

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a tropical park. In the center-right, there is a white wooden gazebo with a dark, shingled roof. The gazebo is surrounded by lush greenery, including several tall palm trees with long fronds. A paved path leads towards the gazebo. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

March, 2022

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# South Florida Community Satisfaction Survey

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CHARLES E. SCHMIDT COLLEGE OF SCIENCE  
DEPARTMENT OF URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING

[cues.fau.edu](http://cues.fau.edu)

**FAU**  
CENTER FOR URBAN &  
ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS  
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# Acknowledgment

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## ABACOA PARTNERSHIP FOR COMMUNITY BOARD

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We wish to extend our gratitude to our advisory board, the Abacoa Partnership for Community (APC), which provided support and valuable feedback

throughout the entire process, from the inception of the project, the preparation of the questionnaires, to the recruitment process. A list of the APC Board is on the left.

Finally, this project would not have been possible without the generous financial support of the MacArthur Foundation, which along with the State of Florida, established the Abacoa Project endowment to study the long-term outcomes of Abacoa as a model for South Florida. The Abacoa Project supports students, faculty, and staff to engage in education, research, and outreach activities and ensure a vital civil society and a responsible citizenry with a special emphasis on the Abacoa Community and the Southeast Florida region.

The views expressed in this report are based on the survey analysis findings and any additional views are solely those of the authors.



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# Executive Summary

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The FAU Center for Urban & Environmental Solutions (CUES) conducted a South Florida Quality of Life survey in five selected neighborhoods in Palm Beach County, including **Abacoa, the Heights of Jupiter, Mirasol, Evergrene**, and **historic neighborhoods of West Palm Beach**, which included Flamingo Park, Grandview Heights, Pineapple Park, and Sunshine Park.

The project asked whether residents were satisfied with their housing, neighborhood, and the broader region, which factors contribute to their quality of life, and whether urban form, proximity to amenities, and demographic factors influence the differences in quality of life and neighborhood satisfaction. The research results may help public policy makers and urban planners formulate the best strategies to enhance quality of life for the residents.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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The following summarizes the key findings from the survey.



Overall, over a half of the survey respondents (about 57%) strongly agree that they are satisfied with their neighborhoods, 27.2% agree that they are satisfied, and about 4.1% are not satisfied with their neighborhoods. Abacoa has the highest percentage responses of strongly agree, followed by the historic neighborhoods of West Palm Beach, and the Heights of Jupiter.



Regarding neighborhood amenities, about 47.5% of the survey respondents strongly agree that their neighborhood has sufficient parks and open space. Abacoa has the highest percentage (about 64%) strongly agreeing that the neighborhood has sufficient parks and open space, compared to 50% in the historic neighborhoods of West Palm Beach, and 18.2% in the Heights of Jupiter.



Abacoa has the highest percentage of respondents strongly agreeing that the neighborhood is safe for children to play outside, and only 2.4% disagree. The Heights of Jupiter has the smallest percentage answering strongly agree (22.7%), and the highest percentage answering disagree (13.6%), compared to the other neighborhoods.



Abacoa has the highest percentage of respondents answering that they feel safe walking in the neighborhood (61.6%), and only 3.5% disagree or strongly disagree.



The Heights of Jupiter has the highest percentage strongly agreeing there is a strong sense of community in the neighborhood (59.1%), followed by the historic neighborhoods of West Palm Beach (35.7%), and the lowest is Abacoa (24.7%).



The historic neighborhoods of West Palm Beach have the highest percentage who strongly agree that they can go shopping or dining without needing a car (33.9%), compared to 24.4% in Abacoa, and 2.3% in the Heights of Jupiter. The same pattern was also found regarding getting to work without needing a car.



The four most popular reasons for the respondents to choose their current residence included: 1. neighborhood amenities, 2. quality schools, 3. home and yard design, and 4. easy commute.



40.6% of the respondents rank neighborhood amenities and characteristics as the number one reason for choosing a home, compared to 14.7% ranking quality schools, 11.7% ranking home and yard design, and 10.7% ranking easy commute. Residents of Abacoa exercise the most, including walking and biking more in the neighborhood, followed by the residents of the historic neighborhoods of West Palm Beach and the Heights of Jupiter.



Residents in the historic neighborhoods of West Palm Beach drive less often to destinations compared to the other neighborhoods.



Most respondents report fair, good, or excellent health.



Most respondents drive to work.



During the COVID-19 pandemic, the historic neighborhoods of West Palm Beach had the highest percentage working from home (36.5%), followed by Abacoa (30.2%) and the Heights of Jupiter (11.8%).

# Context

---



A primary goal of urban and regional planning is to protect public interests and promote quality of life of the residents. Policy recommendations to promote quality of life are often based on the determinants of neighborhood satisfaction. Multiple projects have collected data in other regions of the U.S. about quality-of-life factors, including the American Housing Survey, the Community Preference Survey conducted by the National Association of Realtors, and other localized datasets. The South Florida region has not been specifically targeted among similar data collection efforts. Other datasets collected and managed by the Census Bureau do not have comprehensive variables measuring neighborhood quality and quality-of-life factors.

The South Florida region is a dynamic region with a diverse population. The region has experienced rapid population growth and promises to be among the fastest growing regions in the future. The South Florida region represents a live urban laboratory to study residential preferences, mobility, and satisfaction among different demographic segments. This study's fundamental question is whether residents are satisfied with their housing, neighborhood, and the broader region. Moreover, the study aims to identify which factors contribute to quality of life, and whether urban form, proximity to amenities, and demographic factors influence the differences in neighborhood satisfaction. The research results will help public policy-makers and urban planners formulate the best strategies to enhance quality of life for the residents.

## Methodology

The study intended to collect survey data about neighborhood perception, preferences, and satisfaction of households among various local neighborhoods in Palm Beach County. The study population are the households living in the selected neighborhoods/communities. The survey respondents are the adult household members, and the survey responses were voluntary and anonymous. Their demographic attributes, such as age, gender, marital status, educational attainment, income, and employment status, were collected to help analyze the effect of different demographic segments on the survey findings. Data in perceptions and facts of their lifestyles, commuting, housing, and neighborhoods were also collected. In

addition to answering sets of Likert-scale questions, the survey also includes sections where the respondents can write comments. See [Appendix I](#) for specific comments from the survey respondents and [Appendix II](#) for the survey questionnaire.

The survey team used a combination of methods to advertise the survey. Social media (primarily Nextdoor and Facebook) was used to advertise and administer a portion of the survey questionnaires. Other survey responses resulted from advertising through newsletters sent by community or homeowners' association leaders. Selectivity bias may present when using social media as platforms to collect data. The project team

is aware of such data limitations and used methods such as comparison with the actual population composition in the study area to mitigate the effect of such limitations. The survey questionnaire was administered from March 15 to June 15, and a total of 251 survey responses were collected during this period.

To increase the response rate and incentivize the respondents, a discount of \$75 was provided by a third-party travel agency, HotelPlanner, when the survey respondent activates the coupon using a code and books hotels through the agency. The coupon activation code was purchased by the project team at FAU at a cost of 10 cents per survey activation.

## The Study Area

Five neighborhoods, **Abacoa**, **Mirasol**, **Evergrene**, **the Heights of Jupiter**, and **West Palm Beach historic neighborhoods** in northern Palm Beach County, were initially selected to participate in the survey (Figure 1).

The primary study objective was to explore household perception and satisfaction in the neighborhood of Abacoa, located in southwest of Jupiter, FL, a new urbanist community with higher density, mixed-use, and mixed types of housing units. Mirasol and Evergrene are gated neighborhoods with the dominant housing type of lower-density, single-family homes. The Heights of Jupiter is a primarily single-family neighborhood with similar density as in Abacoa. West Palm Beach historic neighborhoods are a combination of different neighborhoods built between 1915 - 1930, including Flamingo Park, Grandview Heights, Pineapple Park, and Sunshine Park, with older housing structures, higher density, primarily single-family units, and proximity to downtown West Palm Beach.

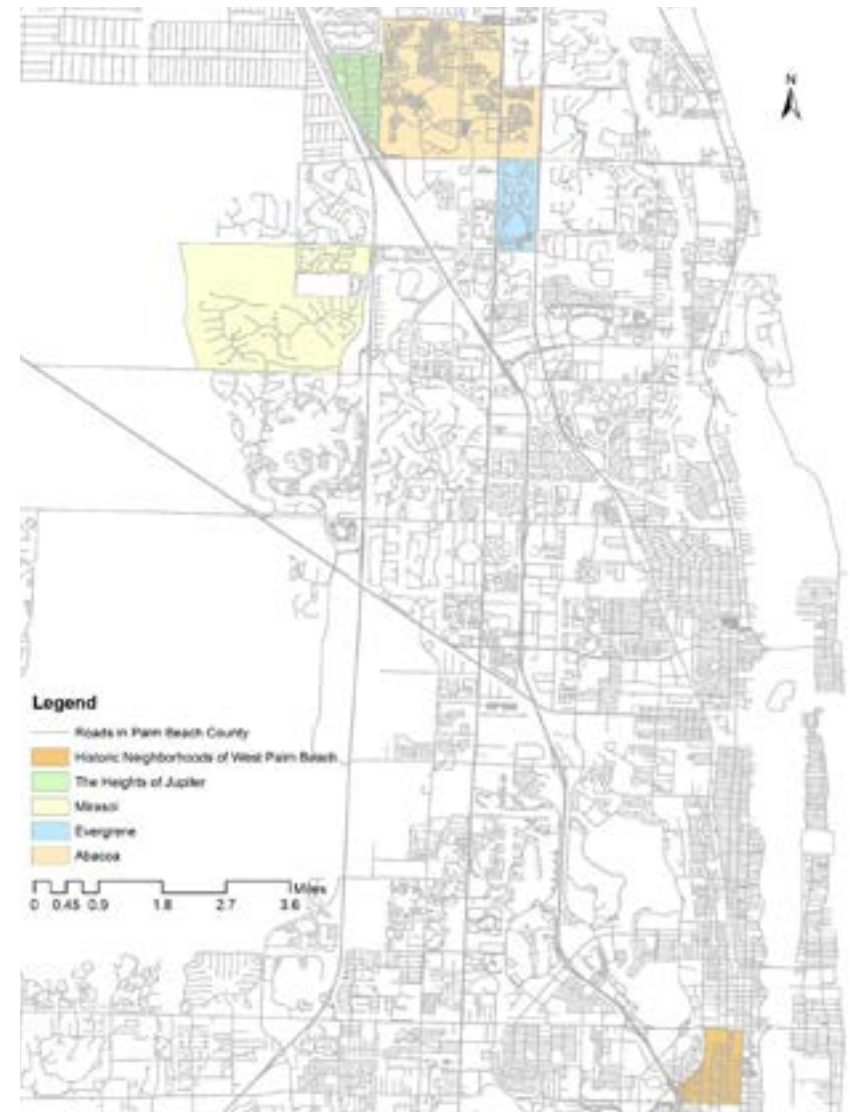


Figure 1.  
The Five Neighborhoods Initially Selected by the Project

Among the 251 total responses, 12 did not indicate which neighborhoods the respondents lived in. This indicates that 239 respondents answered where they lived, among which 19 did not live in the five target neighborhoods, making the valid observations 220. Therefore, 97 live in Abacoa, 48 in the Heights of Jupiter, 3 in Evergrene, 6 in Mirasol, and 66 in historic neighborhoods of West Palm Beach (Figure 2).

