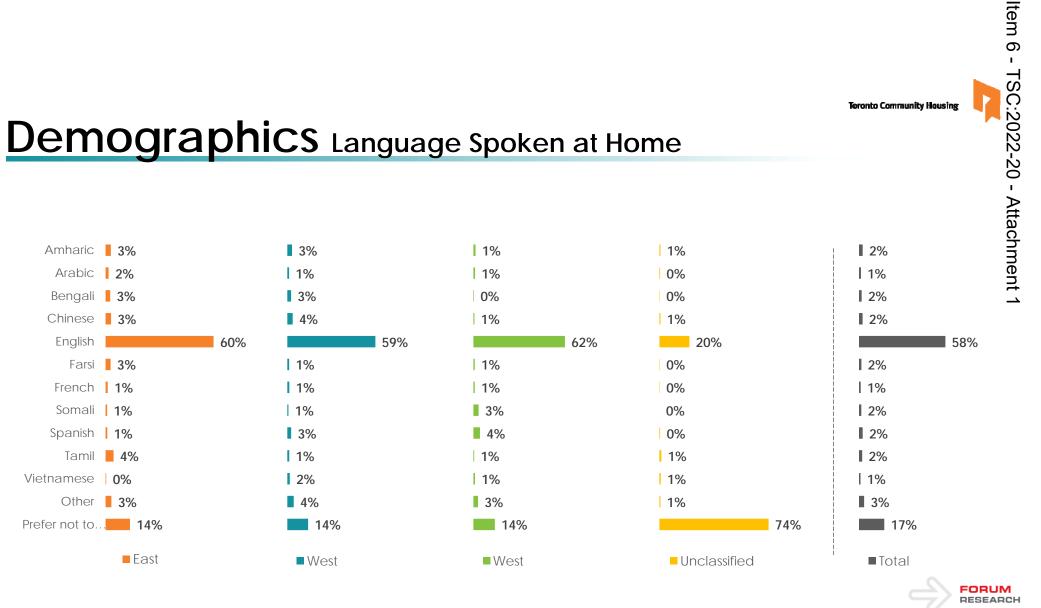
Demographics Gender



55

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Demographics Language Spoken at Home



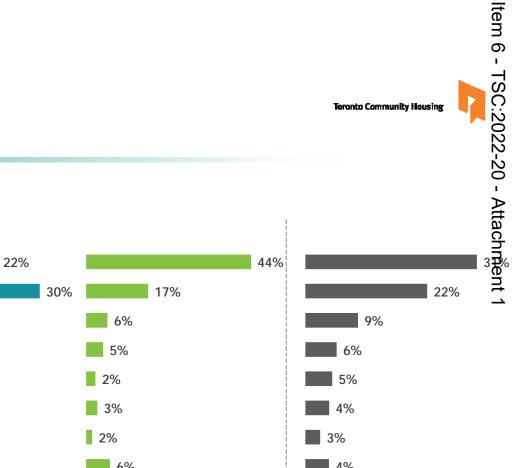
Toronto Community Housing

Physical illness and/or pain 25% 28% 26% 25% 17% Mental health disability 23% 22% 20% Mobility disability 11% 14% 14% 12% Learning disability 7% 7% 9% 7% Physical coordination 9% 8% 8% 8% Other 6% 7% 6% 6% Deaf, deafened or hard of hearing 5% 6% 4% 5% Blindness or low vision 4% 4% 4% 4% Developmental or cognitive disability 3% 4% 4% 4% Speech and/or language disability 3% 3% 3% 3% Prefer not to answer 43% 44% **49%** 48% West East Central2 Total

Demographics Disability

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Item 6 - TSC:2022-20 - Attachment 1



Demographics Ethnicity

30%

Black

21% White 15% 8% South Asian or Indo-Caribbean 8% 5% Arab, Middle Eastern or West Asian 7% East Asian 5% 7% Southeast Asian 3% First Nations 3% 4% 6% Latin American 2% 5% 4% 21% 20% 21% Prefer not to answer East West Total Central

58

23%

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