



Your Neighbours: Real People, Real Change!

A Snapshot of Living Edge Neighbourhood Markets 2026

**“Building resilient neighbourhoods during hard times and
empowering all members to thrive.”**

COMBINED Client Anonymous Survey

Participating Neighbourhood Markets:

- **Langford/Metchosin Market**
 - **Esquimalt Market**
 - **Gordon Head Market**
 - **Victoria South Market**

Vision Statement

A future where everyone in the Greater Victoria area has access to nutritious food, regardless of their circumstances. Guided by our faith-based mission, we strive to create a community rooted in generosity, dignity, and equity—where surplus food is shared, food insecurity is eliminated, and all individuals and families are nourished with the care and compassion of Jesus.

Survey Coordinator: Sharon Klein

Editor: Deborah Price

Publisher: Living Edge Community 2026

Methodology and Survey Development

History: Living Edge performs a client anonymous survey every three years to discover who we serve and how the organization is performing in its mission.

In 2026, the Living Edge Community Church staff and partners developed a **Client Anonymous Survey** to guide the food distribution program. This survey combines qualitative and quantitative data, using open-ended questions and multiple-choice options.

Living Edge wanted to gather information in several key areas:

1. Demographics, including gender, age, financial income, and dependents.
2. Market perceptions, specifically whether they are welcoming, inclusive and safe for Victoria's most vulnerable populations.
3. Food distribution adequacy, assessing if the quantity provided meets the needs of individuals and families.
4. Market operations, with open-ended suggestions for improvement or comments on what is working well.
5. Client engagement, including the number of hours spent searching for free food resources and participation in other LE markets or food programs. Also included is an open-ended question on how the food market has impacted their life.

Survey Delivery: Although most of the market clients have cell phones, it would have been an onerous task for them to fill out a digital survey. The survey was printed for clients to read and fill out. The survey delivery method involved distributing a specific number of surveys to each market based on client attendance records. During this process, we encountered a high rate of illiteracy and language barriers, making it difficult for clients to interpret and answer questions. Volunteer support was offered, but the best solution would have been to hire language interpreters (Arabic, Mandarin, and Ukrainian interpreters would have been particularly helpful). While we found some Mandarin-speaking volunteers willing to volunteer, others wanted to be paid. Therefore, it's recommended that the next survey budget include interpreter expenses. Additionally, some markets delivered over 50% of the total number of attendees, while others struggled to collect surveys, obtaining in the area of 30% to 40% of their goal. The Langford, Esquimalt, Victoria South, and Gordon Head markets completed the required number of surveys.

Analysis: The survey data was then entered and analyzed using Excel, resulting in percentages and categories.

Outcome: In the final step, each market [7 operational markets] will receive a copy of all surveys for each participating market, and the combined data of all of the markets to give an overall snapshot of LE market operations.

Timeline: The survey development took place in November and December 2025. The surveys were distributed to the LE markets in January, February, and March 2026. Data collection occurred in April, and analysis began in May. The booklet will be published in July/August 2026.



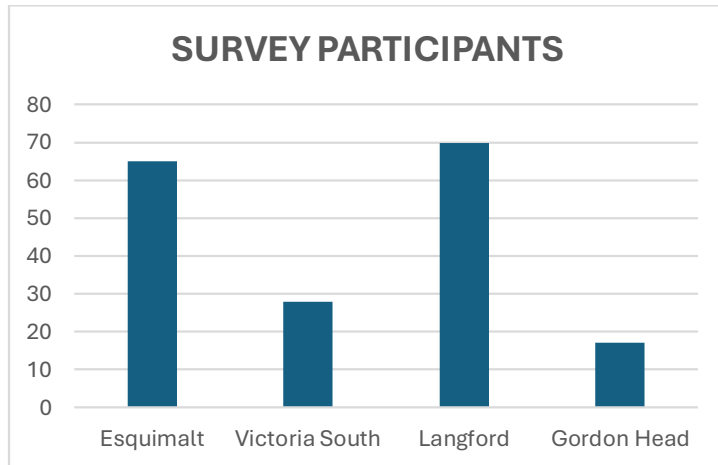
I wanted to send a sincere thank you for putting on these markets. I have an undergraduate degree, a Master's degree, and had a wonderful and great secure job until I was 35 weeks pregnant with my first and was told that due to union shuffling, I no longer had a job to return to after my maternity leave. I've spent the last two years at home and just gave birth to my second child, and since I did not qualify for maternity leave, my partner decided to take a full parental leave. This has left my little family of four living off of 55% of one income. It has been hard, but I know that all four of us will look back on this year and remember the memories that we made together as a family more than we will remember some of the financial sacrifices that we have had to make. Your market has allowed us to alleviate some of that pressure by knowing that we can periodically stop by to access fresh foods. I wanted to send a huge thank you from the bottom of my heart for the service that you provide which benefits people in all sorts of places along their journeys. Thank you for being a part of our story.

Young Mother, market attendee

Combined Survey Analysis with participating neighbourhood markets:

- **Victoria South Market**
- **Langford Market**
- **Esquimalt Market**
- **Gordon Head Market**

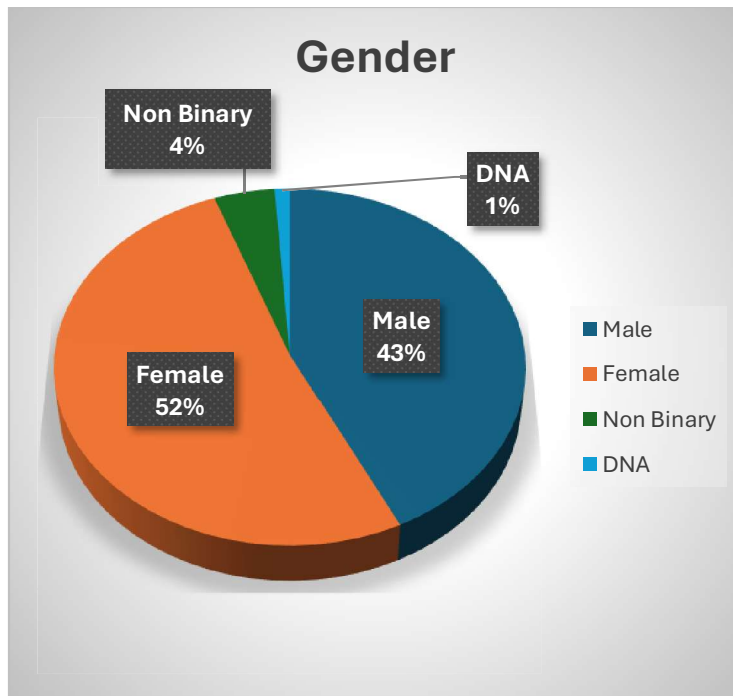
Participants



The market with the most participants was the Langford Market where (85%) of market attendees took part; the second largest group was from the Esquimalt Market where (41%) of attendees took part.

As of Sept 2026, Living Edge Markets serve 35,000 individuals and families every year from Jan to December. With a standard percentage of food sharing (33%), this figure becomes 46,550 per year. It is predicted that 2027 will become more devastating with extreme food shortages due to weather and the overall economy.

Gender

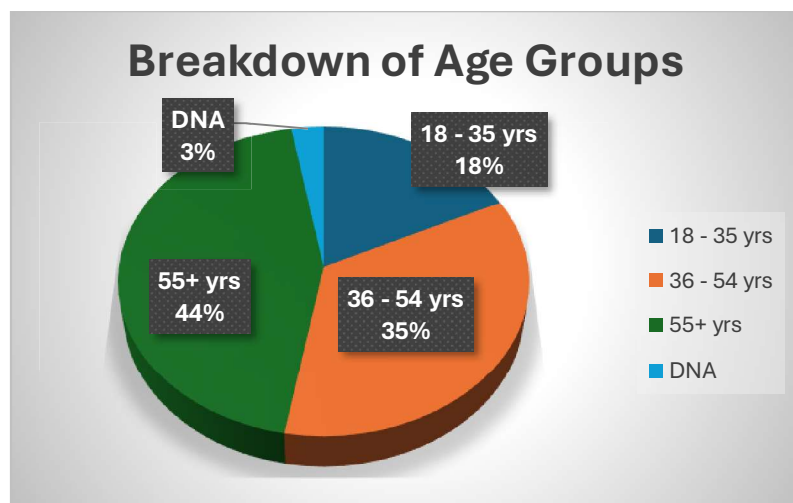


Living Edge Market clients identify as (52%) female, (43%) male, and (4%) non binary. (1%) did not answer the question.

