

# JEWISH CAMP FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS



FOUNDATION FOR  
JEWISH  
CAMP

# FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CAMP

The Foundation for Jewish Camp (FJC) is the only public organization dedicated solely to nonprofit Jewish overnight camps. FJC employs a variety of strategies toward a single goal: to increase the number of children in Jewish summer camps. To this end, the Foundation creates inspiring camp leaders, expands access to and intensifies demand for camp, and develops programs to strengthen camps across the Jewish spectrum in North America. Through strategic partnerships on local and national levels, FJC raises the profile of Jewish camp and serves as a central resource for parents and organizations alike. FJC works with more than 150 camps, 70,000 campers, and 10,000 counselors across North America each summer to further its mission. [www.jewishcamp.org](http://www.jewishcamp.org)

# LASZLO STRATEGIES

Laszlo Strategies is the first sophisticated strategic communications firm to make a specialty of helping non-profit groups that champion the causes of medical science and people with physical and developmental disabilities. This includes working for rights, services and solutions for children and adults with autism spectrum disorders, and individuals with cerebral palsy, dyslexia and other challenges.

With experience in all facets of communications, Laszlo Strategies is committed to basing strategy on sound public opinion research in order to produce the greatest impact and measurable results.

# THANK YOU

**This first ever of its kind research in the Jewish community was made possible through a generous \$60,000 grant from Dr. Allan and Nan Lipton of Hershey, PA to the Foundation for Jewish Camp.**

**This research provides an understanding of the options Jewish camps offer to children with disabilities/special needs and provides a baseline for expanding services.**

**The project will be followed by a convening of the field - both Jewish camp professionals and disability/special needs experts – to allow FJC to establish where and how needs can be better filled, and to develop a set of guidelines for camps to use as a resource.**

# THANK YOU

Thank you to these tremendous camp directors and professionals who were incredibly giving of their time and expertise to make this research as comprehensive as possible.

■ BB Camp - Oregon	Michelle Koplan
■ Beber Camp	Stefan Teodosic
■ Camp Barney Medintz	Jim Mittenthal
■ Camp Moshava	Alan Silverman
■ Camp Tawonga	Jamie Simon
■ Capital Camps	Jonah Geller, Sam Roberts
■ CYJ Texas	Frank Silberlicht
■ JCCA	Jodi Sperling, David Ackerman
■ NJY	Janet Fliegelman
■ Ramah	Mitch Cohen
■ Ramah California	Rabbi Joe Menashe, Elana Naftalin-Kelman
■ Ramah New England	Rabbi Ed Gelb, Howard Blas
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■ URJ	Lisa David
■ URJ Camp George	Jeff Rose
■ Yachad/ NJCD	Joe Goldfarb, Jeff Lichtman, Nechama Braun

# THANK YOU

Professionals in the disability/inclusion field inside and outside the Jewish community were instrumental in ensuring the quality and relevance of this research.

- Allan Bergman, High Impact
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- Shelley Cohen, The Jewish Inclusion Project
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- Sara Gage & Tracey Sheriff, Autism Society of North Carolina
- Stan Goldman, Henry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation
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- Mark Johnson, Sheperd
- Ari Ne'eman, Autistic Self Advocacy Network
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- Professor Stuart Schleien, Professor & Chair, Department of Community and Therapeutic Recreation, University of North Carolina Greensboro
- Jennifer Skulski, National Center on Accessibility
- Beth Steinberg, Shutaf
- Madeleine Will, National Down Syndrome Society
- Beth Zwick, Ruderman Family Foundation

# METHODOLOGY

Prior to drafting and fielding the survey, Laszlo Strategies conducted 13 in-depth interviews with directors and inclusion specialists from a variety of camps under the FJC umbrella. These included camps that have well established programs to serve children with disabilities/special needs as well as those who do not. A group discussion with directors and leaders of camp movements was held in NYC to further explore the issues camps face in this arena.

In addition to formal interviews, academic experts, camp professionals and disability experts provided guidance and feedback on the survey instrument.

The poll was fielded online from Feb 26- March 28, 2013. Margin of error is +/-3.4%. The survey link was distributed by the Foundation for Jewish Camp to 170 directors/professionals who in turn forwarded the survey to their camp staff, parents and campers. Additional social media outreach led parties to a survey link on the FJC webpage. Only those associated with one of the camps under the FJC umbrella were accepted to fill out the survey.

# DEFINITION PROVIDED

Many camps provide accommodations for a variety of campers who need extra support for things like food allergies, divorcing parents, anorexia, bereavement or anxiety. For the purposes of this survey, although they may be "flagged" for more attention and services, these are not the campers or services this survey examines. For this survey, we are examining services and programs available to children with more "traditional" disabilities/special needs such as, Down syndrome, blindness, Autism/Asperger's, challenging behaviors, hearing impairments, ADD/ADHD, seizures, intellectual or developmental disabilities and physical impairments. Every effort was made to use consistent and respectful language. For the purpose of this survey we will refer to campers with disabilities/special needs.



# KEY TO WHICH RESPONDENTS WERE ASKED QUESTION SETS

**A- All Respondents**

**D- Directors, Executive Directors, Assistant Directors**

**S- All Staff-Includes: Directors, Executive Directors, Assistant Directors, General Staff, and Inclusion Staff**

**IS- Inclusion Staff**

**P- All Parents**

**PW/DIS- Parents of Children with Disabilities/Special Needs**

**PW/OUT- Parents of Children without Disabilities/Special Needs**

**C- Campers**

# KEY FINDINGS

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- **Overwhelming Support:** Every Jewish child should be able to attend a Jewish camp.
- **You are serving more kids than you thought but very few camps can serve more significant/complicated disabilities.**
- **The biggest barriers are not attitudes or wheelchair ramps– they are lack of training and knowledge followed by funding.**

# KEY FINDINGS

- Camps are getting GREAT marks on infusing Jewish values/learning serving the kids they already have.
- More camps are serving children with disabilities/special needs than are publicizing it..
- Inclusion camp staff seem to want the non inclusion staff and campers to "get" their population better.

# PARENTS

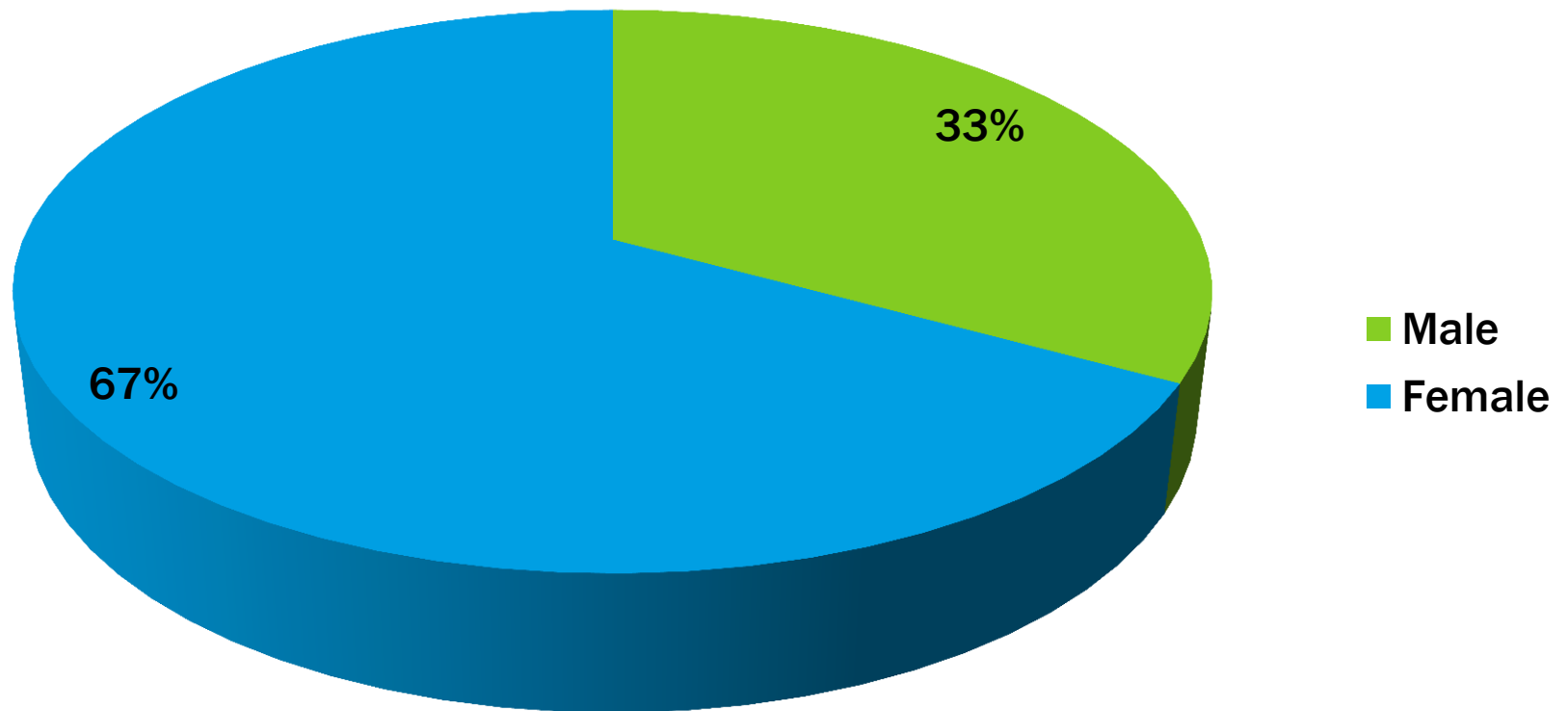
- While there are parents/kids/staff who want a specialty camp, most want inclusion to be with typical kids.
- Parents want a camp for their kids where "They offer good supports and accommodations for children with a disability like mine."
- Parents feel they don't "need" to keep siblings together, agreeing that "It would be nice but it is more important that they each go to the camp that best serves their individual needs."
- Parents do feel scholarships are an issue, but camps aren't giving more of them to these families than others at this point.

# ACCESS TO JEWISH INSTITUTIONS

- These children with disabilities/special needs are far more likely to go to public school than Jewish Day School — and less than half attend religious synagogue school. For many, camp and their homes ARE the address for a lot of their Jewish content.
- Fully 25% of parents say their child with a disability surveyed report that they have been turned away from a camp because of their disabilities. 16% were sent home. More than 46% have been turned away from other Jewish institutions.

# RESPONDENTS

# GENDER





# CAMP POSITIONS

<b>Total Respondents</b>	<b>828</b>
<b>Directors</b>	<b>143</b>
<b>General Staff</b>	<b>215</b>
<b>Inclusion Staff</b>	<b>65</b>
<b>Parents of Children with a Disability/Special Need</b>	<b>131</b>
<b>Parents of Children without a Disability/Special Need</b>	<b>131</b>
<b>Campers</b>	<b>141</b>

# CAMPS

# WHAT IS THE RELIGIOUS MOVEMENT/AFFILIATION OF YOUR CAMP?(S,P)

CONSERVATIVE	25%
REFORM	23%
ORTHODOX	17%
NON-DENOMINATIONAL, NON-AFFILIATED	10%
JCC	8%
HABONIM DROR	7%
YOUNG JUDAEA	5%
RECONSTRUCTIONIST	2%
OTHER	2%

# CAMP SIZE/STAFF(D)

Roughly how many campers attend your camp over the course of the entire summer?

**MEAN = 542**

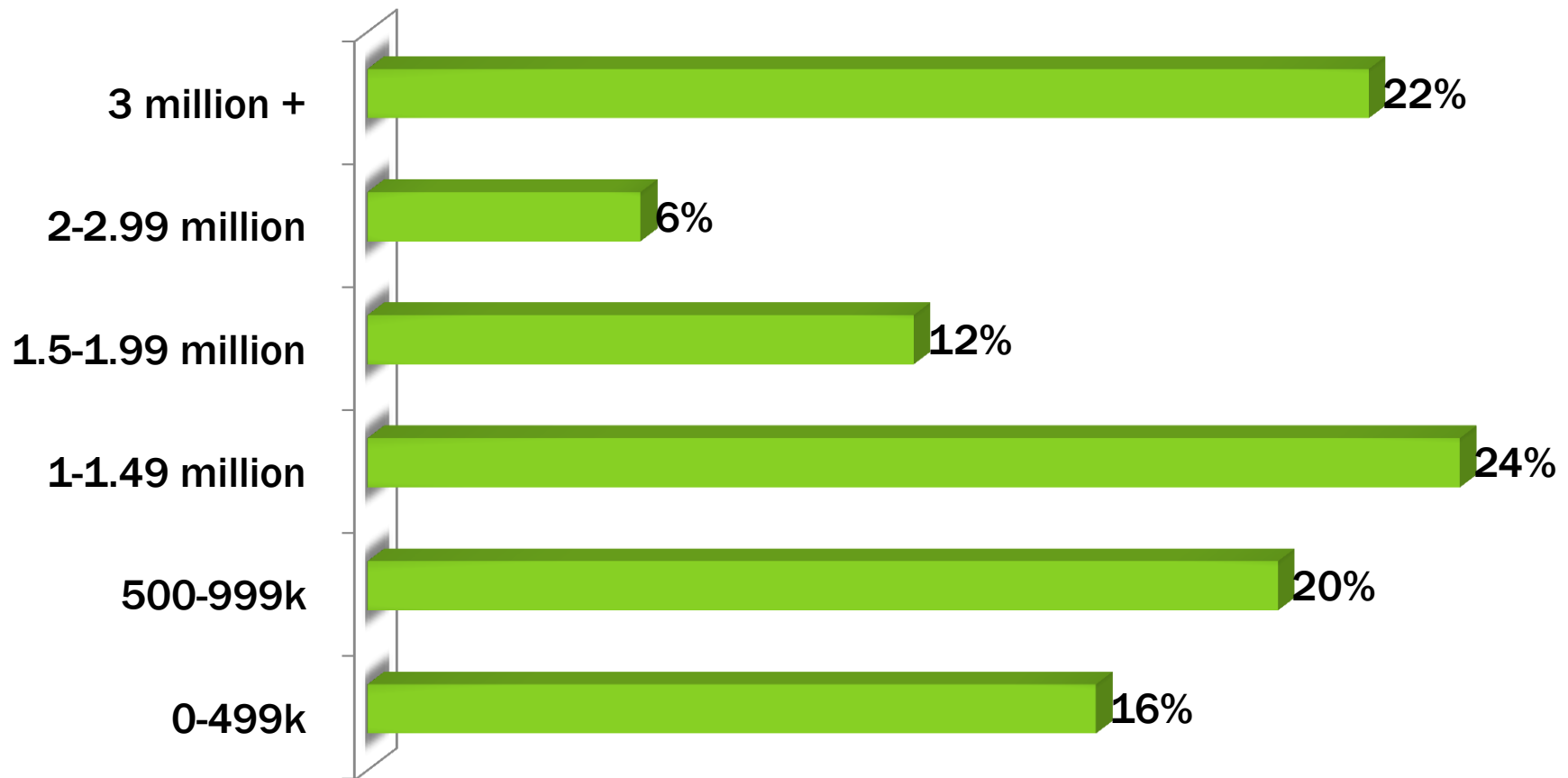
Roughly how many staff are employed over the course of the entire summer?

