SPA STUDENT EXPERIENCE SURVEY

INITIAL FINDINGS

WHAT OUR ALUMNI, PAST, & CURRENT STUDENTS HAD TO SAY

12/15/2022

INTENTION

- CURRENT & FORMER FOSTER YOUTH ARE KEY STAKEHOLDERS
- PROVIDE ALUMNI, PAST, & CURRENT STUDENTS THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCES
- BE INFLUENCERS & LEADERS TO GUIDE THE POLICIES, PRACTICES, AND STRUCTURE OF SPA

DEMOGRAPHICS

All Survey Responses

223 TOTAL SURVEYS COMPLETED

200 RESPONSES ANALYZED (SAMPLE SIZE)

Alumni & Past Students

207 TOTAL SURVEYS COMPLETED

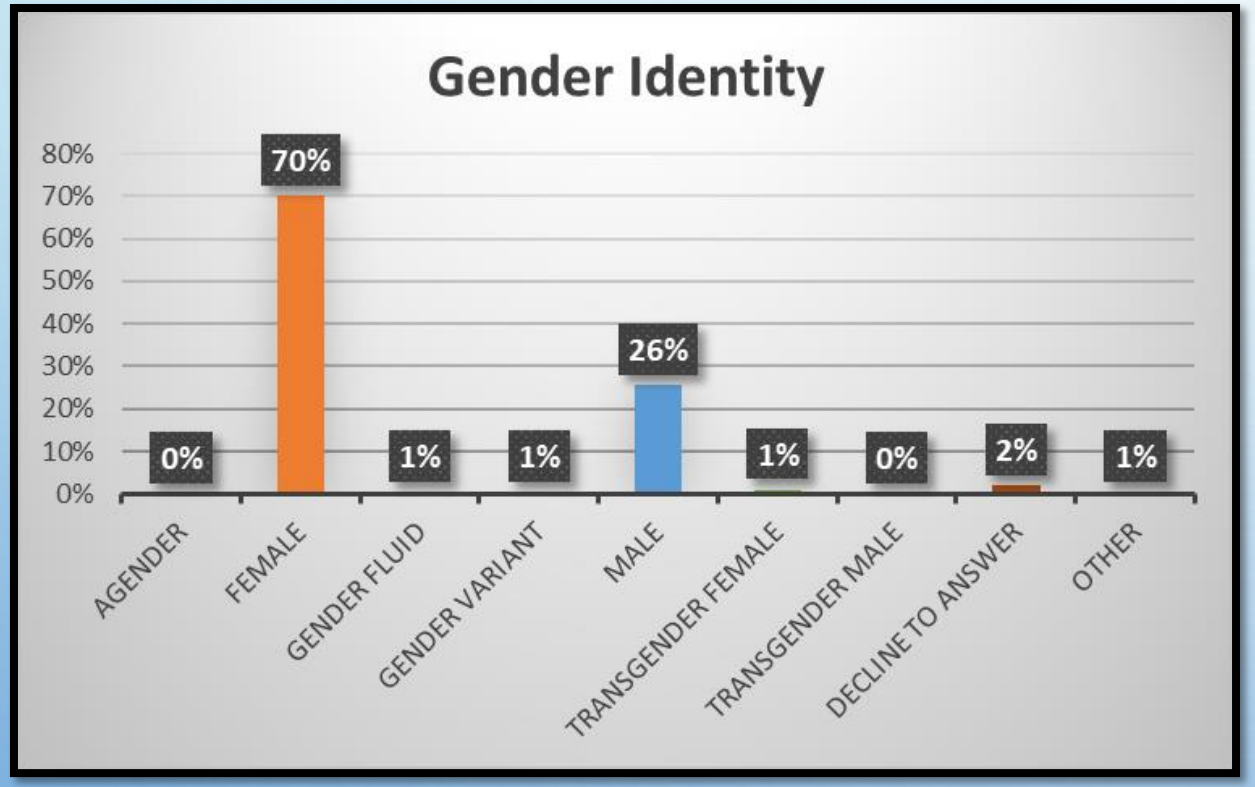
185 RESPONSES ANALYZED (SAMPLE SIZE)

