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**Canadian Institute for Inclusion and Citizenship**

# **Housing Matters!**

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# Housing Matters Project

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- ❖ What did you and Robin do?
  - ❖ Focus groups (interviews in groups) and interviews with individuals
- ❖ How many people did you talk to?
  - ❖ 27 people
- ❖ We asked:
  - ❖ What does inclusive housing mean and look like to you?
  - ❖ What are self-advocates' housing needs?
  - ❖ What are your concerns about housing?
  - ❖ What can we do to improve housing?



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# What is inclusive housing?

❖ Inclusive housing means that people live in homes where they feel part of their communities. Inclusive housing should provide people with a sense of home and belonging within their community and promote quality of life (Inclusion BC).

❖ We believe that home is a place that enables choice, freedom, safety, and inclusion in community (Inclusion Canada).



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[inclusionBC.org/housing](https://inclusionBC.org/housing)

# Research participants told us:

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- ❖ FG 1: “To me it means everybody is included, nobody is excluded, and everything is easily accessible”
- ❖ FG 1: “Inclusive housing means housing that is accessible... to anybody and everybody so everybody is included, and rent control is something that is really good in inclusive housing, or [rent] by income.”
- ❖ FG 3: “Living in apartments like anyone else.”



# Principles of Inclusive Housing

## Elements of Inclusive Housing



**Choice and Control:** Choice and control over living space is fundamental to the concept of home and to quality of life.



**Accessibility:** Housing must meet basic requirements that give people access to both their homes and to their community.



**Affordability:** For most people with an intellectual and developmental disability that means \$500 per month.



**Diversity:** People have a wide range of interests, preferences, disability-related support needs and backgrounds.



**Sustainability:** Housing needs to provide stability and a sense of permanency for people.

# What did participants tell us:

## ❖ Choice

**FG 5:** “The freedom when I moved out of my parents, it was like, FINALLY! I do keep in contact, if I don't, they end up calling me and checking in on me and I'm like “I'm okay, I'm good, it's okay”. It's like, you know, “we are okay, we are growing up, we are adults, we still love you, we wont disappear”

**FG 8:** “There needs to be more options than home share. Home share can be a great option but there needs to be more options that are affordable.”



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## ❖ Accessibility

- **FG 5:** “From the SA point of view, there has also got to be a way of looking at transportation, stuff out in the community, grocery stores, going to church and stuff, some people cant get that transportation due to where they live.”

## ❖ Affordability

- **FG 2:** “There’s just not enough low-cost housing, and when all the apartments are filled up in [name of place] and you got no other place to live, and you don’t have a homeless shelter for people to go to, to warm up or even eat...”

# What did participants tell us:

## ❖ Diversity

FG 3: “Where I used to live would be a really great example. It was low-income, but it was a mixture of incomes, they had people with diverse abilities, people with mental health problems, people with different earnings. ... A good thing about having that place, I was still able to go to my neighbours if I needed help to take a cap off or open something, I could go to a neighbour. Now, because I am in a new building, because of my housing situation this summer, my low-income housing that I was in was wrecked.”

## ❖ Sustainability and Safety

**FG 8:** “My last place I lived in, totally changed my outlook on not just being physically safe, but holistically safe? And I needed a safe place to be, and now being with [my home share]. I'm feeling safe. I'm feeling comfortable in every single way. So, that just... living by myself changed my whole outlook On holistic safety.”

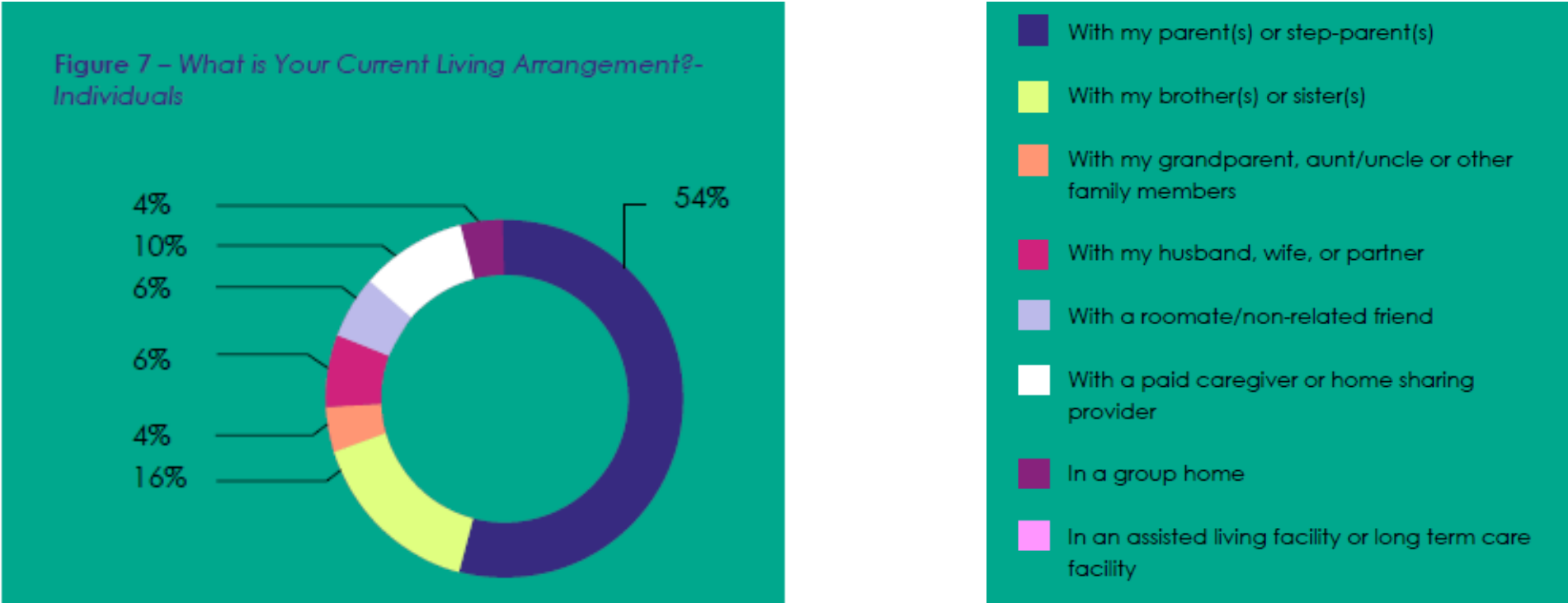


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# What are the different kind of housing options that people have access to?

❖ Family Home; Home Share; Group Home; Cluster Living; Independent Living



N = 126 self advocates; 70% living with family  
Report on Inclusive Housing (2020)

# Self Advocate Voices

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*"I am thirty years old and no longer want to live with Mom or Dad."*

*"I'm 28 years old. I want to be able to move out and have more freedom and become an adult."*

Desire for Independence:

*"To achieve my goal to live on my own & prepare myself for living in my home."*

*"I want to live with friends."  
"[I want] more independence."*

*"I want a girlfriend and to have privacy. I want to do things my way in my own place."*



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# Inclusion BC 2021

- [Inclusive Housing: The Changes that will Change Lives](#)