

**Title:**

Maltese Cities and their effect on the Environment

**Category:**

11 to 14 Years

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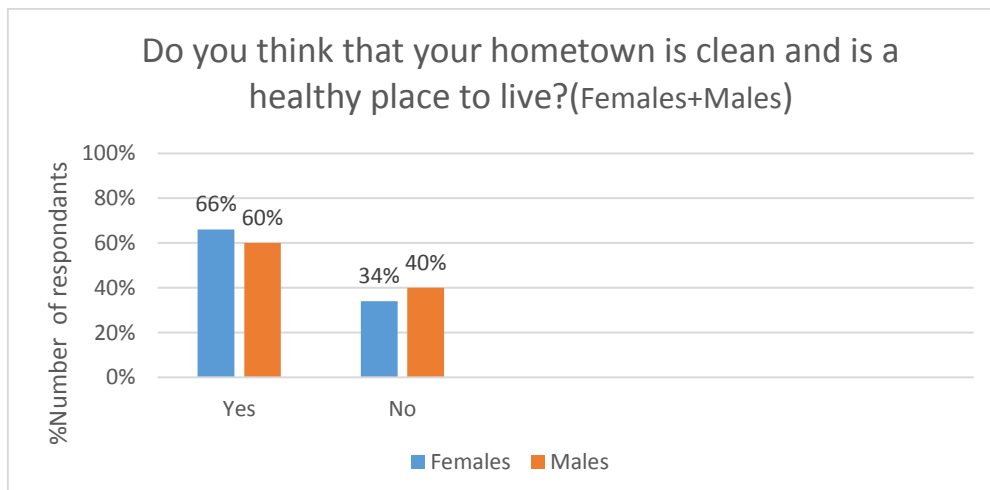
## Maltese Cities and their effect on the Environment

**By: Maria Katrina Carabott, Jade Kelly Cassar, Michela Debono, Giulia Dimech, St Francis Secondary School, Sliema.**

The survey which we carried out had many aims which we wanted to achieve. One of these aims was to discover the public's opinion about high buildings in Maltese Cities. We also wanted to know how many people had a high building in their hometown as recently high buildings are becoming quite an issue as they are blocking the views, the amount of sunlight an apartment or house receives etc. Another problem is pollution in the cities and the damage it is causing. People are increasingly suffering from diseases related to pollution, such as the exhaust that is released from cars, and we wanted to investigate possible solutions to this problem.

To gather information for our report, we handed out a hundred questionnaires to an equal number of males and females from different age groups. Maltese Cities and towns are very close to each other as the Maltese islands are very small. The majority of our respondents live in the centre of Malta (Males 38% and Females 40%), though a small minority live on Gozo (8% males and females).

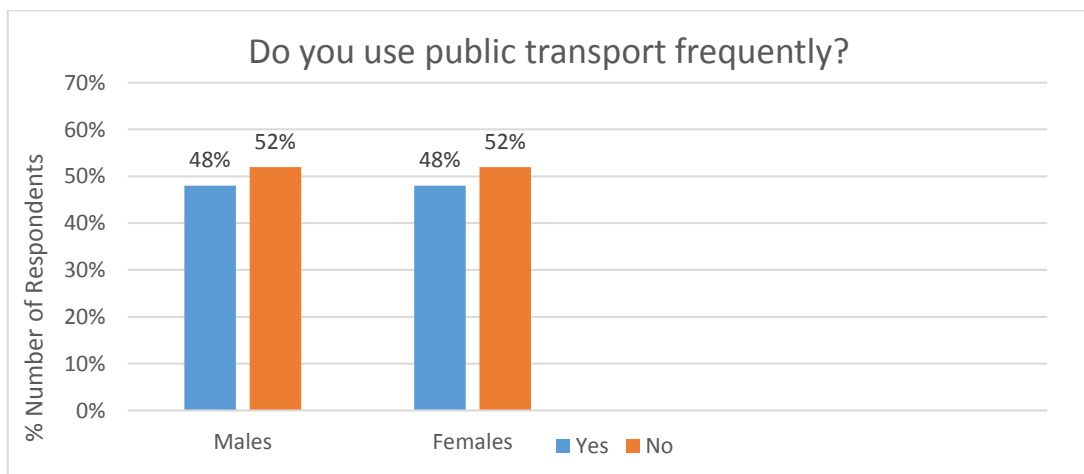
Our research revealed that 34% of the female respondents and 40% of the males think that their hometown is not clean.



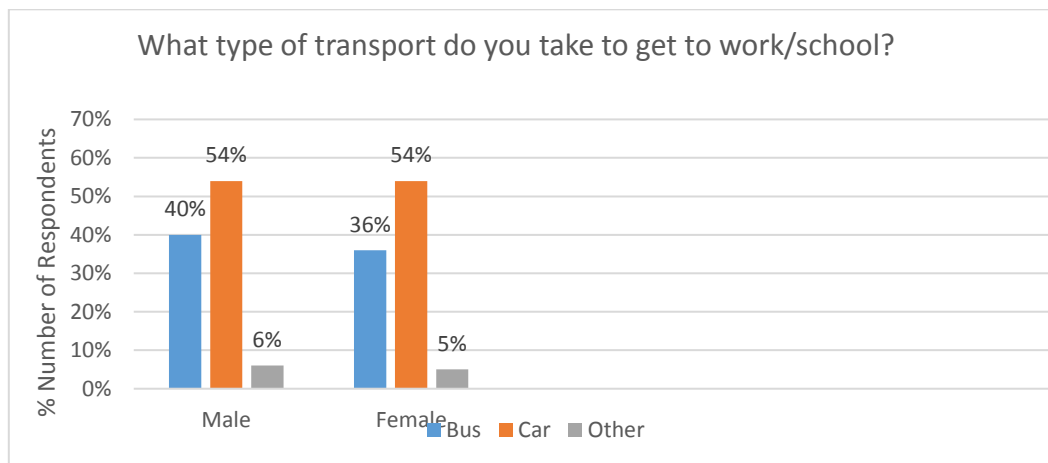
We find many factories and industries all over Malta, but the number of factories in one district is not equivalent to the other. In fact, 44% of female respondents and 30% of male respondents live close to a factory or industry, and this is one main cause of the lack of cleanliness about which our respondents have complained.

Apart from lack of cleanliness, our respondents also identify high buildings as a problem as 68% females and 62% males live near a high building. Thanks to globalisation people are going abroad more often. Analysis show that people visit both small towns and large cities (42% Females and 56% Males). Thanks to this Maltese architecture and lifestyle are being affected. Our buildings are becoming taller and more modern. Malta is a small country and if more high-rise buildings are built we will lose most of Malta's natural beauty. We also have a lot of contact (business, education, etc.) with foreign cities and foreigners (tourists, migrants, etc.) and, consequently, our culture, traditions, attitudes and values are changing, which, in some instances, may be a pity.

Traffic is another common problem in Malta, indicating that the country's public transport is not being used adequately. Most people take a good three quarters of an hour to get to school or work (42% Males and 36% Females). Others take an hour (24% Males and 30% Females).



Most of our respondents prefer using their own means of transport- mainly cars rather than public transport. Our statistics show that 48% Males and 52% of Females find public transport unhelpful.



Public transport in Malta isn't very good, compared to other cities. In main cities like London and Paris underground transport (metros) is available for tourists and citizens, thus decreasing the amount of cars on the roads, since the underground is quick and convenient. Other countries (such as Germany) install flyovers and monorails around the main cities. Since in Malta we do not have any of these, the traffic rate is very high. Buses don't really solve the problem because they still get stuck in traffic. Consequently, pollution is becoming quite a serious problem. In fact, Liz Ayling (October 15, 2009) states in an article called 'A breath of Malta's fresh air?'

'Benchmarking Malta's asthma rates internationally, we find that the islands have among the highest incidence of asthma in the Mediterranean, and place around third in European league tables.'

