

Sustainable Connection: A Study of Community Living

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Abstract

As the population of the United States grows, housing trends fluctuate with the demand. This study was designed to determine if younger adults value living with others and how a sense of community can be created to support their needs. It also gauges if people are concerned with the health of our natural environment.

Research Question

To learn the current living preferences of young adults and gauge the importance of having a sense of community in living?

Survey Methodology

Subjects

The 94 participants who were ages 18 years and older.

Objective

The survey examined participants' current living conditions, interaction with their community around them and the communal spaces in their current living situations.

Structure

- Distribution: Online survey was distributed through social media platforms and the North Dakota State University Student Listserv email.
- Length of Survey: The online survey consisted of 12 questions in a multiple choice and Likert scale question format.
- Duration: Responses were collected over a two week period.

Results



AVERAGE AGE 25

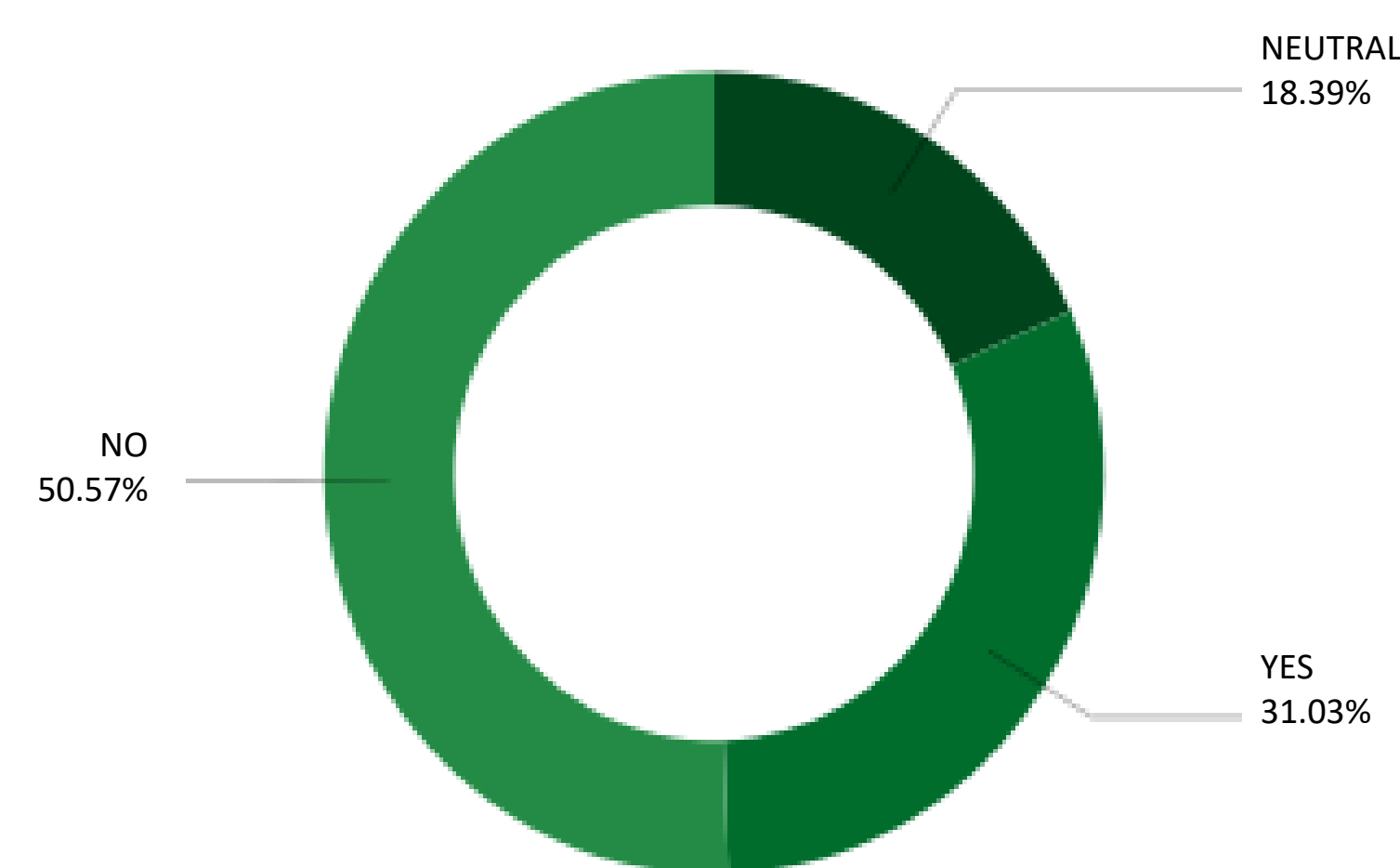
Grace Kim, an architect in Seattle that focuses on cohousing, stated that "Loneliness is not a function of being alone, but how socially connected you are to those around you". (2017)

The participants were asked how connected they felt with those they lived with. Survey results indicated that 50% of the participants feel connected with those they live with.

