

# Inclusive Dormitory Living



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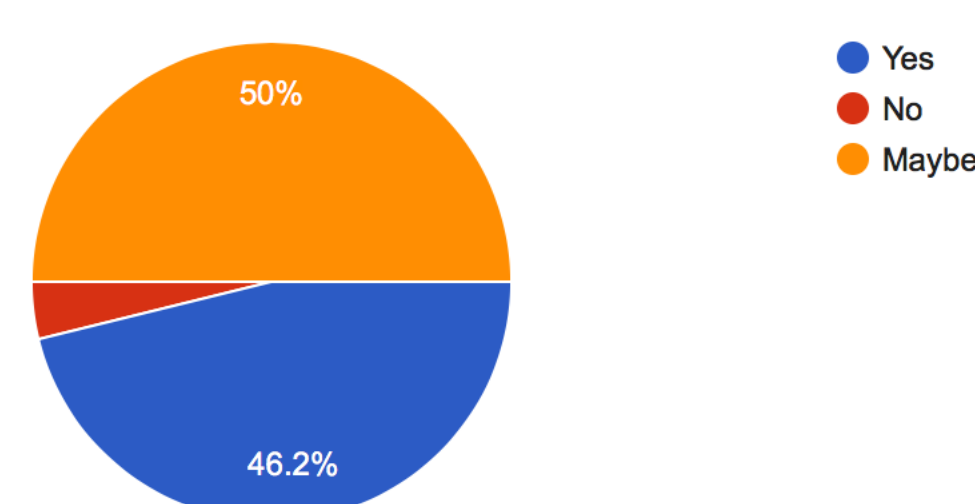
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**Research Question:** Does dormitory living in an inclusive college dormitory environment impact traditional college students’ beliefs about people with disabilities, and did they learn from their peers with disabilities?

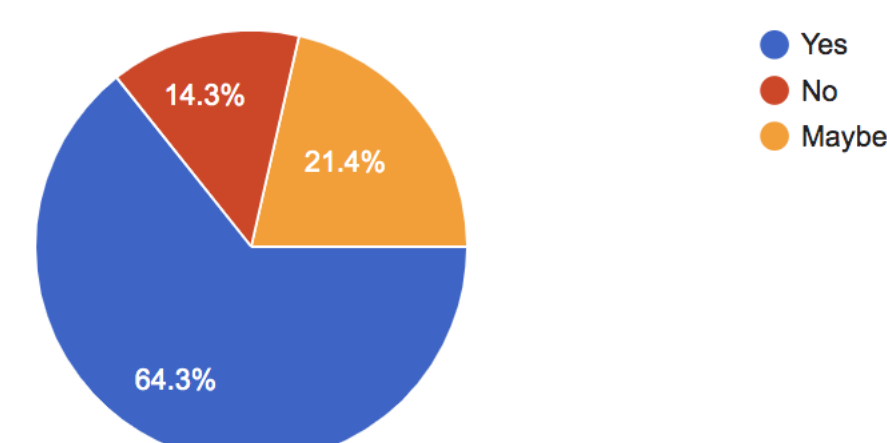
The population of students sampled were traditional college students without disabilities who lived on an inclusive integrated dormitory floor with students with intellectual disabilities attending a two-year postsecondary college program, on the campus of a private university. Students were surveyed at the beginning and end of the academic year. Data was collected via an online pre- and post-survey. Responses were compiled and categorized, common responses counted and analyzed with the initial and final survey results compared to identify areas of growth and weakness. Results were reviewed to identify important beliefs and influences of inclusive dormitory living, and topics for further research.

Are you eager to live on a floor/in a dorm with BC students?  
26 responses



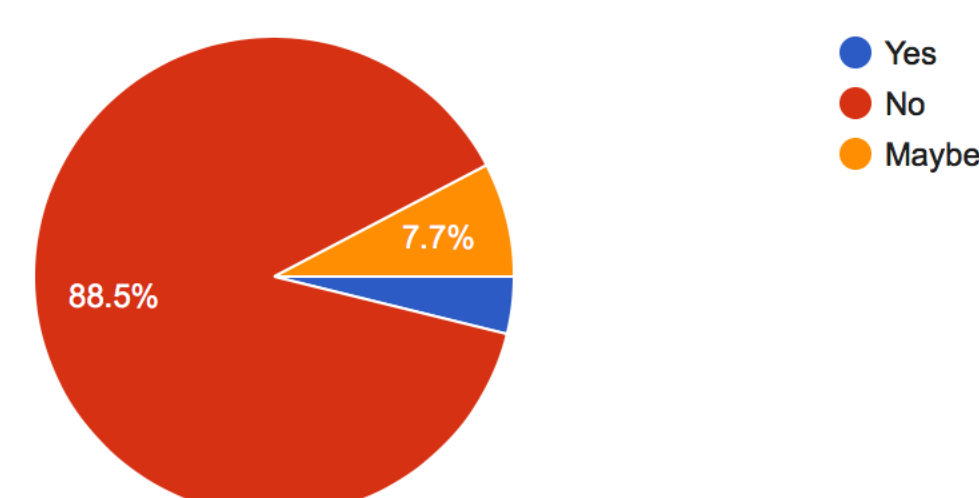
“People with disabilities teach us a lot about life and how to look at it!”