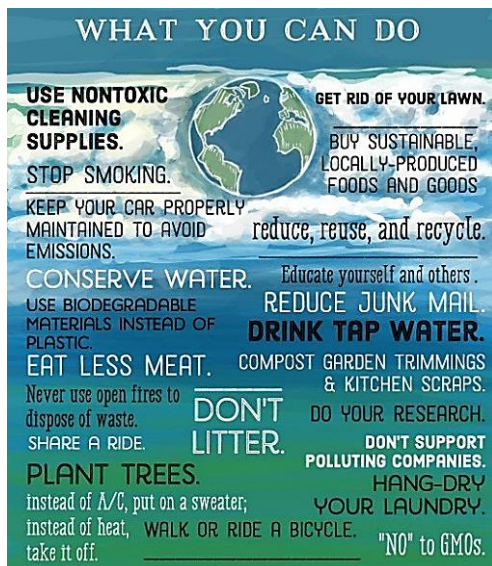
In other cities this problem is tackled by using eco-friendly factories and transport such as hydro-buses (buses that run on water and give out hydrogen) and hybrid cars. However, though in Malta we find a few electric cars, the amount is far from sustainable so far.



Buses running on hydrogen - fuel cell buses

“We are living on the planet as if we have another one to go to”

Terri Swearingen



Pollution prevention is a major global concern because of its harmful effects on people's health and the environment. World leaders and governments are working hard to decrease pollution, and it is to be hoped that the National Emissions Ceilings Directive, which was signed into law on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2016 lives up to its promise to ‘slash by almost 50% of the negative health impacts of air pollution’

(Jeanelle Mifsud, 14<sup>th</sup> December 2016; on behalf of Maltatoday).

There are also many small things anyone can do rather than wait for someone else to find a solution. These include:

- Driving an electric or hybrid car or at least one that uses unleaded gasoline.
- Keeping our car in good running condition to avoid dangerous emissions.
- Sharing a ride or carpooling when possible, or using public transport..
- Adopting the 3 R’s of solid waste management: reduce, reuse, and recycle.

- Composting leaves and clippings from our yard and food scraps from our kitchen to reduce waste while improving our soil.
- Avoiding plastic.
- Always taking a reusable bag when we shop.
- Planting more trees. They clean the air, provide oxygen, and beautify your surroundings.

However, one of the most important solutions is to improve public transport and encourage people to use it. In fact, as Carmel Cacopardo (Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2015) states, in an article called ‘The Costs of Air Pollution’,

‘An efficient public transport system will, in fact, be the major contributor to a reduction in air pollution but the benefits will be multiple. More efficient roads will be the most obvious benefit. This will be accompanied by a substantial reduction in respiratory illnesses and consequently less time lost by working men and women away from their work and by students from their studies.’

## **References and Acknowledgements:**

### **References:**

Liz Ayling, October 15 2009, *A breath of Malta's fresh air?* Malta Insideout

<http://maltainsideout.com/5335/a-breath-of-maltas-fresh-air/>

Carmel Cacopardo, Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2015, *The Costs of Air Pollution*, on behalf of The Malta Independent.

<http://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2015-05-03/blogs-opinions/The-costs-of-air-pollution-6736134821>

Jeanelle Mifsud, 14<sup>th</sup> December 2016; *New EU law to slash air pollution effect in half.* on behalf of Maltatoday.

[www.maltatoday.com.mt>news>europe](http://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/europe)

Terri Swearingen

<https://www.google.com.mt/search?q=terri+swearingen+quotes&tbm=isch&tbo=u&source=univ&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwi4xp7jgfrSAhVHjiwKHRbIDKAQ7AkIMA&biw=1821&bih=850#imgrc=BePKWQ13b1GsnM:>

### **Acknowledgements:**

As a group we would like to thank all the respondents that helped us carry out this research by filling in our questionnaires.



## **Proof of Dissemination**

As required, our project is exhibited on the school premises and it is also accessible on the school website ([www.saintfrancissecondary.com](http://www.saintfrancissecondary.com)).

We have also sent our report to *The Sunday Times* and *The Malta Independent on Sunday*, though we have no guarantee that it will be published.

## **Appendix 1: Sample of Respondents**

100 respondents									
50 males					50 females				
10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
16-25	26-35	36-45	46-60	61+	16-25	26-35	36-45	46-60	61+
yrs	yrs	yrs	yrs	yrs	yrs	yrs	yrs	yrs	yrs

## **Appendix 2: Template of questionnaires**

This is the cover letter and a sample of the questionnaires we gave out

### **Maltese Cities and their effect on the Environment.**

A study carried out by Maria Katrina Carabott, Jade Kelly Cassar, Michela Debono, and Giulia Dimech.

Dear Respondent,

We are four students St Francis School, Sliema, conducting a school assignment on Maltese towns and villages, the effect on the environment and transportation. Our research methodology involves distributing questionnaires to a number of people selected at random. We would greatly appreciate if you could help us by completing the following questionnaire. It should only take a few minutes to complete.

All data will be considered private and confidential so anonymity is guaranteed, so please do not write your name anywhere on the questionnaire.

Thank you for your cooperation,

Maria Katrina Carabott, Jade Kelly Cassar, Michela Debono, and Giulia Dimech.

**Please answer the following questions**

1. Are you- (please tick the appropriate box)

Gender             Male  
                          Female

Age Group         12-16  
                          17-25  
                          26-45  
                          46-60  
                          61+

2. Where do you live?

Town             Village

3. In which part of the island do you live? (please tick the appropriate box)

North             South             Centre             Gozo

4. Do you live in an industrial estate or close to a factory? (if yes please proceed to Q4)

Yes                 No

5. Are there any high rise buildings in your hometown?

Yes                 No

6. a. Do you use the public transport frequently (more than three times a week)?

Yes                 No

b. If no, is it because you

have your own transport       find them unhelpful (e.g. take too long to arrive)

7. What type of transport do you use to go to work/school?

Bus                 Car                 Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

8. How long do you normally take to get to work/school (please tick only one option)

- Half an hour
- Three quarters of an hour
- One hour
- More than an hour

9. Have you ever been abroad?

- Yes
- No

b. If yes, have you visited?