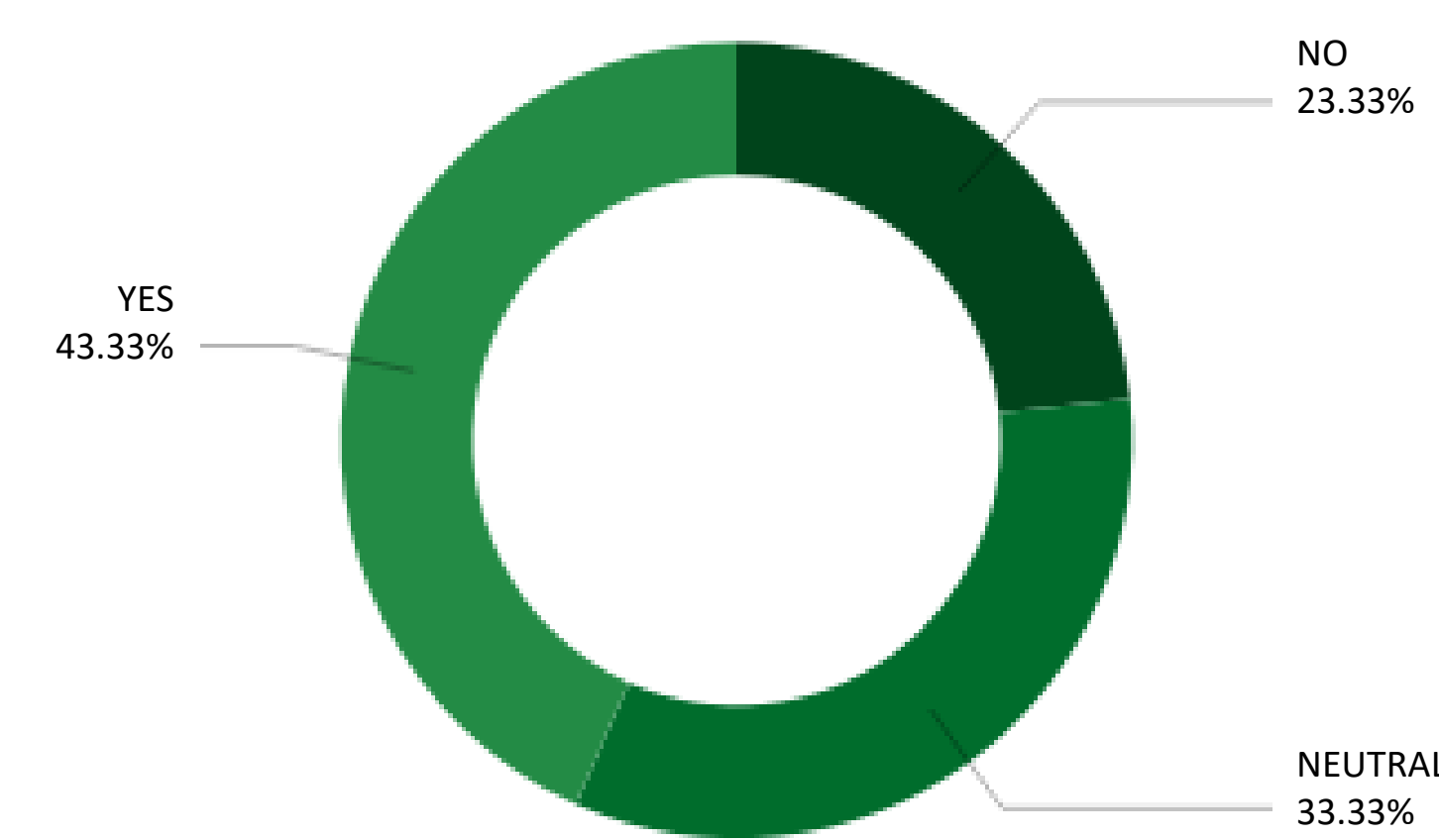
Mike Mariano says, "Sustainability can't just be about individual buildings. It needs to be about the collection of buildings and ... the people occupying those buildings bring to the community". (Schemata, 2018)

Survey results found that 75% of the participants are concerned with the health of the natural environment.