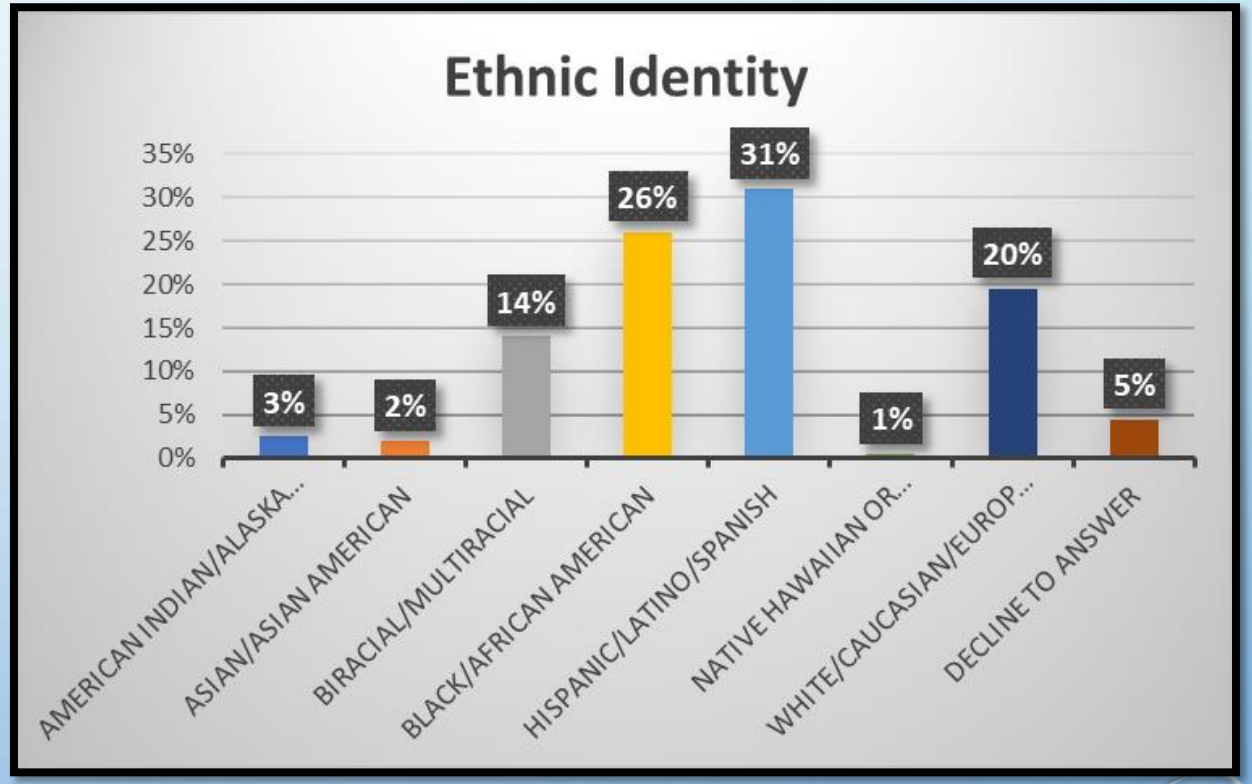
Current Students

16 TOTAL SURVEYS COMPLETED

15 RESPONSES ANALYZED (SAMPLE SIZE)

DEMOGRAPHICS





SIBLINGS

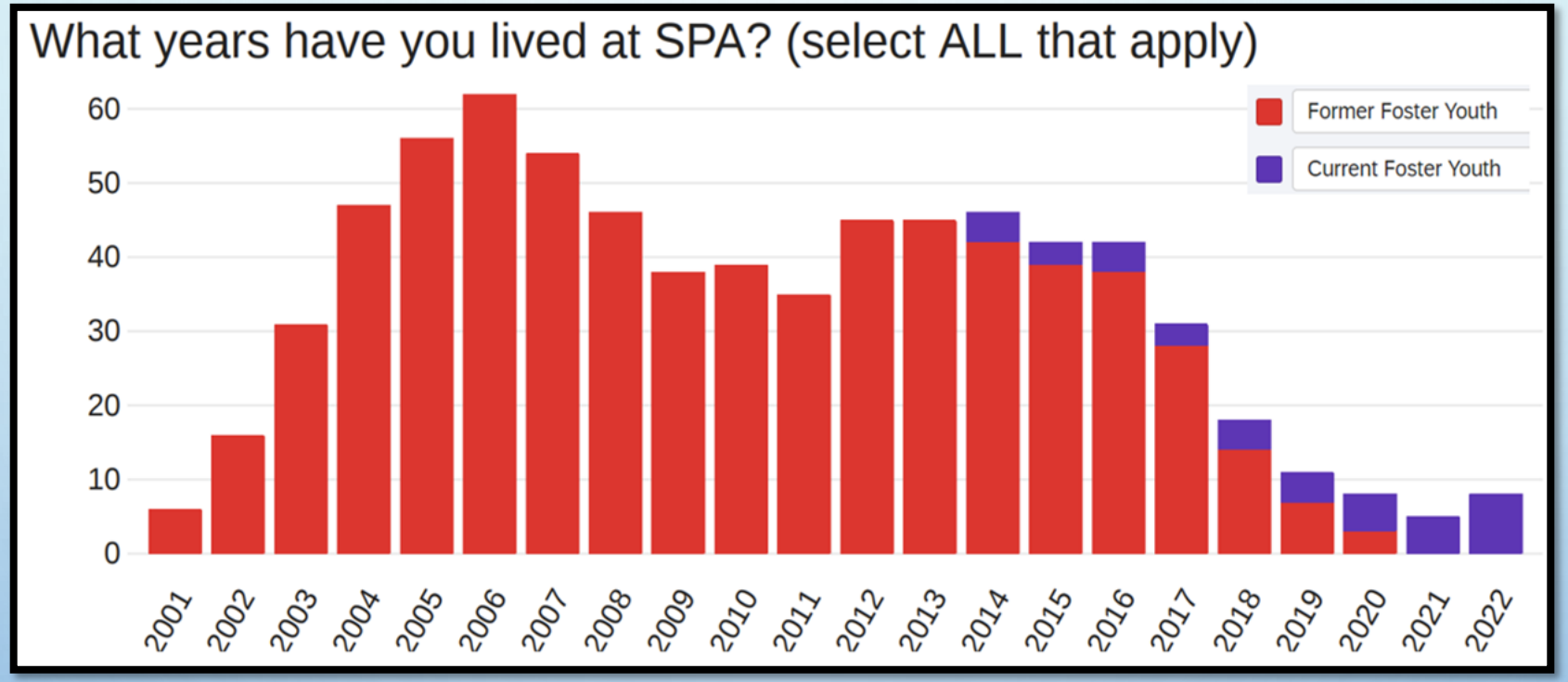
- **155** INDIVIDUALS (81%) HAVE SIBLINGS THAT ALSO ENTERED FOSTER CARE.
  - ON AVERAGE, WE SAW THAT THEY HAD TWO SIBLINGS THAT ENTERED CARE WITH THEM.

- **83** OF THOSE INDIVIDUALS (54%) IDENTIFIED THAT AT LEAST 1 OF THEIR SIBLINGS WERE ALSO PLACED AT SPA WITH THEM.

PREVIOUS PLACEMENTS

- **41%** STATED THEY EXPERIENCED 0-3 PLACEMENTS BEFORE ATTENDING SPA.
- **33%** STATED THEY EXPERIENCED 4-7 PLACEMENTS BEFORE ATTENDING SPA.
- **75%** OF THOSE PLACEMENTS WERE FOSTER HOMES, GROUP HOMES, OR POLINSKY CHILDREN'S CENTER/OTHER EMERGENCY PLACEMENT.