The Langford market serves the highest number of females and the Victoria South Market serves the highest number of males.

Traditionally, it is the female member of the household who 'shops' for food.

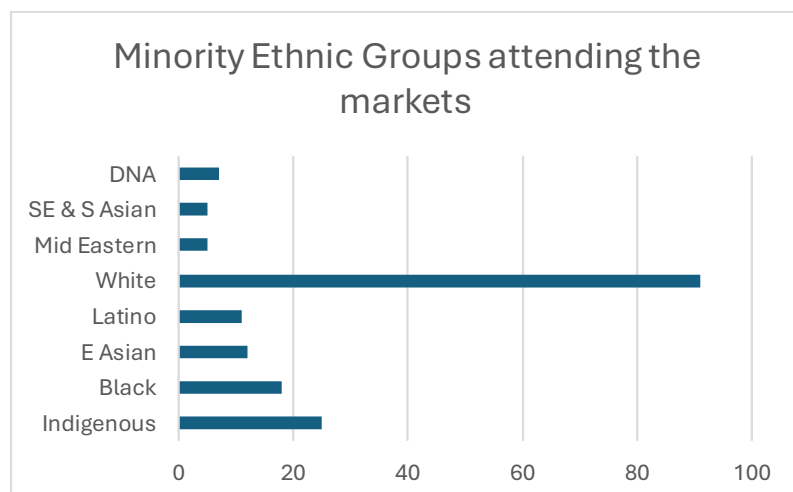
Breakdown of Age Groups



The survey indicates Living Edge Markets largest age group are seniors (44%), the second largest group is ages 36 yrs to 54 yrs (35%), 18 yrs to 35 yrs is (18%), and (3%) did not answer.

A high number of seniors needing food in a Canadian community means that fixed incomes are failing to keep pace with the rising cost of living and housing. Vulnerable older adults, especially those living alone, face severe budget shortfalls. There is significant social isolation due to broken connections, loss of dignity and alarming health risks.

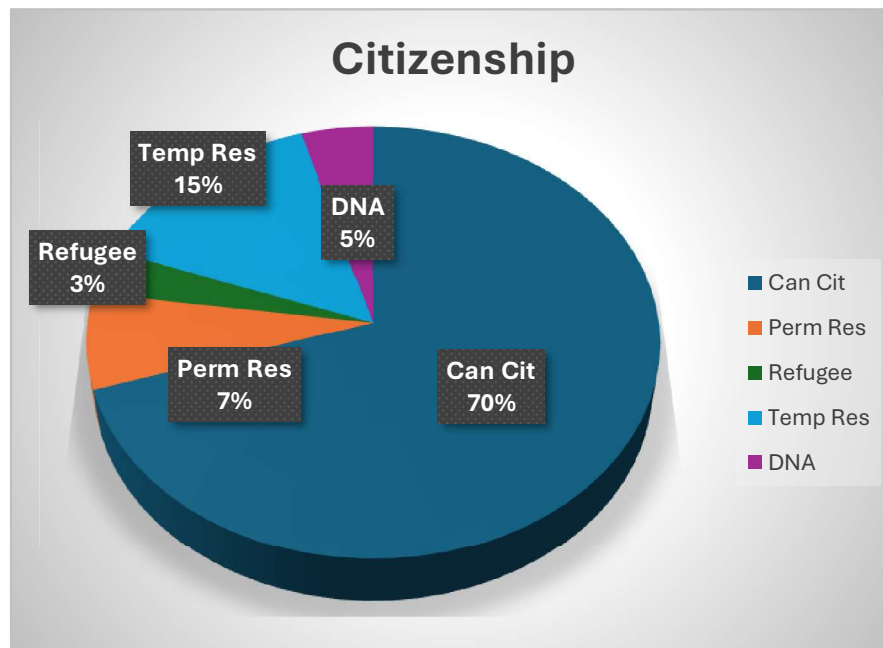
Minority/Ethnic Groups Attending the Markets



The survey indicates that the majority of market attendees identify as “white” (52%), the next largest group is “indigenous” (15%), followed by “Black” at (10%), (4%) did not answer the question. Overall, (41%) of market attendees are from mixed ethnic groups.

Legend: **Black Canadian**, Indigenous (First Nations, Metis, Inuit, other indigenous descent), **Black** (African, Afro-Caribbean, African Canadian descent), **East Asian** (Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Taiwanese descent, other East Asian descent), **Southeast Asian** (Filipino, Vietnamese, Cambodian, Thai, Indonesian, other Southeast Asian descent), **South Asian** (Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Sri Lankan, Indo-Caribbean, other South Asian descent), **Middle Eastern** (Arab, Persian, Afghan, Egyptian, Iranian, Lebanese, Turkish, Kurdish, other West Asian descent), **White** (European descent), **Latino** (Hispanic)

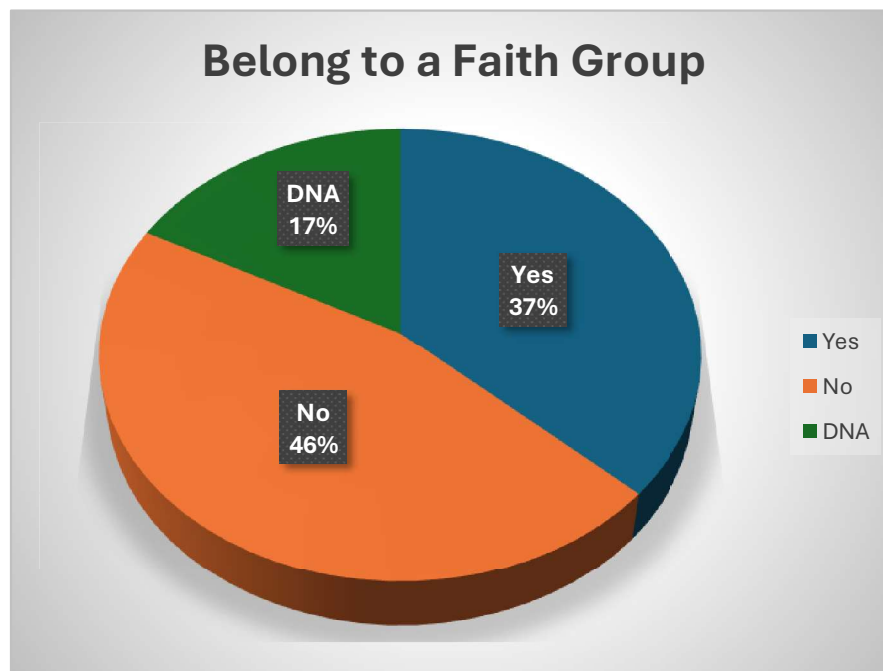
Citizenship



The survey indicated that the majority of market attendees are Canadian Citizens (70%); the next major category is Temporary Residents (15%), followed by Refugee (3%), and Permanent Resident (7%). (5%) did not answer the question.

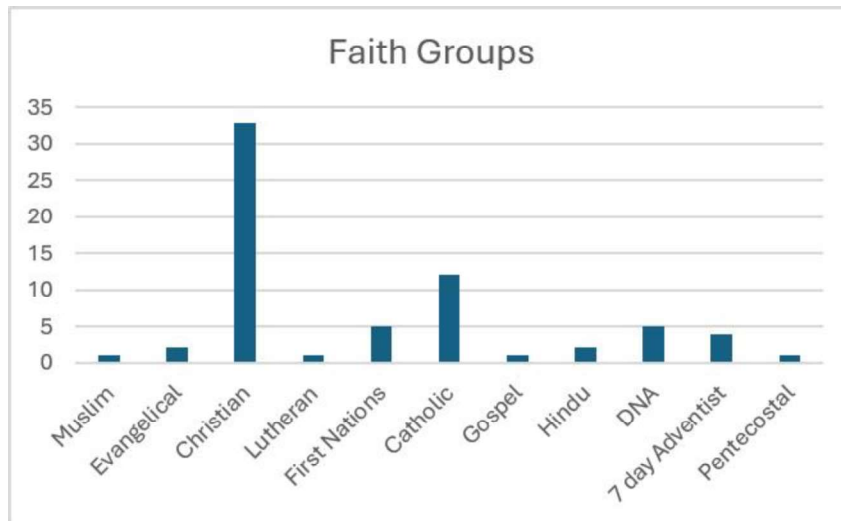
Of significant impact is the student registrations from UVIC which are significantly decreasing in BC.