Due to the low response rate in Evergrene and Mirasol, this report primarily focuses on the 251 total responses as a whole for reference purposes (“All Neighborhoods” as denoted in all the charts) and the three neighborhoods with the largest number of responses (“All Three Neighborhoods” as denoted in all the charts): **Abacoa** (“Abacoa” as denoted in all the charts), **the Heights of Jupiter** (“Heights” as denoted in all the charts), and the **Historic Neighborhoods of West Palm Beach**

(“Historic Neighborhood” as denoted in all the charts). Abacoa has a few sub-neighborhoods within the development and the study area includes a few smaller historic neighborhoods. However, the analysis treats Abacoa as a whole neighborhood and the historic neighborhoods as a whole neighborhood as well, although the mental map of neighborhoods may be different per individual perceptions.

The maps of Abacoa (Figure 3), the Heights of Jupiter (Figure 4), and the Historic Neighborhoods of West Palm Beach (Figure 5) indicate somewhat distinctive features of the built environment.

Abacoa is a large New Urbanist community, with about 5,000 residential parcels of mixed uses (single-family housing, condominiums, townhouses, and apartments). The community



boasts a town center (Downtown Abacoa), Jupiter Community Park, Roger Dean Stadium, parks and nature preserves, and a golf-course. It is worth noting that it is a mixed-use community, but not necessarily a mixed-income community. The demographic characteristics of the survey respondents in the next section reflect the socioeconomic statuses of the households in this community.

The Heights of Jupiter is immediately adjacent to Abacoa, with mostly single-family homes and a small amount of open space. Both Abacoa and the Heights of Jupiter have easy access to Interstate 95 and the grocery and shopping centers along Donald Ross Road. Abacoa Downtown has restaurants, entertainment, art studios, and other venues, and therefore residents in Abacoa are adjacent to more shopping, dining, and entertainment amenities than in the Heights of Jupiter.

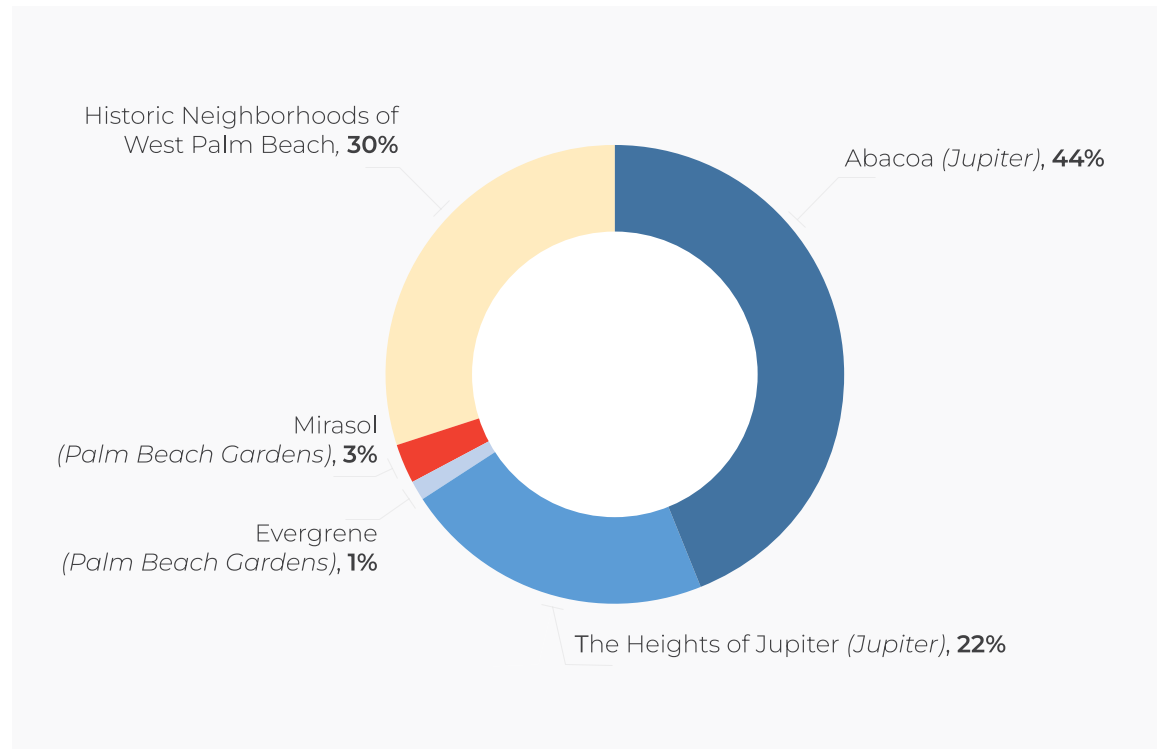


Figure 2.  
Percentage Respondents for Each Neighborhood

The Historic Neighborhoods of West Palm Beach (Figure 5) have an easy access to Interstate 95, the beach, and Downtown West Palm Beach. Generally speaking, the housing units are older, smaller, and denser than in the Heights of Jupiter and Abacoa. It has access to parks and is within a short distance to arts, entertainment, shopping, and cultural amenities. Some notable destinations within and in close proximity of these neighborhoods are Rosemary Square, the Palm Beach County Convention Center, Norton Museum of Art, Armory Arts Center, the Kravis Center, the Intracoastal Waterway, and Downtown West Palm Beach.

Figure 3.  
Abacoa, Jupiter



Figure 4.  
The Heights of Jupiter

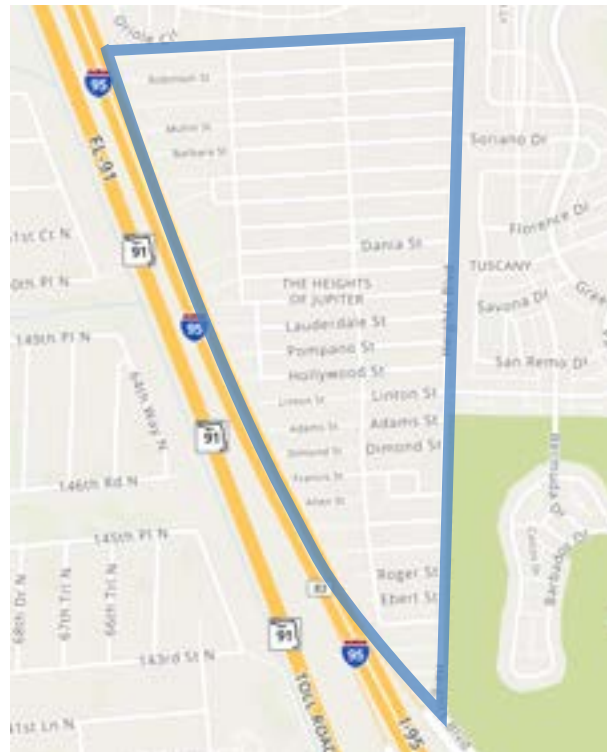
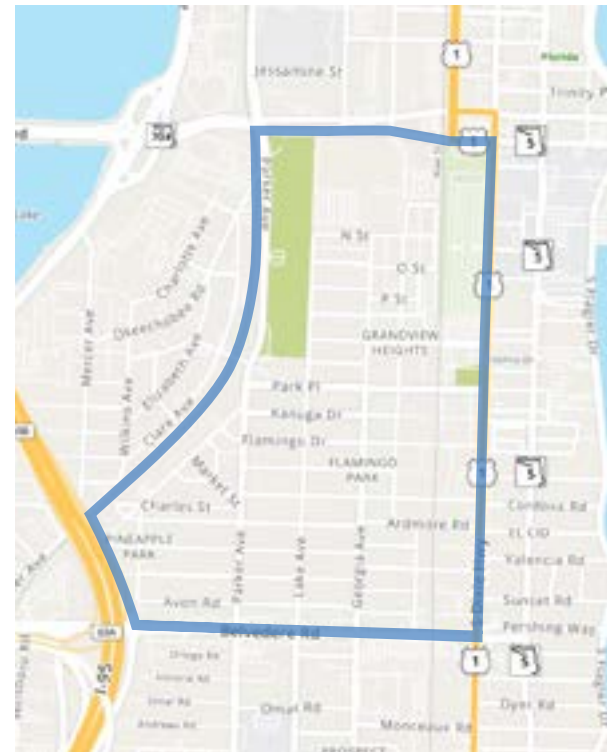


Figure 5.  
Historic Neighborhoods of West Palm Beach



# Analysis and Findings

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This section summarizes the analysis and findings with sub-sections that address demographics, living arrangements and housing characteristics, neighborhood perception, access to shopping, dining, and working, reasons people choose their home, lifestyle and health, employment and commuting, and feedback from the respondents.

## Demographic Characteristics

The **largest age group** for those respondents who answered the questionnaire is **between 50-64** across all the neighborhoods. The Heights of Jupiter also has a large portion of respondents between the age of 40-49 (Figure 6). **Around 60%** of the survey respondents identified themselves as **women** (Figure 7), and the **median household income** is mostly between **\$100,000 and \$149,000**, and above \$149,000. A very small percentage of survey respondents has a household income of less than \$50,000 and rarely below \$25,000 (Figure 8).

**50-64**

Age

**69.4%**

Married

**91.5%**Born in  
the United States**60%**

Women

**\$100-\$149K**

Median Household Income

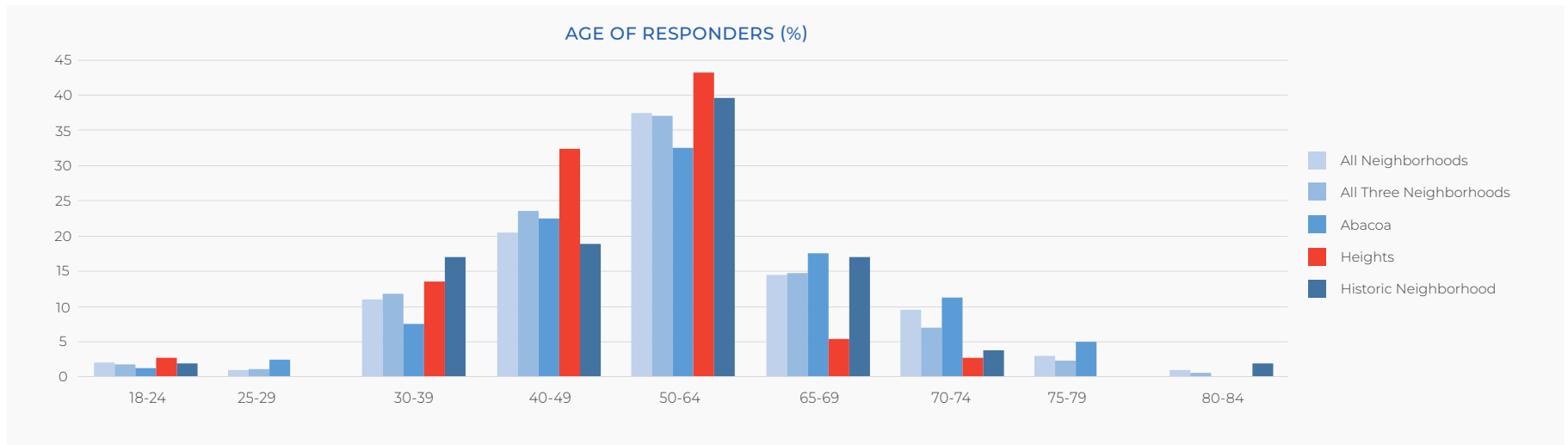


Figure 6.  
Age Group of the Respondents by Percentage

The survey respondents have a wide spectrum of educational attainment, with the largest portion having a bachelor's degree or higher (Figure 9). The respondents from the Heights of Jupiter have a more diverse educational attainment than the other neighborhoods, whereas educational levels of some college but no degree and those with a bachelor's degree have nearly the same number of respondents (around 29% respectively).