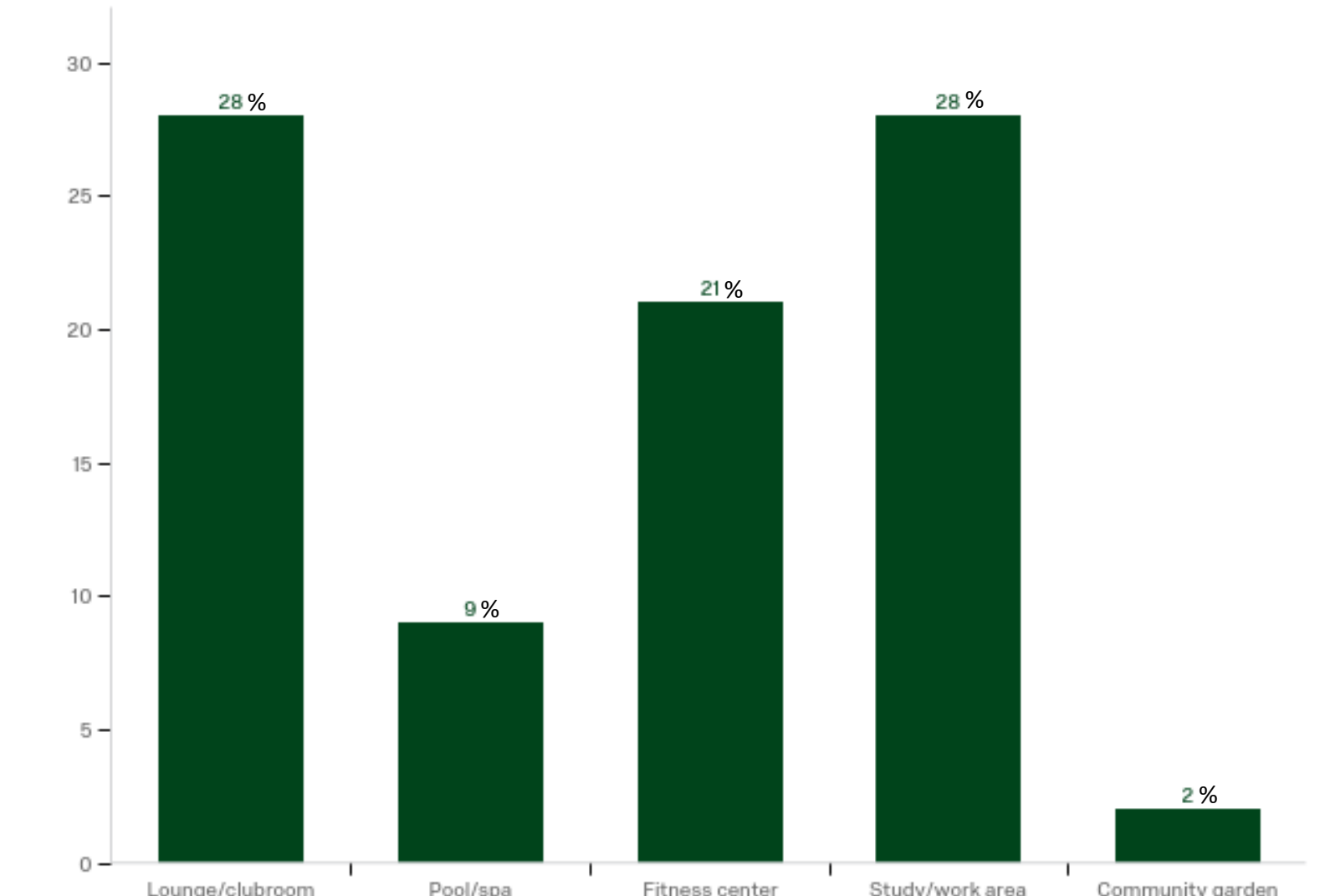
Are Participants Connected with Who They Live with