Do Market Attendees Belong to a Faith Group?



The survey indicated the majority of attendees did not belong to a faith group (46%), (37%) did belong to a faith group, and (17%) did not answer the question.

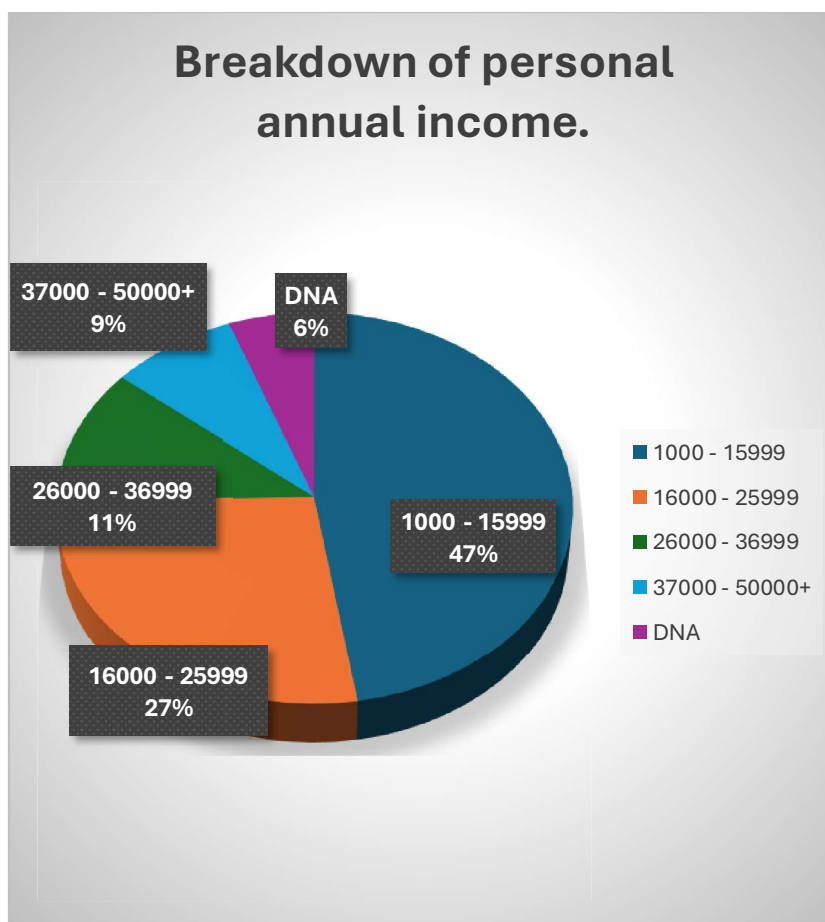
Breakdown of Faith Groups



Of the (37%) who stated they belong to a faith group, the survey indicated the majority of attendees are of Christian faith, followed by Catholic, then First Nations.

A significant number of attendees did not answer the question.

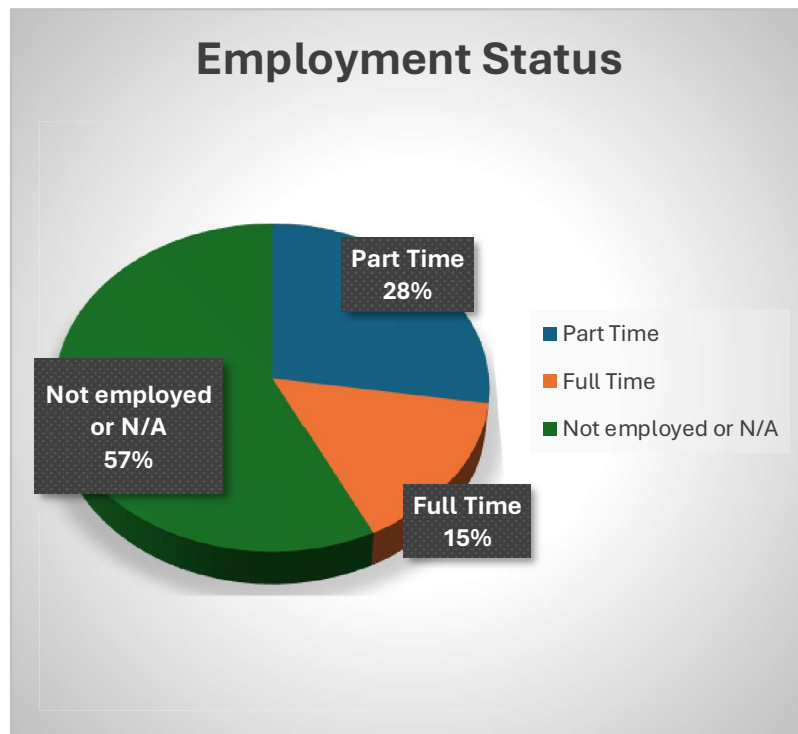
Breakdown of Personal Annual Income



The survey indicated the majority of attendees have a personal annual income of \$1000 - \$15999 (47%); the next highest was a personal income of \$16000 - \$25999 (27%), followed by an income of \$26000 - \$36999 (11%), and (9%) claimed an income of \$37000 - \$50000+. (6%) did not answer the question.

Poverty is the primary root cause of food insecurity in BC, driven by inadequate incomes that fail to keep pace with the soaring costs of housing and groceries. In BC the official poverty line for a single person generally hovers around \$27,000 to \$29,000 per year.

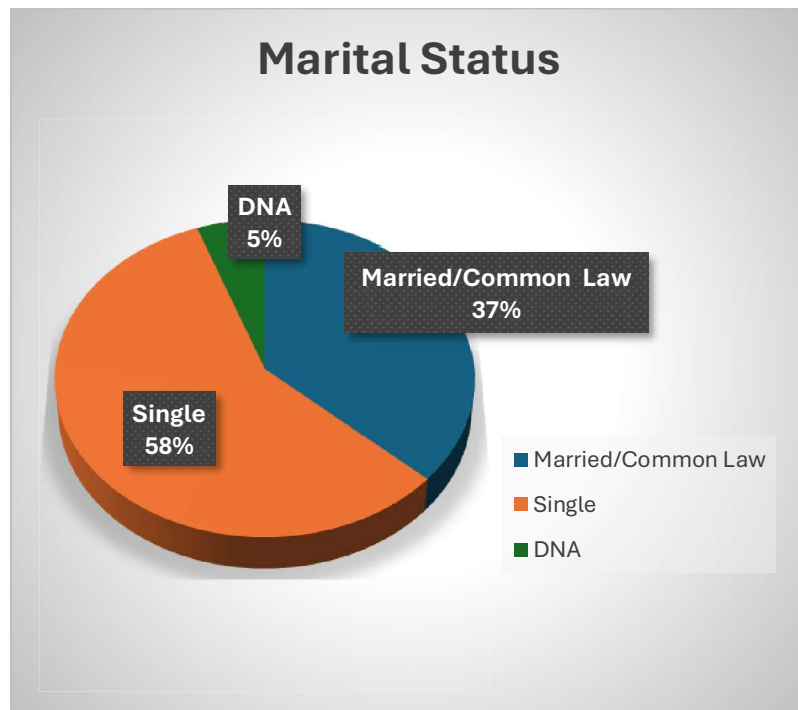
Employment Status



The survey indicated the majority of attendees are not employed or the question did not apply to them (may be on disability income or pension) (57%); (28%) stated they work part time, and (15%) indicated they work full time.

The unemployment rate on Vancouver Island in August 2026 was 5.9%. Many market attendees have multiple barriers to employment: physical/mental disabilities, language barrier.

Marital Status

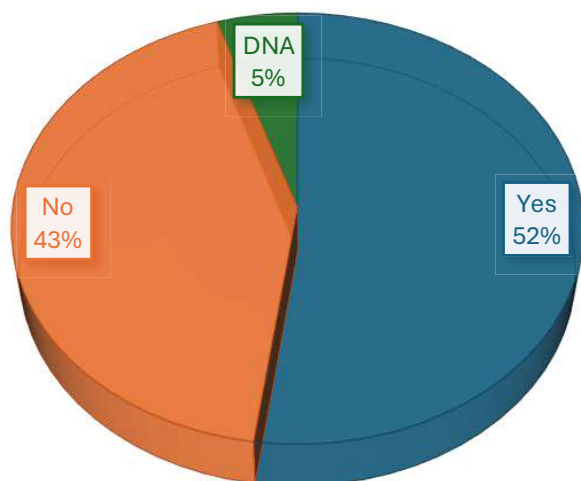


The survey indicated the majority of attendees are single (58%), (37%) are married or living common law, and (5%) did not answer the question.