Were you eager to live on a floor/in a dorm with BC students?  
14 responses



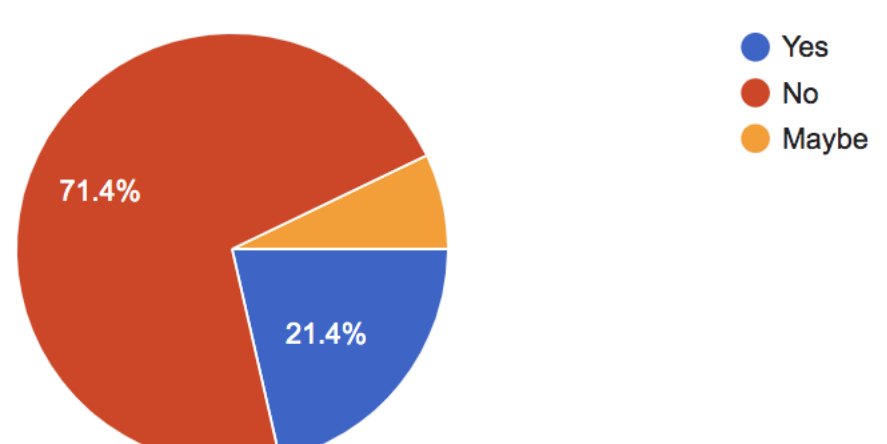
“I knew it would present growth and learning opportunities for myself and a chance to meet new people.”

Do you have any concerns about living on a floor/in a dorm with BC students?  
26 responses



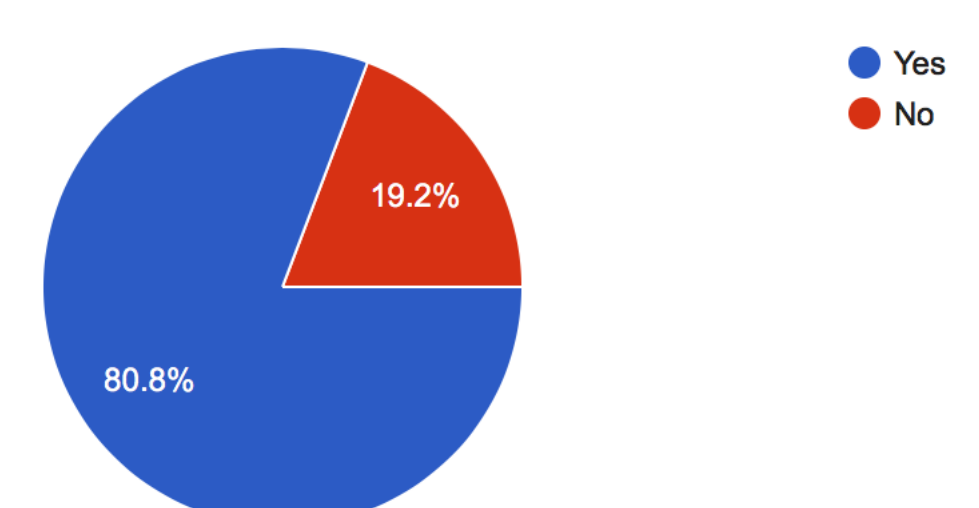
“They’re human beings just like me and we all have our flaws that we have to deal with.”