Most (about **69.4%**) of the survey respondents **are married**, and the percentages are 78.5%, 67.6%, and 54.7% for Abacoa, the Heights of Jupiter, and the Historic Neighborhoods of West Palm Beach respectively (Figure 10).

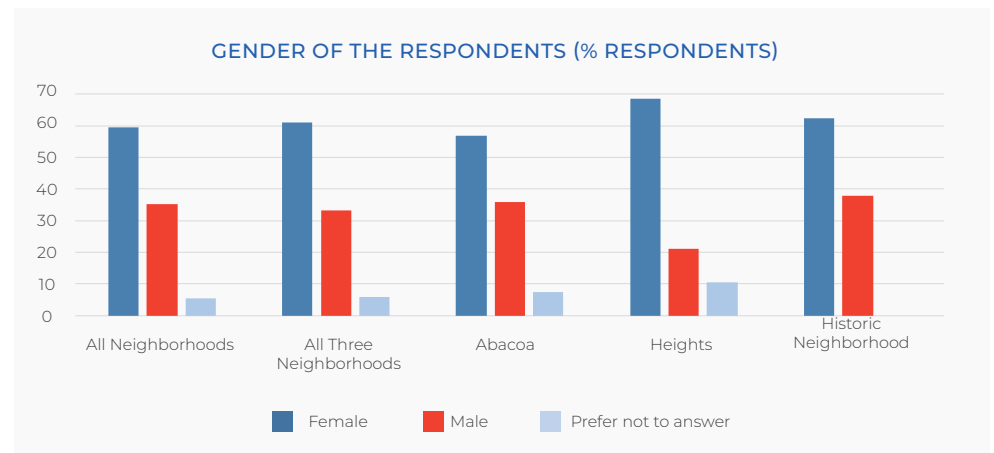


Figure 7.  
Gender of the Respondents by Percentage

## ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

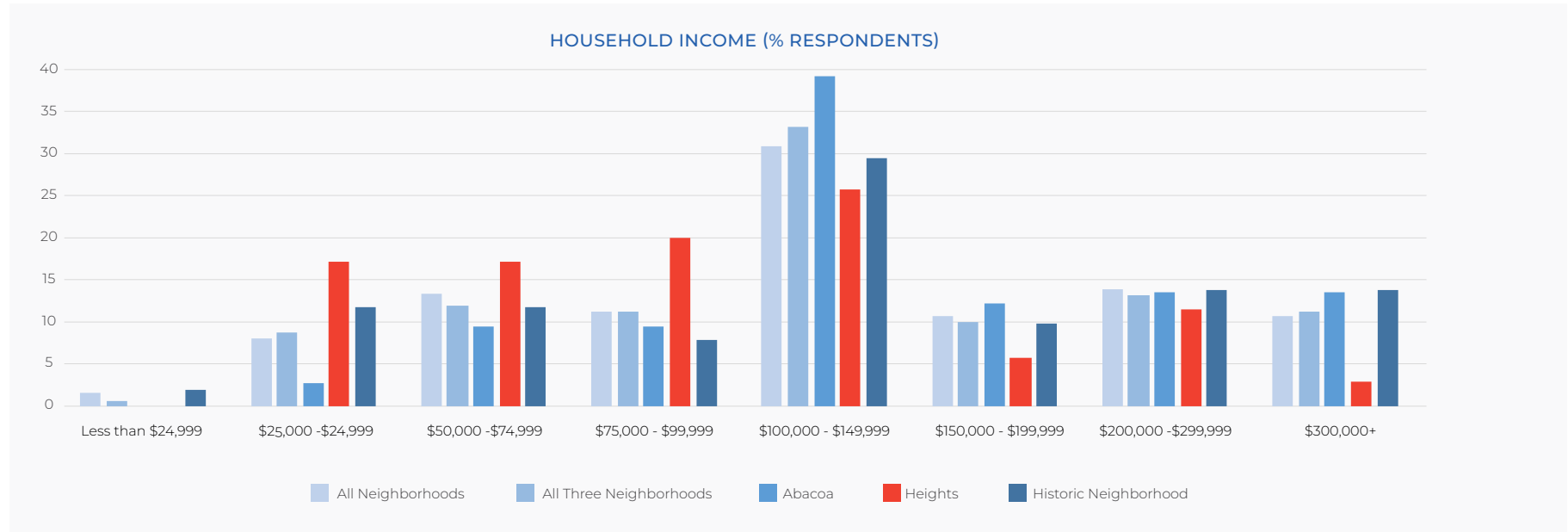


Figure 8.  
Household Income Bracket by Percentage Respondents

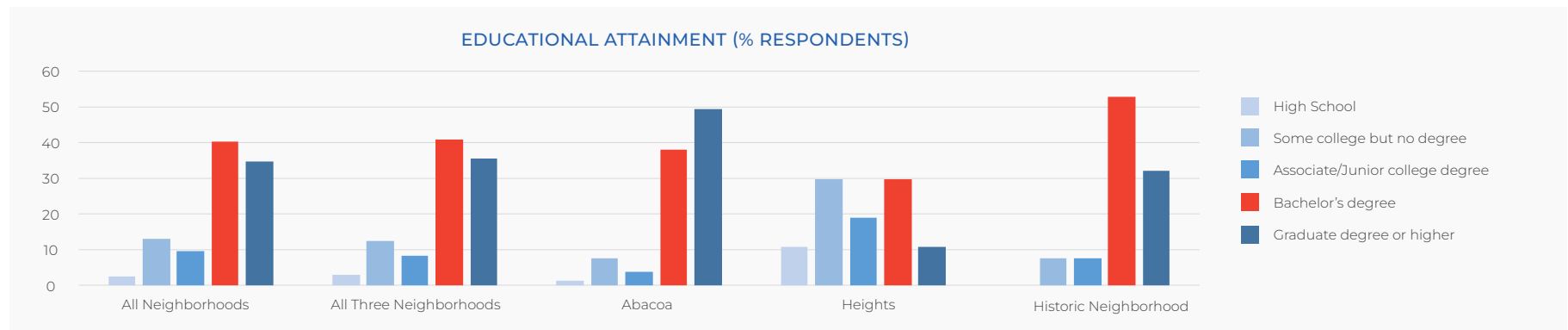


Figure 9.  
Educational Attainment by Percentage Respondents

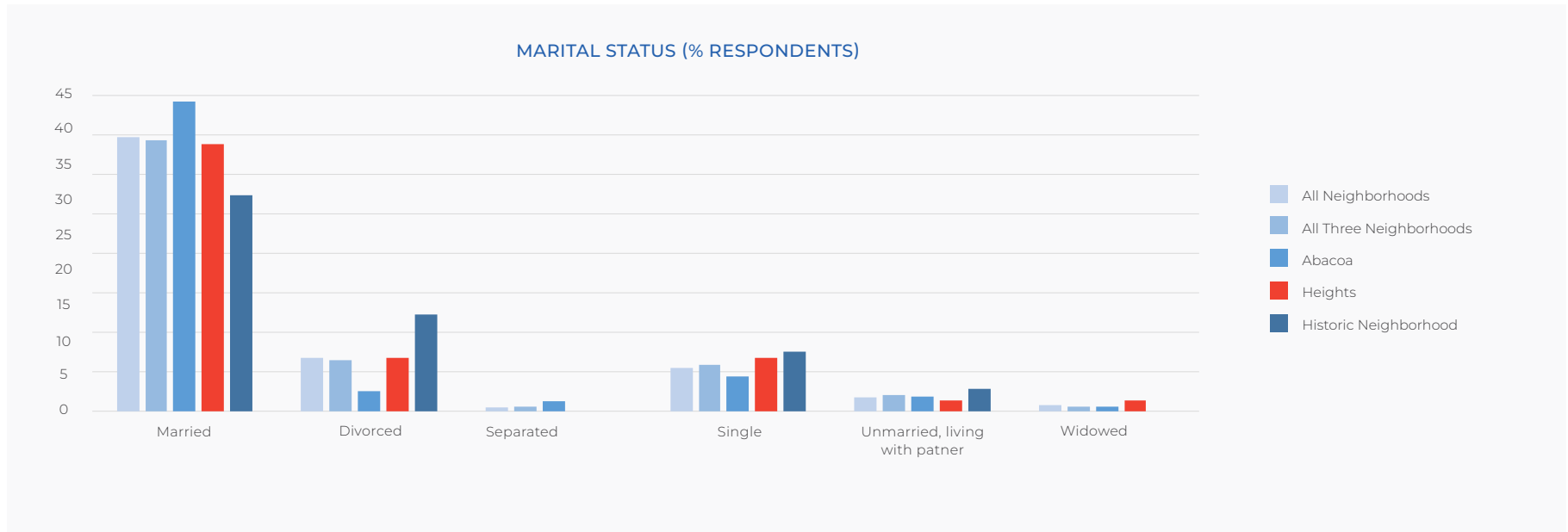


Figure 10.  
**Marital Status by Percentage Respondents**

Among all the survey respondents, about **91.5%** were **born in the United States**. The percentages are 95%, 84.2%, and 92.5%, respectively, for Abacoa, the Heights of Jupiter, and the Historic Neighborhoods of West Palm Beach (Figure 11).

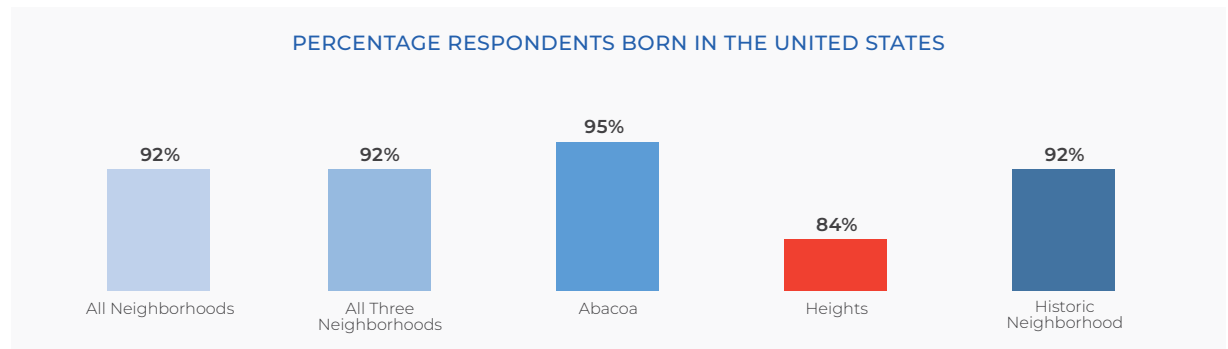


Figure 11.  
**Percentage Respondents Born in the United States**

## Living Arrangements and Housing Characteristics

Regarding the living arrangements and housing characteristics, about 51.4% of the respondents from the Heights of Jupiter have children under 18 in the household, compared to 27.2% in Abacoa, and 37.7% in the Historic Neighborhoods of West Palm Beach (Figure 12). Nearly **90%** of the survey respondents **live in Florida year around**, indicating that the **seasonal residents** are about **10%** (Figure 13). The Heights of Jupiter has a slightly higher percentage of year-around residents (92.1%), while it is about 87.8% in Abacoa.