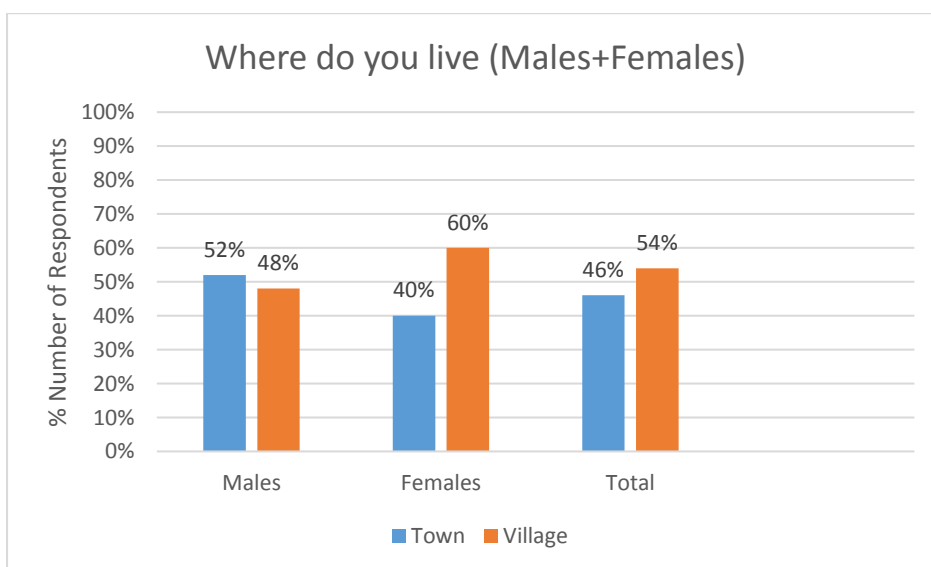
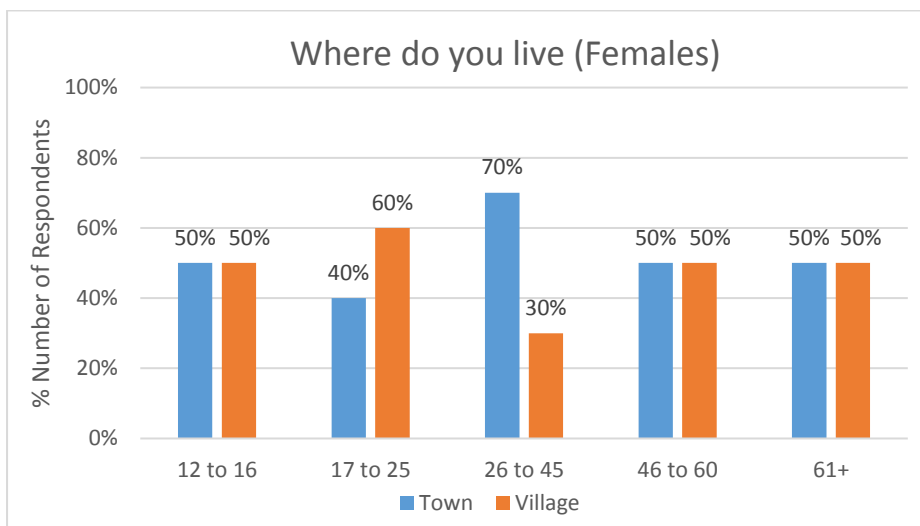
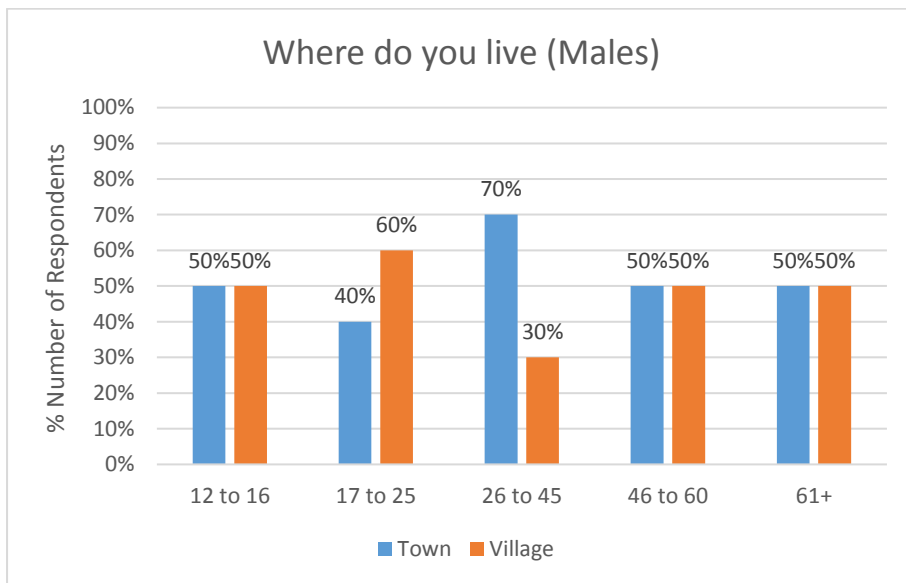
- Big cities
- Small towns
- Both

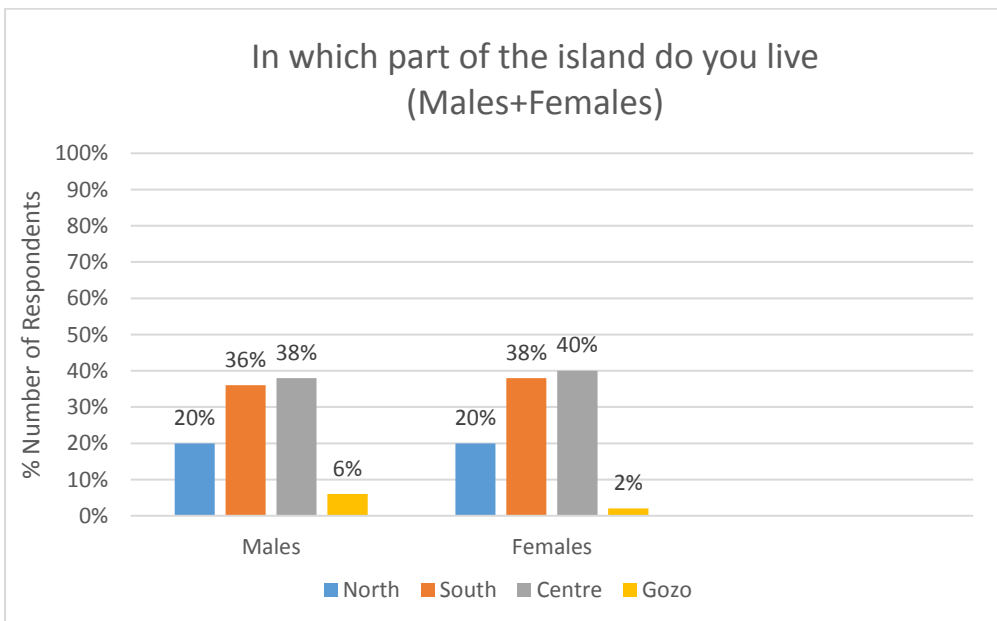
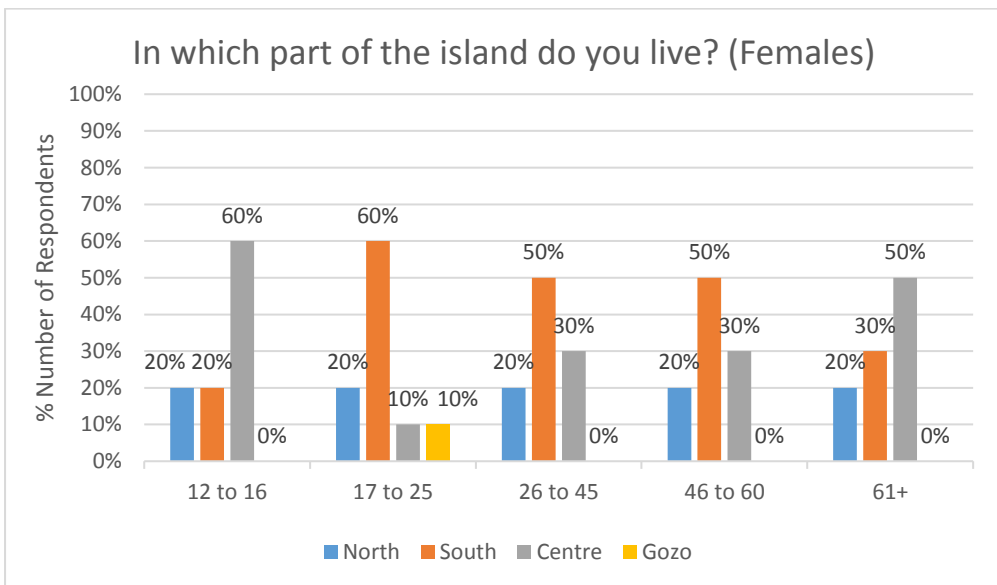
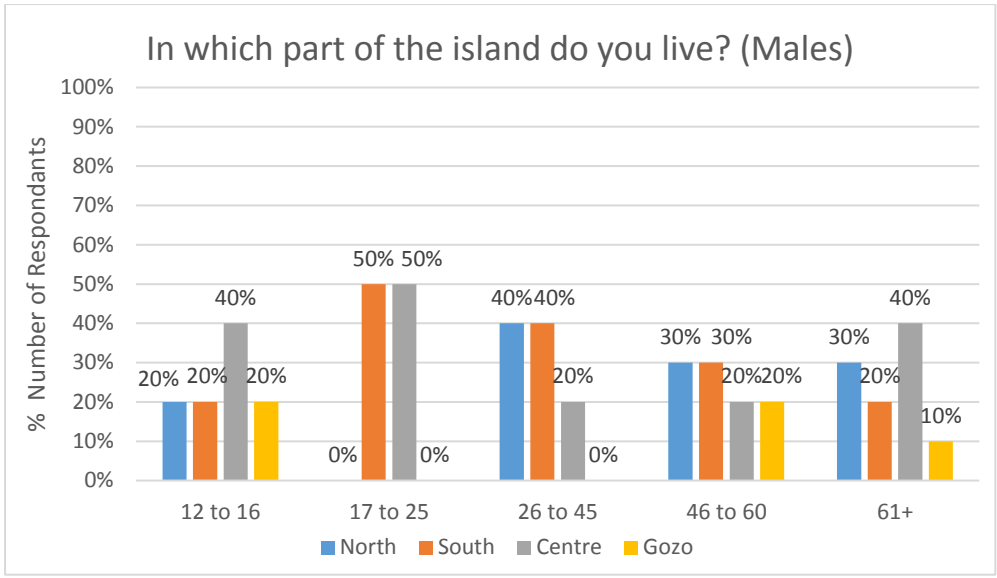
10. Do you think that your hometown is clean and is a healthy place to live?