Did you have any concerns about living on a floor/in a dorm with BC students?  
14 responses



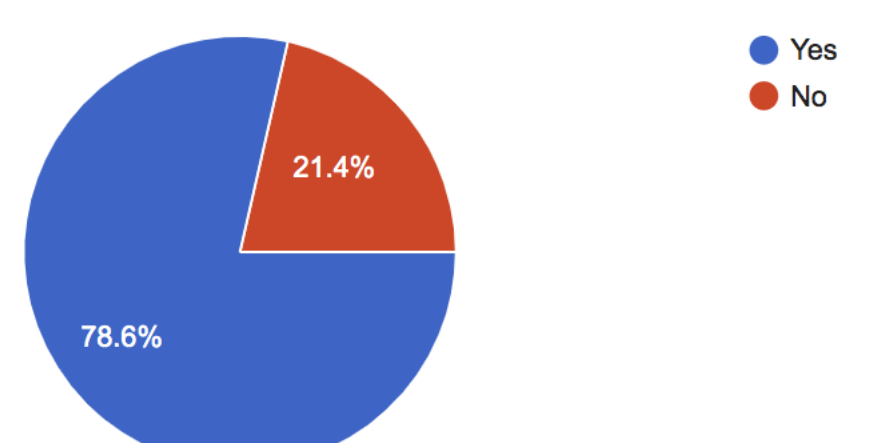
“I was scared I wouldn't know how to interact with individuals who had disabilities and I was scared that I would offend them.”

In your opinion, will you as a CUW student benefit and/or learn from having BC students in your dorm?  
26 responses



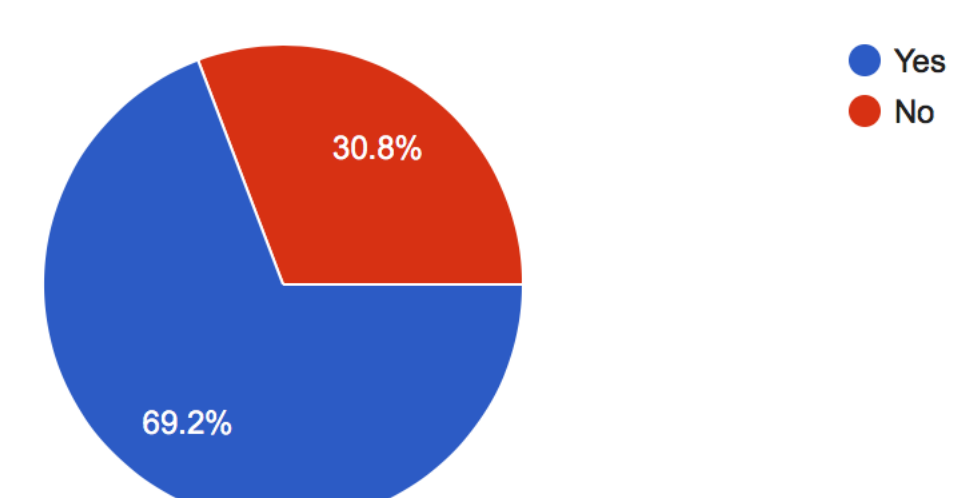
“Learn from being around new people and learning new things from them as they learn from you as well.”

In your opinion, have you/CUW students benefited/learned from having BC students in your dorm?  
14 responses



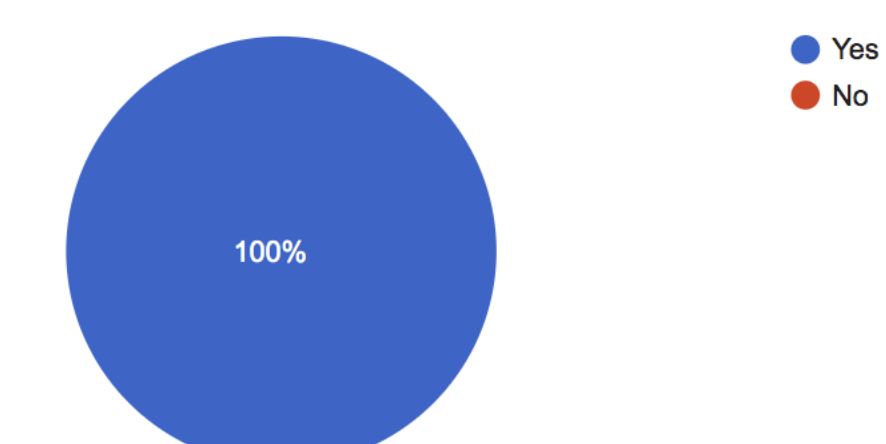
“I have learned a lot about people with disabilities and have developed a much greater respect and understanding of who they are. I also have become much more comfortable interacting with them.”