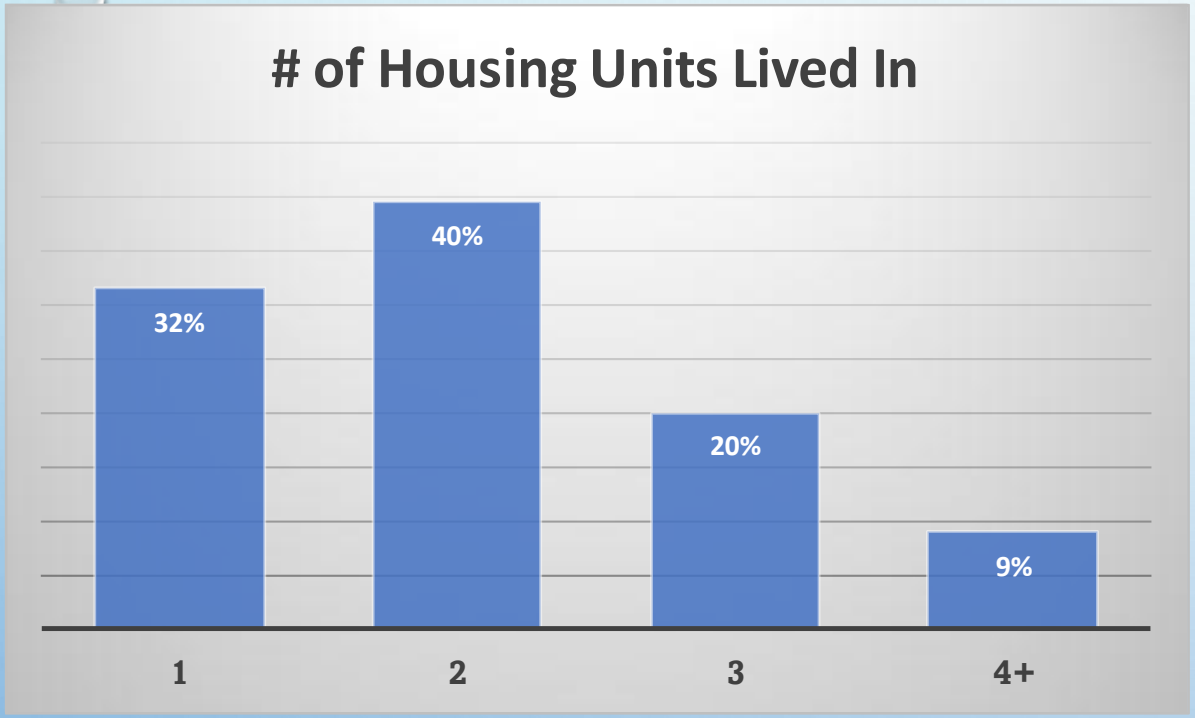
HOUSING

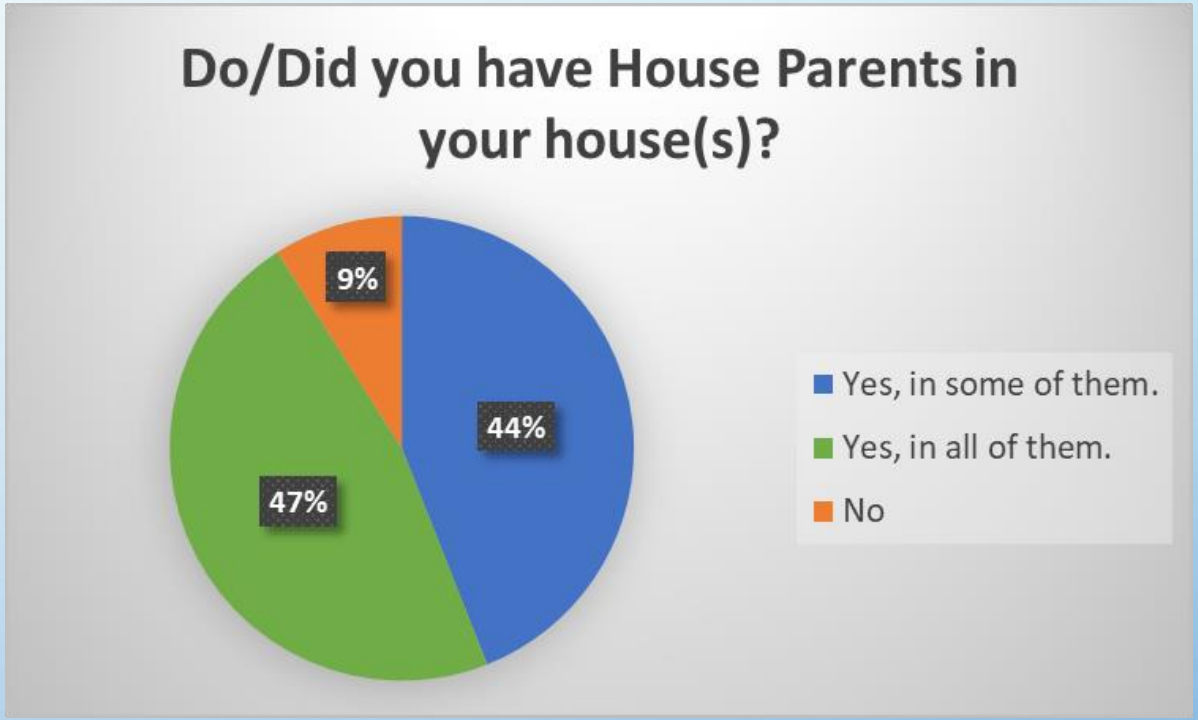


3.5 YEARS – AVERAGE TIME LIVED AT SPA

33% HAVE UTILIZED ALUMNI HOUSING

HOUSING





35% HAVE LIVED IN AN HONOR'S HOUSE

HOUSING

OVERALL HOUSEHOLD SAFETY & LEARNING

66% - OFTEN / ALMOST ALWAYS

Question - *Reflecting on your experience living in the SPA houses, please rate* ***how often*** *the following statements occur(red):*

Statements	Never / Rarely	Sometimes	Often / Almost Always
I learned/am learning how to share space with my roommate.	6%	15%	80%
The staff in the house(s) model(led) healthy behaviors.	5%	18%	78%
I felt/feel safe to be my authentic self or express myself.	13%	17%	71%
My personal beliefs and values were/are respected.	16%	19%	66%
I learned/am learning how to effectively communicate with my housemates.	15%	24%	62%
I learned/am learning necessary home-living skills.	17%	24%	60%
I felt/feel like a priority.	29%	22%	50%

WHAT WERE/ARE YOUR EXPERIENCES WITH STAFF IN YOUR HOUSE(S)?