- Yes
- No

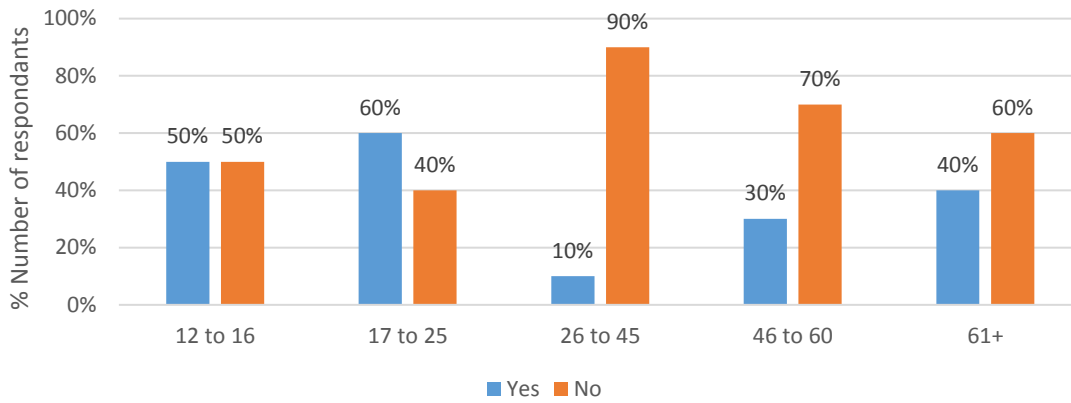
**Thank you for taking the time to answer this questionnaire.**

### Appendix 3: Data gathered from our research

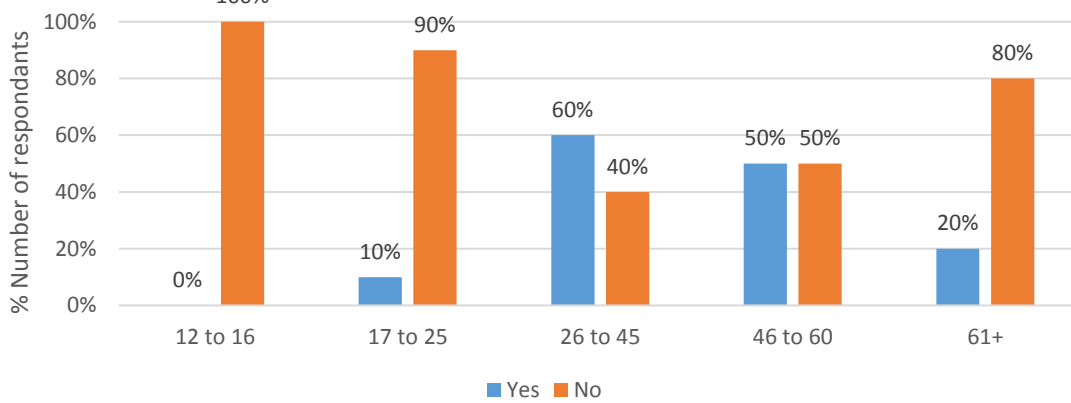




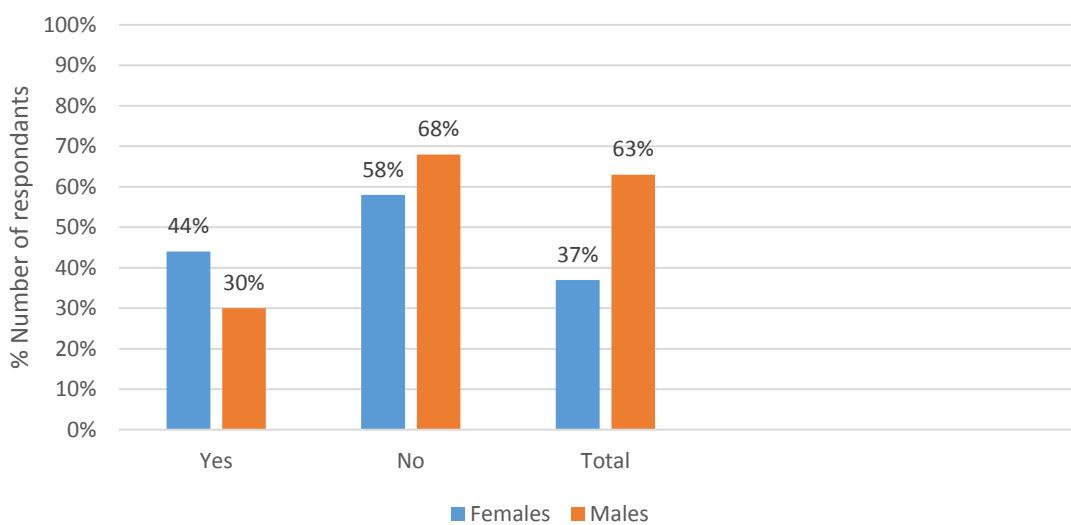
### Do you live in an industrial estate or close to a factory?(Females)