*EVERYONE INCLUDING ADMINISTRATIVE, KITCHEN STAFF, COUNSELORS, SPECIALTY ETC.*

**MEAN = 153**

Ratio- **3.5 campers to 1 staff member**

# WHAT IS YOUR OVERALL TOTAL ANNUAL BUDGET FOR YOUR CAMP? (D)

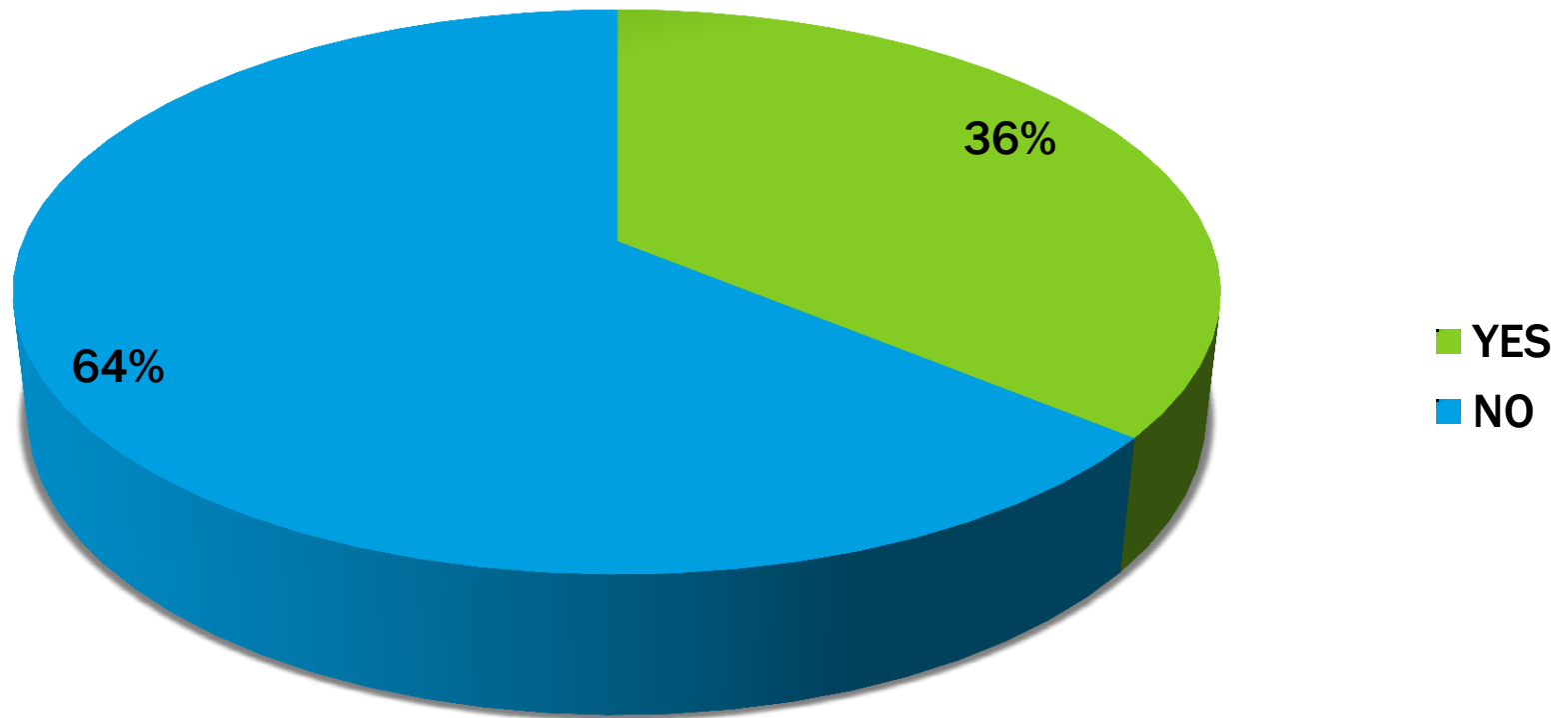


**PLEASE CHECK OFF ALL MEDICAL STAFF THAT ARE  
ON-SITE FULL TIME AT CAMP EACH SUMMER(D)**

<b>NURSE RN OR LPN</b>	<b>89%</b>
<b>DOCTOR</b>	<b>48%</b>
<b>MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL (PSYCHIATRIST, PSYCHOLOGIST, SOCIAL WORKER, ETC.)</b>	<b>44%</b>
<b>DISTRIBUTOR OF PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION</b>	<b>21%</b>
<b>NURSE PRACTITIONER</b>	<b>16%</b>
<b>NONE OF THE ABOVE</b>	<b>3%</b>

# **MAPPING SERVICES FOR CAMPER'S WITH DISABILITIES/SPECIAL NEEDS**

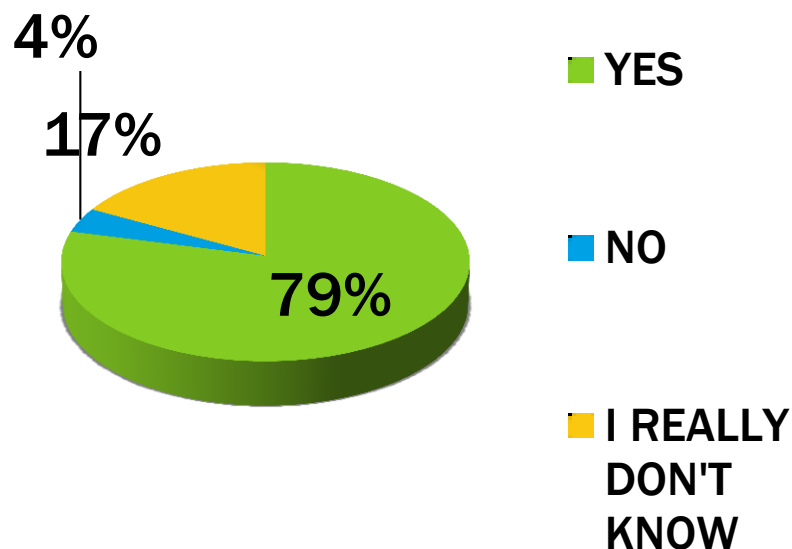
# DOES YOUR CAMP CURRENTLY OFFER A SPECIAL PROGRAM FOR CAMPERS WITH DISABILITIES/SPECIAL NEEDS? (D)



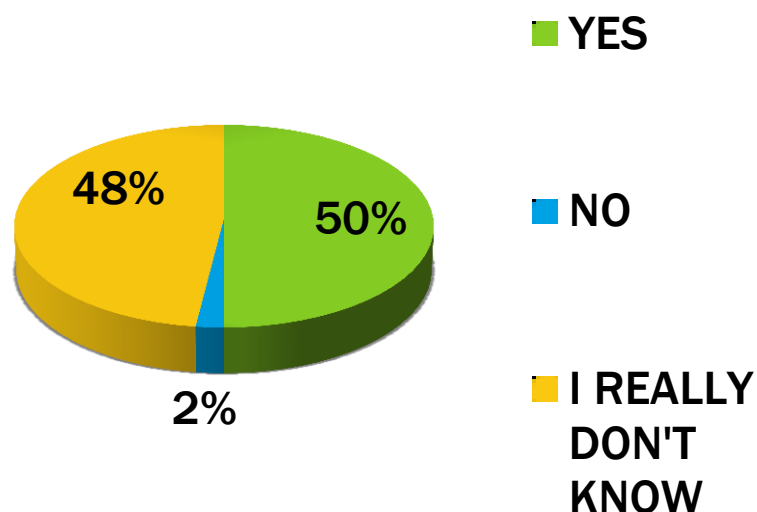


**REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THERE IS AN OFFICIAL OR SPECIAL DISABILITY OR INCLUSION PROGRAM, DOES YOUR CAMP SERVE ANY CAMPERS WITH DISABILITIES/SPECIAL NEEDS WHO NEED ADDITIONAL HELP OR ACCOMMODATIONS TO HAVE A SUCCESSFUL SUMMER? (S,P)**

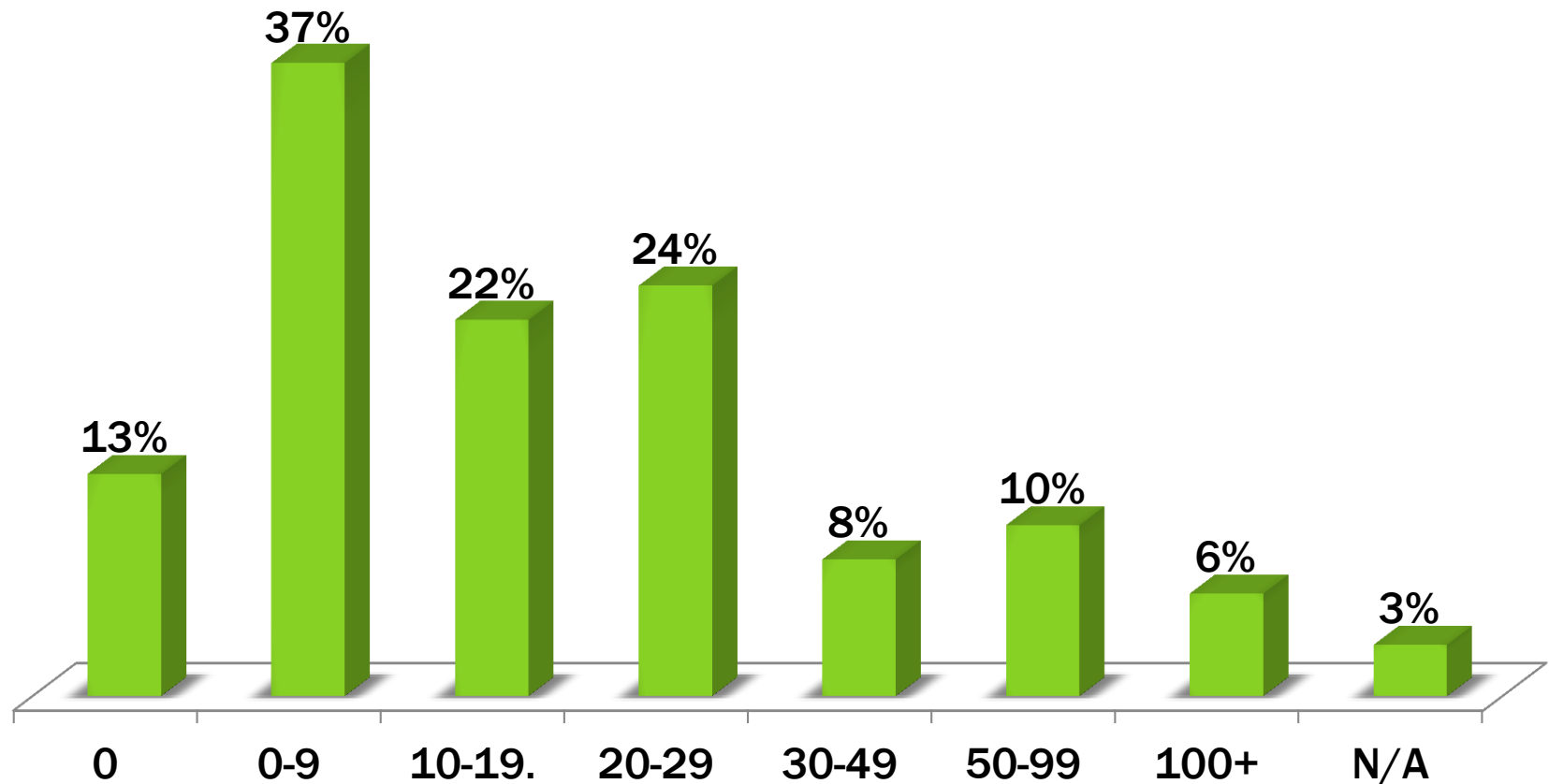
**TOTAL**



**PARENTS OF CAMPERS W/OUT DISABILITIES**



**ROUGHLY HOW MANY CAMPERS WITH DISABILITIES/SPECIAL NEEDS DOES YOUR CAMP SERVE OVER THE COURSE OF A SUMMER? *DO NOT INCLUDE VOCATIONAL PROGRAMS (D)***



# TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN SERVED

2190

**\*Based off of the camp respondent providing the largest estimate of campers served from each camp. Includes camps that only serve campers with disabilities/special needs.**

# PLEASE CHECK OFF ALL OF THE TYPES OF DISABILITIES/SPECIAL NEEDS CAMPERS YOU HAVE HAD AT YOUR CAMP IN THE PAST (D,IS)

AUTISM/ASPERGER'S	93%
SPECIFIC LEARNING DISABILITY	72%
DEVELOPMENTAL DELAY	68%
EMOTIONAL DISTURBANCE	64%
INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY	57%
SPEECH OR LANGUAGE IMPAIRMENT	49%
MULTIPLE DISABILITIES	43%
OTHER HEALTH IMPAIRMENT	43%
ORTHOPEDIC IMPAIRMENT	37%
HEARING IMPAIRMENT	33%
DEAFNESS	20%
VISUAL IMPAIRMENT, INCLUDING BLINDNESS	17%
DEAF-BLINDESS	9%
TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY	9%

**WHAT IS THE MINIMUM/MAXIMUM LENGTH OF TIME THAT A CAMPER WITH A DISABILITY/SPECIAL NEED CAN ATTEND CAMP EACH SUMMER? *DO NOT INCLUDE VOCATIONAL PROGRAMS (D,IS)***

	<b>MINIMUM</b>	<b>MAXIMUM</b>
<b>1 WEEK</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>2 WEEKS</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b>3 WEEKS</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>11%</b>
<b>4 WEEKS</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>17%</b>
<b>5 WEEKS</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b>6 WEEKS</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7%</b>
<b>7 WEEKS</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>21%</b>
<b>8 WEEKS</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>33%</b>

## AGE AT CAMP (D,IS)

What is the youngest age you will accept a child with a disability/special need?

**MEAN = 8.83**

At what age do campers with disabilities/special needs age out of camp? *DO NOT INCLUDE VOCATIONAL PROGRAMS*

**MEAN = 16.94**

**DOES YOUR CAMP USE AN OUTSIDE COMPANY OR ORGANIZATION TO PROVIDE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING SERVICES? PLEASE CHECK ALL THAT APPLY (D)**

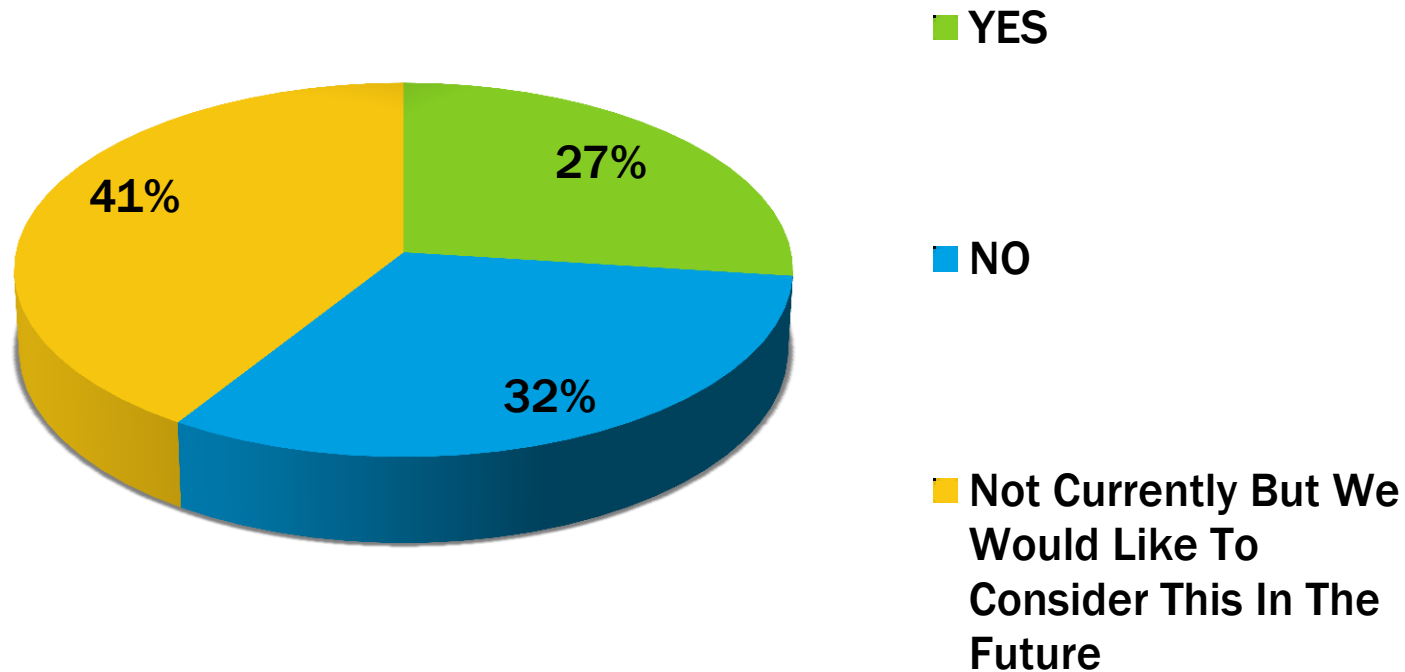
<b>MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION</b>	<b>22%</b>
<b>TRAINING OF STAFF IN SUPPORTING CAMPERS WITH DISABILITIES/SPECIAL NEEDS</b>	<b>26%</b>
<b>THE INTAKE, STAFFING, AND LOGISTICS FOR OUR PROGRAM(IE YACHAD)</b>	<b>6%</b>
<b>NONE OF THE ABOVE</b>	<b>54%</b>

**WHAT COMMUNICATION OR CORRESPONDENCE EXISTS  
BETWEEN CAMP AND FAMILIES OF CAMPERS WITH  
DISABILITIES/SPECIAL NEEDS WHILE THE CHILD IS AT CAMP?**  
*PLEASE CHECK ALL THAT APPLY (D,IS)*

<b>CALLS OR EMAILS TO DISCUSS CHALLENGES AND PROBLEMS</b>	<b>72%</b>
<b>CALLS OR EMAILS TO SHARE MILESTONES AND ACHIEVEMENTS</b>	<b>50%</b>
<b>WEEKLY EMAILS OR CALLS</b>	<b>41%</b>
<b>ONLY COMMUNICATE WHEN A PROBLEM ARISES</b>	<b>32%</b>
<b>DAILY EMAILS OR CALLS</b>	<b>14%</b>
<b>CAMPER CAN SKYPE WITH FAMILY</b>	<b>5%</b>



**DOES YOUR CAMP CURRENTLY MAKE AN EXTRA EFFORT TO OFFER ANY OPPORTUNITIES FOR CAMPERs WITH DISABILITIES/SPECIAL NEEDS TO RETURN IN A STAFF OR VOCATIONAL TRAINING CAPACITY AFTER AGING OUT OF CAMP? (D,IS, PW/DIS)**



ROUGHLY HOW MANY PEOPLE WITH  
DISABILITIES/SPECIAL NEEDS ARE SERVED IN  
YOUR VOCATIONAL/STAFF OPPORTUNITIES?(D)

Mean = 5.95

Directors-

39- yes

46- no

58- future

# ATTITUDES

On a scale of 0-10, how important is it to YOU that your camp serves campers with disabilities/special needs with 0 being not at all important and 10 being extremely important.(S,P)

**Mean = 8.10**

When you think about the Jewish camping movement, on a scale from 1-10, how open and welcoming do you think it is to children with disabilities/special needs, with 1 being not at all welcoming and 10 being extremely welcoming.(S,P)