**90%**   
Live in Florida  
year round

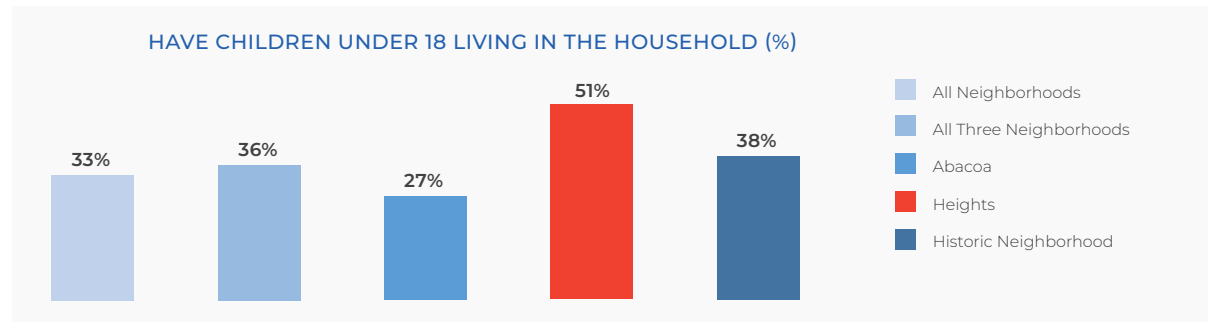


Figure 12.  
Percentage Respondents Having Children in the Households

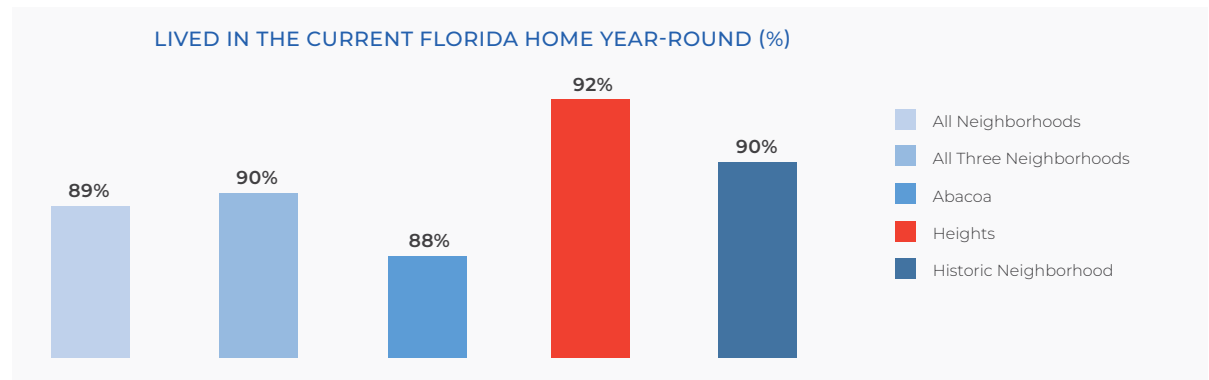


Figure 13.  
Percentage Respondents Living in Current Residence Year-Around

Most (about **66.7%**) of the survey respondents are **homeowners with a mortgage**, **21.6%** own a home **without a mortgage**, and **11.8%** are **renters** (Figure 14). In Abacoa, about 61% are homeowners with a mortgage, 29.3% are owners without a mortgage, and 9.8% are renters. In the Heights of Jupiter, 73.7% are owners with a mortgage, 10.5% are owners without a mortgage, and 15.8% are renters. In the Historic Neighborhoods of West Palm Beach, about 77.4% are homeowners with a mortgage, 15.1% are owners without a mortgage, and 7.6% are renters.

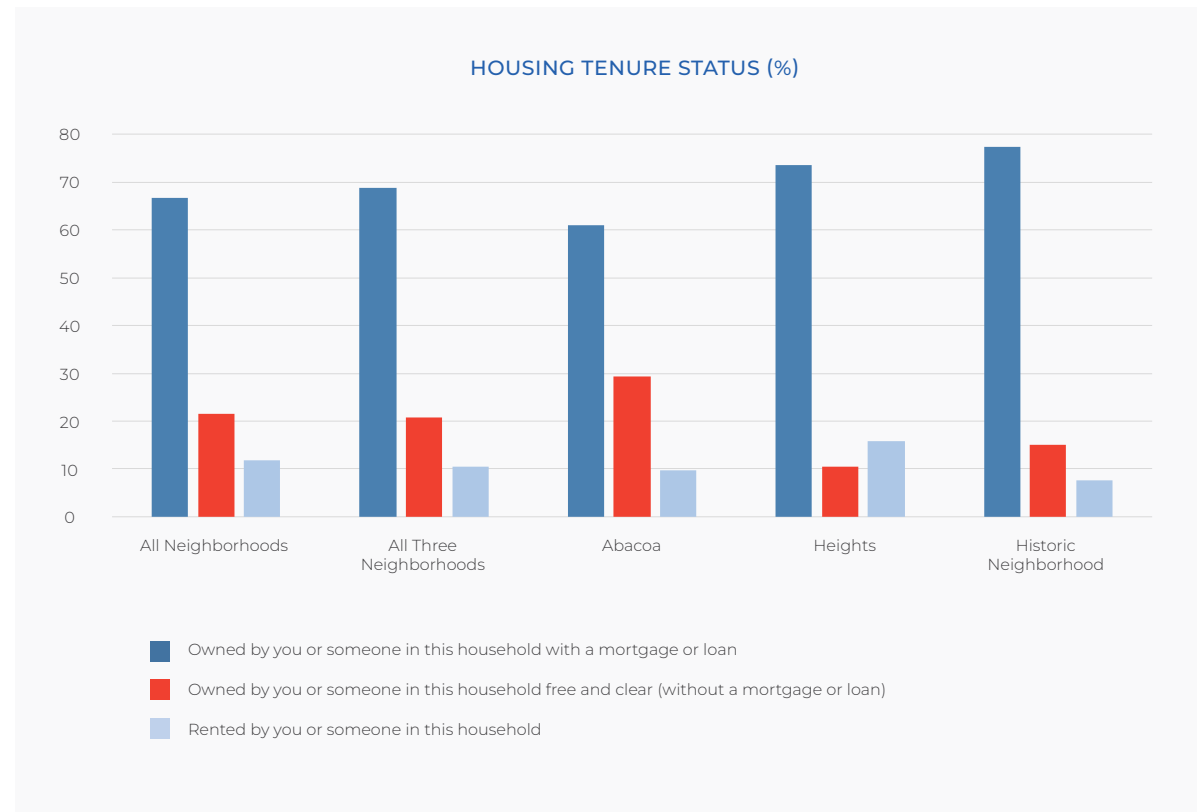
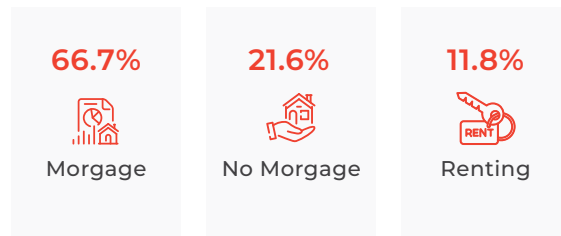


Figure 14.  
Housing Tenure Status by Percentage Respondents



## ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

About **64.9%** of all respondents live in a **one-family house detached from other houses**, **15.6%** live in a **one-family house attached to other houses** (e.g. townhouses), and **12.7%** live in **condominium or apartment** buildings (Figure 15). In Abacoa, about 45.8% live in a one-family house detached from other houses, 32.5% live in a one-family house attached to other houses, and 13.3% live in condominium or apartment buildings. In the Heights of Jupiter, about 89.5% live in a one-family house detached from other houses, and 5.3% live in a one-family house attached to other houses. There are no respondents from the Heights of Jupiter living in condominium or apartment buildings. This is consistent with the overall housing characteristics since most of the housing units in the Heights of Jupiter are single-family detached homes. In the Historic Neighborhoods of West Palm Beach, about 81.1% live in a one-family house detached from other houses, 3.8% live in a one-family house attached to other houses, and about 7.6% live in condominium or apartment buildings.

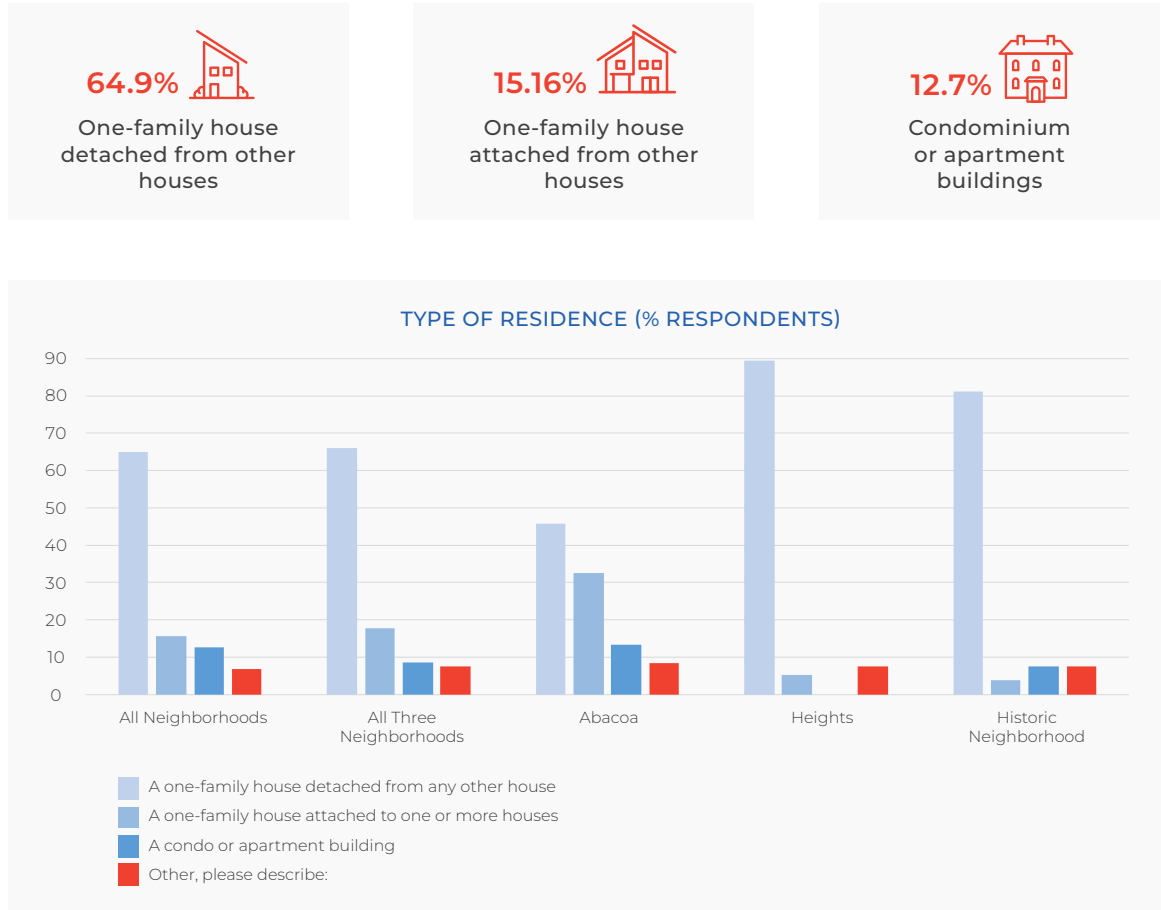


Figure 15.  
Type of Residence by Percentage Respondents

## Neighborhood Perception

Overall, over a half of the survey respondents (about **57%**) **strongly agree** that they are **satisfied with their neighborhoods**, **27.2%** agree that they are **satisfied**, and about **4.1%** are **not satisfied** with their neighborhoods (Figure 16). The satisfaction levels differ greatly among different neighborhoods and there is a higher percentage of residential satisfaction in Abacoa. About 66.7% of respondents in Abacoa strongly agree that they are satisfied with their neighborhood, and 23% agree that they are satisfied. About 6.9% in Abacoa are somewhat satisfied.