Low income families can benefit from pooling income to maximize tax credits, such as the spousal tax credit or GST/HST credit.

Do market attendees have dependents living in their household?

DEPENDENTS LIVING IN HOUSEHOLD

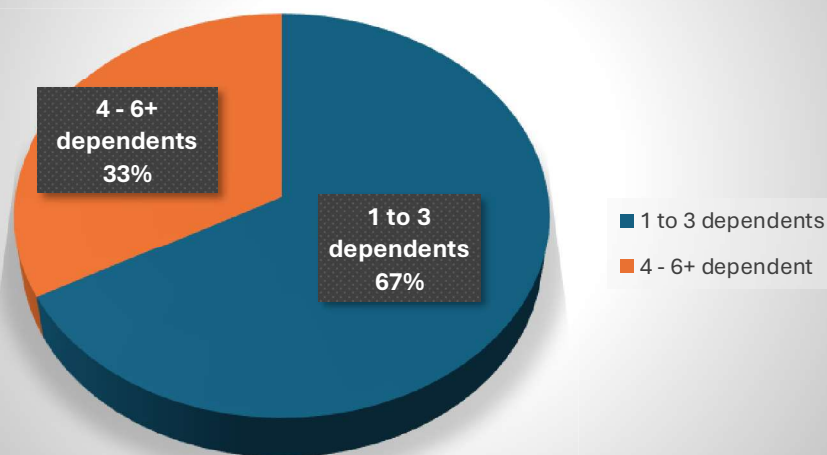


The survey indicated the majority of attendees had dependents living in the household (52%), (43%) did not have dependents living in the household, and (5%) did not answer the question.

4.3% of multigenerational households in 2020 were living in low income which is significantly lower than the 15.2% rate for all Canadian households, indicating that shared living can be a financial strategy. Stats Canada.

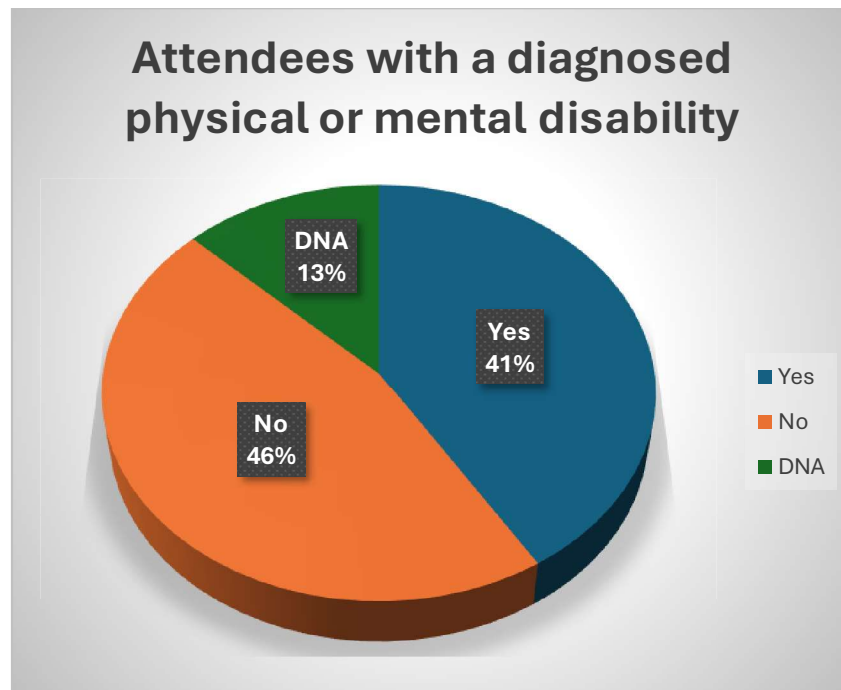
The 52% of attendees who stated they did have dependents living in the household were asked how many dependents they had in their own household

Number of dependents living in the household



The survey indicated that out of the (52%) of attendees who stated they do have dependents living in the same household, the majority had 1 to 3 dependents (67%), and (33%) had 4 to 6+ dependents living in the same household.

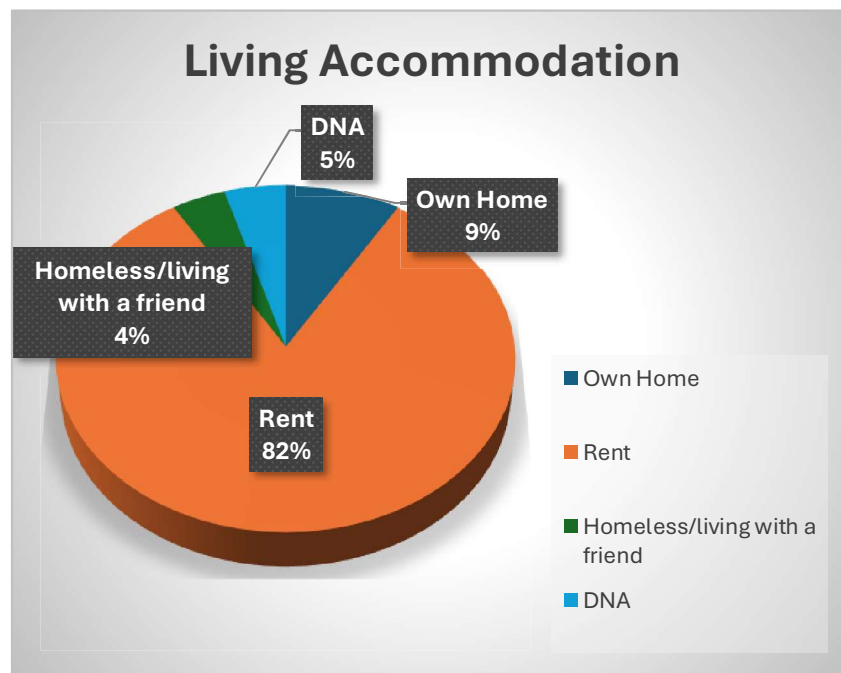
Attendees were asked if they have a diagnosed physical or mental disability



The survey indicated that the majority of attendees do not have a physical nor mental disability (48%), (41%) stated they have been diagnosed with a physical or mental disability, and (13%) did not answer the question.

It is noted that 44% of Living Edge Market attendees are 55+ years and most likely have a mobility disability diagnosis.

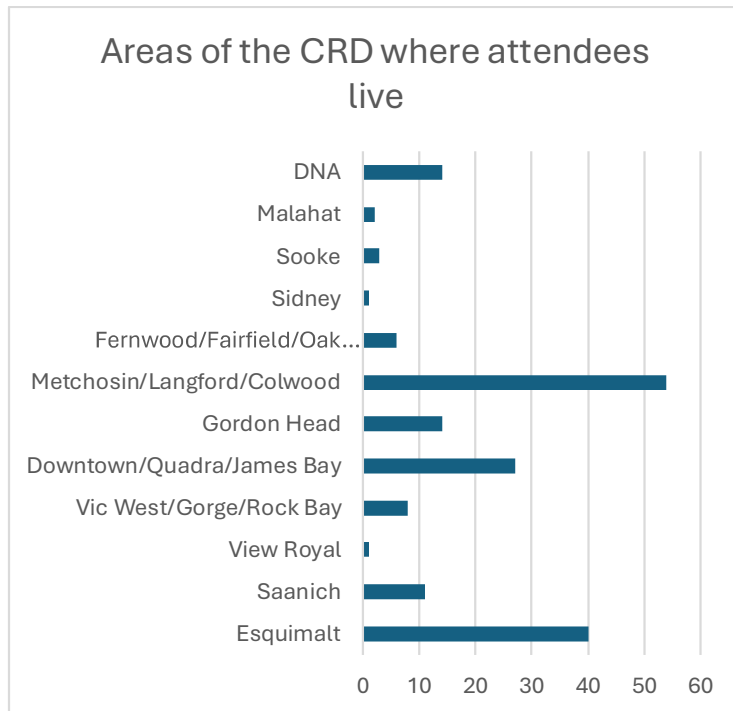
Living Accommodation



The survey indicated that the majority of attendees rent (82%), (9%) own their own home, (4%) are homeless or living with a friend, and (5%) did not answer the question.