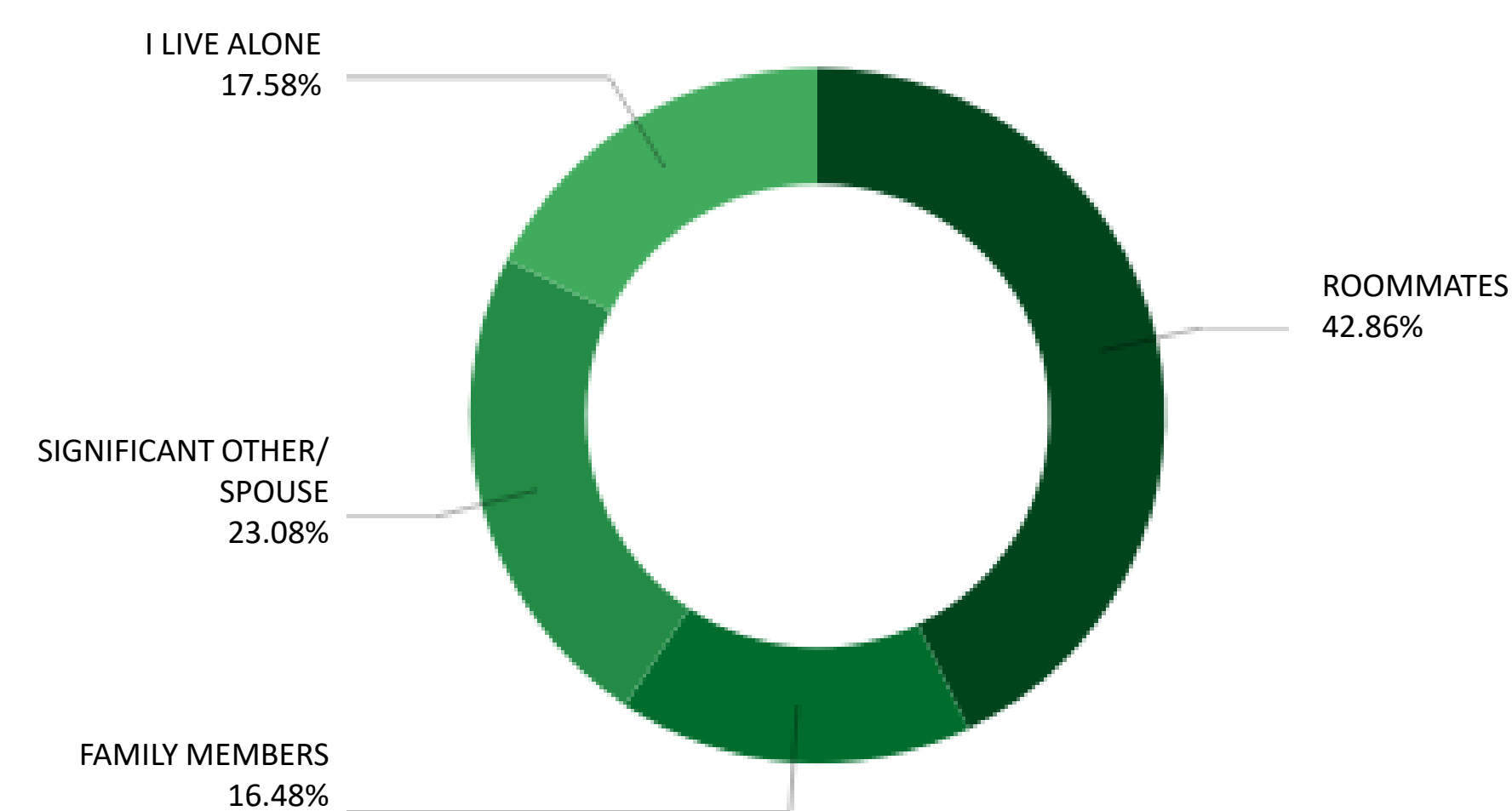
Participants Concerned with the Health of Our Natural Environment