In the Heights of Jupiter, about 31.8% strongly agree, 40.9% agree, and 25% somewhat agree that they are satisfied with their neighborhood (Figure 16). In the Historic Neighborhoods of West Palm Beach, 64.3% strongly agree, 21.4% agree, and 8.9% somewhat agree that they are satisfied with their neighborhood.

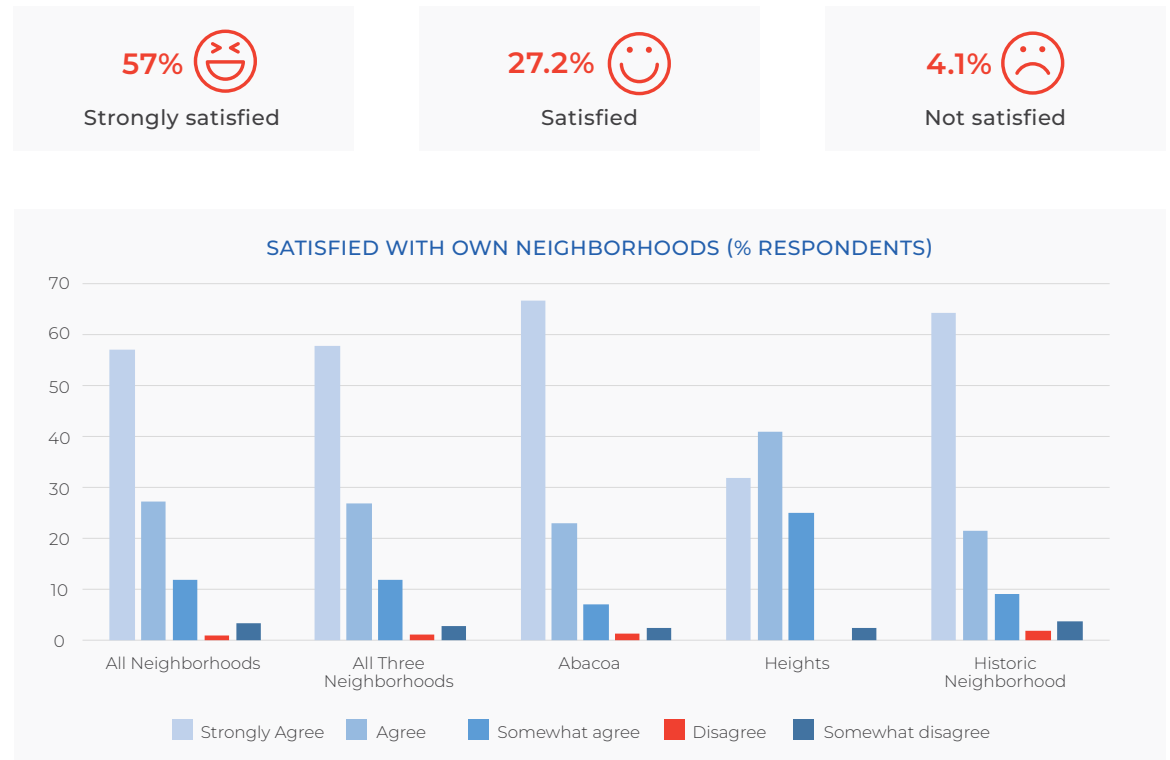


Figure 16.  
Neighborhood Satisfaction by Percentage Respondents

## ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

Regarding neighborhood amenities, about **47.5%** of the survey respondents **strongly agree** that their neighborhood has sufficient parks and open space (Figure 17). About **26.2%** agree that there are sufficient parks and open space in the neighborhood. Overall, about **9.4% disagree or strongly disagree that their neighborhood has sufficient parks and open space.** Abacoa has the highest percentage (about 64%) strongly agree that the neighborhood has sufficient parks and open space, compared to 18.2% in the Heights of Jupiter, and 50% in the Historic Neighborhoods of West Palm Beach. About 13.3% of the respondents from the Heights of Jupiter disagree or strongly disagree that their neighborhood has sufficient parks and open space, compared to 3.5% in Abacoa, and 12.5% in the Historic Neighborhoods of West Palm Beach.

When asked about whether the neighborhood is **safe for children to play outside**, **42.1% strongly agree**, **31.5% agree**, and **16.7% somewhat agree** (Figure 18). Overall, about **9.7% disagree**. Respondents from Abacoa has the highest percentage strongly agreeing that the neighborhood is safe for children to play outside, and only 2.4% disagree. The Heights of Jupiter has the smallest percentage answering strongly agree (22.7%), and the highest percentage answering disagree (13.6%), compared to the other neighborhoods.

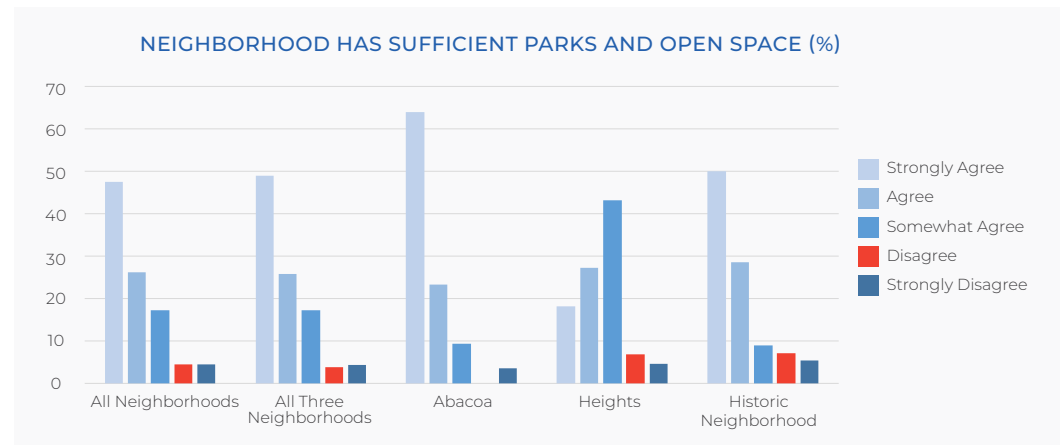


Figure 17.  
Neighborhood has Sufficient Parks and Open Space

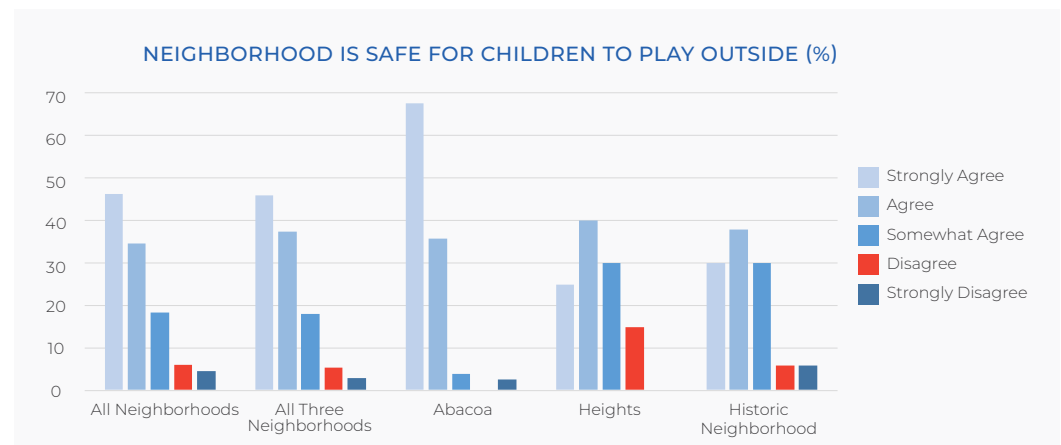


Figure 18.  
Neighborhood is Safe for Children to Play Outside

Abacoa also has the highest percentage answering feeling safe walking in the neighborhood (61.6%), while only 3.5% disagree (Figure 19). The Heights of Jupiter and the Historic Neighborhoods of West Palm Beach have similar percentages strongly agreeing it is safe to walk in the neighborhood, 18.2% and 17.9% respectively. Overall, about **42.3%** of the respondents **strongly agree** that they feel **safe walking in their neighborhood**, and **11.4%** **disagree or strongly disagree**.

However, the sense of community among the three neighborhoods differ greatly from the characteristics of neighborhood satisfaction, amenities, and safety perception. Respondents from the Heights of Jupiter have the highest percentage strongly agreeing there is a strong sense of community in the neighborhood (59.1%), followed by the Historic Neighborhoods of West Palm Beach (35.7%), and the lowest is Abacoa (24.7%) (Figure 20). The Historic Neighborhoods of West Palm Beach, however, has the highest percentage of disagreeing that there is a strong sense of community (19.6%), compared to Abacoa (9.4%), and The Heights of Jupiter (4.5%). Overall, **35%** of the respondents **strongly agree** their neighborhood has a strong sense of community, **32.3%** **agree**, and **21.4%** **somewhat agree**. About **11.4%** **disagree or strongly disagree** that there is a **strong sense of community in their neighborhood**.

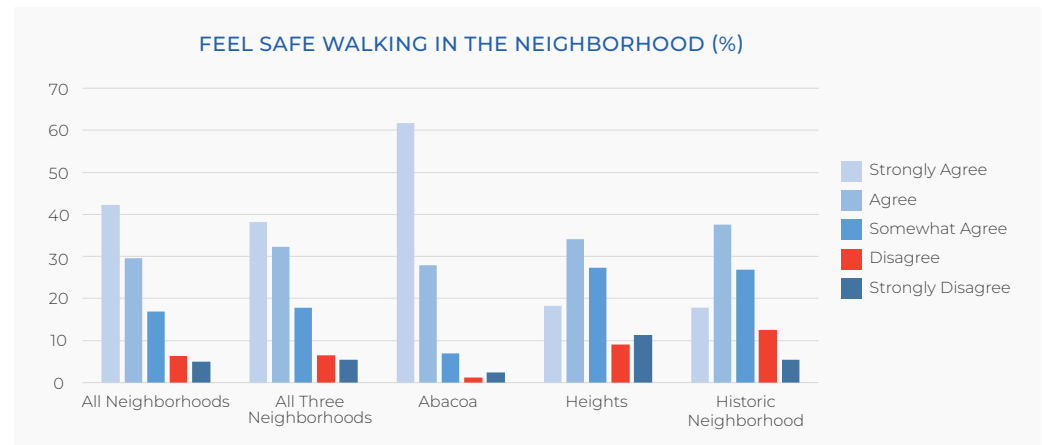


Figure 19.  
Feel Safe Walking in the Neighborhood

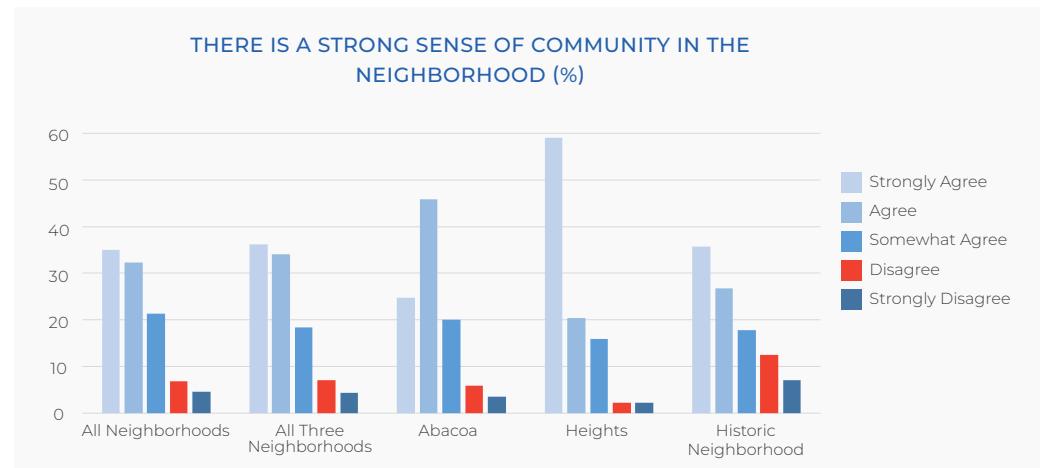


Figure 20.  
There is a Sense of Community in the Neighborhood

## Access to Shopping, Dining, and Working

When being asked about whether they **need a car to go shopping or dining**, about **20.1% strongly agree**, **20.6% agree**, **25.6% somewhat agree**, and **33.8% disagree or strongly disagree** (Figure 21).