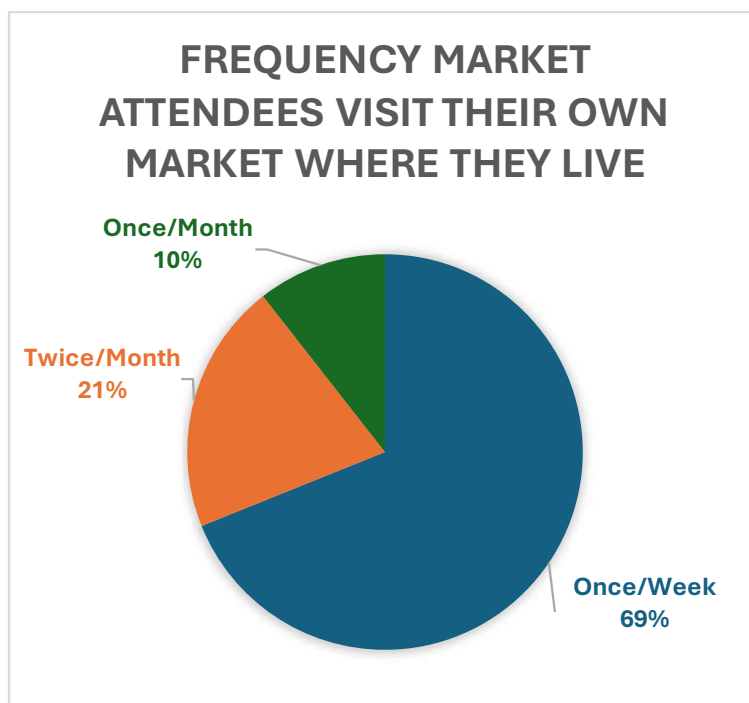
Some who stated they were 'homeless' live in their vehicle or camp in a park.

Areas of the CRD where attendees live



Based on the surveys that were completed from the Esquimalt Market, Langford Market, Victoria South Market and Gordon Head Market, the majority of attendees live in the Metchosin / Langford / Colwood areas. The Esquimalt and downtown / Quadra / James Bay areas were the 2nd most popular. A significant number of attendees did not answer the question. This could be due to the fact they are homeless or 'couch surfing'.

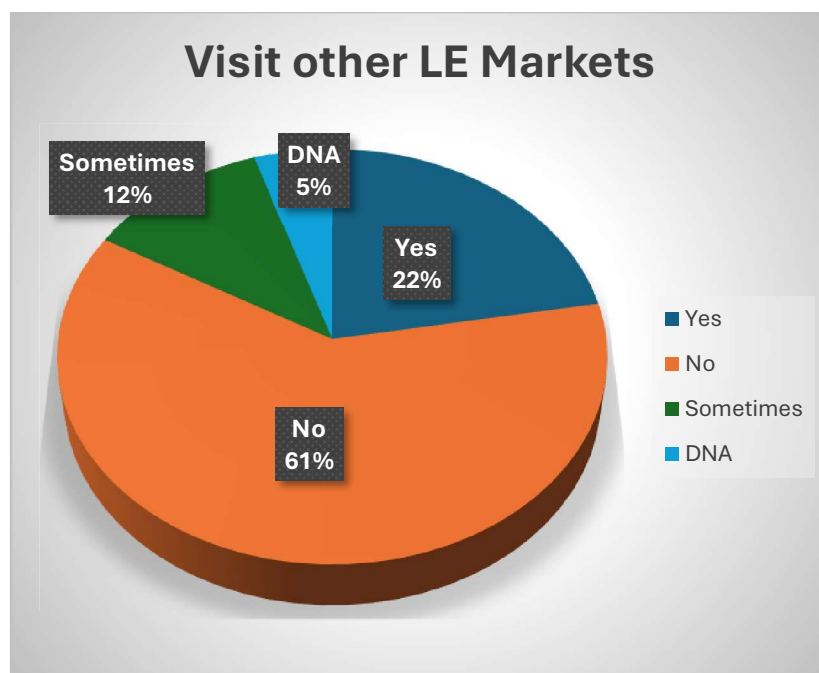
How often do market attendees visit their own neighbourhood market



The survey indicated that the majority of attendees visited their own neighbourhood market once/week (69%), (21%) visited their own market twice/month and (10%) visited their own market once/month.

Their own neighbourhood market is determined by where they live. LE markets are available to individuals and families who are food-deprived and live in the CRD.

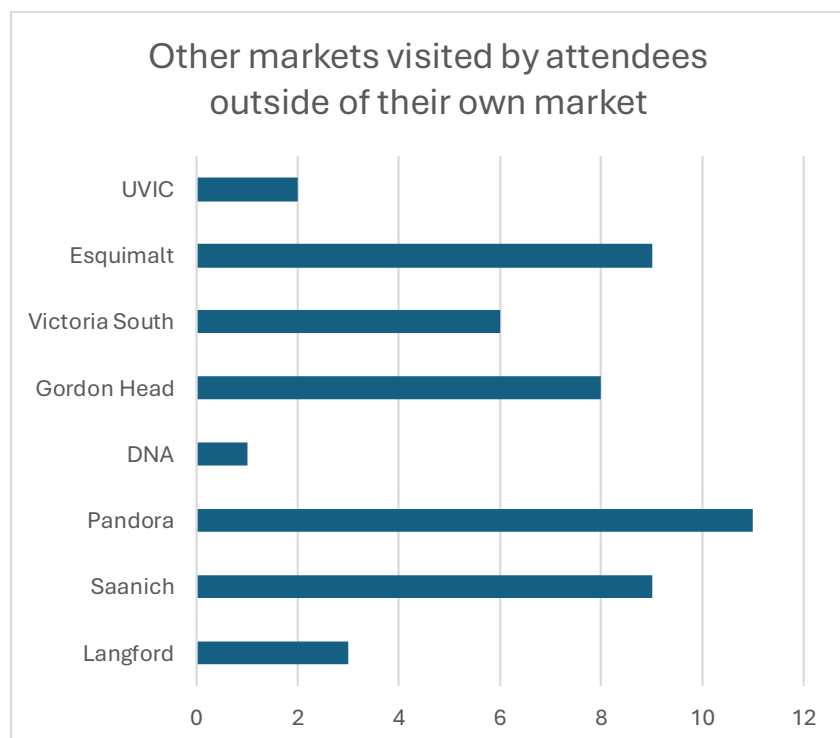
Do attendees visit other Living Edge Neighbourhood Markets



The survey indicated that the majority of attendees did not visit other LE markets (61%), (22%) stated they did visit other LE markets, (12%) stated they sometimes visited other LE markets, and (5%) did not answer the question.

Note: at the time of this survey there were seven Living Edge Neighbourhood Markets operational in the CRD.

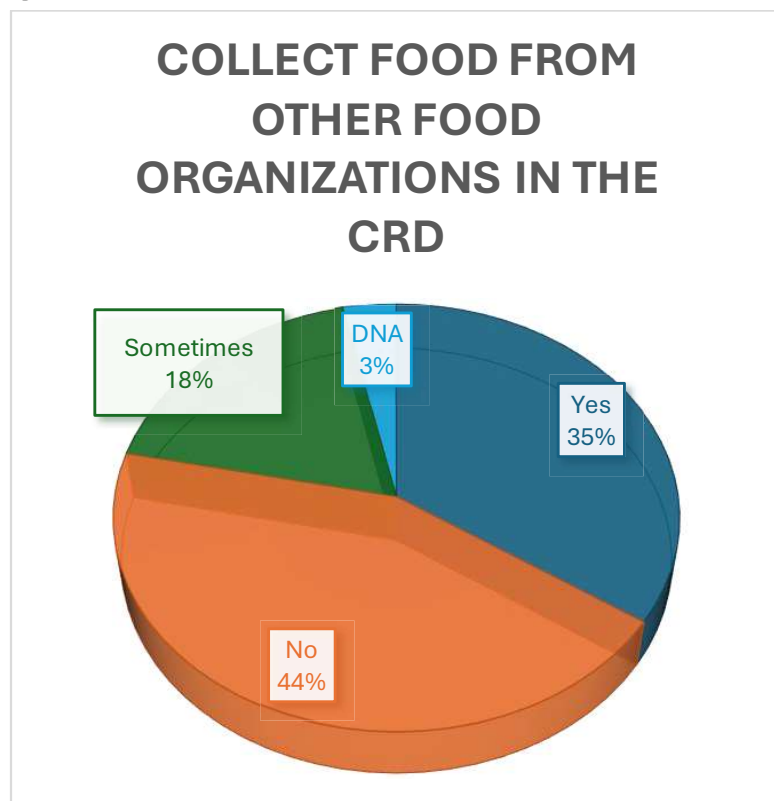
Other markets visited by attendees besides their own neighbourhood market



Of the (34%) of market attendees who stated they visited other LE markets, the market cross-overs highly frequented are: Esquimalt Market, Gordon Head Market, Pandora Market, and the Saanich Market, with UVic, Victoria South and Langford taking up the balance.