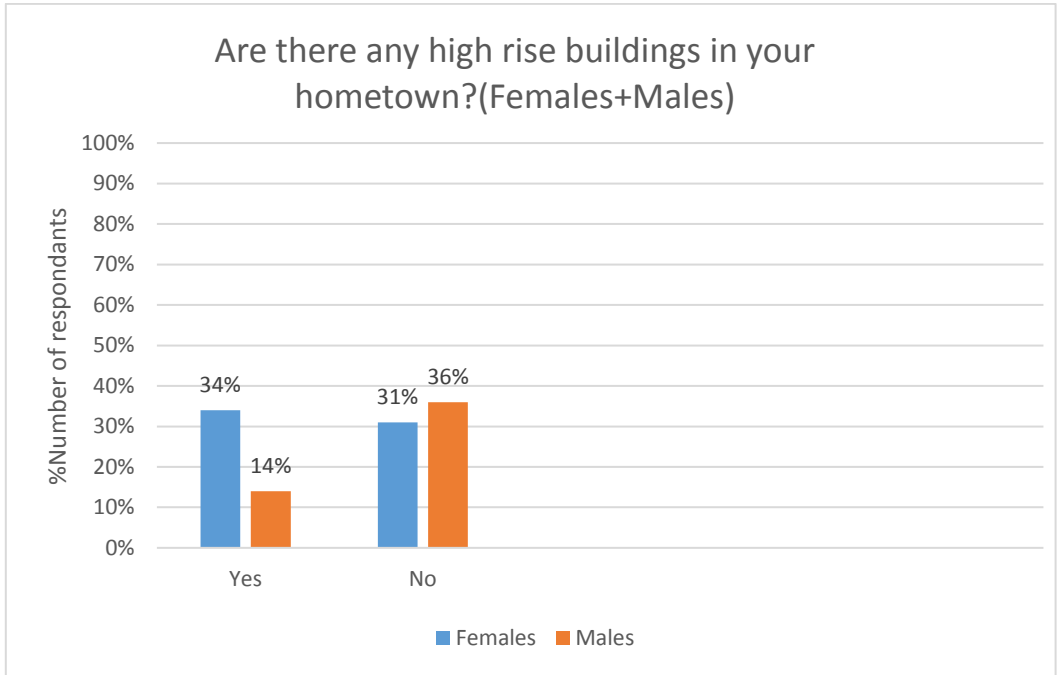
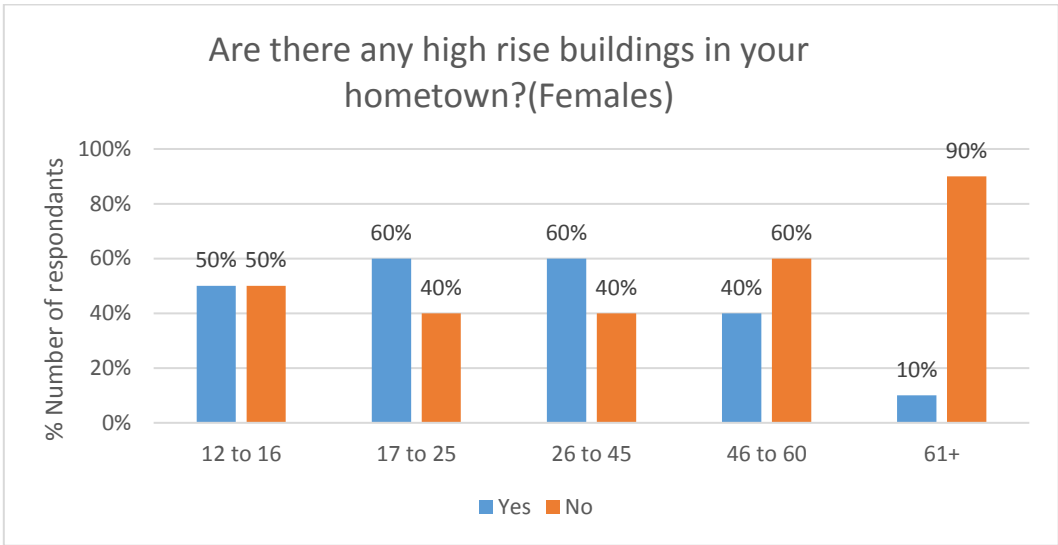
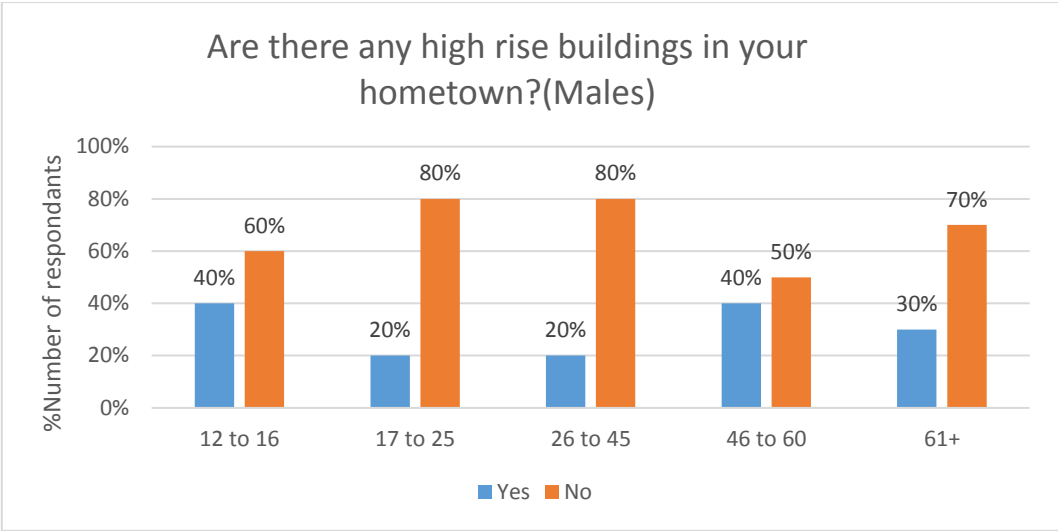
### Do you live in an industrial estate or close to a factory?(Males)

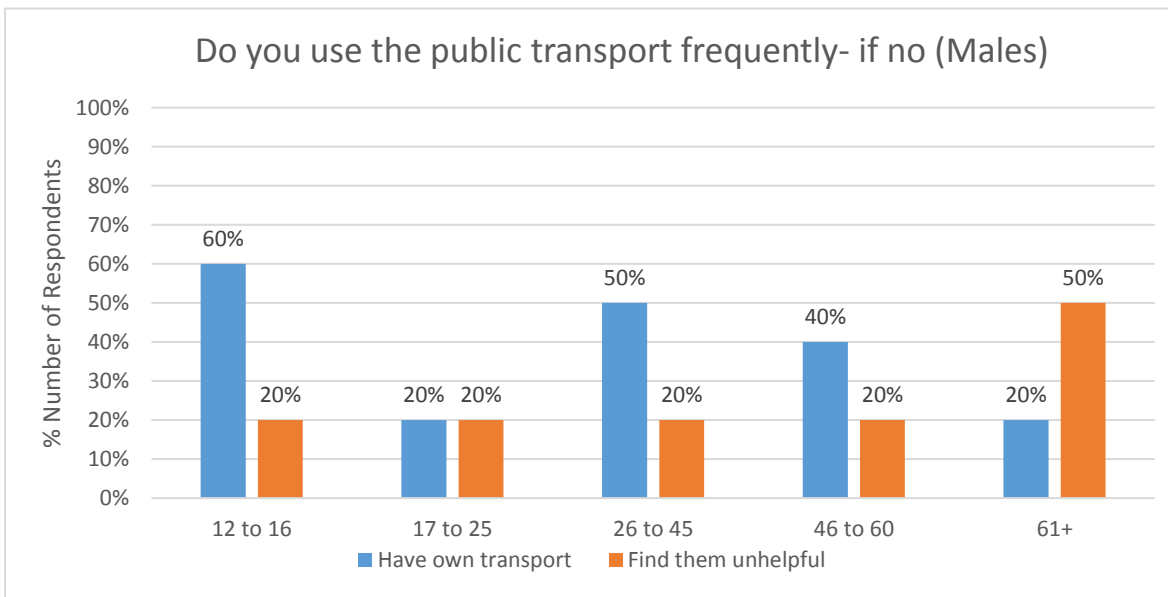
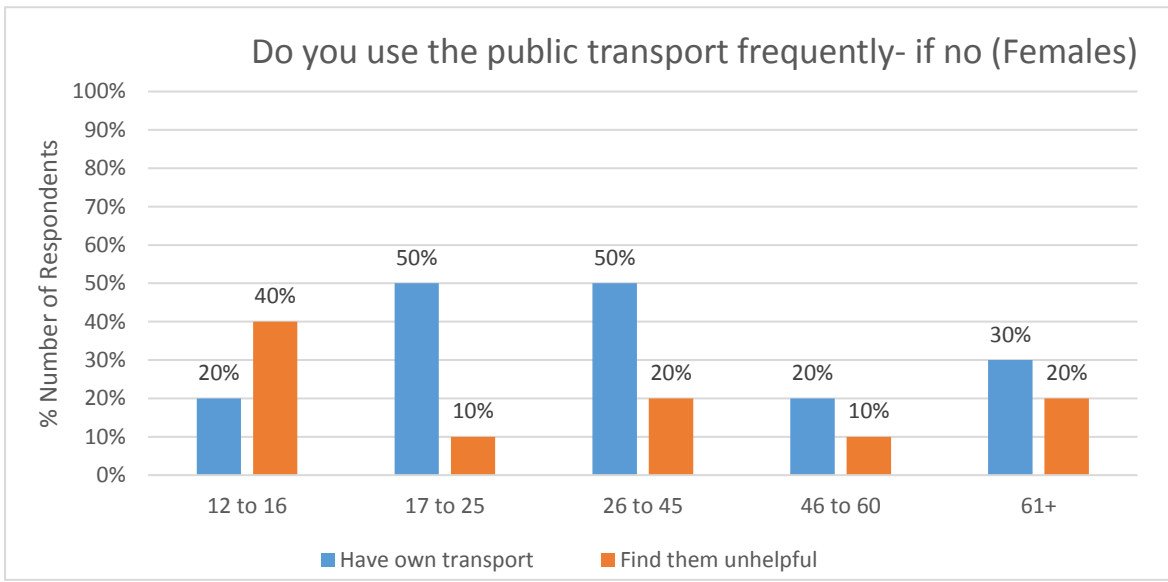
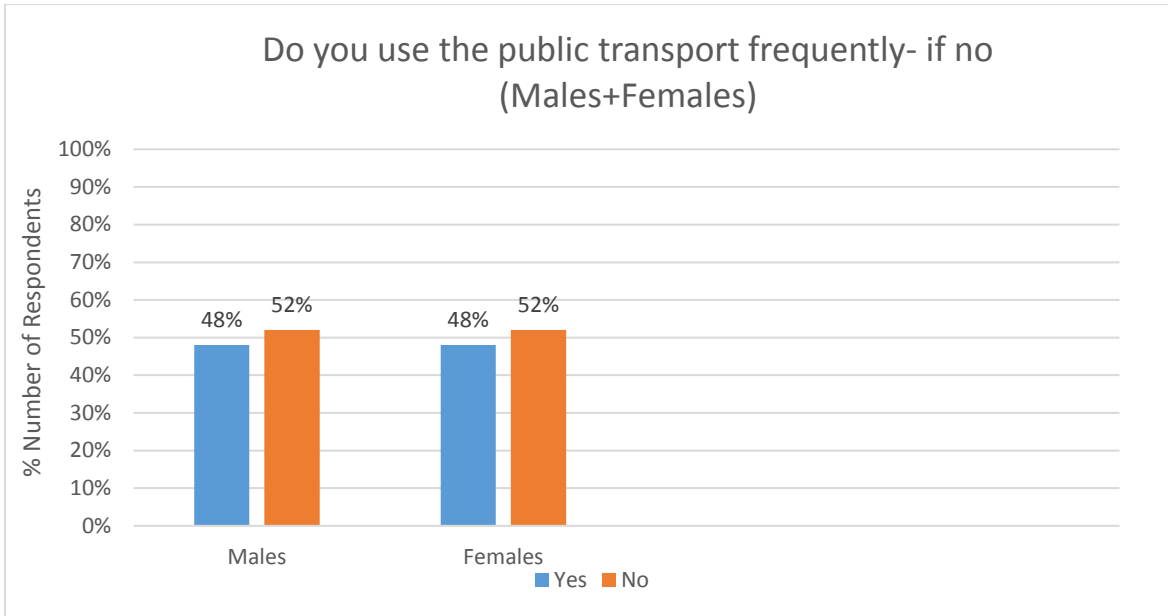