Is an inclusive dorm a good idea or should BC students live separately from CUW students? You may explain in the next section.  
26 responses



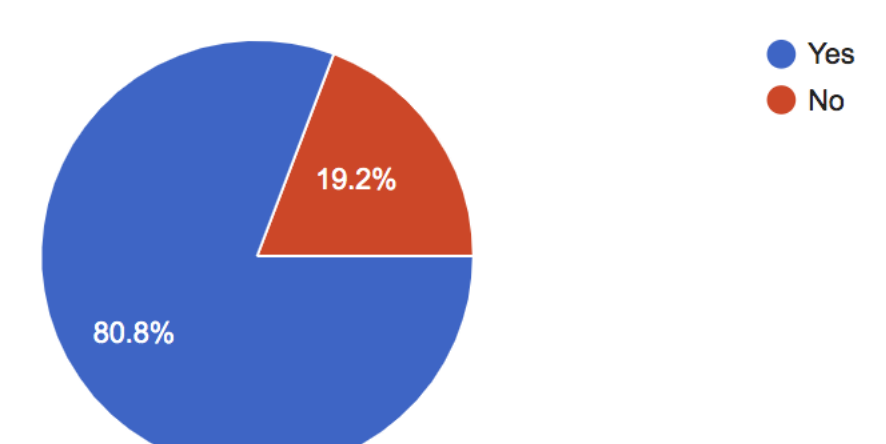
\*It's important for the BC students to 'spread their wings' and learn how to adjust to not always being around people with disabilities and for CUW students to become less judgmental and learn to treat 'different' people like everyone else.

Is an inclusive dorm a good idea or should BC students live separately from CUW students? You may explain in the next section.  
11 responses



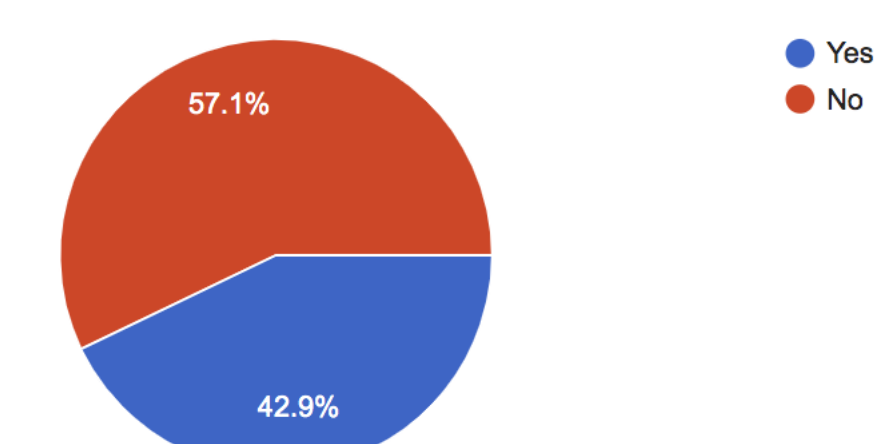
\*Not only do they benefit from living with us, be we too benefit from living with them by learning about each other and learning good life-skills to take with us for the rest of the time we are living in the dorms. \*Inclusive dorms are a great idea because they benefit everyone.

Do you think BC students should be allowed to live with friends who are CUW students in a mixed dorm room/suite, rather than only in a BC suite?  
26 responses



\*The more integrated the better. \*I think they would benefit more and feel more comfortable living with each other rather than with other students. \*They can develop more relationships. \*It will help them adapt and obtain better social skills.

Do you think BC students should be allowed to live with friends who are CUW students in a mixed dorm room/suite, rather than only in a BC suite?  
14 responses



\*From my own experience they like their own space and shelter from our loud campus. \*I don’t know if that’s fair to everyone in the suite. \*After their first year, yes, if the student they live with are okay with it. \*It should be their choice-just like how everyone else gets to decide.

**Pre-What is one way you think you may change because the students are around you in the dorm?**

\*I will become more tolerant. \*I think it’ll help me be more open minded and learn more about certain disabilities. \*I might change how I think about living in a community with other people. \*I can make new friends and understand different lifestyles. \*I might become a better person. \*My Awareness will expand. \*Not sure. \*I think I’ll be more cautious of my words and actions. \* Have more empathy. \*More open-minded.

**Post-What is one way you have changed because the students were around you in the dorm?**

\*I have become more aware of my own implicit biases and the way that society has effected me. I’ve grown to be more inclusive and to not base my opinion on someone on their differences.\*I’ve gained much more insight into how to be a better person when it comes to my listening skills and overall respect for those who find difficulty in different things than myself. \*Before, I was scared to talk to people with disabilities because I didn’t know how. Now I often talk to them and I look forward to those conversations.