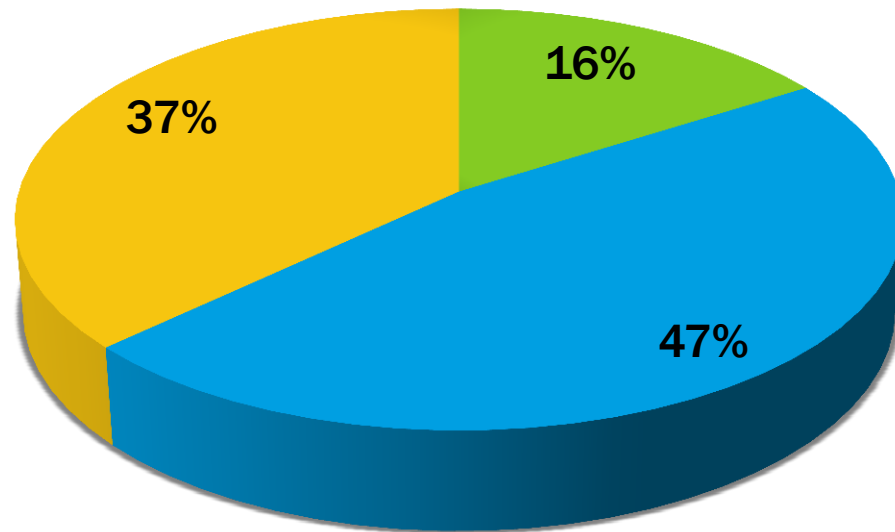
**Mean = 6.50**

# PHYSICAL ACCESSIBILITY

# **CAN A CAMPER IN A WHEELCHAIR FULLY INTEGRATE AT YOUR CAMP WITH OR W/OUT SPECIAL ASSISTANCE? (D,IS)**

<b>YES, BUT IT REQUIRES SIGNIFICANT SPECIAL ASSISTANCE TO WORK</b>	<b>16%</b>
<b>YES, WITH MINIMAL OR NO SPECIAL ASSISTANCE</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>ONLY LIMITED AREAS ARE ACCESSIBLE</b>	<b>26%</b>
<b>NO, IT IS NOT POSSIBLE AT THIS TIME</b>	<b>43%</b>

# DO YOU FORESEE A TIME WHEN YOUR CAMP WOULD BE MADE PHYSICALLY ACCESSIBLE TO SOMEONE IN A WHEELCHAIR? (D)



- YES, WE ARE CURRENTLY WORKING ON IMPROVEMENTS
- YES, BUT IT IS NOT AN IMMEDIATE PRIORITY
- NO

**PLEASE CHECK OFF ALL OF THE AREAS AT CAMP  
THAT ARE CURRENTLY PHYSICALLY ACCESSIBLE TO A  
PERSON WITH MOBILITY CHALLENGES.(D,IS)**

<b>DINING HALL</b>	<b>69%</b>
<b>PATHS AND WALKWAYS</b>	<b>62%</b>
<b>DOORS AND DOORWAYS</b>	<b>53%</b>
<b>WORSHIP SPACES</b>	<b>52%</b>
<b>BATHROOMS/SHOWERS IN CABIN</b>	<b>48%</b>
<b>BATHROOMS/SHOWERS AROUND CAMP</b>	<b>44%</b>
<b>CABINS</b>	<b>47%</b>
<b>POOL</b>	<b>35%</b>
<b>LAKEFRONT</b>	<b>29%</b>
<b>BUSES AND TRANSPORTATION</b>	<b>17%</b>
<b>ELEVATORS AND LIFTS OR STAIRS</b>	<b>5%</b>

# CHALLENGES, HOPES, AND PLANS FOR THE FUTURE



# DIRECTOR COMMENTS

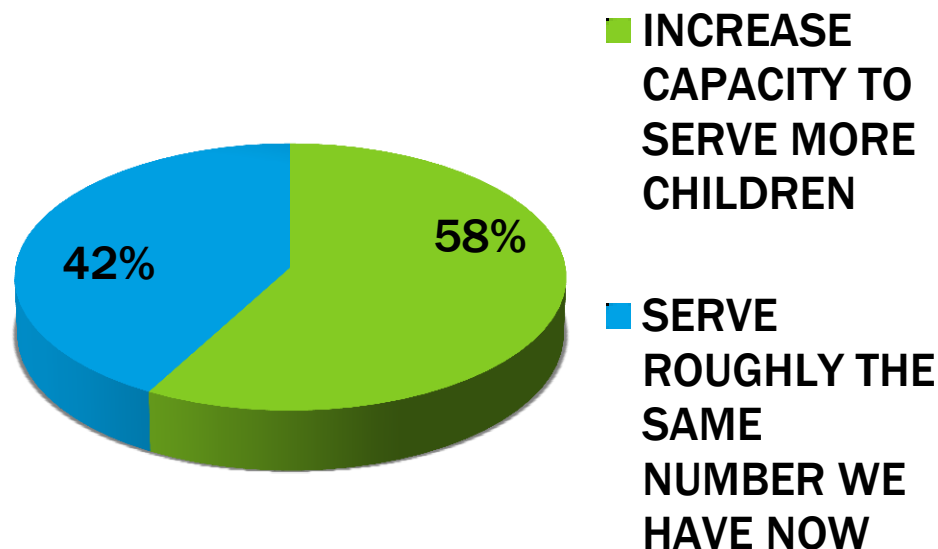
- “Need to involve our resources way before the summer. Games aren’t won on Sunday, they are won the other days through practice (like football).”
- “Limited number of practices that are best. You have to have it in your DNA to want to make it work. You have to figure out if this is something you want to do and this needs to be staff and board all together that agree on this.”
- “It took a lot of convincing to the board. It’s a good experience for our normal kids. It ended up working out. All that fear went away once we had our first experience.”
- “I believe in the power of camp. We have seen our kids grow and change in ways that would never happen outside of camp. We have kids who have never spent a night away from their home. We had a child who had slept with his mother until age 10. That (Camp) is a huge step for the family. We have kids who have learned to swim, made a friend, and climbed the ropes.”
- “To the degree that we have this network, we can fit the needs of kids. But we can’t meet all the needs. If the issues are very involved we might not be able to do it. We look for another camps like HASC.”
- “The premise needs to be that we need to serve all children in the way that best meets their needs.”

# DIRECTOR COMMENTS

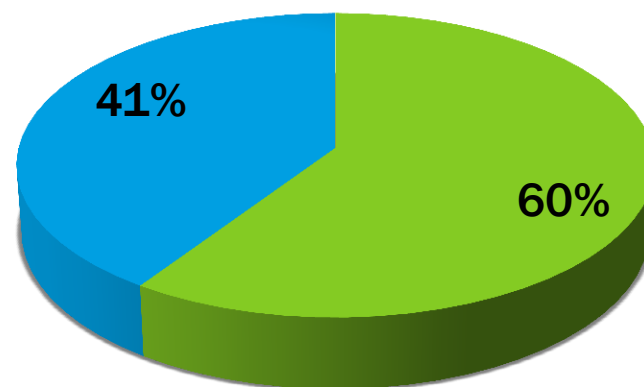
- “We’re always running 1 dollar short and a man down. We didn’t have the resources. We really need a partner to fund a position.”
- “I don’t think everyone believes in it enough to make it happen in the right way. Not everyone has the resources. I think it should happen in the places where the staff and board are willing to make it happen with the right medical staff, councilors, facilities.”
- “I get that when we can’t take a camper that there is often nowhere else they can go. If someone is non verbal, can’t self toilet, can’t eat on their own, doesn’t interact...we don’t offer enough supports for that child.”
- “If they fit our mold then they can be successful,. But that mold isn’t grand enough.”
- “We are not like public school. We don’t take just everyone. There needs to be a fit for safety and success. We have some control there.”
- “I have yet to be convinced that this is something we should be doing at our camp.”

# WHEN THINKING ABOUT SERVING CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES/SPECIAL NEEDS, WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR CAMP TO ...? (S,P)

**TOTAL**



**No/DK Serve Children w/Disabilities**



**THERE ARE DIFFERENT MODELS OF PROGRAMS FOR CAMPERS WITH DISABILITIES/SPECIAL NEEDS. PLEASE CHECK OFF ALL OF THE MODELS THAT YOUR CAMP OFFERS AND WHICH WOULD BE MOST FEASIBLE FOR YOUR CAMP TO CONSIDER IN THE FUTURE. (S,P)**

	<b><u>NOW</u></b>	<b><u>FUT</u></b>
<b>INCLUSION/MAINSTREAM- CAMPERS WITH DISABILITIES/SPECIAL NEEDS MAY NEED EXTRA SUPPORT[IE SHADOW OR EXTRA COUNSELOR] BUT THEY SLEEP IN BUNKS WITH CAMPERS WITHOUT DISABILITIES AND ARE A FULL MEMBER OF THE CABIN AND TYPICAL ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>35%</b>
<b>CAMP WITHIN A CAMP- CAMPERS WITH DISABILITIES/SPECIAL NEEDS SLEEP IN THEIR OWN BUNKS WITH THEIR OWN COUNSELORS BUT ARE INCLUDED IN SOME CAMP ACTIVITIES WITH CAMPERS WITHOUT DISABILITIES/SPECIAL NEEDS</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>29%</b>
<b>FULL INCLUSION- CAMPERS ARE ACCEPTED ON A FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE BASIS REGARDLESS OF THE NATURE OF THEIR DISABILITIES OR BEHAVIORS AND THEY ARE INCLUDED FULLY IN CAMP WITH PROPER SUPPORTS AND ACCOMMODATIONS</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>21%</b>
<b>FAMILY CAMP WITH INCLUSION- CAMPERS WITH DISABILITIES/SPECIAL NEEDS AND THEIR FAMILIES ARE INCLUDED WITH FAMILIES WHOSE CHILDREN DO NOT HAVE DISABILITIES</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>23%</b>
<b>CAMP EXCLUSIVELY FOR CAMPERS WITH DISABILITIES/SPECIAL NEEDS- ONLY SERVES CAMPERS WITH DISABILITIES/SPECIAL NEEDS [I.E. PHYSICAL, MENTAL, INTELLECTUAL, SOCIAL, BEHAVIORAL ETC.]</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>13%</b>
<b>DISABILITY/SPECIAL NEEDS ONLY FAMILY CAMP- ONLY FOR FAMILIES WITH A CHILD WITH DISABILITIES SPECIAL NEEDS</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>OTHER</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>4%</b>

**BELOW IS A LIST OF ACCOMMODATIONS THAT SOME CAMPS OFFER TO CAMPERS WITH DISABILITIES/SPECIAL NEEDS. PLEASE CHECK OFF ALL SERVICES THAT YOUR CAMP CURRENTLY OFFERS AND ALL SERVICES THAT YOU THINK YOUR CAMP SHOULD OFFER IN THE FUTURE. (D,IS,PW/DIS)**

	NOW	FUT
ADMINISTER PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION	86%	33%
ABILITY TO OPT OUT OF ACTIVITIES THAT ARE NOT POSSIBLE OR COMFORTABLE TO A CHILD BASED ON THEIR ABILITY OR SENSORY ISSUES	70%	34%
OBSERVATION AND REDIRECTION OF BEHAVIOR [INCLUDES MONITORING OF BEHAVIOR]	70%	36%
EXTRA STAFF SUPPORT [BUT NOT FULL SHADOWING]	69%	42%
ADAPT ACTIVITIES TO THE LEVEL OF THE CHILD	65%	35%
SEPARATE OR EXTENDED TIME FOR SHOWERING OR TRANSITIONS BETWEEN ACTIVITIES	51%	34%
USE OF PEER COMPANIONS OR BUDDY SYSTEM	44%	39%
SHADOW OR 1-ON-1 SUPPORT	43%	36%
PERSONAL CARE ASSISTANCE- EATING, TOILETING, GROOMING, DRESSING, BATHING, TRANSFERRING, MOBILITY, POSITIONING ETC.	37%	25%
ACTIVITY EQUIPMENT MODIFICATIONS	27%	35%
COMPLEX HEALTH-RELATED ASSISTANCE [FEEDING TUBES ETC.]	8%	14%

# WHAT IS THE MOST SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGE TO SERVING CAMPERS OR MORE CAMPERS WITH DISABILITIES/SPECIAL NEEDS? (D,IS)

WE ARE ONLY ABLE TO ACCEPT A CERTAIN LEVEL OF DISABILITY AND CAN'T HAVE CAMPERS WITH MORE SEVERE ISSUES	23%
WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH PROPERLY TRAINED STAFF FOR IT	15%
WE ARE AT CAPACITY ACCEPTING ANY CAMPERS AT CAMP NOT JUST SPECIFICALLY CAMPERS WITH DISABILITIES/SPECIAL NEEDS	11%
CAMP IS TOO EXPENSIVE FOR FAMILIES OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES/SPECIAL NEEDS WHO OFTEN HAVE MANY MEDICAL AND OTHER SPECIAL EXPENSES	9%
PHYSICAL ACCOMMODATIONS CAN'T BE MADE TO INCLUDE CAMPERS WITH PHYSICAL DISABILITIES	8%
WE NEED TO STRIKE A BALANCE IN HOW MANY CAMPERS WITH DISABILITIES/SPECIAL NEEDS WE INCLUDE AND WE ARE AT THAT RATIO	8%
WE HAVEN'T THOUGHT ABOUT IT/ THERE HASN'T BEEN A DEMAND FOR IT	8%
PROGRAMATIC ACCOMMODATIONS ARE TOO DIFFICULT TO MAKE	5%
PARENTS OF CAMPERS WITHOUT DISABILITIES/SPECIAL NEEDS DON'T WANT THEIR KIDS BUNKING WITH KIDS WITH DISABILITIES/SPECIAL NEEDS	3%
WE DON'T HAVE BOARD SUPPORT FOR THIS INITIATIVE	1%
Other	7%

# WHAT IS THE MOST SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGE TO SERVING CAMPERS OR MORE CAMPERS WITH DISABILITIES/SPECIAL NEEDS? [COMBINED] (D,IS)

WE ARE ONLY ABLE TO ACCEPT A CERTAIN LEVEL OF DISABILITY AND CAN'T HAVE CAMPERS WITH MORE SEVERE ISSUES	62%
WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH PROPERLY TRAINED STAFF FOR IT	43%
PHYSICAL ACCOMMODATIONS CAN'T BE MADE TO INCLUDE CAMPERS WITH PHYSICAL DISABILITIES	32%
WE HAVEN'T THOUGHT ABOUT IT/ THERE HASN'T BEEN A DEMAND FOR IT	28%
WE ARE AT CAPACITY ACCEPTING ANY CAMPERS AT CAMP NOT JUST SPECIFICALLY CAMPERS WITH DISABILITIES/SPECIAL NEEDS	25%
WE NEED TO STRIKE A BALANCE IN HOW MANY CAMPERS WITH DISABILITIES/SPECIAL NEEDS WE INCLUDE AND WE ARE AT THAT RATIO	25%
CAMP IS TOO EXPENSIVE FOR FAMILIES OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES/SPECIAL NEEDS WHO OFTEN HAVE MANY MEDICAL AND OTHER SPECIAL EXPENSES	23%
PROGRAMATIC ACCOMMODATIONS ARE TOO DIFFICULT TO MAKE	20%
PARENTS OF CAMPERS WITHOUT DISABILITIES/SPECIAL NEEDS DON'T WANT THEIR KIDS BUNKING WITH KIDS WITH DISABILITIES/SPECIAL NEEDS	7%
WE DON'T HAVE BOARD SUPPORT FOR THIS INITIATIVE	5%
Other (SPECIFY)	23%

# OTHER CHALLENGES

“There isn't always enough staff volunteering to be a part of the program.”

“We are strongly considering the 'camp within camp' approach for the future. Our biggest concern is attracting enough target campers to make the program successful.”

“Some want to bunk with campers who don't have disabilities.”

“Program is very specific in nature (learning, intellectual, leadership) - not meant for teens with certain types of more severe disabilities”

“We only do full inclusion and therefore must be high-functioning”

“The costs involved in creating and running the program.”

“The style of program we have is not conducive to having more than one child per mainstream bunk.”

“We are at capacity regarding camp housing and cannot support inclusion with regards to housing, though we can with every other aspect of camp and have typical peers sleep in the special needs program housing as well. We also have a limited amount of special needs housing space available which limits enrollment capacity.”