"MY HOUSE PARENT BECAME MY BIGGEST SUPPORTER. SHE WAS LIKE A REAL MOTHER FIGURE."

"HOUSE PARENTS MADE US FEEL LIKE WE WERE WANTED AND CARED FOR."

"I DID BETTER WHEN MY HOUSES HAD HOUSE PARENTS AS RELATIONSHIP AND EXPECTATIONS WERE CONSISTENT AND TRUST WAS ESTABLISHED TO BE ABLE TO HAVE AUTHENTIC CONVERSATIONS ABOUT HOW I WAS DOING AND MY FUTURE. THE SHIFT STAFF, ALTHOUGH THERE WERE SOME GREAT STAFF WHO MADE THE HOUSE OPERATE AND KEPT DRAMA TO A MINIMUM, IT WAS HARD TO FEEL CONNECTED TO THE RANDOM STAFF SCHEDULED TO WORK IN MY HOUSES. THEY WERE STRANGERS."

"THE WORST WAS HAVING STAFF WHO SAT AT THE KITCHEN TABLE READING A BOOK FOR THEIR 8-HOUR SHIFT. NO RELATIONSHIP BUILDING, NO INTEREST IN RAISING 8 TEENAGERS, AND NO COOKING SKILLS ALTHOUGH RESPONSIBLE FOR FEEDING 9 PEOPLE."

"MANY STAFF PUSHED PERSONAL BELIEFS SUCH AS RELIGION ON ME AND SOME SPOKE NEGATIVELY ABOUT MY PARENTS WHOM I WAS STILL VERY MUCH IN CONTACT WITH. THERE WERE MANY STAFF THAT I FELT CONNECTED TO AND RESPECTED BY BUT WHEN I EXPRESSED DISCOMFORT OF WORKING WITH CERTAIN STAFF, I WAS TOLD THERE WASN'T MUCH ANYBODY COULD DO ABOUT IT."

EDUCATION

- WHERE DO/DID YOU ATTEND SCHOOL?
  - **79%** - ON CAMPUS
  - **1%** - OFF CAMPUS
  - **20%** - BOTH ON & OFF CAMPUS

Alumni & Past Students Only

- DID YOU OBTAIN YOUR HS DIPLOMA/GED BEFORE LEAVING SPA?
  - **71%** - YES
  - **29%** - NO

EDUCATION

OVERALL FREQUENCY OF ACADEMIC SUPPORT & CONFIDENCE

54% - OFTEN / ALMOST ALWAYS

Question - *Please rate* ***how often*** *the following statements occured:*

Statements	Never / Rarely	Sometimes	Often / Almost Always
I had/have adults that support(ed) me with my academics.	15%	21%	64%
I had/have quality resources available to me for my education.	18%	21%	62%
I made/make my education a priority.	16%	23%	61%
My teachers and school staff had/have my best interest in mind.	13%	29%	59%
My academic efforts and potential were/are recognized.	24%	20%	57%
I was/am included when decision were/are being made regarding my educational journey.	20%	25%	56%
My educational needs were/are met.	31%	19%	51%
I was/am defined by my grades/GPA.	26%	32%	43%
I felt/feel academically challenged to achieve in the classroom.	33%	25%	43%
I felt that my high school education prepared me for the next steps in my life. [Alumni & Past Students Only]	**42%**	**23%**	**35%**

EDUCATION

Question - *Please rate your level of* ***satisfaction*** *with the* ***quality*** *of education you receive(d) on campus (student at SPA):*				
Quality Metrics	**Was Not Offered**	**Not At All / Barely Satisfied**	**Somewhat Satisfied**	**Very / Extremely Satisfied**
Teachers	0%	18%	24%	59%
Extracurricular Activities	4%	21%	19%	56%
Elective Classes	4%	24%	21%	51%
Principal	3%	22%	27%	47%
Core Classes	2%	23%	28%	47%
High School Counselors	9%	21%	23%	46%
Homework	0%	20%	35%	44%
Senior Seminar	19%	20%	17%	44%