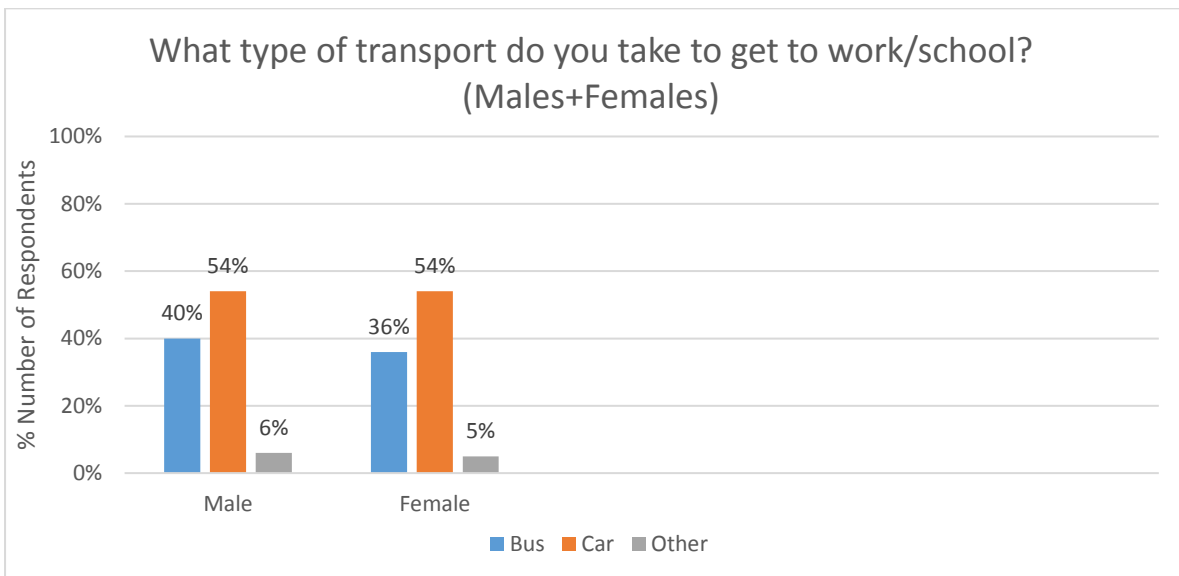
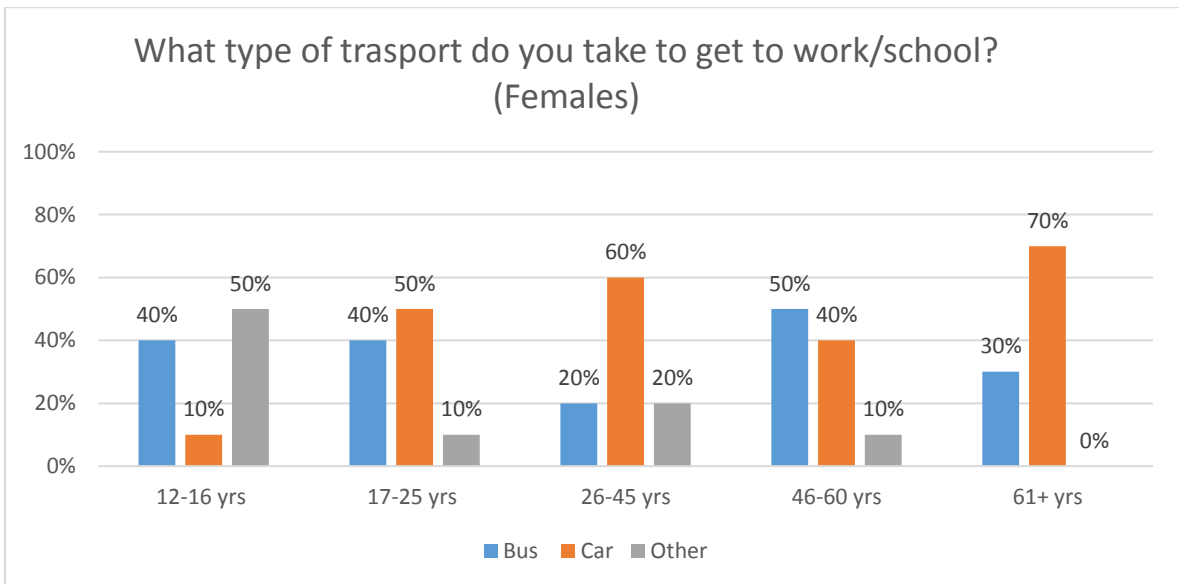
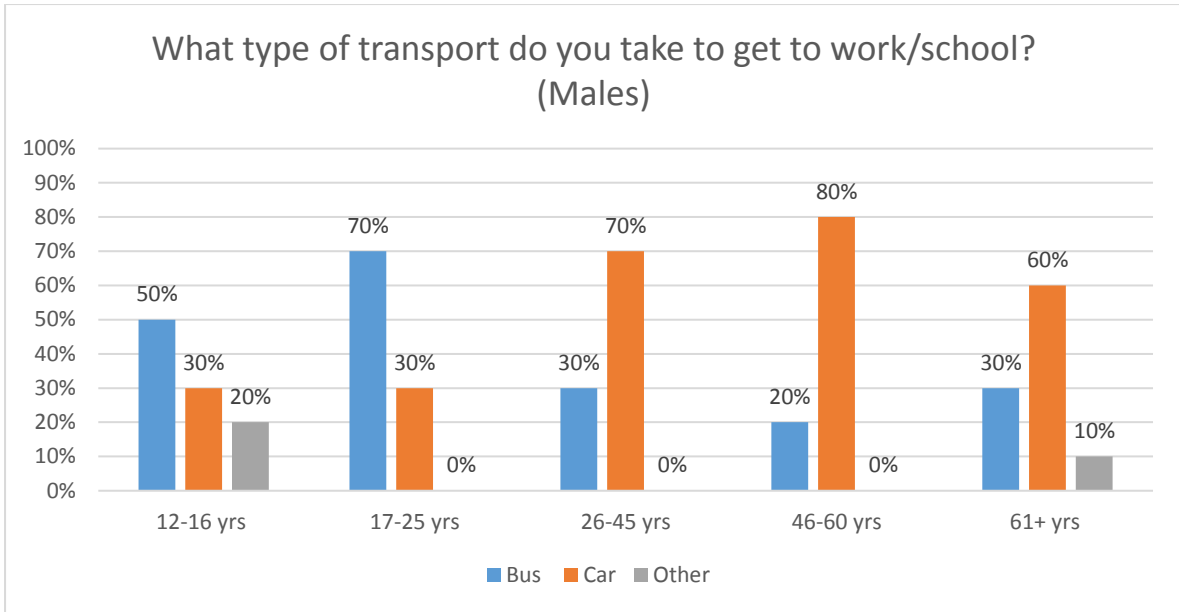
### Do you live in an industrial estate or close to a factory?(Females+Males)