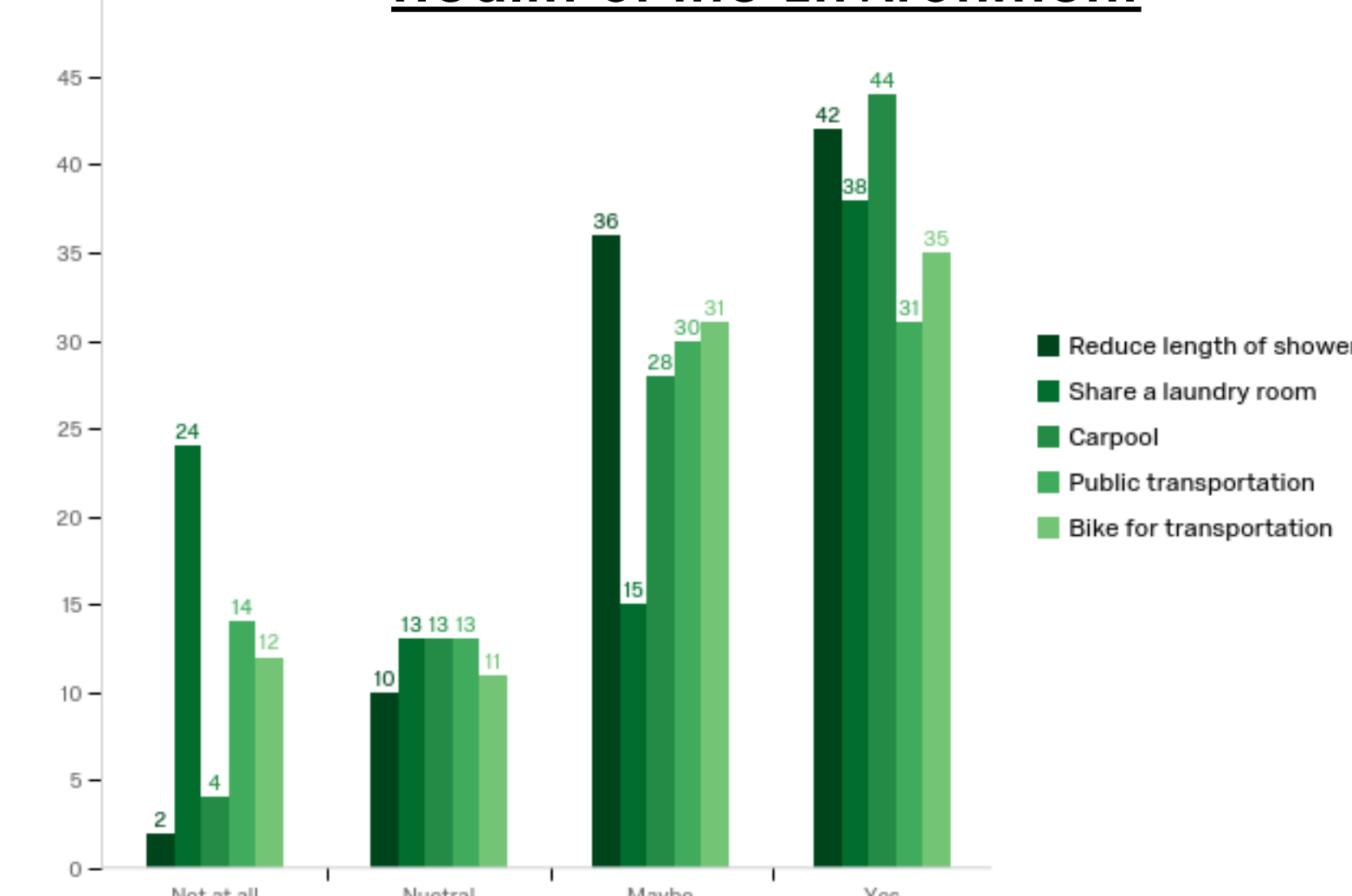
Desirable Amenities



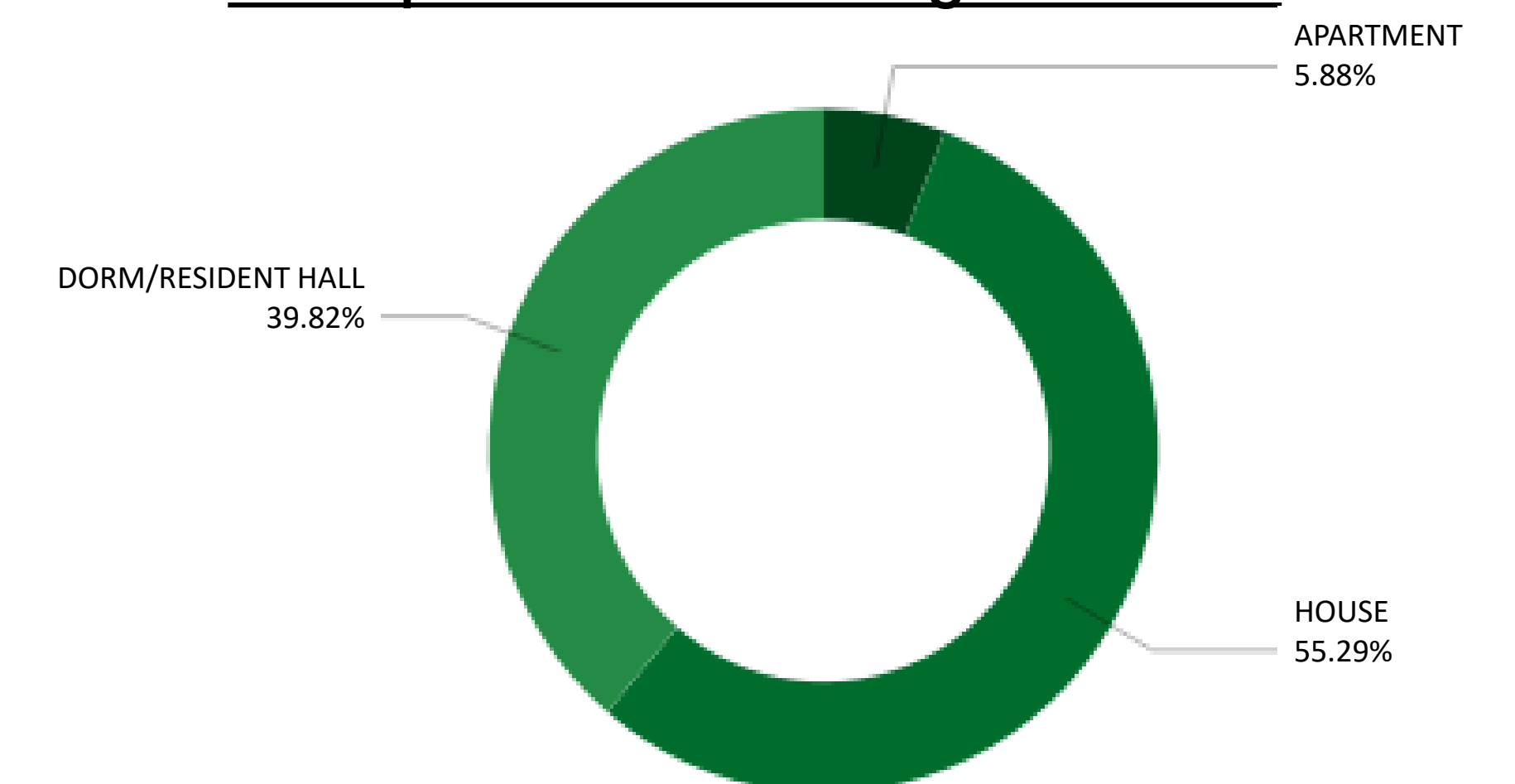
Who Participants Live With



What Are You Willing to Sacrifice For the Health of the Environment



Participants' Current Living Conditions



Conclusion

The survey provided insight to what the participants value in their living situations. Results indicated that a majority of participants lived with roommates, but a majority didn't feel connected with them. We concluded that having a choice of who one lives with may be a factor to how connected they are to who they live