# COMMUNICATION

Roughly, how many times per season does a parent fail to inform you before camp begins that their child has a disability/special need that requires supports? *ENTER "0" FOR NEVER IN MY EXPERIENCE (D)*

**Mean = 6.70**

Roughly, how many times per season have parents taken a child off medication or made a change in their medication right before camp in a way that it disrupted a child's positive camp experience? (D)

**Mean = 8.65**

**WHICH TYPES OF DISABILITIES/SPECIAL NEEDS DO YOU FEEL YOU ARE NOT EQUIPPED TO HANDLE THAT WOULD CAUSE YOU TO TURN DOWN AN APPLICANT? PLEASE CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.(D,IS)**

		Dis Prgrm	No Prgrm
POSES A DIRECT THREAT TO THE HEALTH OR SAFETY OF HIM/HERSELF OR OTHER EMPLOYEES/PARTICIPANTS IN THE CAMP	85%	79%	91%
CAN'T FEED THEMSELVES	65%	53%	79%
THE ACCOMMODATIONS ARE EXCESSIVELY COSTLY, EXTENSIVE, SUBSTANTIAL, OR DISRUPTIVE, OR WOULD FUNDAMENTALLY ALTER THE NATURE OR OPERATION OF THE CAMP	61%	50%	74%
CAN'T TOILET OR SHOWER BY THEMSELVES	61%	46%	78%
PHYSICAL DISABILITIES- WE DON'T HAVE FACILITIES TO MEET THEIR NEEDS	57%	42%	74%
ELOPEMENT/RUNNING AWAY	56%	56%	55%
CAMPERS THAT REQUIRE A FULL-TIME SHADOW	38%	29%	47%
CAMPERS SOCIAL SKILLS ARE NOT ADEQUATE TO CAMP	17%	14%	21%
CAMPER'S INTELLECTUAL SKILLS WON'T FIT IN AT CAMP	14%	10%	19%
TOO MANY MEDICINES	5%	5%	5%
OTHER	6%	6%	6%

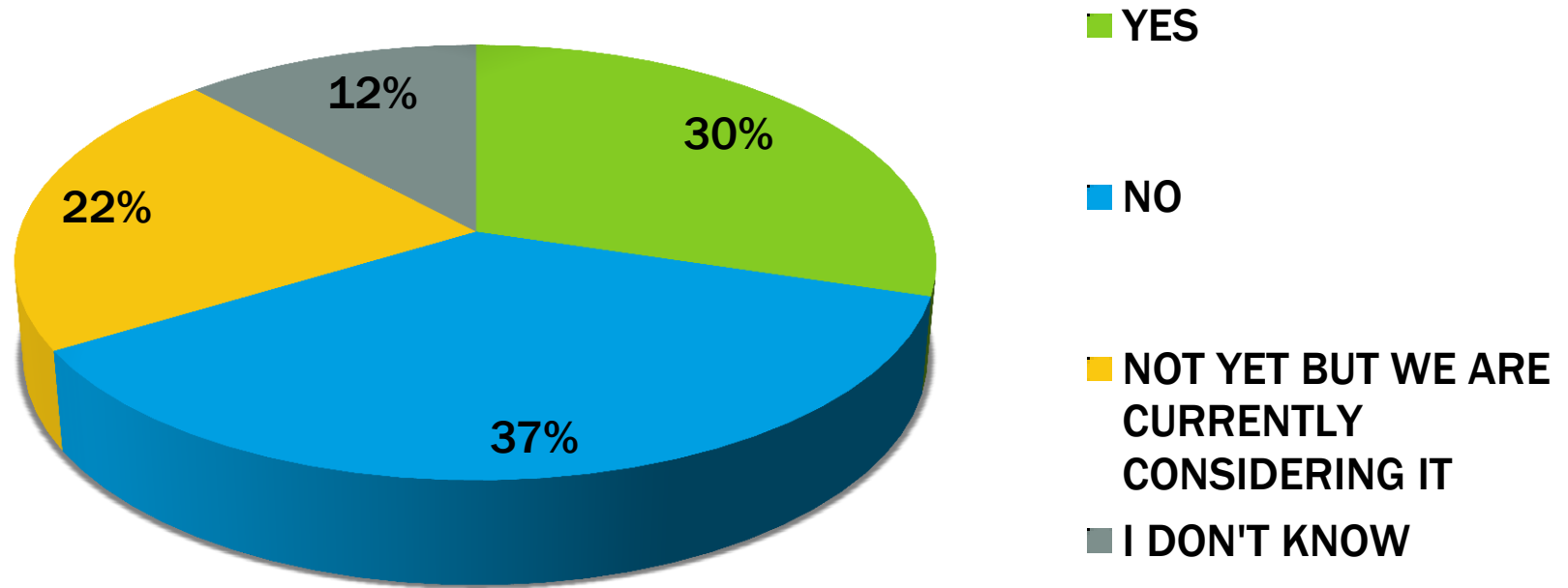
**EVEN IF NONE ARE EXACTLY RIGHT, WHICH STATEMENT COMES CLOSEST TO YOUR VIEWS ON SERVING CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES/SPECIAL NEEDS AT YOUR CAMP? (S, PW/OUT)**

<b>INCLUDING CAMPERS WITH DISABILITIES/SPECIAL NEEDS IS A MEANINGFUL AND INTENTIONAL COMPONENT OF OUR CAMP COMMUNITY. WE VALUE THE IMPACT ON OUR STAFF AND CAMPERS WITH AND WITHOUT DISABILITIES.</b>	<b>56%</b>
<b>WE SEE THE IMPORTANCE AND ARE INTERESTED IN DOING MORE BUT WE ARE NOT PROPERLY STAFFED OR FUNDED AND ARE NERVOUS ABOUT WHAT IT ALL ENTAILS.</b>	<b>27%</b>
<b>OVER THE YEARS CAMPERS WITH DISABILITIES/SPECIAL NEEDS HAVE APPLIED TO OUR CAMP FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS SUCH AS OUR LOCATION OR SIBLING ATTENDANCE. WE ARE TRYING TO PROPERLY SERVE THESE CAMPERS BUT ARE NOT REALLY INTERESTED IN ESTABLISHING ANYTHING BEYOND THAT.</b>	<b>8%</b>
<b>JEWSH CAMPERS WITH DISABILITIES/SPECIAL NEEDS ARE OFTEN MORE COMFORTABLE AND SERVED BEST AT A CAMP THAT SPECIFICALLY FOCUSES ONLY ON THEIR NEEDS.</b>	<b>6%</b>
<b>WHILE IT WORKS FOR SOME CAMPS, INCLUDING CAMPERS WITH DISABILITIES/SPECIAL NEEDS GENERALLY HAS A NEGATIVE IMPACT ON THE EXPERIENCE OF TYPICAL CAMPERS AND COMMUNITY AT OUR CAMP.</b>	<b>3%</b>

**WHICH DO YOU THINK IS THE BEST WAY FORWARD FOR JEWISH OVERNIGHT CAMPS IN GENERAL TO SERVE CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES/SPECIAL NEEDS, WITH A REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION? (S,P)**

	TOT	DIR	PAR W/DIS	PAR W/OUT
EVERY JEWISH CHILD, REGARDLESS OF A DISABILITY/SPECIAL NEED, SHOULD BE ABLE TO ATTEND A JEWISH CAMP WITH CAMPERS WITHOUT DISABILITIES/SPECIAL NEEDS THAT OFFERS SOME TYPE OF INCLUSION PROGRAM, BUT NOT EVERY CAMP WILL BE ABLE TO SERVE EACH NEED.	76%	80%	77%	71%
CAMPERS WITH DISABILITIES/SPECIAL NEEDS SHOULD BE ABLE TO ACCESS A CAMP EXPERIENCE, BUT IN MANY CASES IT SHOULD BE DONE AT SPECIALTY CAMPS THAT ARE DESIGNED AND STAFFED FOR CAMPERS WITH DISABILITIES AS NOT TO NEGATIVELY IMPACT CAMP FOR CAMPERS WITHOUT DISABILITIES	14%	17%	9%	21%
EVERY JEWISH CAMP SHOULD BE FULLY INCLUSIVE AND OPEN TO CHILDREN AND STAFF REGARDLESS OF THE LEVEL OF THEIR DISABILITY/SPECIAL NEED	11%	3%	15%	9%

# DOES INCLUSION OF INDIVIDUALS OF ALL ABILITIES APPEAR IN YOUR CAMP GOALS, MISSION STATEMENT, OR PHILOSOPHY? (D)



**IF YOU COULD PICK THE RESOURCE THAT WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL TO SERVE CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES/SPECIAL NEEDS AT CAMP, WHICH WOULD IT BE? (D,IS, PW/DIS)**

<b>TRAINING FOR STAFF</b>	<b>31%</b>
<b>FUNDING FOR CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS</b>	<b>17%</b>
<b>FUNDING FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS TO ALLOW FOR PHYSICAL ACCESSIBILITY AT CAMP</b>	<b>13%</b>
<b>ACCESS TO EXPERT ADVICE AND BEST PRACTICES</b>	<b>13%</b>
<b>A JOB BANK OF QUALIFIED APPLICANTS TO WORK WITH CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES/SPECIAL NEEDS</b>	<b>8%</b>
<b>A MANUAL ON THE SOUP TO NUTS OF RUNNING A SUCCESSFUL CAMP PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES/SPECIAL NEEDS</b>	<b>8%</b>
<b>DATABASE OF WHAT OTHER CAMPS OFFER TO REFER CAMPERS WE CAN NOT ACCEPT</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>ASSISTANCE IN MARKETING PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR THIS POPULATION</b>	<b>4%</b>
<b>Other (SPECIFY)</b>	<b>2%</b>

**IF YOU COULD PICK THE RESOURCE THAT WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL TO SERVE CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES/SPECIAL NEEDS AT CAMP, WHICH WOULD IT BE? [COMBINED] (D,IS, PW/DIS)**

<b>TRAINING FOR STAFF</b>	<b>70%</b>
<b>ACCESS TO EXPERT ADVICE AND BEST PRACTICES</b>	<b>50%</b>
<b>A JOB BANK OF QUALIFIED APPLICANTS TO WORK WITH CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES/SPECIAL NEEDS</b>	<b>39%</b>
<b>FUNDING FOR CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS</b>	<b>39%</b>
<b>A MANUAL ON THE SOUP TO NUTS OF RUNNING A SUCCESSFUL CAMP PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES/SPECIAL NEEDS</b>	<b>35%</b>
<b>FUNDING FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS TO ALLOW FOR PHYSICAL ACCESSIBILITY AT CAMP</b>	<b>29%</b>
<b>DATABASE OF WHAT OTHER CAMPS OFFER TO REFER CAMPERS WE CAN NOT ACCEPT</b>	<b>19%</b>
<b>ASSISTANCE IN MARKETING PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR THIS POPULATION</b>	<b>13%</b>
<b>Other (SPECIFY)</b>	<b>5%</b>

# OTHER RESOURCES

“Program bank of programs good for special needs campers”

“Funding for qualified staff to work with children with disabilities/special needs.”

“Funding to expand our program and serve more campers. improving the structure and layout of our cabins would definitely accomplish this.”

“Database for youth with special needs to develop relationships as they grow older to help establish Jewish group homes, roommates in apts, etc. The Orthodox movement has this but not the Conservative, Reform movements.

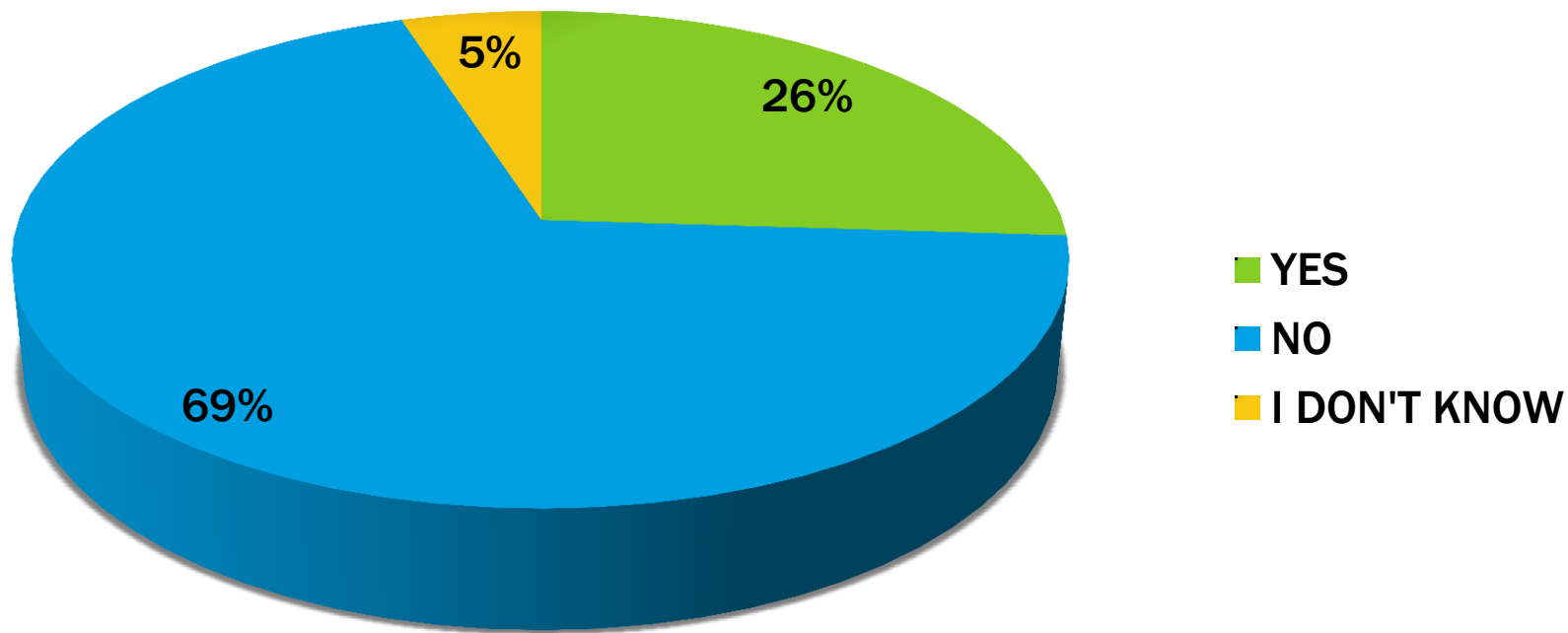
“A manual on getting other kids in the cabin to understand the issues the specific child has.”

“How to persuade the Board to consider this population an option”



# STAFFING AND TRAINING

**DOES YOUR CAMP HAVE A TRAINING MANUAL/PROCEDURE  
HANDBOOK ON HOW TO SERVE CHILDREN WITH  
DISABILITIES/SPECIAL NEEDS RELATED ISSUES?(D)**



**THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF TRAINING TOPICS THAT CAN BE OFFERED TO CAMP STAFF. PLEASE CHECK OFF ALL TOPICS THAT ARE COVERED WITH INCLUSION STAFF AND ALL TOPICS THAT ARE COVERED WITH GENERAL STAFF. 1 OF 2**

	Gen	Inc
<b>SAFETY</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>77%</b>
<b>TECHNIQUES TO HELP WITH SOCIAL SKILLS AND PEER FRIEND BUILDING</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>64%</b>
<b>POSITIVE BEHAVIORAL SUPPORTS/BEST PRACTICES IN BEHAVIORAL METHODS</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>60%</b>
<b>HOW TO HELP CAMPERS WITHOUT DISABILITIES ACCEPT AND RESPECT CAMPERS WITH DISABILITIES/SPECIAL NEEDS</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>62%</b>
<b>COMMUNICATIONS SKILLS FOR INTERACTION BETWEEN STAFF AND PARENTS</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>44%</b>
<b>PEOPLE FIRST LANGUAGE- RESPECTFUL LANGUAGE FOR TALKING ABOUT DISABILITIES/SPECIAL NEEDS</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>59%</b>
<b>ADAPTATIONS TO PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>35%</b>
<b>HELPING ON TRANSITIONS BETWEEN ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>42%</b>
<b>PROGRAM ADAPTION AND ACCOMMODATION INFORMATION</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>36%</b>

**THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF TRAINING TOPICS THAT CAN BE OFFERED TO CAMP STAFF. PLEASE CHECK OFF ALL TOPICS THAT ARE COVERED WITH INCLUSION STAFF AND ALL TOPICS THAT ARE COVERED WITH GENERAL STAFF. 2 OF 2**

	<b>Gen</b>	<b>Inc</b>
<b>BREAKING DOWN THE SKILLS NECESSARY TO COMPLETE AND ACTIVITY</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>39%</b>
<b>HOW TO INCORPORATE JEWISH VALUES AND LEARNING ABOUT DISABILITY AND DIFFERENCES</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>51%</b>
<b>"AID AND FADE" - SHADOWING AS NEEDED RATHER THAN AS A CONSTANT PRESENCE TO FACILITATE PEER RELATIONSHIPS</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>17%</b>
<b>STRATEGIES TO CONNECT CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES TO JUDAISM AND ISRAEL</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>32%</b>
<b>ADDRESSING PHYSICAL ACCESS AND LEAST RESTRICTIVE ENVIRONMENT ISSUES</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>19%</b>
<b>INTAKE PROCEDURES AND INFORMATION</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>16%</b>
<b>LEGAL ISSUES REGARDING DISABILITIES/SPECIAL NEEDS</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>UNIVERSAL DESIGN STRATEGIES</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>16%</b>

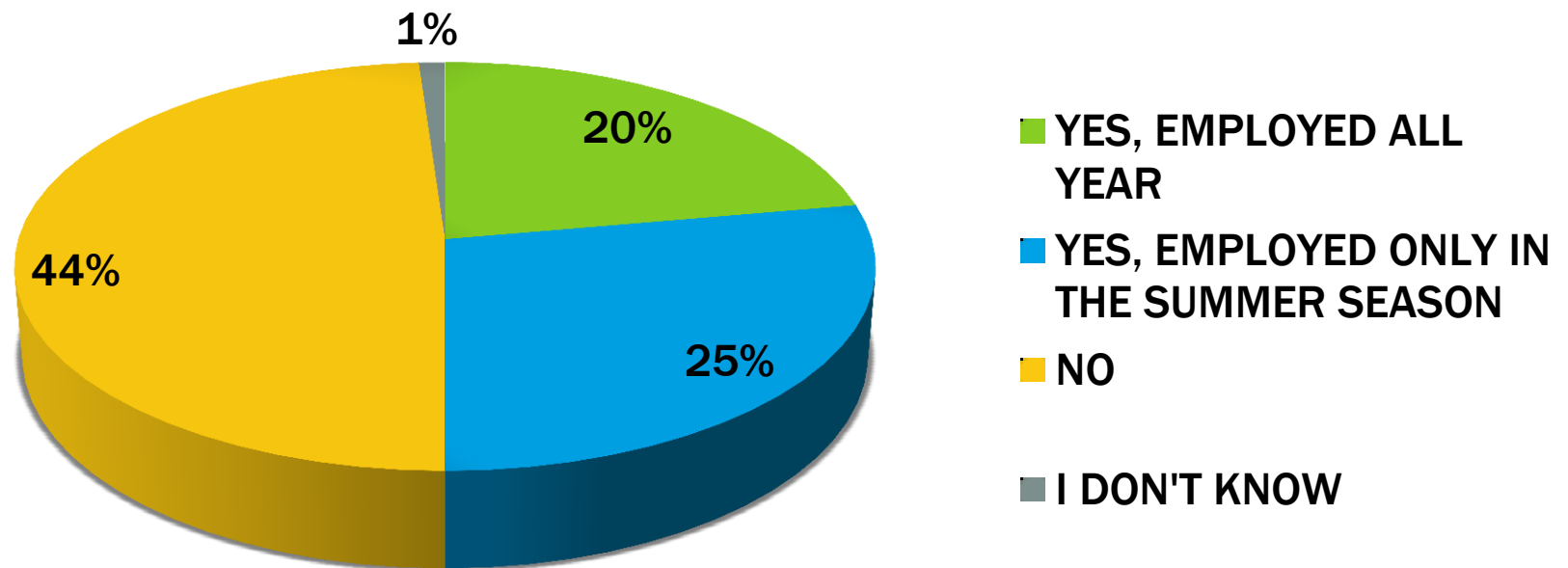
# WHAT DO YOU FEEL IS THE MOST IMPORTANT QUALIFICATION WHEN HIRING STAFF TO WORK WITH CAMPERS WITH DISABILITIES/SPECIAL NEEDS? I.E. COUNSELORS, SHADOWS- NOT SENIOR LEVEL INCLUSION DIRECTORS?(S,P)