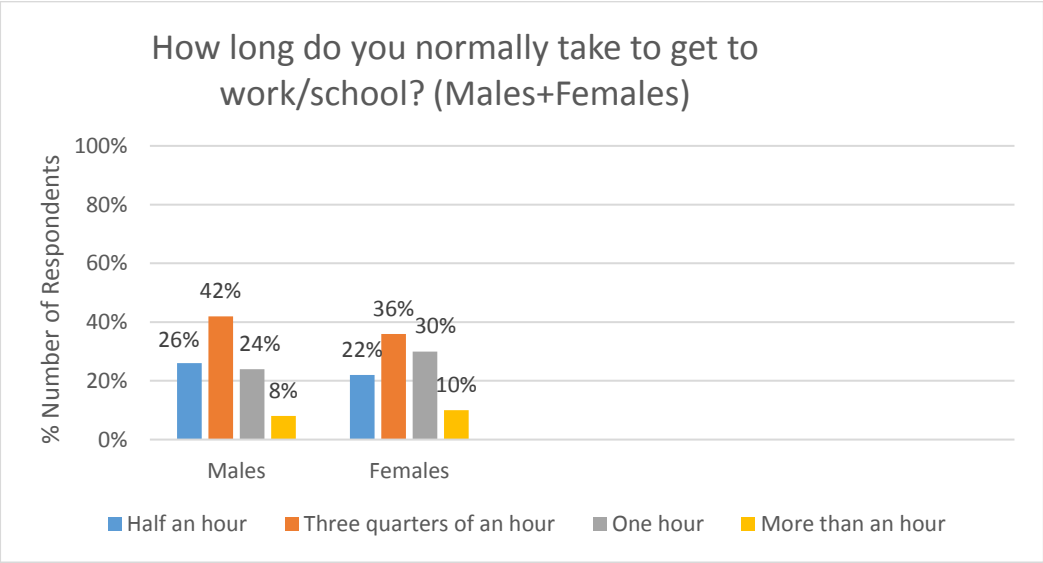
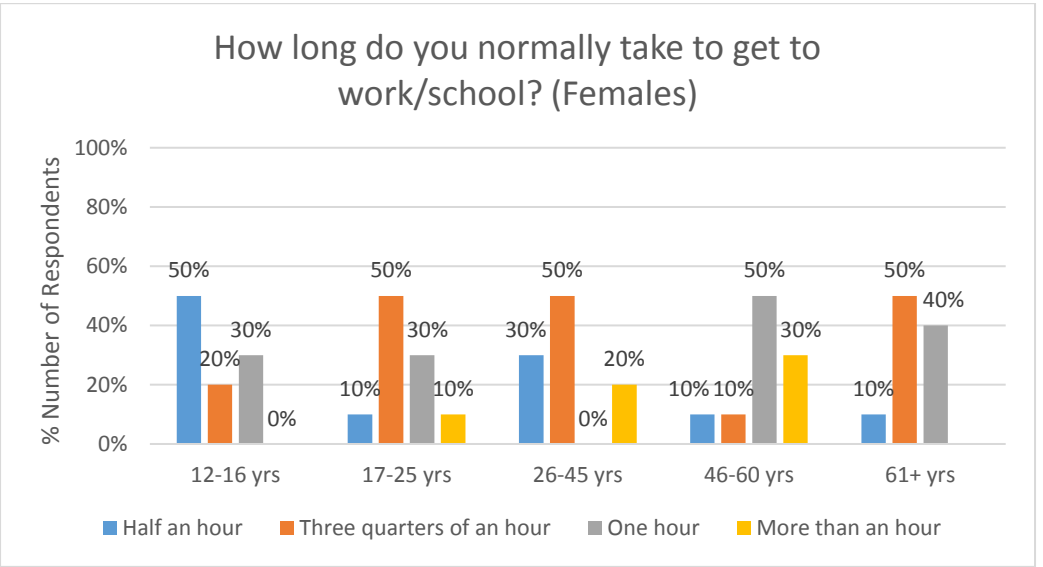
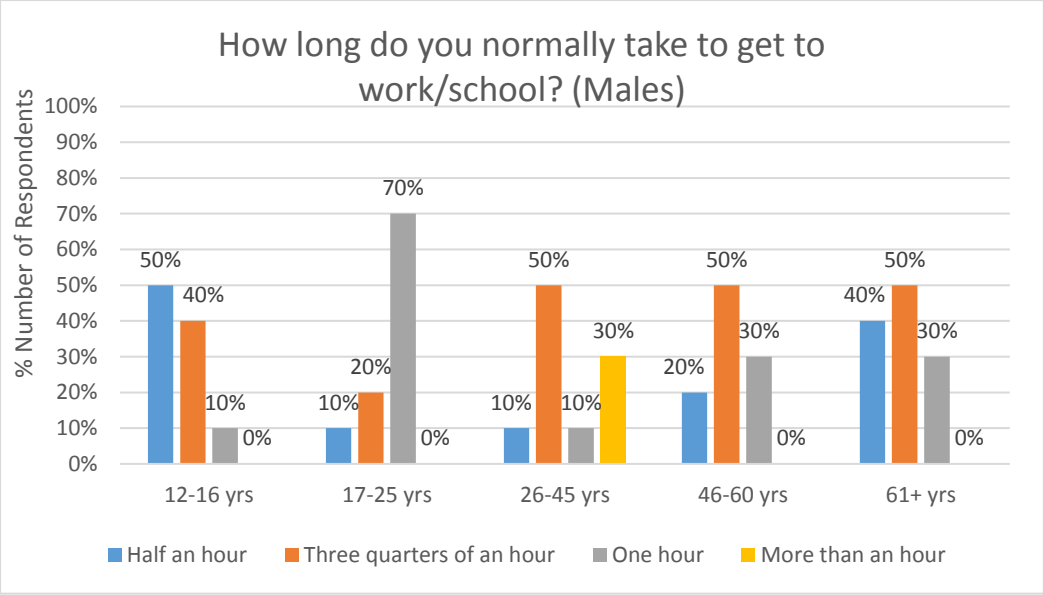