with. The survey asked if they were concerned for the natural environment's health, and many participants indicated that they would be willing to change their own daily habits to have a positive impact on the environment. It can be concluded that participants value the health of the natural environment and are willing to sacrifice some amenities for it.

Sustainable Brewing: A Study of Human Interaction

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Abstract

Breweries and cider houses have found popularity in the mainstream market due to internet resources that have allowed the craft beer industry to grow exponentially. This observation study was an observation to discover how the built environment can affect human interaction.

Research Question

How do people interact in the causal interior environment with the other guests/employees?

Observation Methodology

Subjects

Customers and employees at the new Drekker Brewing Co. Location "Brewhalla" on 1st Ave N.

Objective

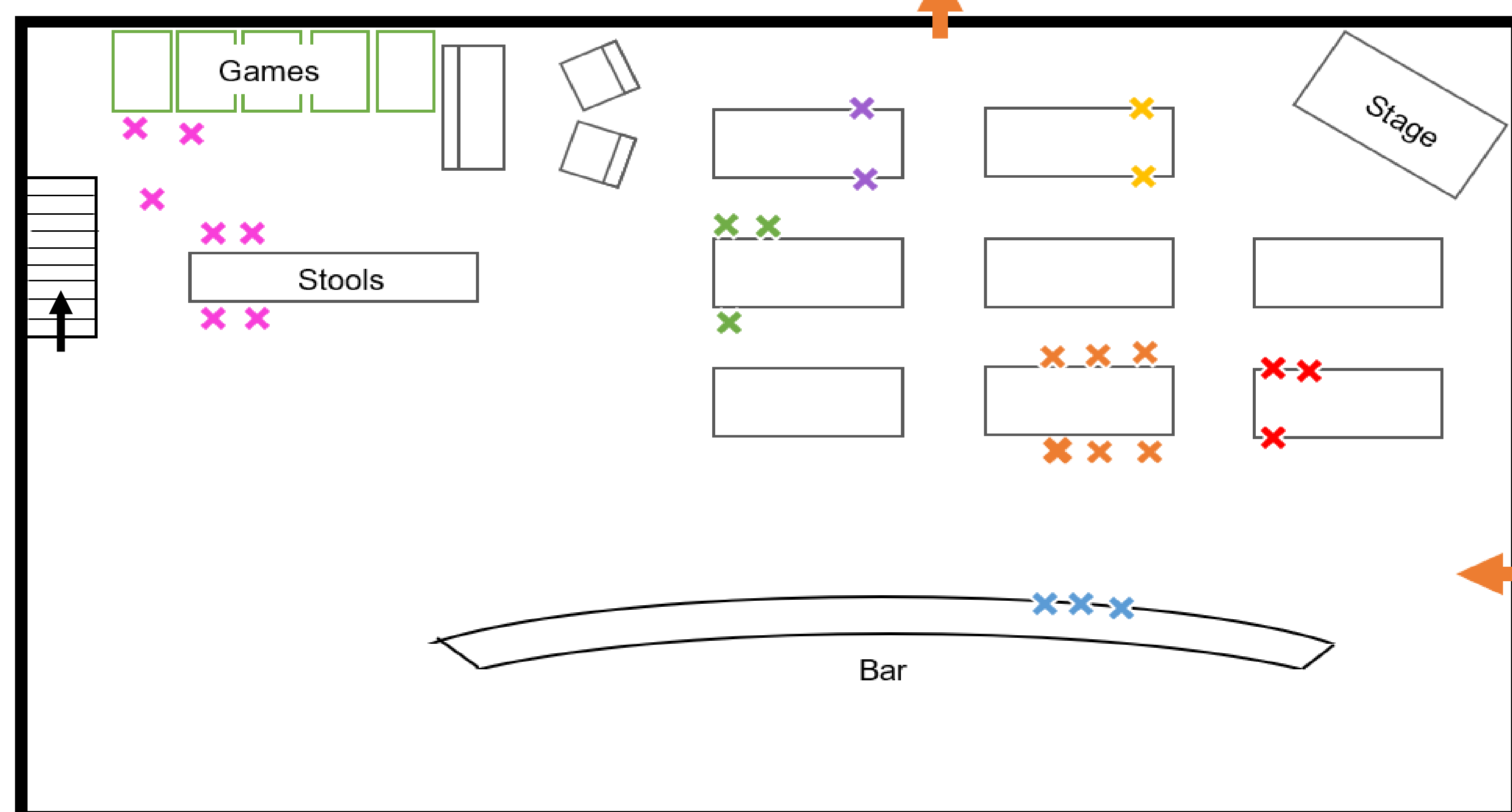
To better understand how customers and employees interact and use this type of interior space while working and socializing.