	TOT	INC STF	PAR W/DIS
DEMONSTRATES A PARTICULARLY HIGH LEVEL OF PATIENCE AND MATURITY	29%	42%	34%
RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL/VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE WITH DISABILITY/SPECIAL NEED POPULATIONS	24%	18%	26%
STRONG SUMMER CAMP EXPERIENCE AND ABILITY TO FACILITATE INCLUSION WITH THE LARGER CAMP COMMUNITY	14%	14%	12%
RELEVANT PERSONAL EXPERIENCE WITH DISABILITY/SPECIAL NEED POPULATIONS	12%	12%	14%
KNOWLEDGE OF TECHNIQUES FOR ADAPTATIONS TO TEACHING STRATEGIES, ACTIVITIES AND EQUIPMENT	9%	2%	3%
RELEVANT EDUCATIONAL DEGREE(IE PSYCHOLOGY, SPECIAL EDUCATION, CERTIFIED THERAPEUTIC RECREATION SPECIALIST (CTRS) AND/OR LICENSED RECREATIONAL THERAPIST (LRT) ETC.)	6%	5%	2%
KNOWLEDGE OF THE PHILOSOPHY OF INCLUSION AND THE ABILITY TO COMMUNICATE THAT PHILOSOPHY TO OTHERS	5%	4%	9%
ABILITY TO COMMUNICATE EFFECTIVELY WITH PARENTS	1%	4%	*
CPR/FIRST AID CERTIFICATION	*	*	*
STRONG JEWISH BACKGROUND AND ABILITY TO SHARE PASSION FOR JUDAISM	*	*	*

# WHAT DO YOU FEEL IS THE MOST IMPORTANT QUALIFICATION WHEN HIRING STAFF TO WORK WITH CAMPERS WITH DISABILITIES/SPECIAL NEEDS? I.E. COUNSELORS, SHADOWS- NOT SENIOR LEVEL INCLUSION DIRECTORS?(COMBINED)(S,P)

DEMONSTRATES A PARTICULARLY HIGH LEVEL OF PATIENCE AND MATURITY	65%
STRONG SUMMER CAMP EXPERIENCE AND ABILITY TO FACILITATE INCLUSION WITH THE LARGER CAMP COMMUNITY	54%
RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL/VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE WITH DISABILITY/SPECIAL NEED POPULATIONS	51%
KNOWLEDGE OF TECHNIQUES FOR ADAPTATIONS TO TEACHING STRATEGIES, ACTIVITIES AND EQUIPMENT	38%
RELEVANT PERSONAL EXPERIENCE WITH DISABILITY/SPECIAL NEED POPULATIONS	32%
KNOWLEDGE OF THE PHILOSOPHY OF INCLUSION AND THE ABILITY TO COMMUNICATE THAT PHILOSOPHY TO OTHERS	25%
RELEVANT EDUCATIONAL DEGREE(IE PSYCHOLOGY, SPECIAL EDUCATION, CERTIFIED THERAPEUTIC RECREATION SPECIALIST (CTRS) AND/OR LICENSED RECREATIONAL THERAPIST (LRT) ETC.)	14%
STRONG JEWISH BACKGROUND AND ABILITY TO SHARE PASSION FOR JUDAISM	13%
ABILITY TO COMMUNICATE EFFECTIVELY WITH PARENTS	6%
CPR/FIRST AID CERTIFICATION	2%

**DOES YOUR CAMP HAVE A STAFF MEMBER WHO IS DESIGNATED TO OVERSEE CAMPERS WITH DISABILITIES/SPECIAL NEEDS? I.E. INCLUSION COORDINATOR/DIRECTOR (D)**



# WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING DOES YOUR STAFF MEMBER WHO IS DESIGNATED TO OVERSEE CAMPERS WITH DISABILITIES/SPECIAL NEEDS (I.E. INCLUSION COORDINATOR/DIRECTOR) DO? (D)

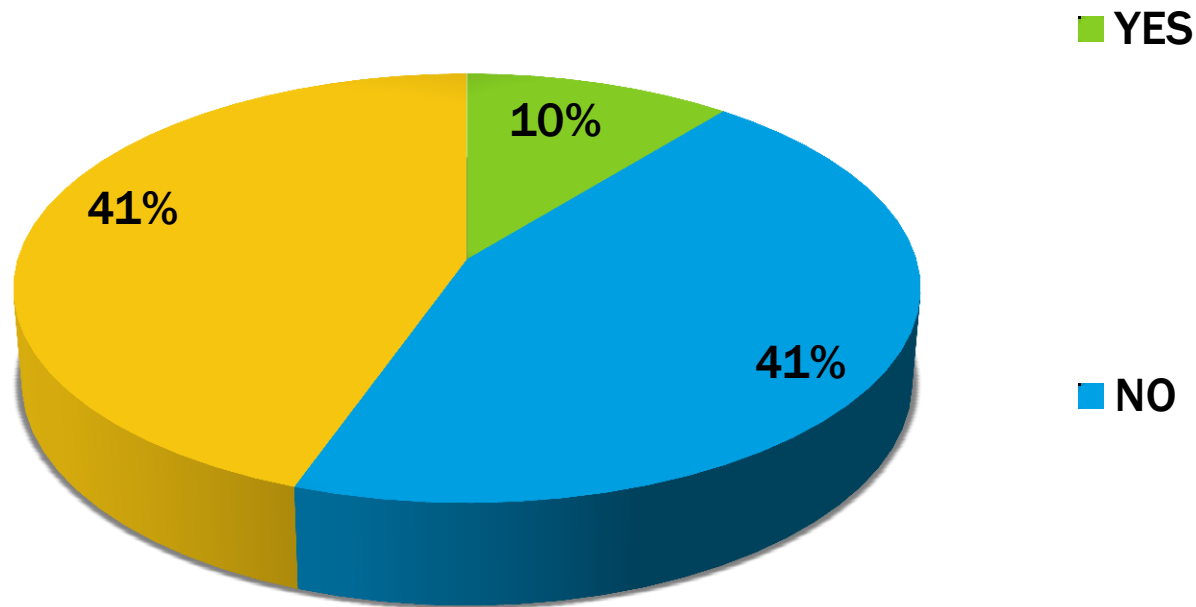
ENGAGE IN THE INTAKE PROCESS TO EVALUATE CAMPER TO SEE IF THEY ARE A RIGHT FIT FOR THE CAMP AND CAN BE ACCOMMODATED	97%
BE ON-SITE AT CAMP TO SUPPORT STAFF IF THERE IS AN IMMEDIATE CRISIS SITUATION WITH A CAMPER	89%
TRAIN INCLUSION STAFF	89%
TRAIN GENERAL STAFF ON BEST PRACTICES WITH CAMPERS WITH DISABILITIES/SPECIAL NEEDS	85%
SPEAK WITH PARENTS AND OTHER SUPPORTS (IE DOCTORS, THERAPISTS, TEACHERS) FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES/SPECIAL NEEDS TO GET ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE ON HOW BEST TO SERVE THE CHILD DURING THE SUMMER	84%
PARTICIPATE IN THE SELECTION OF WHICH COUNSELORS WILL BE DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN SUPPORTING CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES/SPECIAL NEEDS AT CAMP (IE 1-1 COUNSELORS/SHADOWS ETC)	81%
CREATE AND OVERSEE DELIVERY OF SERVICE PLANS FOR CAMPERS WITH DISABILITIES/SPECIAL NEEDS SO THEY CAN BE PROPERLY SUPPORTED	77%
EVALUATE IN REAL TIME THE SUCCESS/FAILURE OF SERVICE PLANS AND CAMP STAFF TO BE SURE NEEDS ARE BEING MET	76%
DESIGN INCLUSIVE PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES	50%
ASSIST IN FUNDRAISING REQUIRED FOR THIS PROGRAM	42%
OVERSEE LEGAL COMPLIANCE WITH ADA LAWS	30%



# PLEASE CHECK OFF ALL QUALIFICATIONS POSSESSED BY YOUR STAFF MEMBER DESIGNATED TO OVERSEE CAMPERS WITH DISABILITIES/SPECIAL NEEDS? I.E. INCLUSION COORDINATOR/DIRECTOR (D)

ABILITY TO COMMUNICATE EFFECTIVELY WITH PARENTS	90%
KNOWLEDGE OF THE PHILOSOPHY OF INCLUSION AND THE ABILITY TO COMMUNICATE THAT PHILOSOPHY TO OTHERS	87%
STRONG SUMMER CAMP EXPERIENCE AND ABILITY TO FACILITATE INCLUSION WITH THE LARGER CAMP COMMUNITY	85%
RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE SERVING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES/SPECIAL NEEDS	85%
RELEVANT COLLEGE DEGREE (IE PSYCHOLOGY, SPECIAL EDUCATION, THERAPEUTIC RECREATION)	81%
RELEVANT ADVANCED EDUCATIONAL DEGREE(IE PSYCHOLOGY, SPECIAL EDUCATION, SOCIAL WORK, THERAPEUTIC RECREATION)	75%
MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE	74%
KNOWLEDGE OF TECHNIQUES FOR ADAPTATIONS TO TEACHING STRATEGIES, ACTIVITIES, EQUIPMENT, AND ENVIRONMENT	70%
STRONG JEWISH BACKGROUND AND ABILITY TO SHARE PASSION FOR JUDAISM	70%
KNOWLEDGE OF RELEVANT ADA AND DISABILITY LAWS	61%
CPR/FIRST AID CERTIFICATION	52%
TRAINED IN UNIVERSAL DESIGN STRATEGIES	43%
CERTIFIED THERAPEUTIC RECREATION SPECIALIST (CTRS) AND/OR LICENSED RECREATIONAL THERAPIST (LRT)	32%

**DO YOU PROVIDE ANY SPECIAL PREPARATION FOR CAMPERS WITHOUT DISABILITIES WHO WILL SHARE A CABIN WITH A CHILDREN WITH A DISABILITIES/SPECIAL NEEDS? (D,IS)**

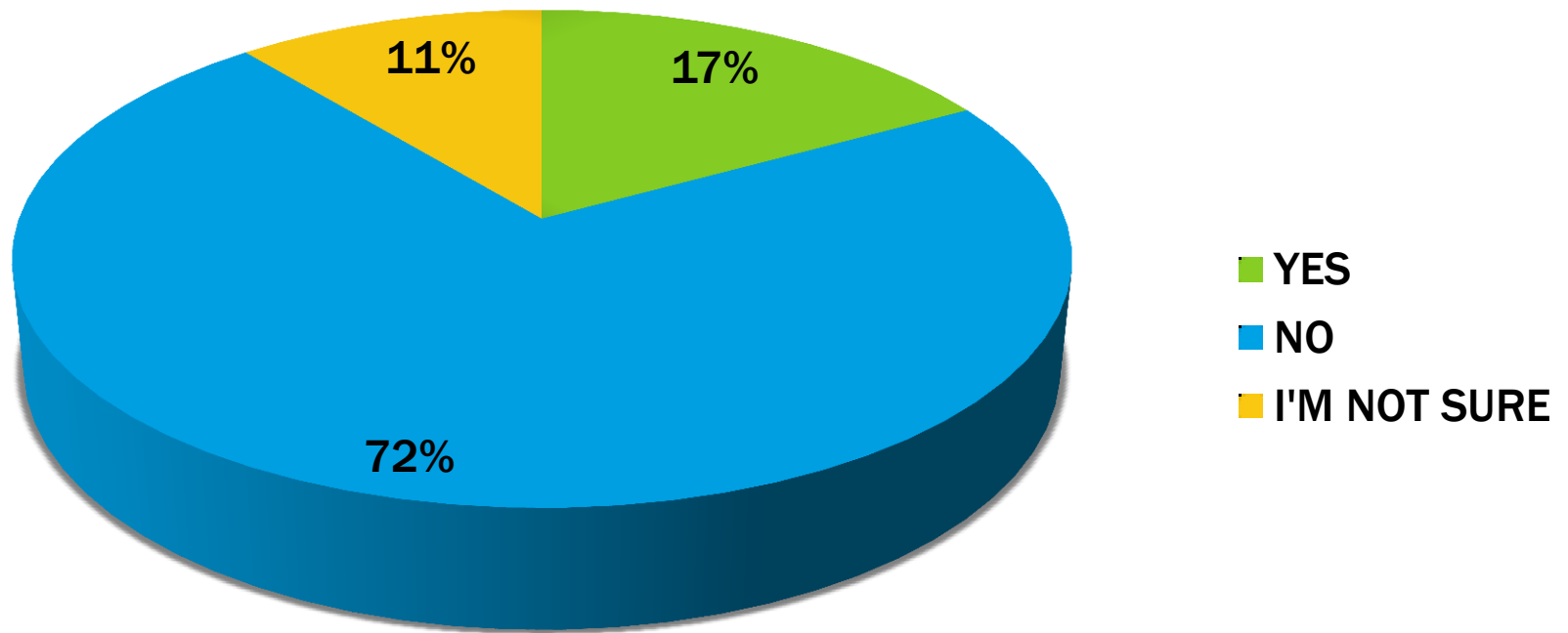


**WHAT DOES YOUR CAMP DO TO ENSURE THAT YOUR CAMPERS WITHOUT DISABILITIES BENEFIT FROM BEING IN CAMP WITH CAMPERS WITH DISABILITIES/SPECIAL NEEDS? (D,IS)**

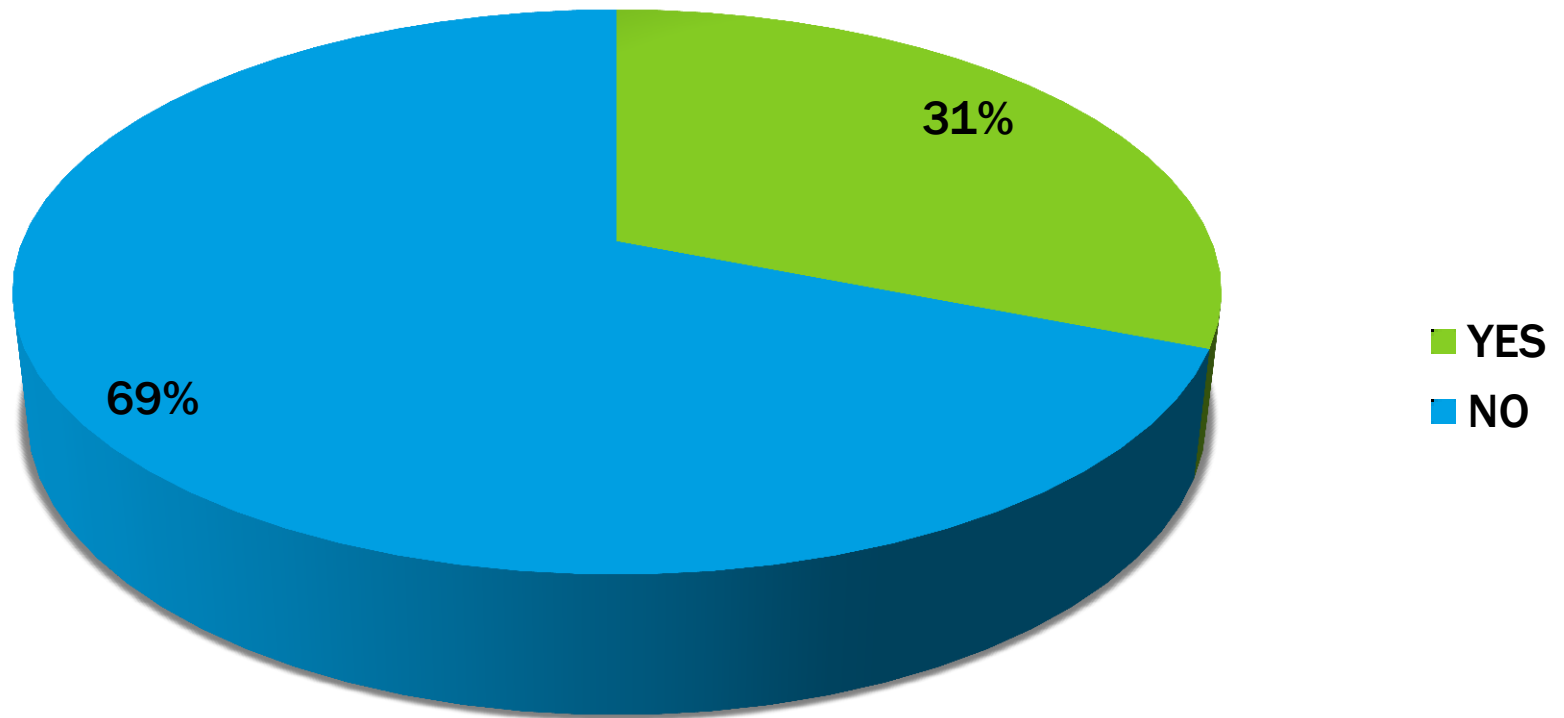
<b>MAKE IT PART OF THE CULTURE- AS NATURAL AS SWIMMING AND SHABBAT)</b>	<b>72%</b>
<b>ENCOURAGE QUESTIONS AND SHARING OF FEELINGS &amp; EXPERIENCES WHICH ARE VALIDATED EVEN WHEN NEGATIVE</b>	<b>58%</b>
<b>PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL CAMPERS REGARDLESS OF AGE TO HAVE JOINT PROGRAMMING WITH CAMPERS WITH DISABILITIES/SPECIAL NEEDS</b>	<b>57%</b>
<b>CONDUCT PROGRAMS ON AWARENESS AND RESPECT WITH ALL CAMPERS</b>	<b>53%</b>
<b>START YOUNG</b>	<b>39%</b>
<b>CREATED BUDDY PROGRAMS/PEER MENTORS -LET THEM HELP SOLVE PROBLEMS AS THEY ARISE WITH CAMPERS WITH DISABILITIES/SPECIAL NEEDS</b>	<b>24%</b>