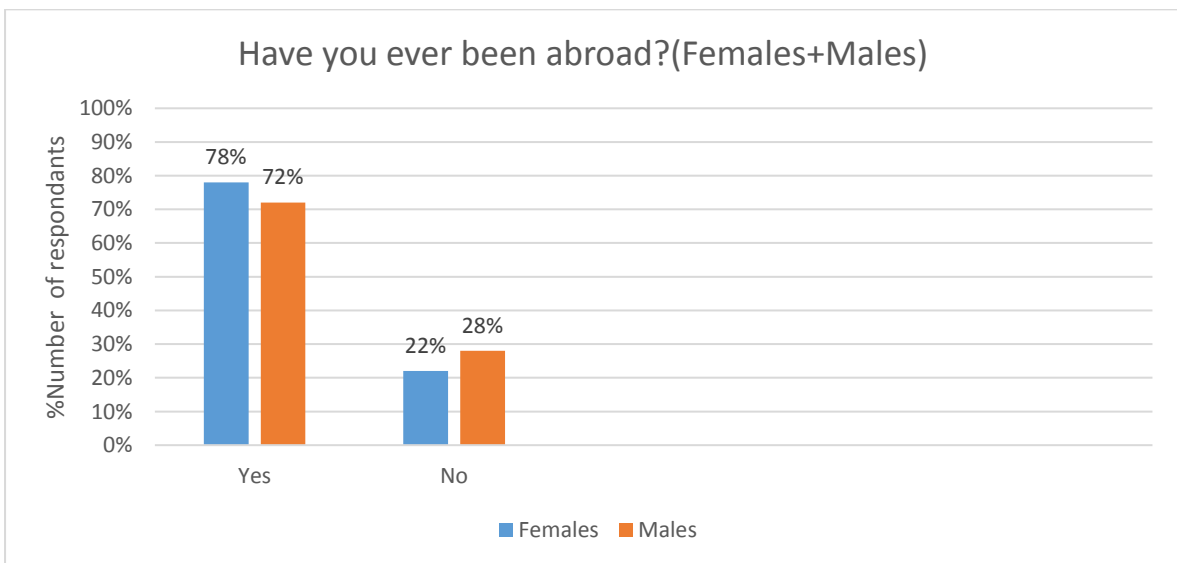
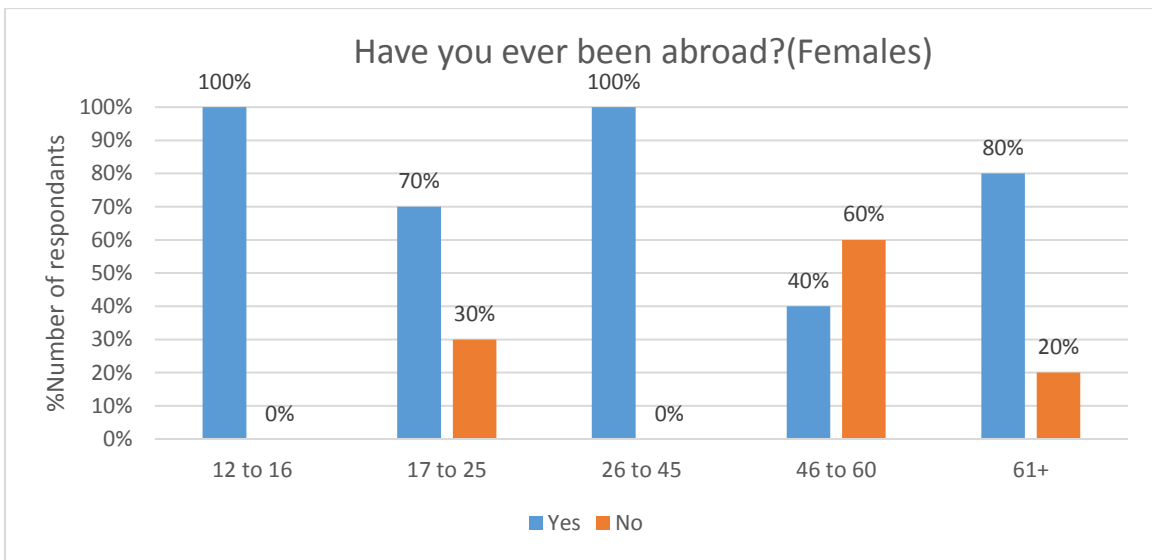
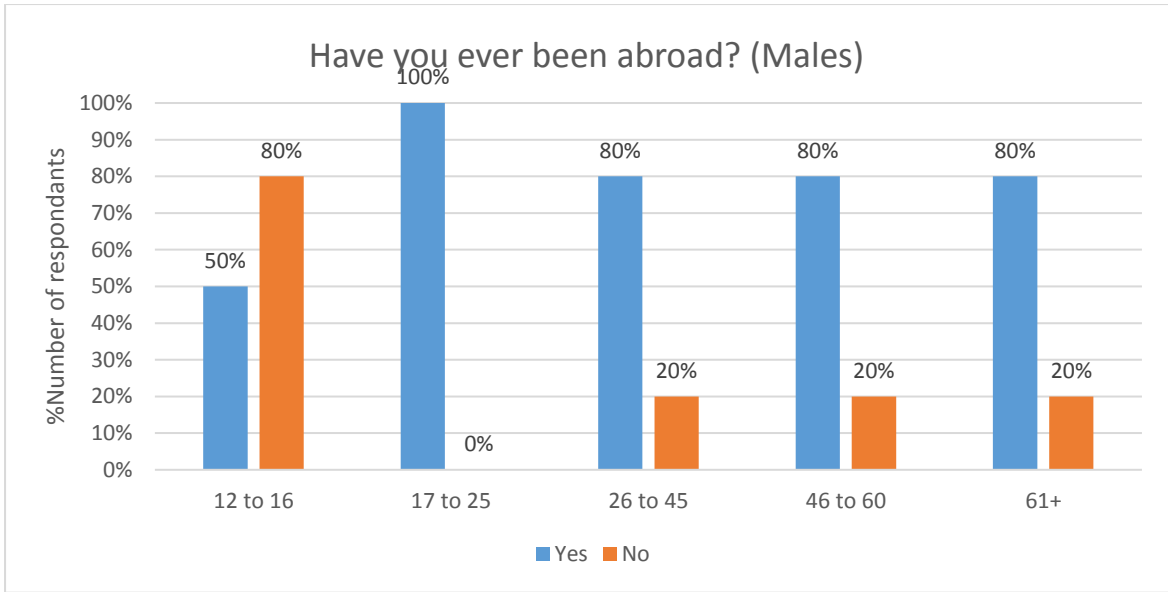




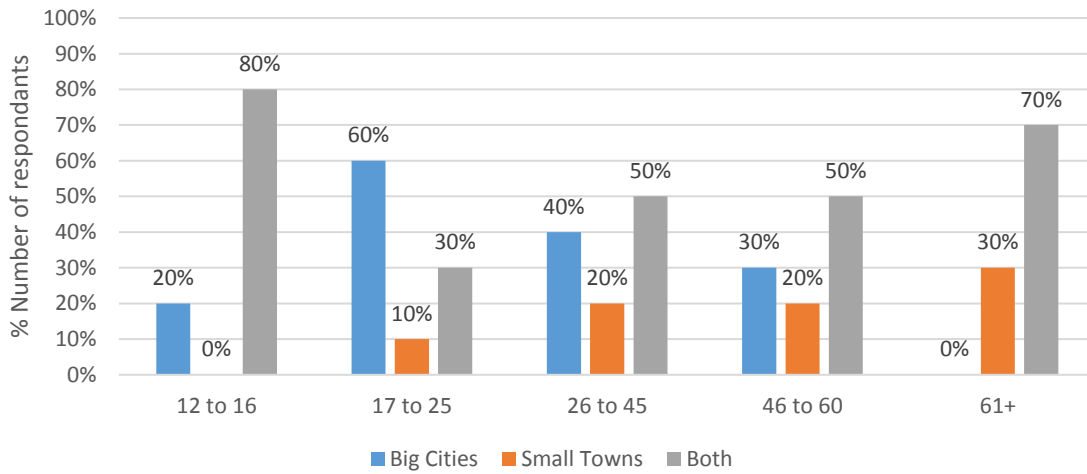




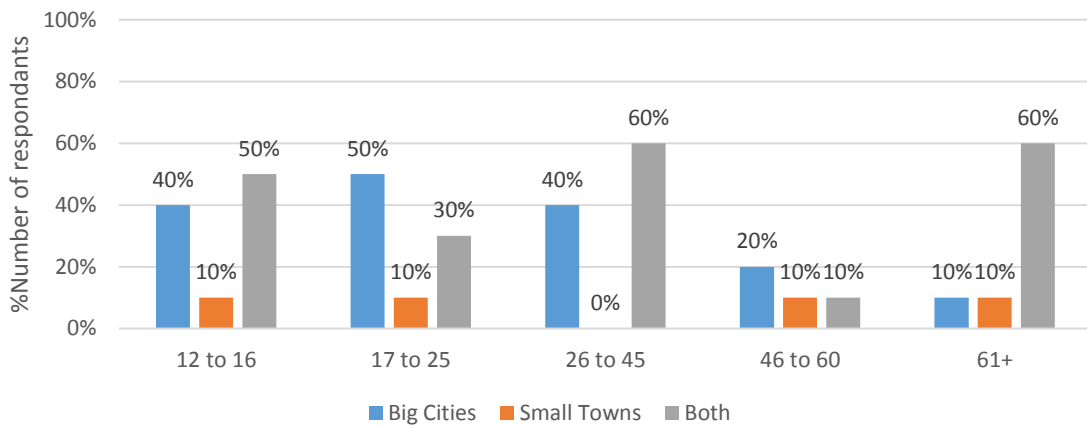




### Have you ever been abroad? If yes have you visited?(Males)



### Have you ever been abroad? If yes have you visited?(Females)



### Have you ever been abroad? If yes have you visited?(Females+Males)