Question - *Please rate your level of* ***satisfaction*** *with the following Education Resources offered at SPA:*				
Quality Metrics	**Was Not Offered**	**Not At All / Barely Satisfied**	**Somewhat Satisfied**	**Very / Extremely Satisfied**
Study Hour	3%	20%	27%	52%
Tutoring	10%	19%	25%	47%
Credit Recovery	18%	21%	20%	42%
Education Planning Meetings	9%	22%	31%	39%
College Prep	13%	29%	21%	38%

OVERALL SATISFACTION WITH EDUCATION & ACADEMIC RESOURCES OFFERED ON CAMPUS

47% - VERY / EXTREMELY SATISFIED

24% - SOMEWHAT SATISFIED

21% - NOT AT ALL / BARELY SATISFIED

EMPLOYMENT

- DID/HAVE YOU OBTAIN(ED) EMPLOYMENT WHILE AT SPA?
  - **79%** - YES
  - **21%** - NO

- WHERE DID YOU EXPERIENCE YOUR EMPLOYMENT?
  - **30%** - ON CAMPUS
  - **17%** - OFF CAMPUS
  - **53%** - BOTH ON & OFF CAMPUS

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR ON CAMPUS EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE?

"I ENJOYED BEING ON CAMPUS AND LEARNING BASIC SKILLS TO HELP ME WITH MY JOB EXPERIENCES."

"WORKING ON CAMPUS I LEARNED THE IMPORTANCE OF TIME MANAGEMENT, ARRIVING ON TIME AND COMPLETING TASKS DURING MY WORKDAY. I LEARNED CLEANING AND FOOD QUALITY/MEAL PREP SKILLS. I LEARNED ABOUT BEING ON A TEAM. I WISH I WOULD HAVE LEARNED CONFLICT RESOLUTION SKILLS AMONG COLLEAGUES WITH THE SUPPORT OF MY SUPERVISOR."

"I WORKED AT THE AGRICULTURAL FIELD. EVENTUALLY, I WAS HIRED TO DO ADMINISTRATIVE WORK. I DO NOT FEEL THAT THERE WAS MUCH GUIDANCE GIVEN NOR DID I GRASP HOW WHAT I WAS DOING COULD TRANSITION INTO ANOTHER ROLE. I MISSED OUT ON THE ABILITY TO TRANSITION INTO A MORE PERMANENT ROLE OFF CAMPUS DUE TO A LACK OF CAREER GUIDANCE."

"I WOULD DESCRIBE MY ON CAMPUS EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE AS LIMITED BECAUSE I FEEL LIKE NOW THAT I'M OUT OF SPA IT'S STILL DIFFICULT FOR ME TO FIND JOBS AND APPLY AND KNOW HOW TO DO ALL OF THOSE THINGS."

EMPLOYMENT & FINANCIAL LITERACY

OVERALL AGREEMENT WITH WORK READINESS & FINANCIAL LITERACY

52% - AGREE / STRONGLY AGREE

Question - *Please rate your level of* ***agreement*** *with the following statements:*

Statements	Strongly Disagree / Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree / Strongly Agree
ACCESS is an important element of the SPA campus.	15%	24%	62%
I learned/am learning employment readiness skills at SPA.	19%	22%	60%
I developed the skills to successfully interview for a job.I am learning how to prepare for a job interview.	20%	21%	60%
Opportunity Passport is an important element of the SPA campus.	15%	28%	57%
I learned/am learning the importance of financial literacy at SPA.	24%	24%	53%
I felt prepared to join the workforce after leaving SPA. [Alumni & Past Students Only]	**24%**	**24%**	**52%**
I learned/am learning how to use a budget.	30%	26%	45%
I learned healthy money management. [Alumni & Past Students Only]	**33%**	**23%**	**44%**
I left SPA feeling confident in my ability to take care of myself financially. [Alumni & Past Students Only]	**35%**	**26%**	**39%**
SPA helped me determine my career interests.	42%	27%	32%
I currently can take care of myself financially. [Alumni & Past Students Only]	**6%**	**21%**	**24%**
I currently am saving for emergencies. [Alumni & Past Students Only]	**19%**	**26%**	**24%**