# BUDGETS/MARKETING

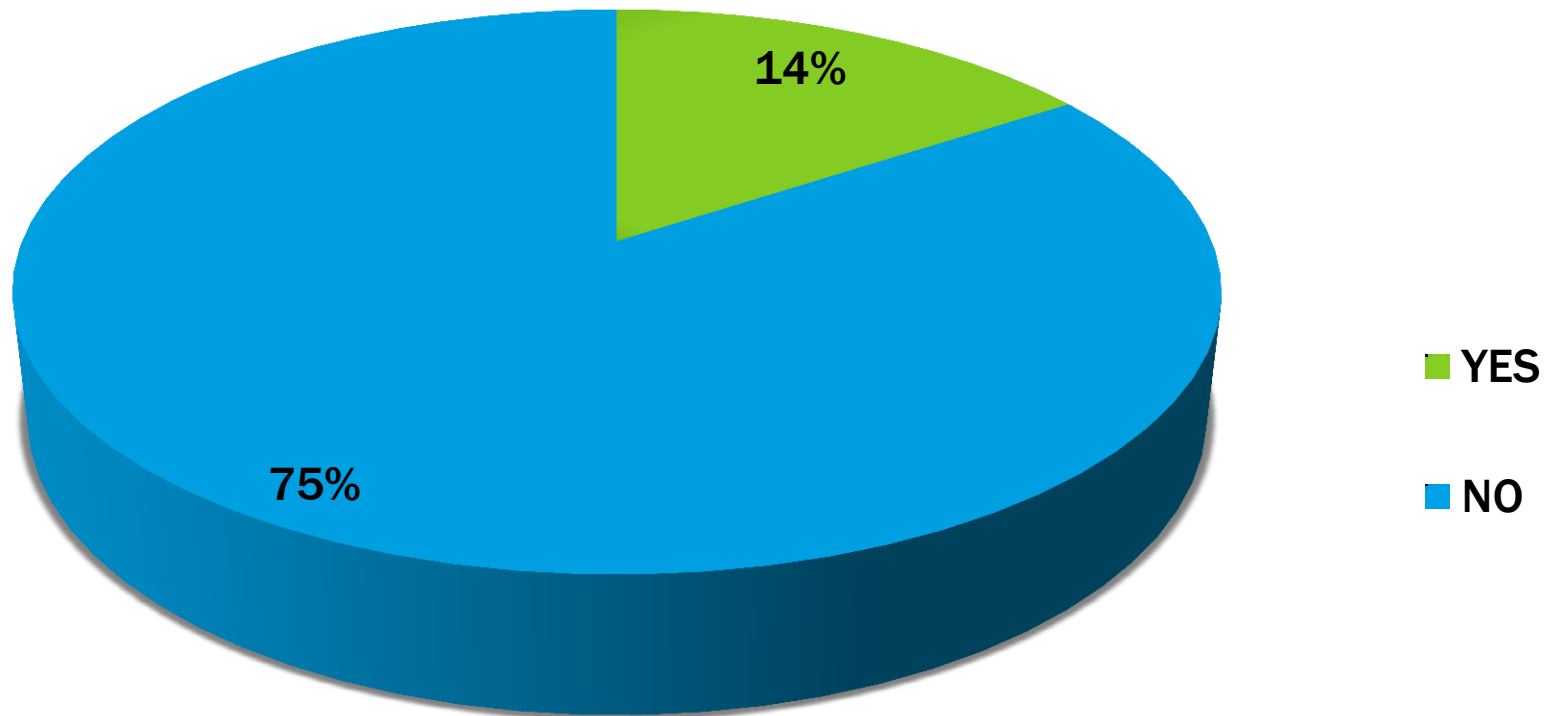
# DOES YOUR CAMP BUDGET HAVE A SPECIAL LINE ITEM FOR EXPENSES RELATED TO SERVING CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES/SPECIAL NEEDS?(D)



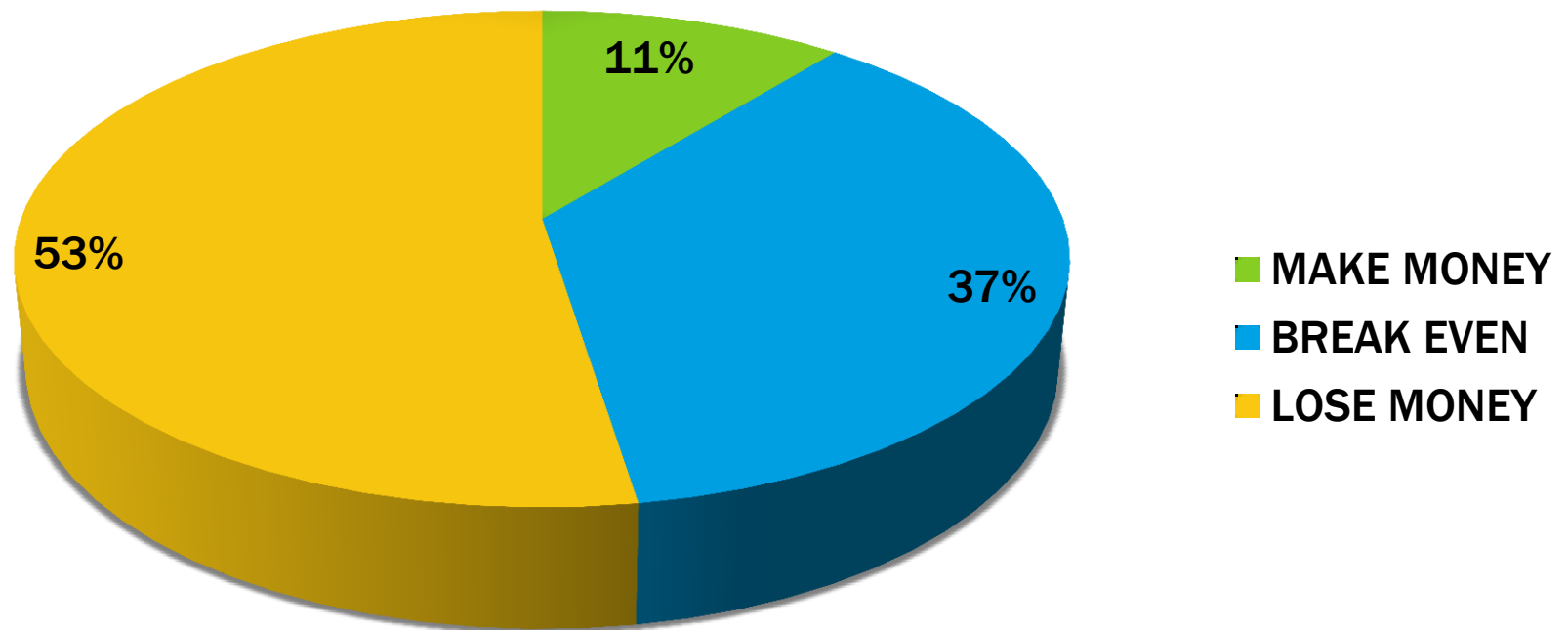
**THINKING ABOUT YOUR FUNDRAISING EFFORTS, DO YOU PUT OUT PROPOSALS FOR SPECIFIC FUNDING FOR SERVICES RELATED TO INCLUDING CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES/SPECIAL NEEDS IN CAMP? (D)**



**DOES YOUR CAMP OFFER MORE SCHOLARSHIPS  
PROPORTIONALLY FOR CHILDREN WHO HAVE  
DISABILITIES/SPECIAL NEEDS THAN OTHER CAMPERS? (D)**



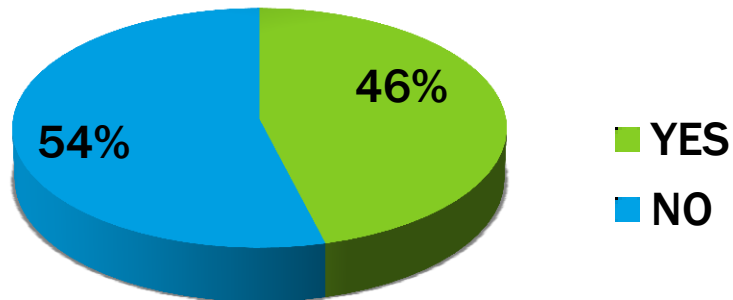
**STRICTLY FROM A FINANCIAL PERSPECTIVE, IGNORING ALL OTHER BENEFITS TO THE CAMP AND CAMPERS, DOES PROVIDING SERVICES TO CAMPERS WITH DISABILITIES/SPECIAL NEEDS...? (D)**



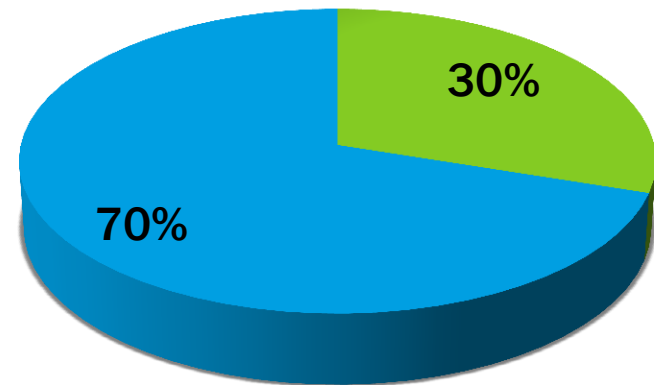


# IS THERE INFORMATION ON YOUR CAMP'S WEBSITE SPECIFICALLY ABOUT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES/SPECIAL NEEDS?(S,P)

TOTAL



DIRECTORS



# DOES YOUR CAMP FORMALLY ADVERTISE OR MARKET THAT YOU SERVE CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES/SPECIAL NEEDS? (D, IS)

	TOTAL	DIRECTOR	CAMP WITH DIS PROGRAM	CAMP SERVING CHILDREN WITH DIS
YES	39%	26%	71%	41%
NO	61%	74%	29%	60%

# CAMPERS

# WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT REASON YOU WANT/WANTED TO GO TO CAMP? (C)

<b>TO HAVE FUN</b>	<b>41%</b>
<b>TO BE WITH OTHER JEWS AND CONNECT WITH THE JEWISH COMMUNITY</b>	<b>27%</b>
<b>TO MAKE NEW FRIENDS</b>	<b>14%</b>
<b>TO TRY NEW THINGS AND GAIN NEW SKILLS</b>	<b>8%</b>
<b>TO GET A BREAK FROM HOME</b>	<b>8%</b>
<b>TO ENJOY AND APPRECIATE NATURE</b>	<b>2%</b>

# WHICH CAMP ACTIVITIES HAVE YOU DONE OR DO YOU WANT TO DO IN THE FUTURE? (c)

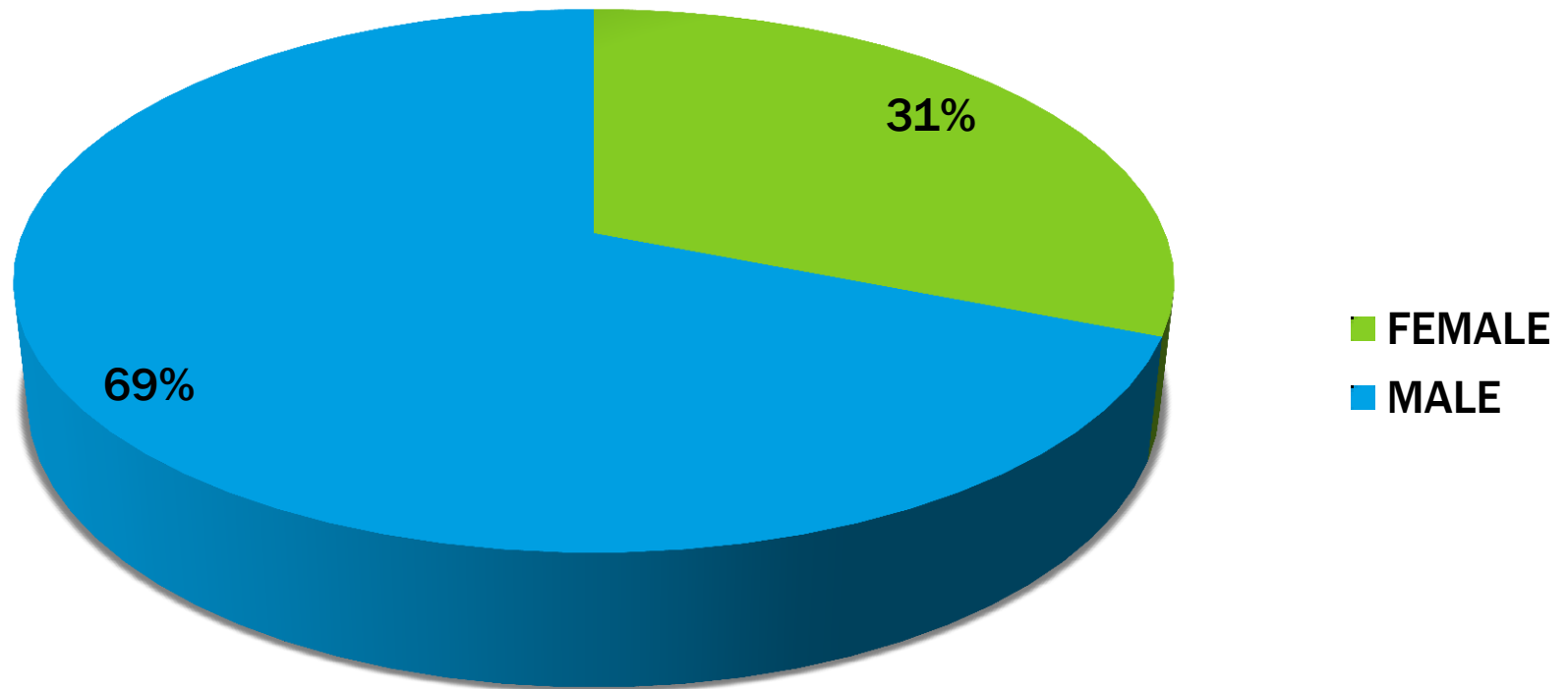
MAKING GOOD FRIENDS- HANGING OUT, EXPERIENCING NEW THINGS TOGETHER, KEEPING IN TOUCH	85%
AQUATICS - SWIMMING LESSONS, WATER POLO AND WATER SPORTS	73%
SPORTS - BASKETBALL, SOCCER, TENNIS, VOLLEYBALL, GA-GA, SELF-DEFENSE, ARCHERY AND MORE...	72%
CAMPING TRIPS -SLEEP OUT UNDER THE STARS, CAMPFIRES, OUTDOOR COOKING, ADVENTURE ACTIVITIES (KAYAKING OR ROCK CLIMBING OR ORIENTEERING)	72%
JUDAICS - SHABBAT FUN AND SERVICES ETC	69%
OUTDOOR ADVENTURE - ROPES COURSE, HIKING, BIKING, SURVIVAL SKILLS, NATURE AND MORE...	66%
PERFORMING ARTS - DRAMA, DANCE, ROCK BAND AND OTHER MUSIC	61%
ISRAEL- PROGRAMS ABOUT ISRAEL/ISRAELI CULTURE	60%
VISUAL ARTS - ARTS AND CRAFTS, JEWELRY MAKING, CERAMICS/SCULPTURE	59%
MEDIA ARTS - VIDEO PRODUCTION, PHOTOGRAPHY AND JOURNALISM	36%

# IF THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES WERE AVAILABLE WITH PROPER SUPPORTS, WHAT ACTIVITIES WOULD YOU LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN? (c)

JEWISH OVERNIGHT CAMP	64%	INDIVIDUAL SPORTS (E.G., GOLF, SWIMMING)	35%
FITNESS & EXERCISE CLASSES (E.G., MARTIAL ARTS, YOGA, DANCE)	54%	ATTEND JEWISH DAY SCHOOL	34%
CAMPING AND OUTDOOR ADVENTURE (E.G., HIKING, BOATING, FISHING, HORSEBACK RIDING)	53%	FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE	33%
FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS (E.G., ARTS & CRAFTS, POTTERY, THEATER)	50%	ACADEMIC SUPPORT (E.G., HOMEWORK HELP, TUTORING)	30%
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT (E.G., GOOD CITIZEN PROGRAMS)	48%	SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES WITH OTHER CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES	30%
TEAM SPORTS (E.G., SOCCER, BASEBALL, BASKETBALL, BOWLING)	46%	RELIGIOUS SCHOOL BASED AT A SYNAGOGUE	28%
YOUTH PROGRAMS FOR KIDS OF ALL ABILITIES - BOTH KIDS WITH DISABILITIES AND WITHOUT THEM	45%	JEWISH DAY CAMP	28%
JEWISH HOLIDAYS IN HOME	45%	SPECIFIC PROGRAMS FOR JEWISH KIDS WITH DISABILITIES	26%
OUTDOOR HOBBIES AND RECREATION (E.G., GARDENING, NATURE WALKS)	43%	INDOOR HOBBIES AND RECREATION (E.G., COIN & BASEBALL CARD COLLECTING, VIDEO GAMES)	24%
OPPORTUNITIES TO CELEBRATE JEWISH HOLIDAYS WITH OTHER JEWISH KIDS	41%	SOCIAL SKILLS TRAINING	23%
JEWISH HOLIDAYS AT TEMPLE/SYNAGOGUE/SHUL	40%	VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND PLACEMENT	19%
FAMILY SHABBAT OBSERVANCE	37%		

# **PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES/SPECIAL NEEDS**

# WHAT IS THE GENDER OF YOUR CHILD WITH A DISABILITY? (PW/DIS)





## AGE (PW/DIS)

What is the age of your child with a disability/special need?