Structure

- Type of Study: A naturalistic observation, Cherry from Verywellmind.com (2018) defines, "a naturalistic observation is done to view the subject's in their natural habitat without interference from the observer".
- Length of Study: 2 weeks in November 2018
- Duration: 1 hour per observation session
- Days of Observation: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday
- Observation Time: Began at 6:30pm

Results

Seating Tracker Sample 11/29/19



LEGEND	
SYMBOL	NAME
	ENTRY/EXIT
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="display: flex; gap: 5px;"> Group A Group B Group C Group D Group E Group F Group G </div> <div style="font-size: 2em; margin-left: 10px;">X</div> </div>	Each color distinguishes each party of people. Each individual "X" is a person (not gender specific)

Observations

Customers

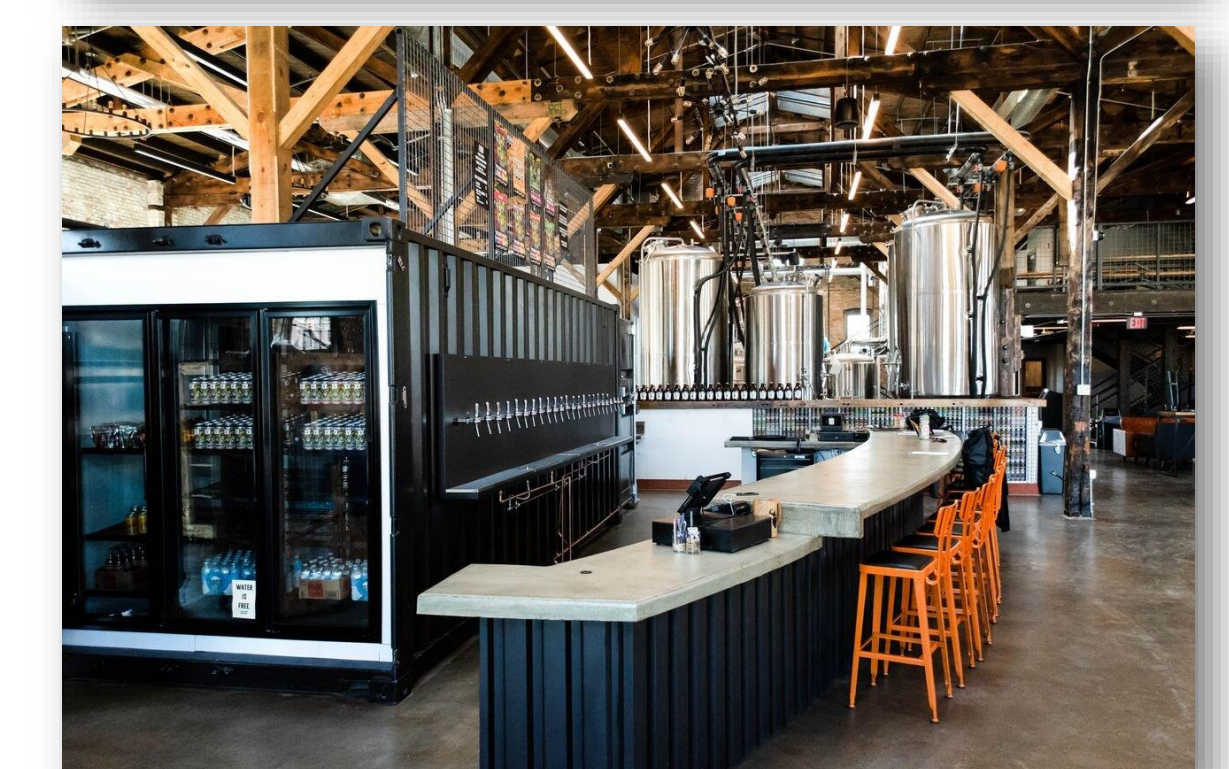
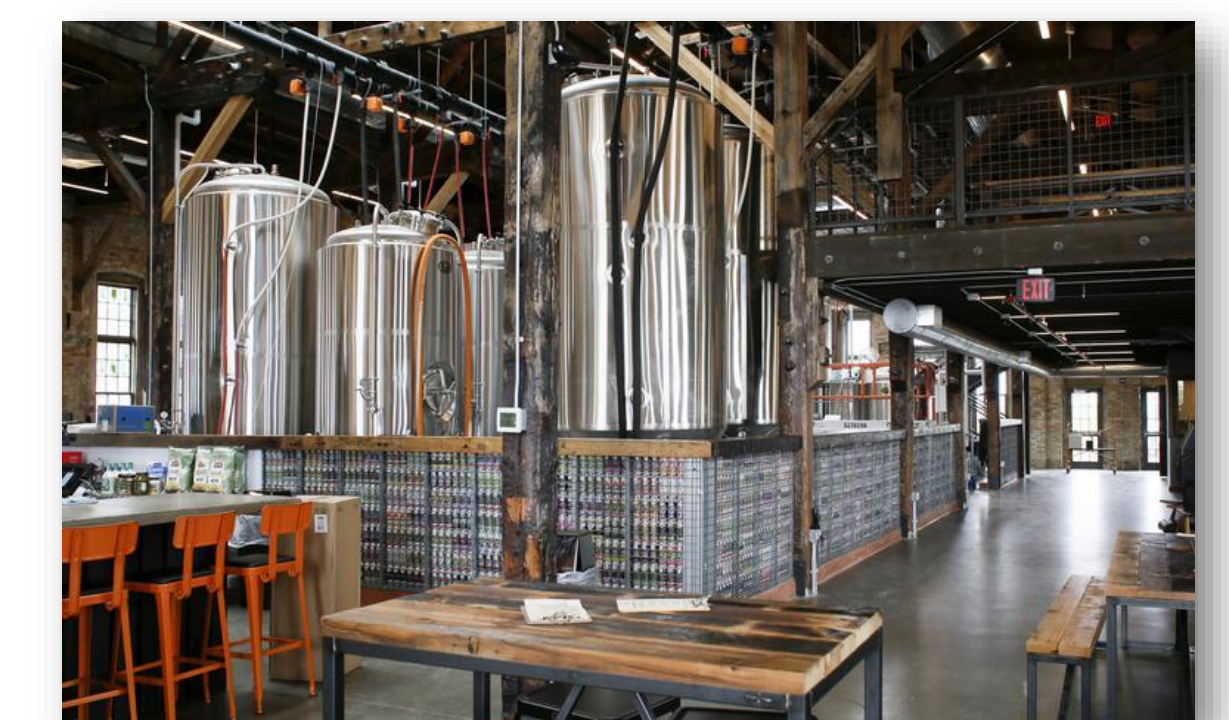
- Most came dressed in casual clothing.
- Average number of people entering at one time were in groups of 2-3. It was common to see an individual come on their own to meet with others.

Common Activities

- Most people socialized, some played the board games that were provided, very few did work.
- The pinball machines were very popular.
- Customers tended to stay longer when talking and/or playing games.
- Half of the people had food with their drinks.

The Interior Space

- Seating included a variety of wood tables and benches, leather lounge furniture and the bar.
- These were arranged in benches and tables, stools and tables, bar stools, and lounge space. Th



Conclusion

Cherry (2019) states a naturalistic observation is done to view the subject in their natural habitat without interference from the observer. Upon observation of the way people interacted, it could be seen that most people entered the space with their designated group with little intention of speaking to others outside of that group. With increased beverage intake, people generally became more friendly with others around them. When it came to seating, most people chose to sit at or near the bar due to the central location and access to service. To conclude, individuals seated with drinks, food, and entertainment in a group setting stayed longer than those who did not.