RELATIONSHIPS

WHILE AT SPA

OVERALL SATISFACTION WITH RELATIONSHIPS

57% - VERY / EXTREMELY SATISFIED

Question - *Please rate your level of* ***satisfaction*** *with the Relationships you had with the following people:*				
	N/A	Not At All / Barely Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Very / Extremely Satisfied
SPA Grandparents	4%	4%	10%	83%
My House Staff	0%	9%	24%	68%
My House Parents	7%	9%	17%	68%
The Friends of SPA	5%	9%	23%	65%
Coaches	7%	9%	22%	63%
My Clinician(s)	3%	13%	25%	60%
My Teachers	2%	17%	24%	59%
SPA Supervisors/Managers	1%	19%	28%	53%
My Housemates	1%	14%	33%	53%
Off Campus Relationships (Bio Family, Friends, CASA, Mentor, etc.)	5%	17%	26%	53%
My Social Worker(s)	1%	20%	28%	51%
My Peers on Campus	1%	14%	36%	49%
SPA Director(s)	2%	30%	24%	45%
Attorney(s)	18%	27%	25%	31%

RELATIONSHIPS

MOST IMPORTANT

TOP 5 RELATIONSHIPS

42% - HOUSE PARENTS

40% - PEERS ON CAMPUS

39% - HOUSEMATES

35% - OFF CAMPUS (BIO FAM, FRIENDS, ETC.)

20% - SPA GRANDPARENTS

HEALTH, WELLNESS, & SAFETY ON CAMPUS

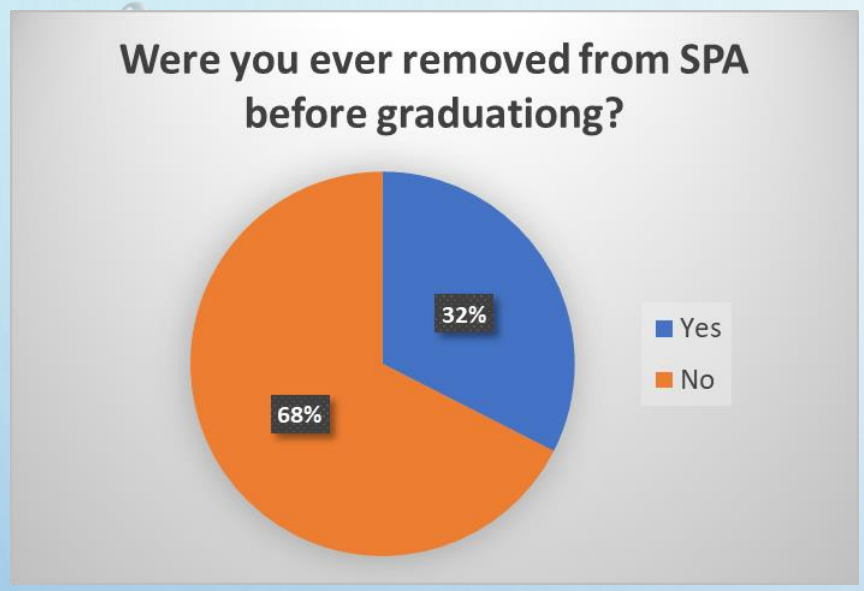
OVERALL FREQUENCY OF HEALTH, WELLNESS, & SAFETY

63% - OFTEN / ALMOST ALWAYS

Question - *Please rate* ***how often*** *the following statements occured:*

Statements	Never / Rarely	Sometimes	Often / Almost Always
I had/have at least one caring adult that I felt/feel safe sharing my thoughts and feelings with.	11%	15%	75%
I had/have access to resources that support(ed) my physical health.	7%	24%	69%
I was/am included in my medical decisions.	15%	18%	68%
My physical boundaries were/are respected by others.	14%	21%	66%
When I did/do not feel well, there were/are resources available to help me.	12%	24%	65%
I had/have access to resources that support(ed) my mental health.	15%	25%	61%
I felt/feel safe engaging with my peers.	14%	27%	60%
I felt/feel safe communicating my needs.	23%	20%	58%
Adults on campus consistently spoke/speak with me about my health and wellness.	23%	23%	55%
I felt/feel seen and heard as one of many students on campus.	27%	24%	50%