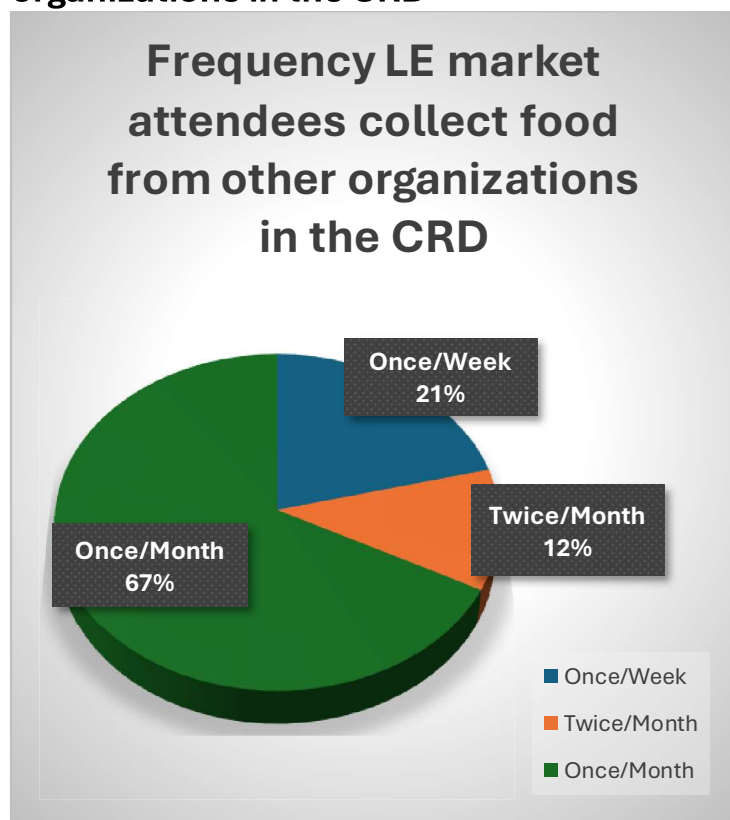
Note: both markets in Saanich are under 'Saanich'. At the time of the survey, there were seven LE operational markets in the CRD.

LE market attendees who collect food from other food organizations in the CRD



The survey indicated that the majority of LE market attendees do not collect food from other food organizations in the CRD (44%), (35%) stated they do collect food from other food organizations, (18%) stated 'sometimes' they collect food from other food organizations, and (3%) did not answer the question.

Frequency Living Edge Market attendees collect food from other food organizations in the CRD

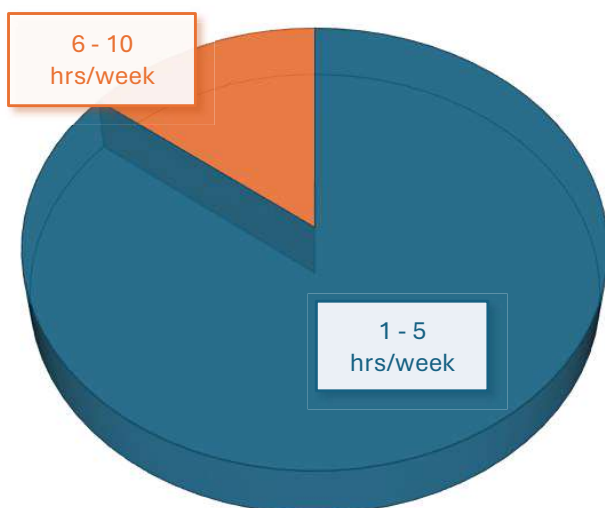


Of the (53%) of LE market attendees who indicated they do visit other food organizations in the CRD, the majority visited them on a monthly basis (67%), (21%) visited other organizations once/week, and (12%) visited other organizations twice/month.

Due to a food crisis in Canada, many families and individuals are actively seeking food assistance. The Sooke Food Bank, Mustard Seed, and the Salvation Army distribute monthly hampers to eligible residents.

Hours/week LE attendees spend on securing donated food

HOURS PER WEEK ATTENDEES SPEND ON SECURING DONATED FOOD

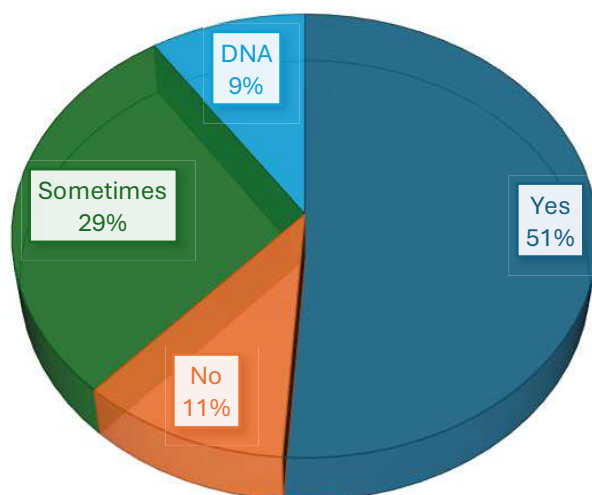


The survey indicated that the majority of LE market attendees (86%) spent 1 to 5 hours per week securing donated food, (14%) indicated they spend 6 to 10 hours per week securing donated food.

LE has received many comments as to how demoralizing it can be when going from self-sufficiency to asking for food from an organization. Most market attendees find a Living Edge market to be friendly and are not stigmatized by their need.

Living Edge Market attendees were asked if they receive an adequate amount of food from their neighbourhood market

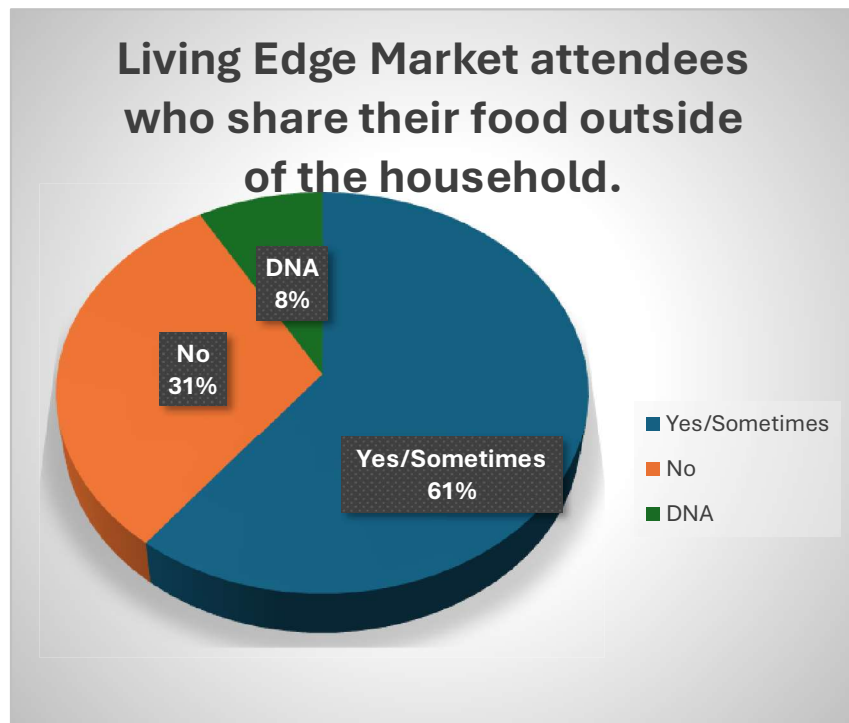
ADEQUATE AMOUNT OF FOOD RECEIVED FROM LIVING EDGE



The survey indicated that the majority of LE market attendees did receive an adequate amount of food from their Living Edge Neighbourhood Market (51%), (29%) indicated they 'sometimes' received an adequate amount of food, (11%) indicated they did not receive an adequate amount of food, and (9%) did not answer the question.

Living Edge food resources depend on regional food flows. We have developed software to estimate market needs and try to meet them. However, food resources may be limited during certain times of the year.