**Mean = 17.9**

At what age did your child with a disability/special need start attending camp?

**Mean = 11.2**

# WHAT KIND OF DISABILITY/SPECIAL NEED DOES YOUR CHILD HAVE? (PW/DIS)

AUTISM/ASPERGER'S	46%
DEAF-BLINDESS	1%
DEAFNESS	-
DEVELOPMENTAL DELAY	36%
EMOTIONAL DISTURBANCE	10%
HEARING IMPAIRMENT	4%
INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY	38%
MULTIPLE DISABILITIES	9%
ORTHOPEDIC IMPAIRMENT	8%
OTHER HEALTH IMPAIRMENT	13%
SPECIFIC LEARNING DISABILITY	16%
SPEECH OR LANGUAGE IMPAIRMENT	23%
TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY	1%
VISUAL IMPAIRMENT, INCLUDING BLINDNESS	2%

# WHAT IS THE BIGGEST FACTOR IN WHICH CAMP YOU CHOOSE FOR YOUR CHILD? (PW/DIS)

THEY OFFER GOOD SUPPORTS AND ACCOMMODATIONS FOR CHILDREN WITH A DISABILITY LIKE MINE	43%
IT IS A JEWISH CAMP WHERE MY CHILD CAN CONNECT TO OUR HERITAGE AND COMMUNITY	34%
IT IS THE ONLY CAMP THAT WILL ACCEPT AND SERVE MY CHILD	9%
MY OTHER CHILDREN ATTEND THE SAME CAMP	6%
MY CHILD WILL MAKE FRIENDS THERE	3%
THEY HAVE FUN ACTIVITIES	3%
IT IS NEAR MY HOME	2%

**IF YOUR CAMPER WITH A DISABILITY/SPECIAL NEED HAS A SIBLING WHO IS/WAS ALSO A CAMPER, HOW IMPORTANT IS/WAS IT TO YOU THAT THEY ATTEND[ED] THE SAME CAMP? (PW/DIS)**

<b>VERY IMPORTANT, BUT THE SIBLING'S CAMP IS NOT ABLE TO ACCOMMODATE MY CHILD WITH A DISABILITY/SPECIAL NEED</b>	<b>7%</b>
<b>VERY IMPORTANT, WE MADE SURE THEY ARE AT THE SAME CAMP</b>	<b>16%</b>
<b>IT WOULD BE NICE BUT IT IS MORE IMPORTANT THAT THEY EACH GO TO THE CAMP THAT BEST SERVES THEIR INDIVIDUAL NEEDS</b>	<b>43%</b>
<b>NOT IMPORTANT AT ALL, SUMMER CAMP IS A RESPITE FOR SIBLINGS WITHOUT DISABILITIES</b>	<b>6%</b>
<b>WE DON'T HAVE SIBLING CAMPERS</b>	<b>28%</b>

# WHAT JEWISH ACTIVITIES DOES YOUR CHILD ALREADY PARTICIPATE IN? (PW/DIS)

JEWISH HOLIDAYS IN HOME	89%
JEWISH HOLIDAYS AT TEMPLE/SYNAGOGUE/SHUL	81%
HAS ATTENDED JEWISH OVERNIGHT CAMP	77%
FAMILY SHABBAT OBSERVANCE	67%
HAS ATTENDED JEWISH DAY CAMP	47%
RELIGIOUS SCHOOL BASED AT A SYNAGOGUE	43%
SPECIFIC PROGRAMS FOR JEWISH KIDS WITH DISABILITIES	39%
YOUTH PROGRAMS FOR KIDS OF ALL ABILITIES - BOTH KIDS WITH DISABILITIES AND WITHOUT THEM	35%
FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE	32%
YACHAD	17%
NFTY	12%
ATTENDS JEWISH DAY SCHOOL	12%
BBYO	10%
USY	8%
NCSY	4%
OTHER	14%

# IF THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES WERE AVAILABLE WITH PROPER SUPPORTS, WHAT ACTIVITIES WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR CHILD TO PARTICIPATE IN? (1 OF 2)

SOCIAL SKILLS TRAINING	70%
FITNESS & EXERCISE CLASSES (E.G., MARTIAL ARTS, YOGA, DANCE)	64%
CAMPING AND OUTDOOR ADVENTURE (E.G., HIKING, BOATING, FISHING, HORSEBACK RIDING)	63%
TEAM SPORTS (E.G., SOCCER, BASEBALL, BASKETBALL, BOWLING)	62%
SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES WITH OTHER CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES	62%
YOUTH PROGRAMS FOR KIDS OF ALL ABILITIES - BOTH KIDS WITH DISABILITIES AND WITHOUT THEM	56%
OPPORTUNITIES TO CELEBRATE JEWISH HOLIDAYS WITH OTHER JEWISH KIDS	54%
VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND PLACEMENT	53%
JEWISH OVERNIGHT CAMP	51%
FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS (E.G., ARTS & CRAFTS, POTTERY, THEATER)	51%
INDIVIDUAL SPORTS (E.G., GOLF, SWIMMING)	50%

**IF THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES WERE AVAILABLE WITH PROPER SUPPORTS, WHAT ACTIVITIES WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR CHILD TO PARTICIPATE IN? PLEASE CHECK ALL THAT APPLY (2 OF 2)  
(PW/DIS)**

OUTDOOR HOBBIES AND RECREATION (E.G., GARDENING, NATURE WALKS)	49%
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT (E.G., GOOD CITIZEN PROGRAMS)	46%
SPECIFIC PROGRAMS FOR JEWISH KIDS WITH DISABILITIES	43%
JEWISH HOLIDAYS AT TEMPLE/SYNAGOGUE/SHUL	42%
ATTEND JEWISH DAY SCHOOL	39%
JEWISH HOLIDAYS IN HOME	36%
FAMILY SHABBAT OBSERVANCE	34%
RELIGIOUS SCHOOL BASED AT A SYNAGOGUE	33%
ACADEMIC SUPPORT (E.G., HOMEWORK HELP, TUTORING)	33%
INDOOR HOBBIES AND RECREATION (E.G., COIN & BASEBALL CARD COLLECTING, VIDEO GAMES)	30%
FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE	26%
JEWISH DAY CAMP	25%

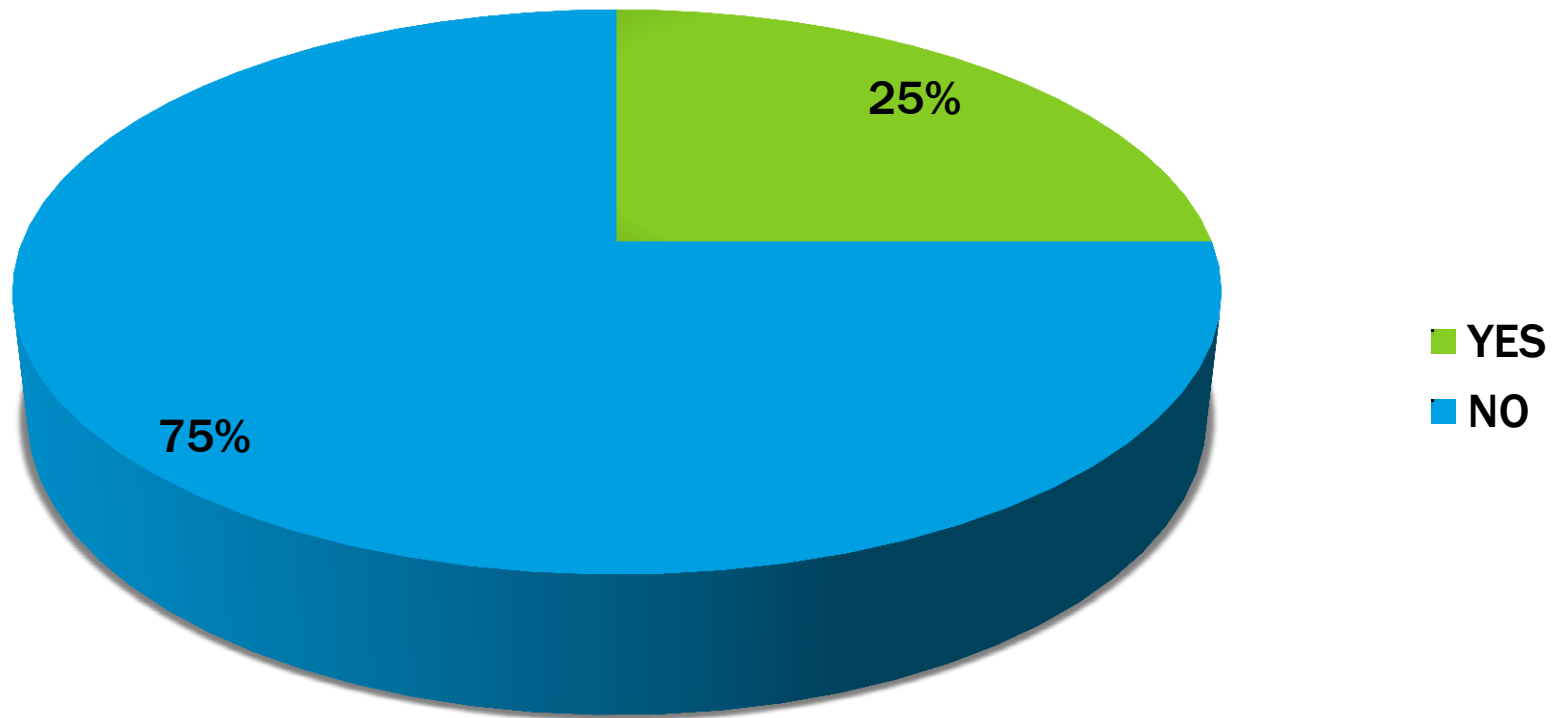
# HOW SAFE DO YOU FEEL YOUR CHILD WITH A DISABILITY IS WHEN THEY PARTICIPATE IN CAMP ACTIVITIES WITHOUT YOUR ON-SITE SUPERVISION?

(PW/DIS)

<b>EXTREMELY SAFE</b>	<b>69%</b>
<b>MODERATELY SAFE</b>	<b>24%</b>
<b>SLIGHTLY SAFE</b>	<b>4%</b>
<b>NOT AT ALL SAFE</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>MY CHILD DOES NOT PARTICIPATE IN CAMP ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>-</b>



# HAS YOUR CHILD EVER BEEN TURNED AWAY FROM AN OVERNIGHT CAMP BECAUSE OF THE CAMP'S INABILITY TO MAKE A REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION? (PW/DIS)



# WHY?

“Siblings attend another sleep away camp that was not comfortable accepting a child with special needs.”

“X Camp turned away our son because he did not fit their functional profile.”

“X was told he could not return to Camp Y because of his "inability" to connect with kids his own age.”

“There are no Jewish camps in my area that are provide one-to-one aides and therefore he has not been able to participate in Jewish camp. Sadly, we've had to send him to Catholic camp. This is so sad considering how much our son loves his faith.”

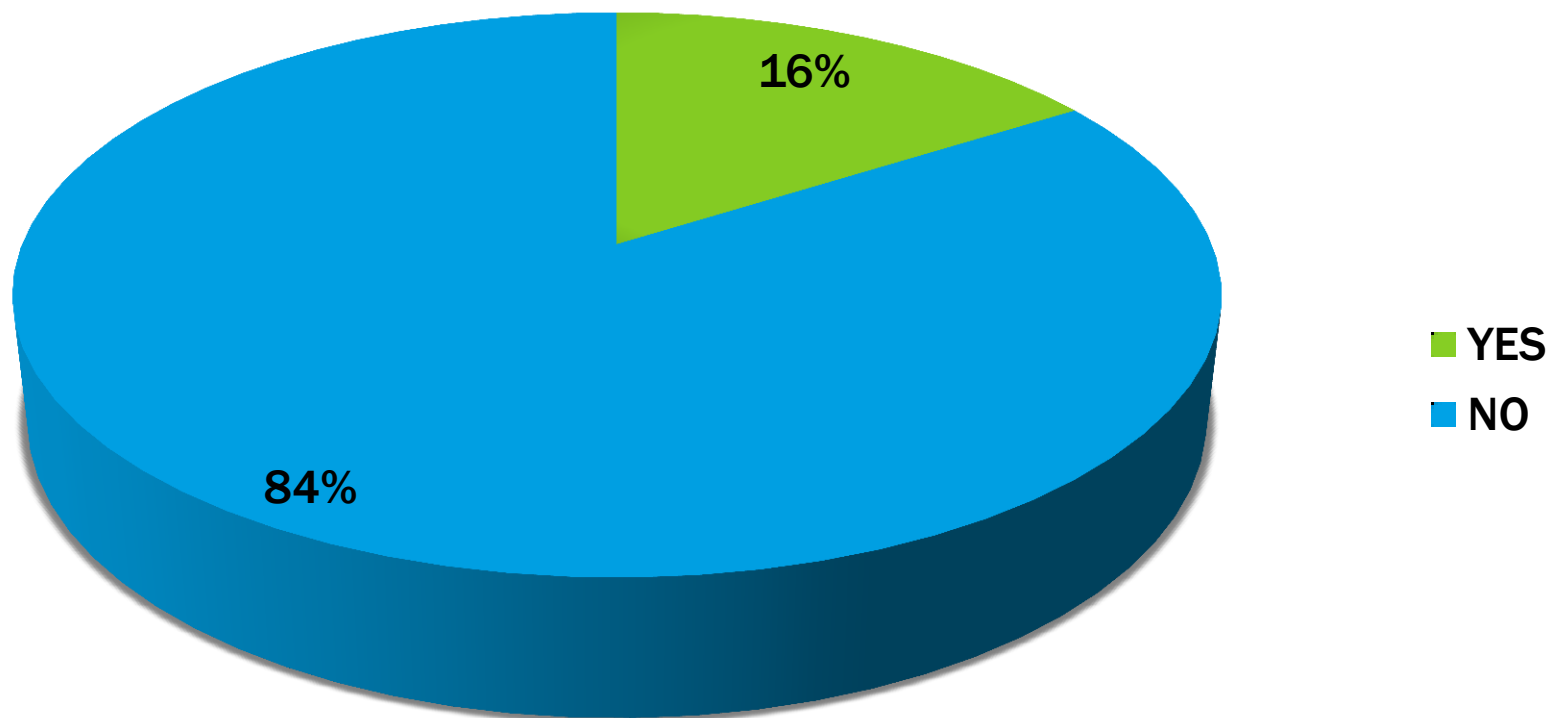
“They did not have the staff trained or any know-how to safely include him.”

“Felt his developmental and emotional needs would be too hard on young counselors and that it might upset the parents of other campers who want their kids to be cared for without someone having disabilities demanding more time.”

“X Camp explained they only take children who can communicate clearly. My child is non verbal.”

“Originally Camp X turned us down as they did not take kids with the severity of my son's disability. Now they do take kids with severe disabilities as long as the parent provides a 1:1 aide.”

# HAS YOUR CHILD EVER BEEN SENT HOME FROM CAMP BECAUSE OF A REASON CONNECTED TO THEIR DISABILITY? (PW/DIS)



# WHY?

“My son went to X camp, and was sent home because he wandered away from the group.”

“They did not feel that he “fit in”. He had a hard time getting up in the morning and did not want to wear the uniform required.”

“Unable to transition.”