Car dependency is more evident regarding access to work. Among all the respondents, only **10.6% strongly agree that they can get to work without needing a car**, and **68.9% disagree or strongly disagree** (Figure 22).

The Historic Neighborhoods of West Palm Beach has the highest percentage who strongly agree that they can go shopping or dining without needing a car (33.9%), compared to 24.4% in Abacoa, and 2.3% in the Heights of Jupiter (Figure 21). Only 10.7% of the respondents in the Historic Neighborhoods of West Palm Beach disagree or strongly disagree that they can go shopping or dining without needing a car, compared to 24.4% in Abacoa and 63.6% in the Heights of Jupiter. Overall, the Heights of Jupiter has the least accessibility to shopping and dining.

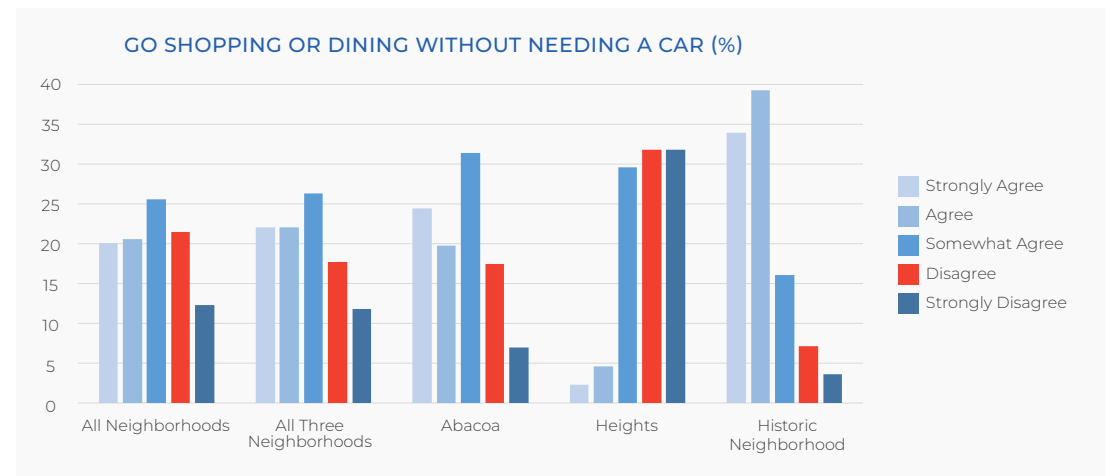


Figure 21.  
Go Shopping or Dining without Needing a Car

Similar patterns can be found regarding getting to work without needing a car (Figure 22). About 10.2% in the Historic Neighborhoods of West Palm Beach strongly agree that they can get to work without needing a car, compared to nobody for the Heights of Jupiter,

and 13.3% in Abacoa. In the Heights of Jupiter, about 83.7% disagree or strongly disagree that they can get to work without needing a car, compared to 71.7% in Abacoa and 44.9% in the Historic Neighborhoods of West Palm Beach.

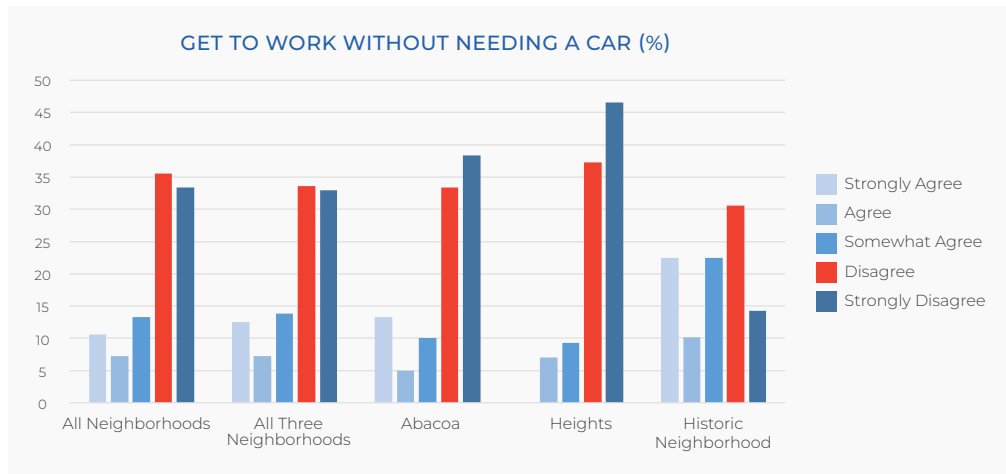


Figure 22.  
Get to Work without Needing a Car

## I choose my home because...

The reasons that the respondents choose their current home are investigated in this two-step question. In the first step, the respondents choose all the reasons among the seven listed reasons (**affordability,**

**easy commute, family and friends nearby, home and yard design, in a historic district, neighborhood amenities, and quality schools**). Then the respondents rank the selected reasons.

For all the neighborhoods 36% choose affordability, 48.7% choose easy commute, 39.1% choose family and friends nearby, 57.9% choose home and yard design, 27.4% choose in a historic district, 72.6% choose neighborhood amenities and characteristics (e.g. parks, beach, gated community, close to restaurants and entertainments, etc.), and 47.2% choose quality schools (Figure 23). Similar patterns hold for all the three neighborhoods that the study focuses on. Therefore, overall, the largest percentage of respondents regard neighborhood amenities as a reason to choose their current home, followed by home and yard design, easy commute, quality schools, affordability, and in a historic district.

When they rank their selected reasons, **40.6%** of the total respondents rank **neighborhood amenities** and characteristics as the No. 1 reason, **14.7%** rank **quality school** as the No. 1 reason, **11.7%** rank **home and yard design** as the No.1 reason, and **10.7%** rank **easy commute** as the No. 1 reason (Figure 24). Affordability, family and friends nearby, and in a historic district have less than 10% of the respondents ranking as the No.1 reason.

## ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

### NO. 1 REASON TO CHOOSE CURRENT HOME

40.6%



Neighborhood Amenities and Characteristics

14.7%



Quality School

11.7%



Home and Yard design

10.7%



Easy Commute

### ALL THE REASONS THAT I CHOOSE MY CURRENT HOME... (% RESPONDENTS)

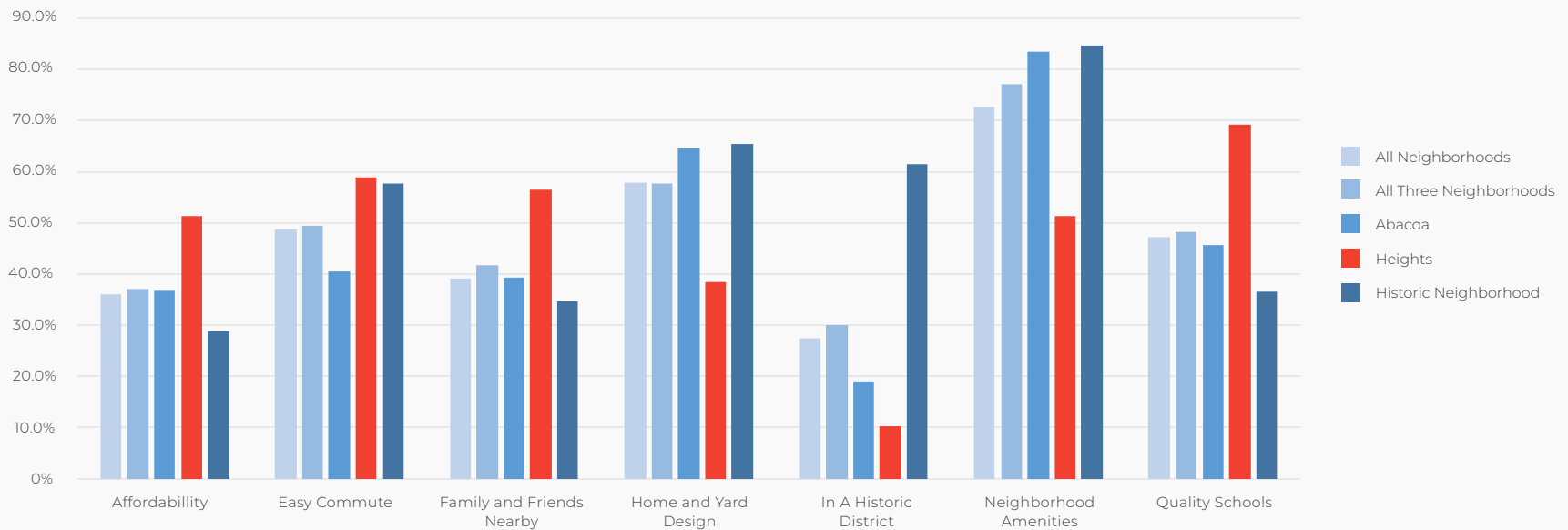


Figure 23.  
All the Reasons Respondents Choose Their Homes



When comparing the three neighborhoods regarding all the reasons that the respondents choose their current homes, in Abacoa, 83.5% choose neighborhood amenities and characteristics, 64.6% choose home and yard design, 45.6% choose quality schools, 40.5% choose easy commute, followed by family and friends nearby (39.2%), and affordability (36.7%) (Figure 23). In the Heights of Jupiter, the largest percentage is quality schools (69.2%), followed by easy commute (59%), family and friends nearby (56.4%), affordability (51.3%),

neighborhood amenities and characteristics (51.3%), and home and yard design (38.5%). Caring for quality schools may relate to the demographic fact that the Heights of Jupiter has the highest percentage respondents with children living in the households. For the Historic Neighborhoods of West Palm Beach, 84.6% choose neighborhood amenities and characteristics as a reason of choosing their current homes, followed by home and yard design (65.4%), in a historic district (61.5%), easy commute (57.7%), quality schools (36.5%), family and friends

nearby (34.6%), and affordability (28.8%). Among the three neighborhoods, about 50.6% of the respondents from Abacoa rank neighborhood amenities and characteristics as the No. 1 reason (Figure 24). About 25% of the respondents living in the Heights of Jupiter rank affordability as the No. 1 reason, tied with quality schools (25.6%). In the Historic Neighborhoods of West Palm Beach about 48.1% of the respondents rank neighborhood amenities and characteristics as the No. 1 reason, followed by 13.5% ranking easy commute as the No. 1 reason.