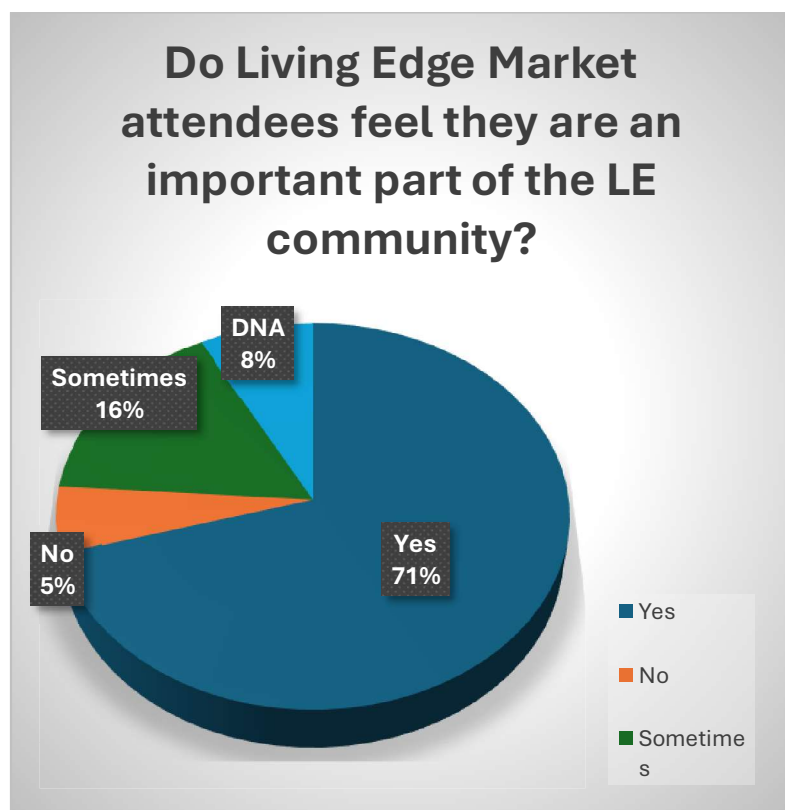
Living Edge Market attendees were asked if they share the food outside of their household with family or friends



The survey indicated that the majority of LE market attendees shared their food outside of their household (61%), (31%) stated they did not share their food outside of their household, and (8%) did not answer the question.

The regional average for sharing food is around 33% according to local Food Banks. Living Edge market attendees stated 61% share food with friends and family outside of their home.

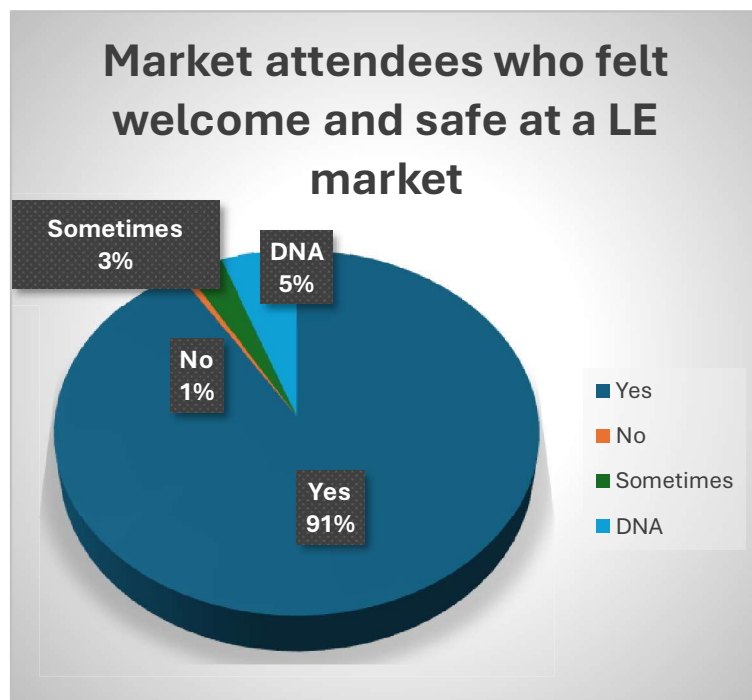
LE market attendees were asked if they feel they are an important part of the Living Edge market community



The survey indicated that the majority of LE market attendees feel they are an important part of the Living Edge market community (71%), (16%) felt that they were 'sometimes' an important part of the community, (5%) stated they did not feel they were an important part of the LE market community and (8%) did not answer the question.

This is such a subjective question that it could be interpreted in many different ways. It requires a response based on personal opinions, feelings, and experiences.

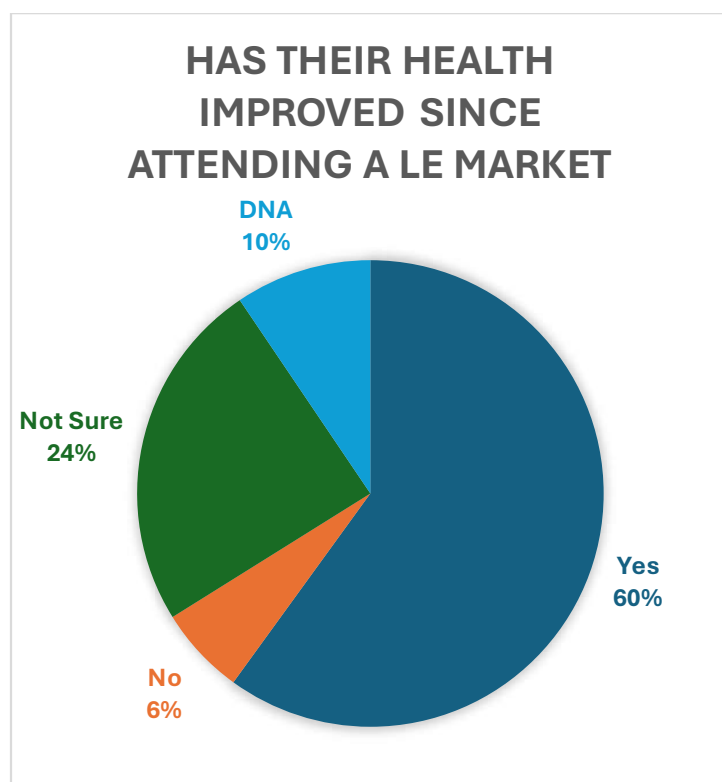
Market attendees were asked if they feel welcome and safe at a LE market



The survey indicated that the majority of LE market attendees felt welcome and safe at a LE market (91%), (3%) 'sometimes' felt welcome and safe at a LE market, (1%) did not feel welcome and safe at a LE market, (5%) did not answer the questions.

All Living Edge Markets have a non-violence and harassment policy. The markets are designed to be safe and welcoming for our community's most vulnerable members.

Market attendees were asked if they think their health has improved since receiving nutritious food at LE markets

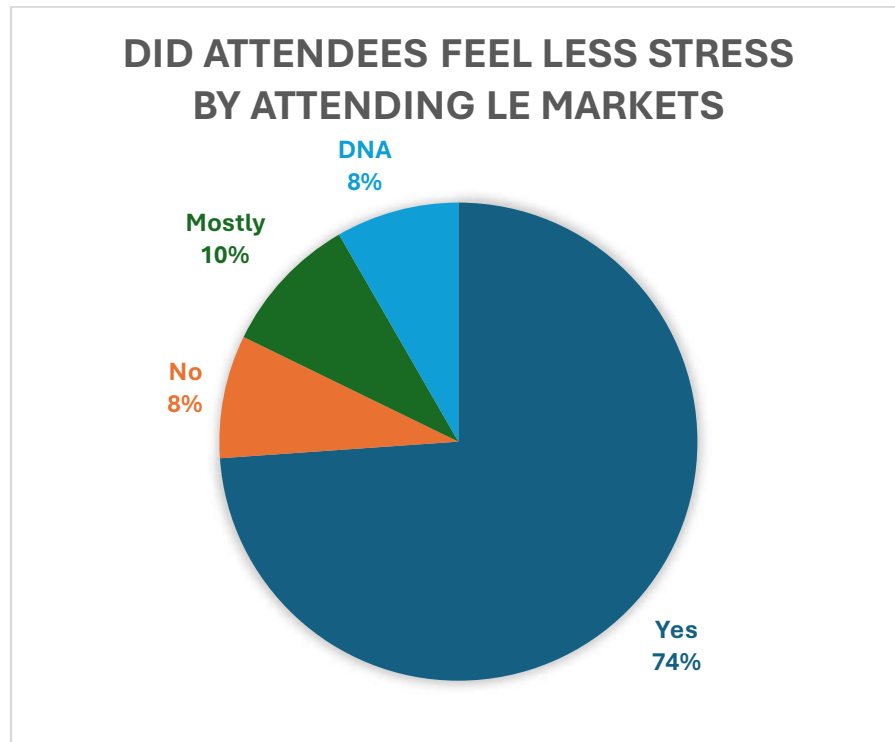


The survey indicated that the majority of LE market attendees felt their health has improved since receiving food at a LE market (60%), (24%) were not sure if their health had improved, (6%) stated their health has not improved, (10%) did not answer the question.

