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# Community Participation: Let's Have a Party!

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# COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION: LET'S HAVE A PARTY!

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## Research Questions

1. Did Hope College Halloween party benefit individuals with disabilities in their transition-related community participation skills?
2. Did the activities that the Hope College students participated in, contribute to greater engagement by the individuals with disabilities.

## Introduction

Individuals with developmental disabilities have a higher risk of low participation in leisure activities; which is detrimental to their social and emotional wellbeing. Research supports that engagement fosters wellbeing and develops social belonging and connectedness. Adults with intellectual disabilities strive for social interactions, friends, and connectedness to the community (Wilson, Jaques, and Brotherton, 2017). Social groups help promote individual with disabilities participation in their communities (Badia, et al., 2013).. Hence, the need for such activities in group homes. Past research has shown that a major factor that influence s time spent in social and non-social activities in different group home environments is a person's interest in that activity. This means it is important to ascertain the individuals with developmental disabilities' interest. One study suggests the adults desire to participate in activities that permit integration of their various identities, ultimately allowing them to progress beyond the identity of their disability (Raymond, Grenier, and Hanley, 2014).

While community participation has been shown to be a part off transition related services (Qian et al, 2015).., not very many individuals participate (Davies and beamish, 2009). Lack of social skills may be a part of this.

As many adults with disabilities desire maximum independence and participation in their community., it is imperative to discover what activities encourage them to participate more. Our study seeks to determine what activities increase the social interaction of people with exceptionalities with members of their community.

## Participants

Our study surveyed 44 members of Hope College's student-led chapter of the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC). The 25 people with exceptionalities came from brother and sister homes in Holland, MI; 19 students came from Hope College.

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Participants	N
People with Exceptionalities	25
Hope Students	10

## Methods

1. Human Subject Review was obtained to give stakeholders the Council for Exceptional Children Halloween Party Survey.
2. All subjects were given the opportunity to participate or not.
3. Subjects who agreed to the study were given a token of appreciation.
4. Results were given using descriptive statistics

## Summary of Outcomes

The individuals with exceptionalities were highly engaged. 56% of the individuals with exceptionalities had high level of engagement, participating in 6 or 7 events. The top three activities preferred by people with exceptionalities (Bingo, Socializing, Dancing) were also the top three activities engaged in by Hope students. Increased participation of Hope students allows for greater enjoyment from individuals with exceptionalities.

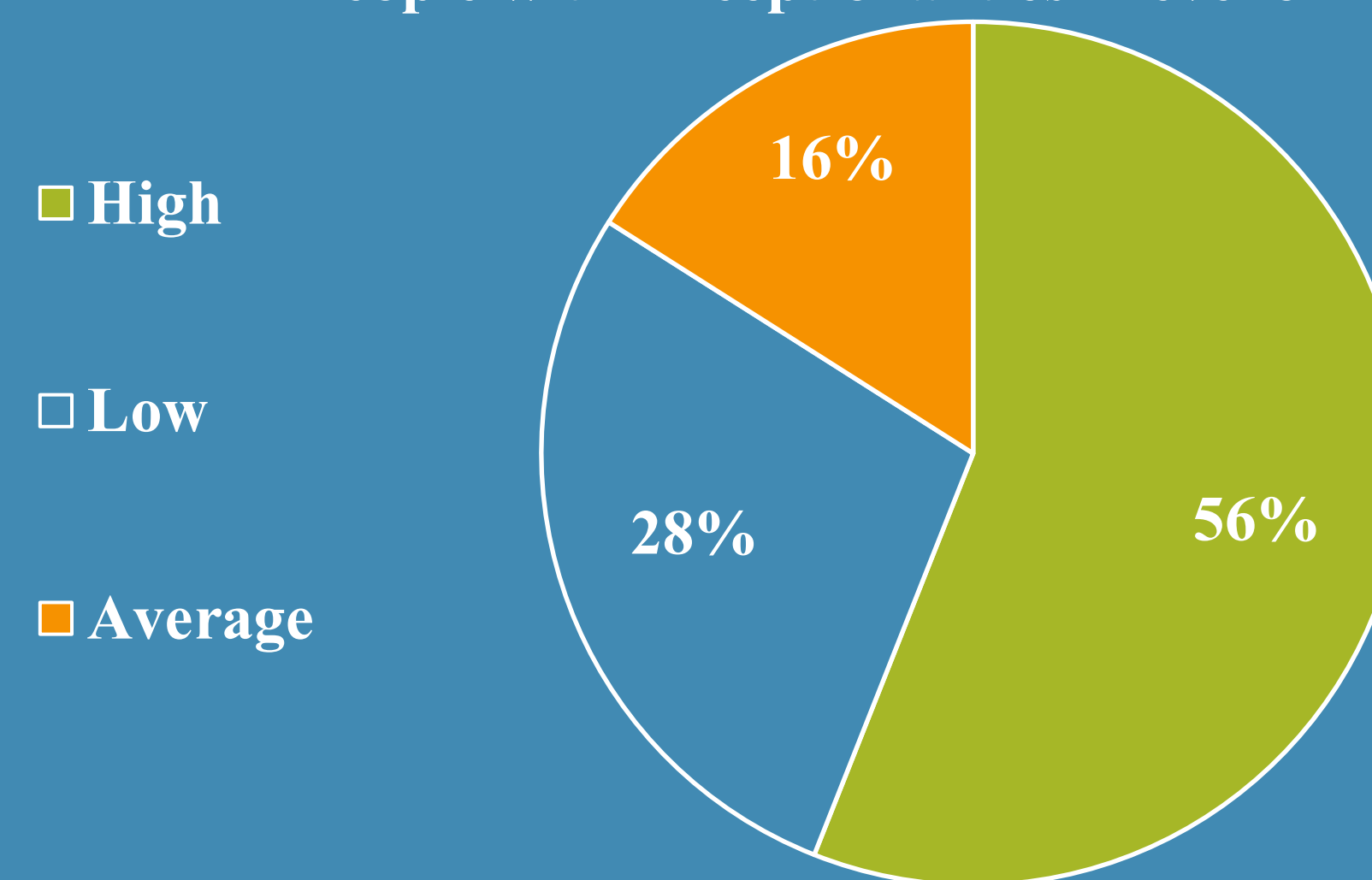
## Limitations of Study

To discriminate data, we would obtain qualitative responses (e.g., interview) as well as quantitative(e.g.,Likert scale responses).

## Citations

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People with Exceptionalities- Level of Engagement



Correlation of Hope Student Participation and People with Exceptionalities Activity Preferences