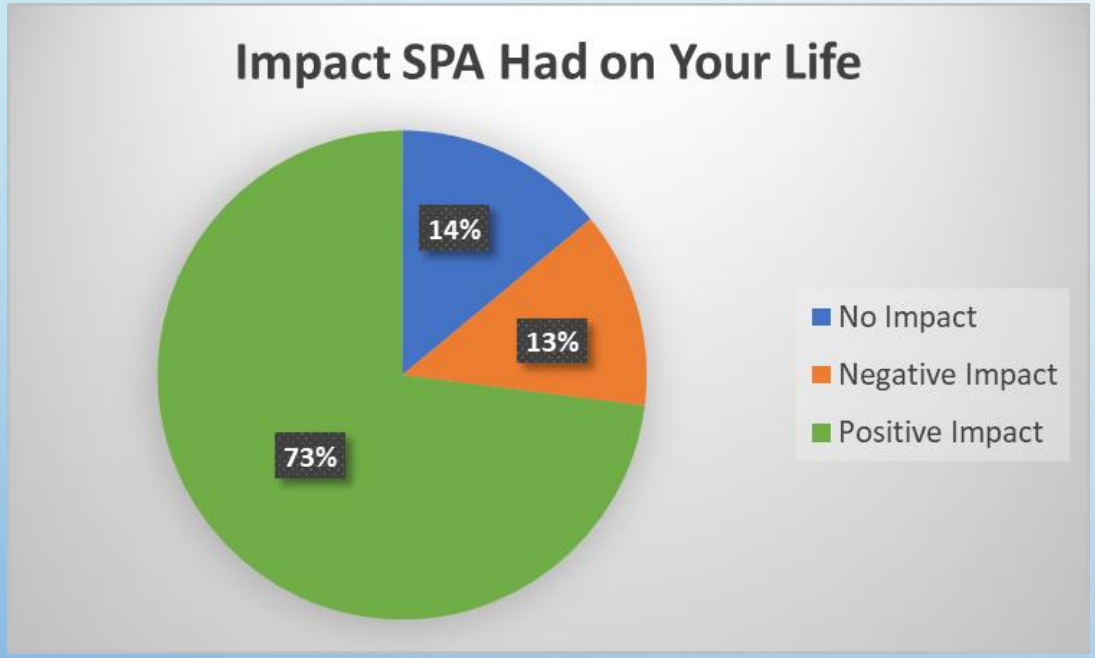
LEAVING SPA


Were you ever removed from SPA before graduationg?
32%
68%
Yes
No

Did you ever return to SPA after being removed/leaving?
29%
71%
Yes
No

What was the reasoning for you being removed/leaving?
26%
9%
6%
9%
23%
26%
I TURNED 18
I WAS KICKED OUT
PREGNANCY
I REUNIFIED WITH BIOLOGICAL FAMILY
I CHOSE TO LIVE AT A DIFFERENT PLACEMENT
OTHER

OVERALL IMPACT



DOES/DID SPA FEEL LIKE A COMMUNITY TO YOU?

73% - YES

15% - MAYBE

12% - NO

WHAT ABOUT SPA DOES/DID FEEL LIKE A COMMUNITY TO YOU?

"IT WAS A COMMUNITY OF PEOPLE WHO ALL HAD GONE THROUGH SIMILAR THINGS AND WHEN FOCUSED AND POINTED IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION, ALL HAD THE GOALS TO MAKE IT FURTHER IN LIFE AND WHEN YOU WANTED TO SUCCEED SPA WAS ALWAYS THERE FOR YOU."

"IT WAS LIKE LIVING IN A LITTLE NEIGHBORHOOD YOU HAD NEIGHBORS YOU BORROWED THINGS FROM EACH OTHER. THERE WAS A COMMUNITY GET TOGETHERS IN THE GAME ROOM MEET UP AT THE GYM WHERE WE WOULD PLAY BASKETBALL AND SUCH."

WHAT ABOUT SPA DOES NOT/DID NOT FEEL LIKE A COMMUNITY TO YOU?

"WHEN STAFF OPERATED FROM POSITIONS OF POWER/CONTROL OR VIOLATED THEIR BOUNDARIES WITH STUDENTS (DRUGS, SEX, DISRESPECTFUL BEHAVIOR). WHEN FAVORITISM WAS EXERCISED BY CAMPUS DIRECTOR, SUPERVISORS, TEACHERS, AND STAFF - THESE EXPERIENCES DIVIDED STUDENTS. BEING AN ALUMNI NOW AND NOT WELCOMED ON CAMPUS AND TREATED AS IF SPA WAS/IS NOT MY HOME."

"THE ATHLETIC STUDENTS ALWAYS FELT FAVORED. SPECIFICALLY, FOOTBALL AND BASKETBALL. AS A NON-ATHLETIC STUDENT, I FELT PUT ON THE BACK BURNER AT TIMES."

STAYING ENGAGED

- **83%** SHARED AN INTEREST IN BEING AN ACTIVE PART OF A SPA ALUMNI COMMUNITY.

QUESTIONS & NEXT STEPS