It is exceptionally hard for people on low income in Canada to access nutritious food. Food insecurity – inadequate access to food due to financial constraints – is a major, growing issue

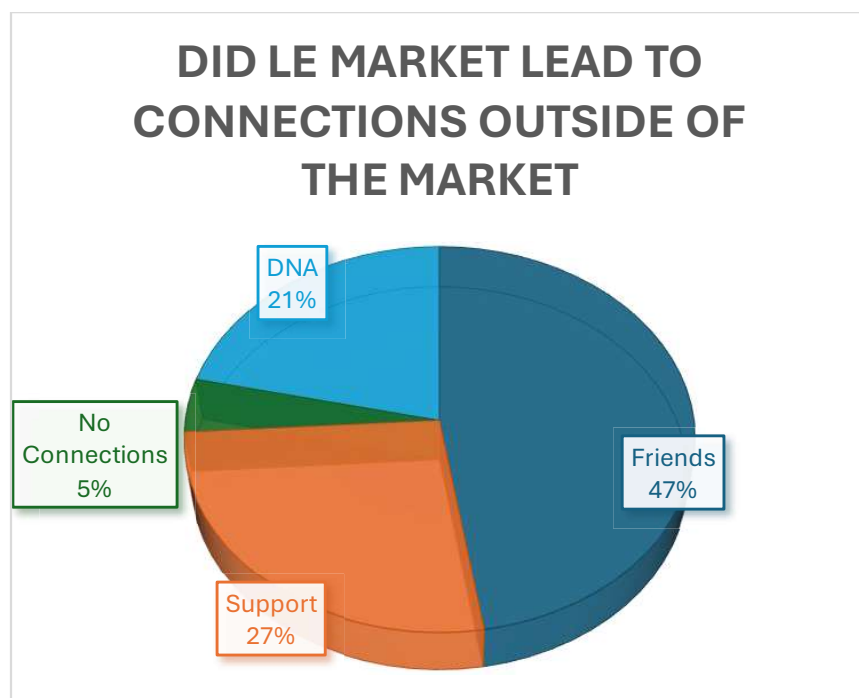
University of Toronto.

Market attendees were asked if they felt less stress in their life by attending LE markets



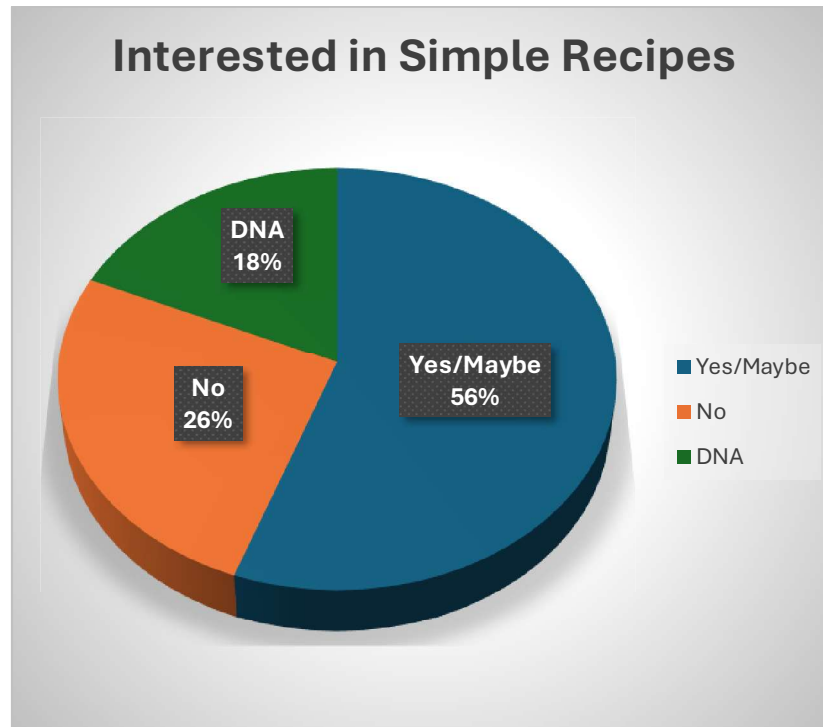
The survey indicated that the majority of LE market attendees felt less stress in their life through attending LE markets (74%), (10%) 'mostly' felt less stress in their life, (8%) stated they did not feel less stress, (8%) did not answer the question.

Market attendees were asked if the food market led to connections outside of the market environment.



The survey indicated that the majority of LE market attendees felt the market led to friends outside of the market environment (47%), (27%) stated the market led to further support outside of the market environment, (5%) stated the market led to no further connections outside of the market environment, (21%) did not answer the question.

Market attendees were asked if they would be interested in receiving simple recipes.



The survey indicated that the majority of LE market attendees were interested in receiving simple recipes (56%), (26%) stated they were not interested in simple recipes, (18%) did not answer the question.

Nourish Victoria may partner with Living Edge to develop recipes that will be given out at the market and on the LE website.

Our Volunteers



Living Edge Neighbourhood Markets are entirely volunteer-run. Each volunteer donates approximately six hours weekly to help facilitate the food markets. We have over 105 dedicated volunteers who warmly welcome market attendees and assist them in selecting the food they need. For these volunteers and market attendees, the market often becomes a second family, fostering friendships in a safe and non-threatening environment.

Check out our volunteer page at www.livingedge.ngo

LIVING EDGE NEIGHBOURHOOD MARKET SCHEDULE 2026
CHECK OUT MARKET SCHEDULE AND LOCATIONS AT www.livingedge.ngo

TUESDAY MARKET

Broadmead 3:45 to 5:15pm

FRIDAY MARKET

Langford 12:00 to 1:00p

WEDNESDAY MARKET

Gordon Head – 6:15 to 7:15pm

SATURDAY MARKET

Esquimalt 11:15 to 12:30pm

THURSDAY MARKETS

Central Saanich 5:30 to 6:30pm

Victoria South 11:00 to 12:00pm

If you or your family is finding it hard to put food on the table these days you are not alone. Living Edge Neighbourhood Markets welcome everyone who lives in the CRD.



I came for the food, but found so much more. Making friends at the market was a big help to me as I don't get out much. I have made friends with several Ukrainian people at the market, which helps me understand more as I speak very little English. The volunteers make me feel welcome and actually care about my situation.

Senior

It is A Privilege and Honour to Serve!

This book, and the information compiled within it, is an invaluable data set and tool for the work of our ministry. To ask for support from foundations, ministries, even from the kind hearts of individuals such as yourself, it is so important to be able to accurately articulate the impact of our work together.

However;

Never should we lose sight of this simple and paramount truth, the data contained here, the numbers reflected within these pages are not merely calculated averages. These are people. Valued, loved, wonderfully made in the reflection of God. These are our neighbours, whom we have not just been called to, but sent by the One to love and to serve, as He did first for us. Mothers, fathers, children, orphans, the wounded physically and spiritually. The struggling, the grieving. The brave and deeply kind, the hopeful even in the midst of every tier of struggle, from every culture, nation, faith and community. All of these and more, people who deserve their dignity and the right to food.

It is a privilege to serve these people, without prerequisite or judgement. An honour to do so alongside you and all who offer their hands to the work of God, through this ministry.

A special thanks to Sharon Klein, who orchestrated and put together this survey over many months, and has compiled it for our use and understanding. She is a great joy to us, and willingly takes on the work without expectations, but deserves our gratitude and recognition. Our thanks to the many market leaders and volunteers who gently and with great care, invited and recorded the answers of this survey at their markets, and who live out the 'Lord's welcome' every week. To Terry and the driving team who work tirelessly to feed the city of Victoria.

"So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus," Philippians 2:1-5

In Peace and Grace,

Duncan Polson, Living Edge ED