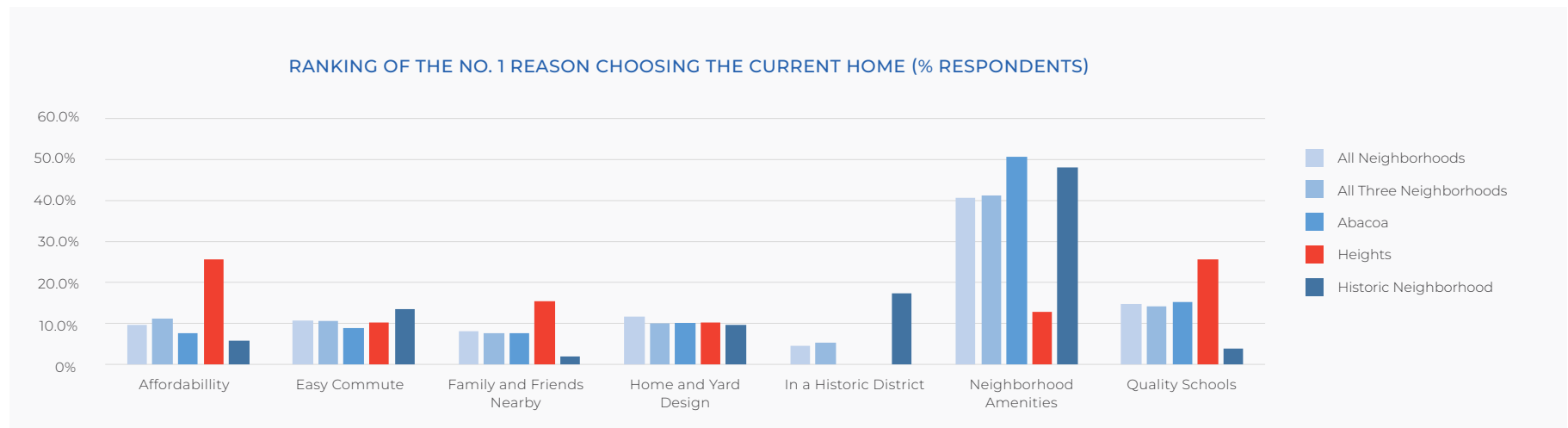


Figure 24.  
Ranking of the No. 1 Reason Choosing the Current Home

## Lifestyle and Health

Overall, for all the respondents, the **average days exercising** for more than 30 minutes is about four days (**4.2 days**) in a typical week. Abacoa has a slightly higher average (4.8 days), followed by the Heights of Jupiter (3.9 days), and Historic Neighborhoods of West Palm Beach (3.5 days) (Figure 25).

On average, all the respondents **walked in the neighborhood for 137.9 minutes** in a typical week. Abacoa has the highest minutes (204.7 minutes), followed by the Historic Neighborhoods of West Palm Beach (106.8 minutes), and the Heights of Jupiter (68.0 minutes) (Figure 26).

Abacoa also has the highest number of minutes biking in the neighborhood (74.6 minutes) in a typical week, followed by 29.7 minutes in the Historic Neighborhoods of West Palm Beach, and 16.1 minutes in the Heights of Jupiter (Figure 26). For all the respondents, the average minutes of **biking** in the neighborhood is about **46 minutes**.

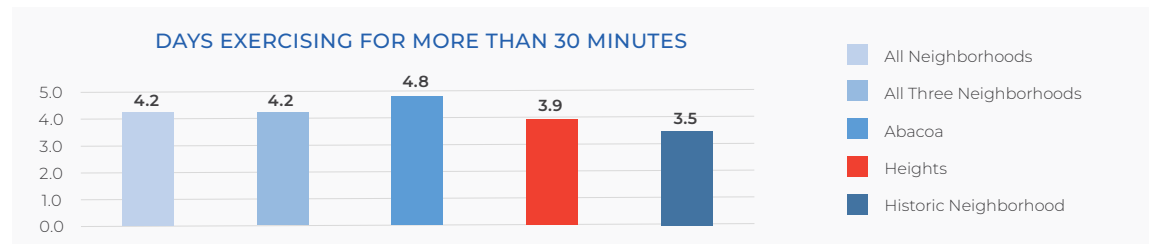
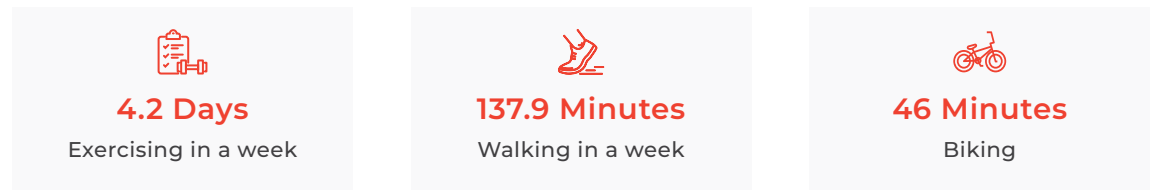


Figure 25.  
Days Exercising for More than 30 Minutes

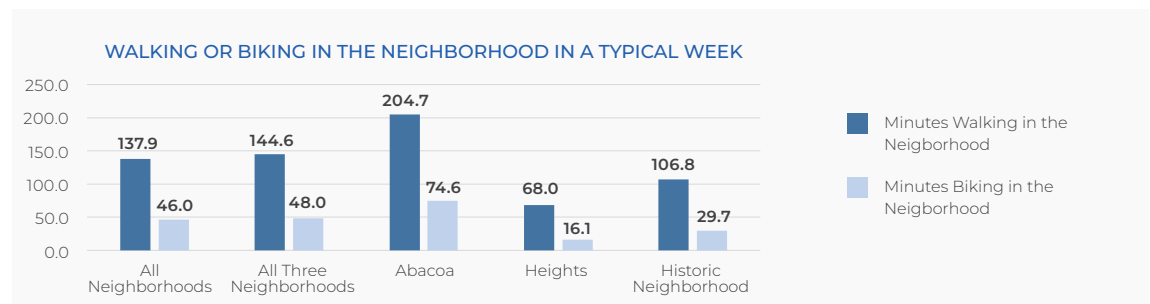
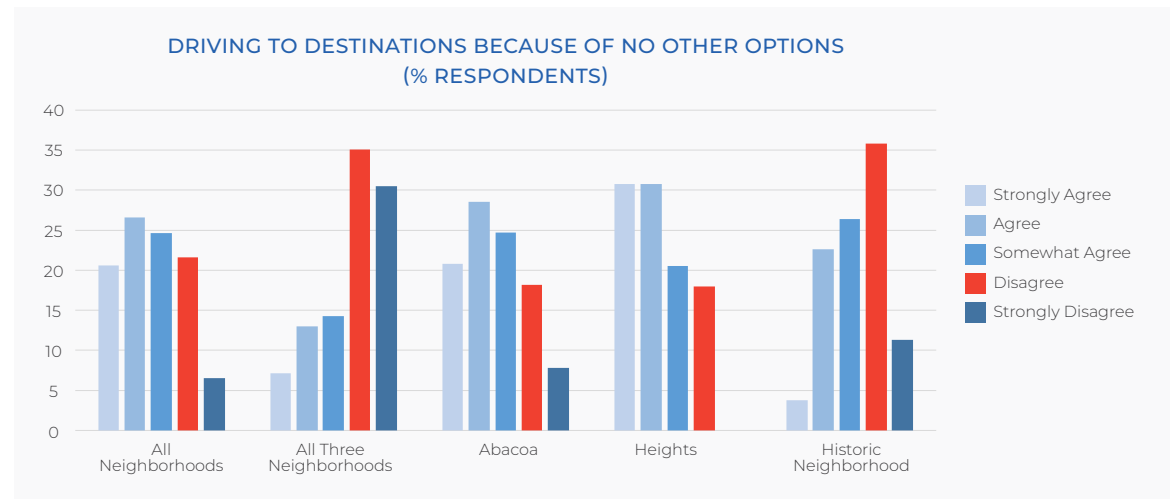


Figure 26.  
Minutes Walking or Biking in the Neighborhood in a Typical Week

About 20.6% of the respondents strongly agree driving to destinations because of no other options, 26.6% agree, and 24.6% somewhat agree (Figure 27). Overall 28.1% disagree or strongly disagree of driving to destinations because of no other options. The Heights of Jupiter has the highest percentage of respondents who strongly agree driving to destinations because of no other options (30.8%), followed by Abacoa (20.8%), and the Historic Neighborhoods of West Palm Beach (3.8%). This finding is consistent with accessibility results from a previous question where the Heights of Jupiter has the least accessibility to shopping, dining, or getting to work without needing a car.

Overall, the respondents are rather healthy, with 64.6% disagree or strongly disagree having physical pain from stress. In Abacoa, the percentage is 68.5%, followed by the Historic Neighborhoods of West Palm Beach (66.7%), and the Heights of Jupiter (57.6%) (Figure 28).



**Figure 27.**  
**Driving to Destinations Because of No Other Options**

About 27.6% of the respondents rate their physical health as excellent, 52.7% as good, 5.9% as fair, 12.9% as neutral, and 1% as poor (Figure 29). In Abacoa, 31.3% rate as excellent, compared to 25% in the Heights of Jupiter, and 18.9% in the Historic Neighborhoods of West Palm Beach. About 55.4% rate as good

in Abacoa, 50% in the Heights of Jupiter, and 56.6% in the Historic Neighborhoods of West Palm Beach. None of the respondents in Abacoa and the Heights of Jupiter rate their health as poor, and about 1.9% in the Historic Neighborhoods of West Palm Beach rate as poor.

## ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

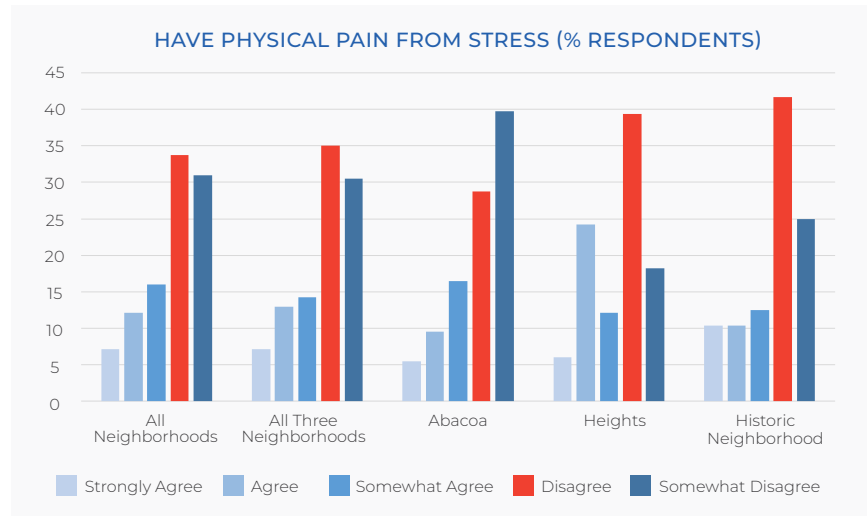


Figure 28.  
Having Physical Pain from Stress

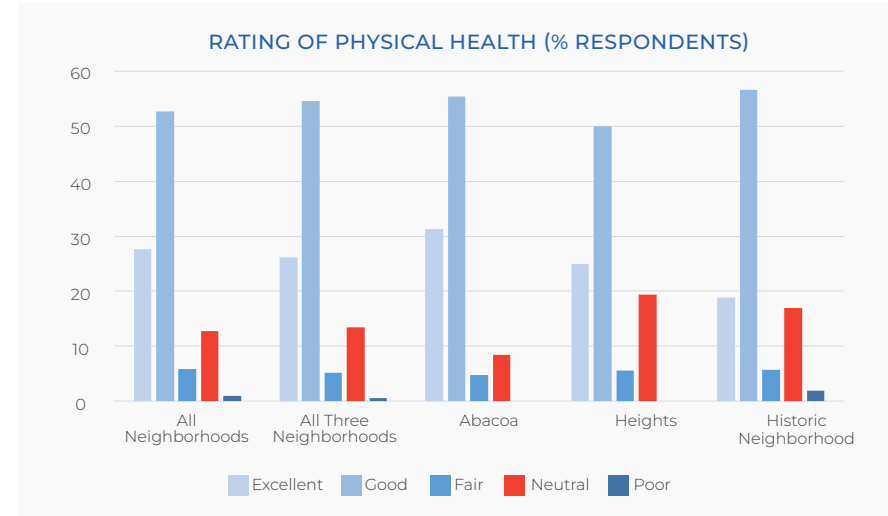
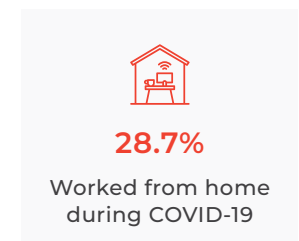
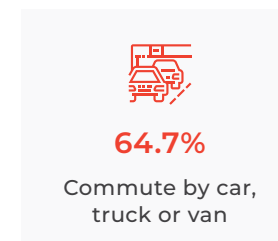
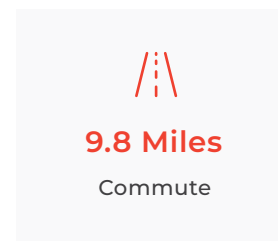


Figure 29.  
Rating of Physical Health

## Employment and Commuting

Commuting is the essential part of a typical working day for most employed individuals. Longer commutes often relate to decreased quality of life. Among all the respondents, about **69.3%** are currently **employed** (Figure 30).



In Abacoa, the percentage is 62.7%, compared to 79.3% in the Historic Neighborhoods of West Palm Beach, and 84.2% in the Heights of Jupiter.

For all the respondents, including those employed, most own two vehicles (Figure 31). **The average commuting distance** among those employed is about **9.8 miles** (Figure 32). In Abacoa it is about 10 miles, compared to 13 miles in the Heights of Jupiter, and 7.4 miles in the Historic Neighborhoods of West Palm Beach. All these are calculated eliminating an outlier, 1,900 miles.

When being asked about how the respondents commute to work, **64.7% commute by car, truck, or van**. In Abacoa, 61.9% commute by car, truck, or van, compared to 88.2% in the Heights of Jupiter, and 53.8% in the Historic Neighborhoods of West Palm Beach (Figure 33). This finding is consistent with accessibility regarding shopping, dining, and work, where the Historic Neighborhoods of West Palm Beach has the largest portion of respondents who do not need to depend on cars to transport or commute.

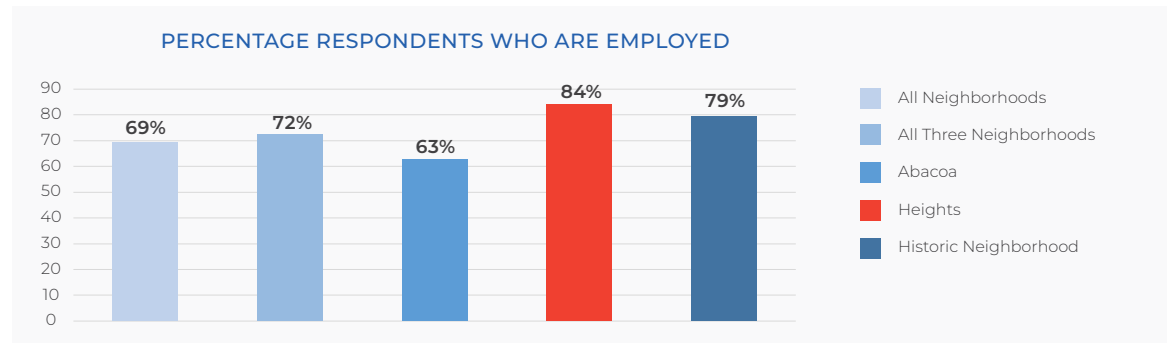


Figure 30.  
Percentage Respondents Who Are Employed

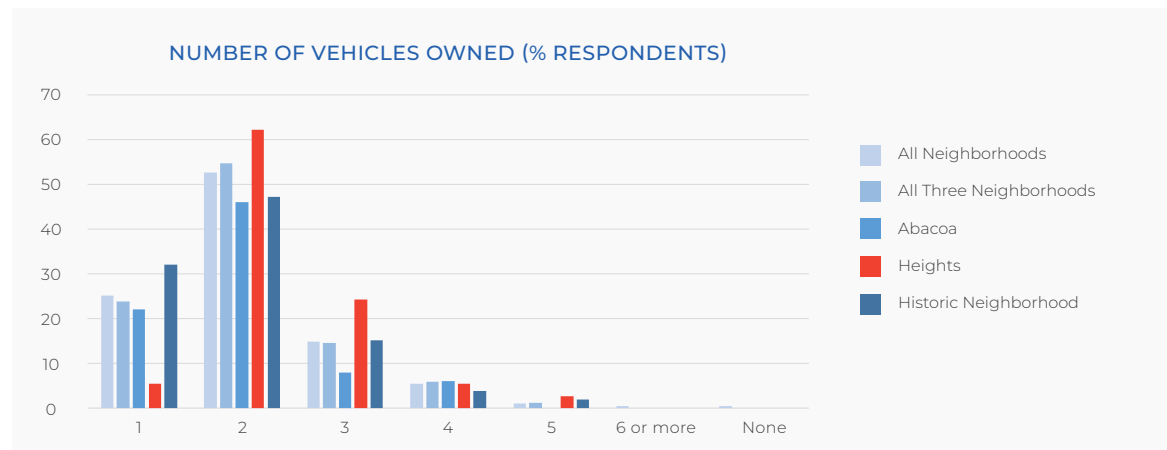


Figure 31.  
Number of Vehicles Owned

## ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

Another notable fact about commuting is that a larger-than-usual portion of the respondents, **28.7%** overall, 30.2% in Abacoa, 11.8% in the Heights of Jupiter, and 36.5% in the Historic Neighborhoods of West Palm Beach **worked from home** when the survey was taken. This reflects the alternative/remote working arrangement **during the COVID-19** pandemic.

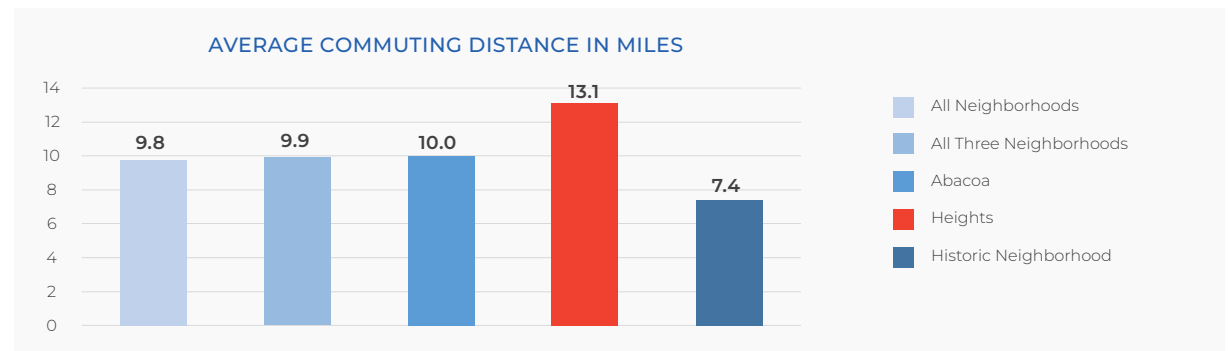


Figure 32.  
Average Commuting Distance in Miles

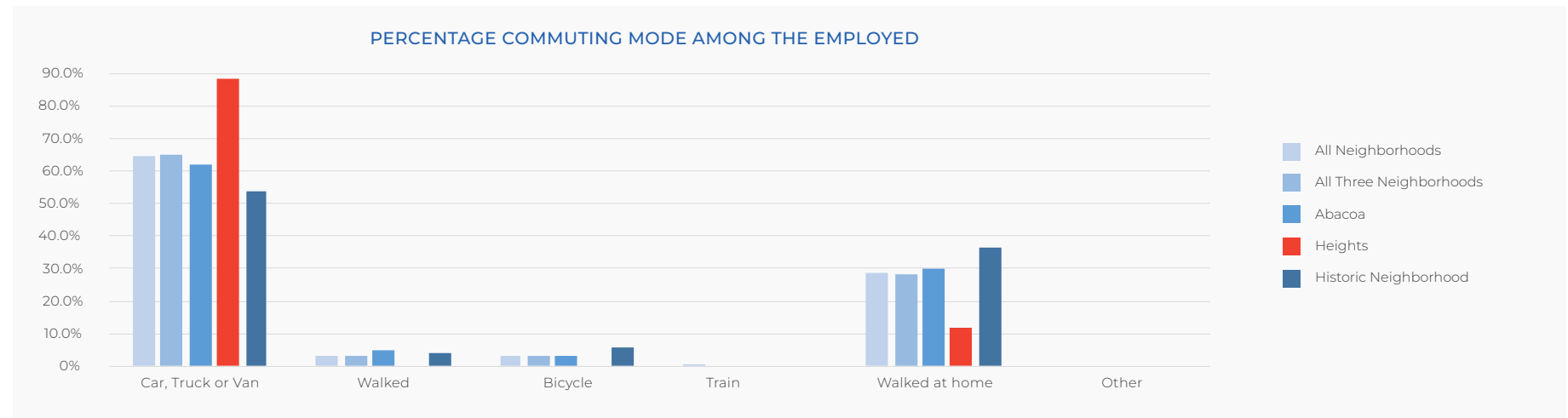


Figure 33.  
Percentage Commuting Mode among the Employed

## Aggregated Comments from the Respondents

Overall most respondents have very positive experiences living in these neighborhoods. The following tables summarize the strengths, issues, and suggestions based on the comments of the respondents. Please refer to Appendix I for the list of detailed responses.

Abacoa		
Strengths	Issues	Suggestions
Great quality of life	Boats parking in neighborhood	Dog parks
"love it!"	Large oaks trees causing havoc on lawns and greenery	HOA could be improved
Beautiful	Unhandled dog waste in public areas	More diverse population and culture
Fabulous	Speeding and loud car noise on roads	More places (coffee shops, restaurants, etc.) within walking distance
Family and child friendly		Improved/upgraded/more clearly marked bike lanes
Pet friendly		Better lawn care services
Many amenities		Fully open pool and all amenities
Great neighborhood		Playground in the Jupiter Community Park needs upgrade
Wonderful place to live		Surveillance cameras at community entry points
		More community events (e.g. food trucks, movie theaters, etc.)
		Use Roger Dean Stadium for concerts and other events in slow season
		Native plants
		More office development
		Wider sidewalks



## ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

The Heights of Jupiter		
Strengths	Issues	Suggestions
Excellent family neighborhood	Reckless driving and speeding	Surveillance cameras at community entry points
Feel safe	Racism at school and neighborhood	Better options for public transportation
"Love our holidays in the Heights!!"	At times unclean yard and exterior of the property	Better street lighting
		Underground powerlines
		A large welcoming sign on Heights Blvd and Donald Ross Rd.
		Need a bike lane
		Upgrade the park (e.g. paved pump track or a small skate park)
		Adding sidewalks
		More landscaping along Heights Blvd.
		More police presence
		More consistency with paint colors and lawn upkeep

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Historic Neighborhoods of West Palm Beach

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Strengths	Issues	Suggestions
Walking and biking distance to parks, groceries, beach, restaurants, museums, and shops	Speeding drivers	Better walking trail/sidewalk maintenance leading out of neighborhoods, prioritizing pedestrian and bicyclist safety
Friendly neighborhood	Gentrification	Better street lighting
"Very thankful this is home"	Event goes park in residential streets	Roads need to be paved or upgraded
Amazing place to live		Keep the park clean and safe
Diverse population and culture		Redevelopment of Belvedere Rd.
Built environment is great for safety and social interaction		More police presence and patrolling, and better code enforcement
Reliable public services		
Sense of community		
Historic homes		