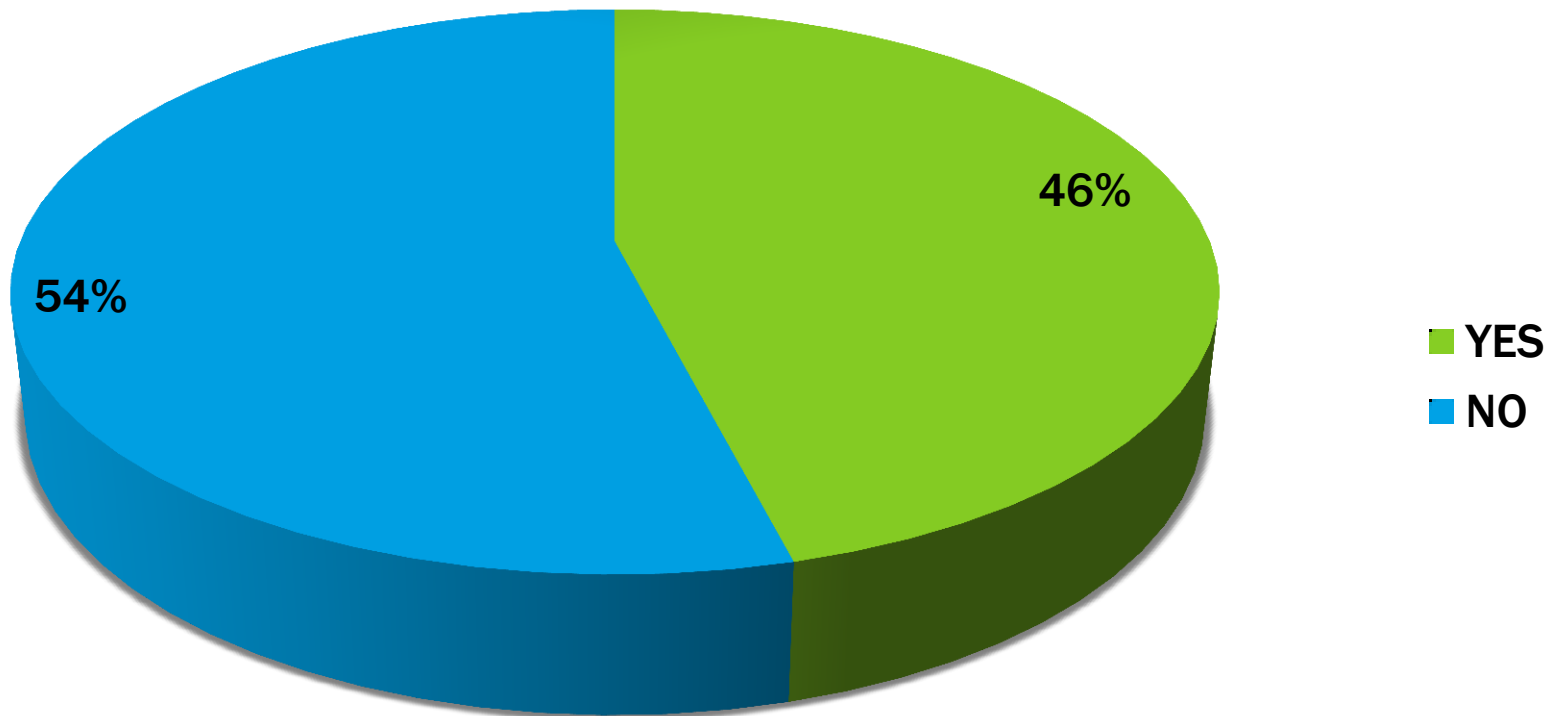
“The staff were not well trained to handle his behavioral issues and they sent him home early. This was devastating and extremely disruptive to us.”

“They would not accept him as he was. They thought he wild be something he wasn't and they didn't want to deal with him because it took more effort.”

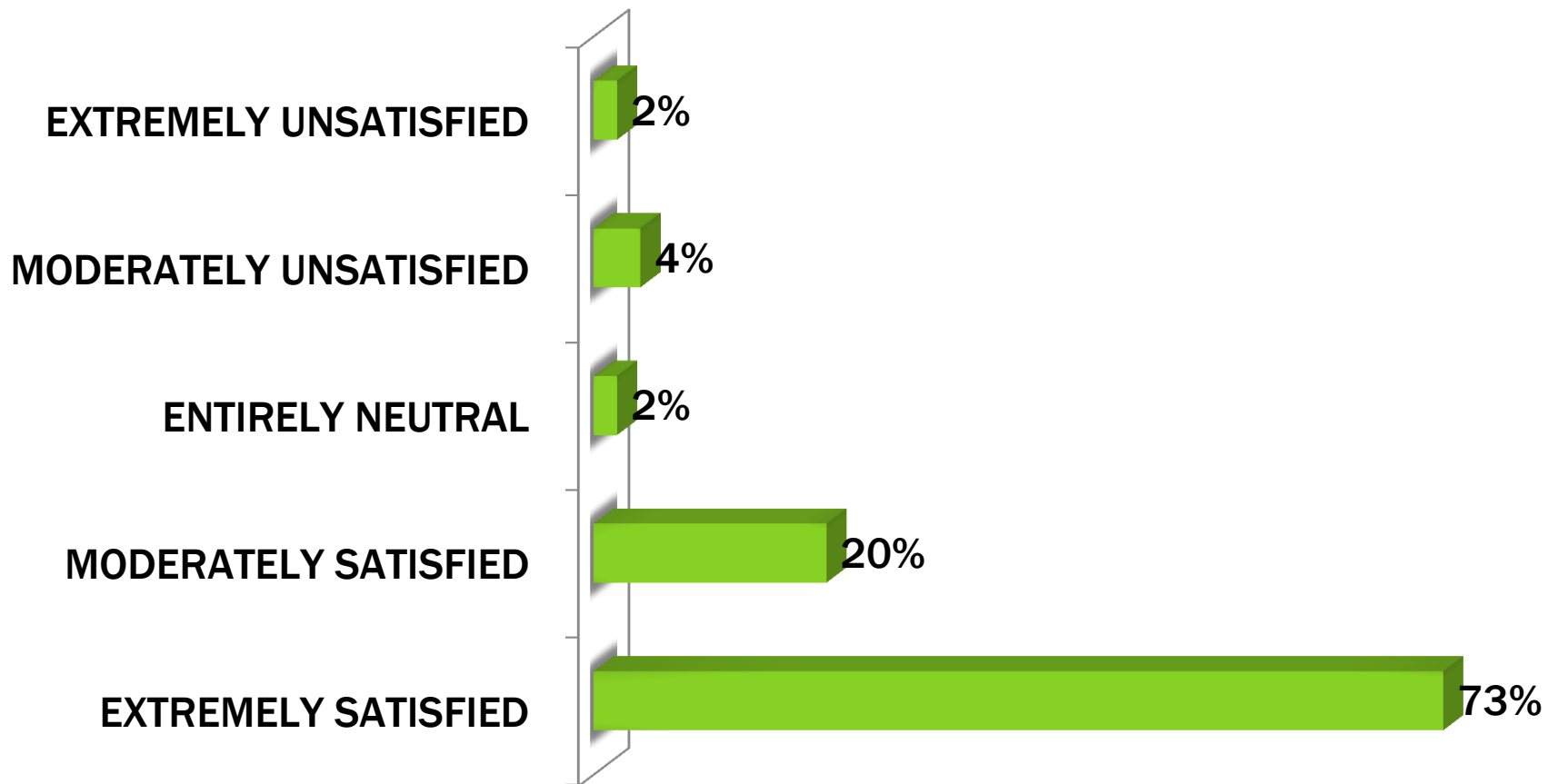
“My son needed shadows to accommodate his physical needs. One year his shadow suffered a loss in his family and needed to return to his hometown in Israel. There was one week left in camp so we needed to pick him up a week early.”

“Was acting like not feeling well; in fact was stressed by more hours of work than used to.”

# HAS YOUR CHILD EVER BEEN TURNED AWAY FROM ANOTHER JEWISH PROGRAM OR INSTITUTION BECAUSE OF THEIR DISABILITY? (PW/DIS)



# OVERALL, HOW SATISFIED ARE YOU WITH YOUR CHILD'S EXPERIENCE IN JEWISH OVERNIGHT SUMMER CAMP? (PW/DIS)



**PLEASE RATE HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT YOUR CAMPERS EXPERIENCE  
AT CAMP ON A SCALE OF 1-10 WITH 1 BEING NOT AT ALL  
SUCCESSFUL/POSITIVE AND  
10 BEING EXTREMELY SUCCESSFUL/POSITIVE. (PW/DIS)**

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>MAKES FRIENDS WITH CAMPERS WITHOUT A DISABILITY</b>	13%	7%	3%	4%	10%	7%	10%	10%	10%	26%
<b>GOT A CLOSER CONNECTION TO ISRAEL</b>	13%	3%	4%	2%	15%	5%	9%	11%	7%	31%
<b>MAKES FRIENDS WITH CAMPERS WITH DISABILITIES/SPECIAL NEEDS</b>	8%	2%	2%	3%	7%	1%	15%	13%	13%	38%
<b>MAKING FRIENDS</b>	7%	3%	3%	3%	7%	5%	12%	16%	11%	34%
<b>ENJOYS EQUAL ACCESS TO CAMP ACTIVITIES</b>	5%	-	-	2%	8%	5%	8%	12%	11%	48%
<b>RELATIONSHIPS AND INTERACTIONS WITH CAMP STAFF</b>	4%	-	4%	1%	3%	2%	7%	5%	17%	57%
<b>FULLY WELCOMED AT CAMP JUST LIKE CAMPERS WITHOUT A DISABILITY</b>	4%	2%	-	1%	3%	4%	4%	6%	10%	65%
<b>INCLUDED AT CAMP JUST LIKE CAMPERS WITHOUT A DISABILITY</b>	4%	1%	2%	1%	9%	5%	4%	9%	14%	50%
<b>APPRECIATING, ENJOYING, AND CONNECTING TO JUDAISM</b>	4%	-	3%	*	2%	6%	7%	13%	13%	52%

# WHAT ARE THE BARRIERS TO OVERNIGHT CAMP PARTICIPATION FOR YOUR CHILD WITH A DISABILITY/SPECIAL NEED? (1 OF 2) (PW/DIS)

<b>COST OF PROGRAM</b>	<b>47%</b>
<b>BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT</b>	<b>38%</b>
<b>STAFF IS NOT ADEQUATELY TRAINED</b>	<b>32%</b>
<b>NO PROGRAM SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED FOR CHILDREN WITH MY CHILD'S SPECIFIC DISABILITY</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>BEING AWARE OF PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>LACK OF OR POOR COMMUNICATION BETWEEN CAMP STAFF AND PARENTS/CAREGIVERS</b>	<b>19%</b>
<b>SAFETY CONCERNS</b>	<b>18%</b>
<b>STAFF TO YOUTH RATIO FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES</b>	<b>18%</b>



# WHAT ARE THE BARRIERS TO OVERNIGHT CAMP PARTICIPATION FOR YOUR CHILD WITH A DISABILITY/SPECIAL NEED? (2 OF 2) (PW/DIS)

<b>NO INCLUSIVE PROGRAMMING</b>	<b>17%</b>
<b>BULLYING/CYBER BULLYING</b>	<b>16%</b>
<b>LACK OF SCHOLARSHIPS</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>BEING UNCOMFORTABLE IN PUBLIC WITH HOW OTHERS PERCEIVE, JUDGE, OR STARE AT MY CHILD</b>	<b>8%</b>
<b>HOURS OF OPERATIONS</b>	<b>4%</b>
<b>Other (SPECIFY)</b>	<b>22%</b>

# WHAT KIND OF SCHOOL DOES YOUR CHILD CURRENTLY ATTEND? (PW/DIS)

NEIGHBORHOOD PUBLIC SCHOOL	43%
SPECIALTY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES	24%
ALREADY GRADUATED	23%
NON-JEWISH PRIVATE SCHOOL FOR KIDS WITH AND WITHOUT DISABILITIES	3%
HOME SCHOOLED	2%
RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL PROGRAM	2%
JEWISH DAY SCHOOL	4%

**WHAT KIND OF SPECIAL SERVICES DOES YOUR  
CHILD RECEIVE DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR?  
PLEASE CHECK ALL THAT APPLY (PW/DIS)**

<b>SPEECH/COMMUNICATION THERAPY</b>	<b>57%</b>
<b>SOCIAL SKILLS TRAINING</b>	<b>55%</b>
<b>OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY</b>	<b>36%</b>
<b>PHYSICAL THERAPY</b>	<b>23%</b>
<b>THERAPEUTIC RECREATION</b>	<b>21%</b>
<b>OTHER</b>	<b>40%</b>

# IF YOUR JEWISH SUMMER CAMP WERE TO DO MORE TRAINING FOR ITS STAFF ON HOW TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN SERVING CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES, WHAT TOPICS DO YOU BELIEVE SHOULD BE COVERED? (PW/DIS)

TECHNIQUES TO HELP WITH SOCIAL SKILLS AND PEER FRIEND BUILDING	74%
POSITIVE BEHAVIORAL SUPPORTS/BEST PRACTICES IN BEHAVIORAL METHODS	65%
HOW TO HELP CAMPERS WITHOUT DISABILITIES ACCEPT AND RESPECT CAMPERS WITH DISABILITIES	64%
"AID AND FADE"- SHADOWING AS NEEDED RATHER THAN AS A CONSTANT PRESENCE TO FACILITATE PEER RELATIONSHIPS	60%
HELPING ON TRANSITIONS BETWEEN ACTIVITIES	56%
BREAKING DOWN THE SKILLS NECESSARY TO COMPLETE AN ACTIVITY	51%
COMMUNICATIONS SKILLS FOR INTERACTION BETWEEN STAFF AND PARENTS	44%
PROGRAM ADAPTION AND ACCOMMODATION INFORMATION	43%
PEOPLE FIRST LANGUAGE- RESPECTFUL LANGUAGE FOR TALKING ABOUT DISABILITIES	30%
SAFETY	30%
ADDRESSING PHYSICAL ACCESS ISSUES	19%
INTAKE PROCEDURES AND INFORMATION	17%
UNIVERSAL DESIGN	12%
LEGAL ISSUES REGARDING DISABILITIES	10%
OTHER	4%

## AS CAMPS ARE LOOKING TO IMPROVE OPTIONS AND SERVICES FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES/SPECIAL NEEDS, WHAT DO YOU WANT THEM TO KEEP IN MIND?

All people with disabilities are individuals and camp programs should keep that in mind when structuring programs.

all children just want to be accepted for who they are and included.

These kids have something to offer. All of our kids can learn a lot from their presence and involvement.

All children want to be accepted and have fun. Having a disability shouldn't be a barrier. We all need to feel like we are part of the Jewish community. Also, camp is a first step towards that child's ultimate independence from the parents.

Parents and campers need choices! not all people/children w/DA want the same type of program-some will want more inclusion-some more substantially separate-some want a combination...one size will not fit all."

It seems important to my boys that they be respected and treated as capable individuals. They were disappointed that peer models from one camp year did not continue to associate with them the following summer.

Inclusion does not mean just putting a kid in a bunk with an extra untrained counselor  
Inclusion not only is a positive thing for the child with a disability, but for the typical peer too.

These children often have problems with inclusion at school. School is very challenging for them and they rarely feel as if they are a "success" or winner. Camp is an opportunity for children with special needs to focus on their strengths, feel good about what they can do well and to learn how to relate to and live with their peers. It is also an opportunity for them to learn to cooperate and give, they should not always be the recipient of "charity". They must also learn how to give back to their camp "community" and get along with their peers.

Each child is unique in their needs and wants. Create an extensive intake process to fully understand the child's needs and their parents desires for success.

That ALL JEWISH children deserve a chance at having a positive summer camp experience. Please make sure that professionals at other camps know what other options there are if they cannot accommodate a child. Please educate professionals at other camps regarding attitudes and acceptance for children with disabilities.

Our daughter stopped going after age 12 bcs of the lack of support and educated counselors with regards to social interaction needs for our daughter. They just wanted her be like one of the kids and took no measures to ensure that bullying and social exclusion would not occur. There are a lot of social dynamics that needed to be addressed especially in the 13-16 year age group of girls. She needed a specific "buddy" who could help her navigate these situations and ensure that the other girls were accepting and accommodating. This did not happen, which is a shame as her younger brother and sister spend the whole month of July there every year and she should have been with them too. Its really heart breaking that she could not experience camp as her siblings have.

Nowadays there's often a sibling with special needs at home wanting to go and experience camp with their neurotypical (normal) sibling. All they need is a little extra help by way of an extra staff member providing support, but there is none. I would love both my boys to strengthen their Jewish knowledge and identity together, in the same place.

My child is not just her disability. She is a Jewish child just like yours and while she may need some accommodations for her disability, she also is just a regular kid who wants to go to sleep away camp. For a child who is academically challenged, sleep away camp is her opportunity to feel successful for a few weeks a year without academic pressure. Please ask me what accommodations my child needs and then let's work together to see what you can make feasible.

Overnight camps have tremendous potential both to serve special needs campers as well as to foster greater inclusion for Jewish communities and offering leadership training and peer mentoring for typical peers. The rewards and benefits work both ways.

That kids with disabilities need friends and want to be included. Learning to reach out to people who might look or speak differently than you do would be a great first step.

Each child deserves the opportunity to enjoy a summer camp experience and they should not be left feeling that their disability is too much for staff to handle or that the camp doesn't care if they're there or not.

Inclusion is not for every child and should not be the main goal of every camp. That's why we love Camp X. There is a wonderful option for, as you termed it, a "camp within a camp," designed for kids like my son (Down syndrome and other emotional issues) who need a different kind of schedule and staff. He connects with his special needs peers and staff in a much more fulfilling way than when he was in a typical camp situation. His positive experience even informed our decision to pull him from public school and have the school district outplace him to a school for kids like him, where he didn't have to worry about "keeping up" with everyone else. So I would suggest camps keep in mind that not all kids function well in an inclusive community.

In addition, for us, finances are very, very tight. Any extra services for our child with special needs are costly, camp included. I would think many families find that good resources and activities for our kids with special needs can be a financial drain. So having scholarships and grants to help these families make sure their kids have access to the very best programs and staff is a blessing.

In my relationships with parents of kids with special needs who aren't Jewish, I find that they don't have (or at least my friends don't have) similar camping and even year-round programming in their church communities. I'm surprised by this, and dismayed on their behalf. And I'm not surprised that we have found some of the best programs, starting with X camp, within the Jewish community. I know my son, to the best of his limited cognitive ability, has a strong connection to being Jewish. And I'm proud in my general secular life to describe his Jewish camp experience, as are his siblings and my husband. It adds a layer of richness and identity to his life, and structure that's not based on his disabilities or needs.

Including campers with special needs not only enhances their life the the lives of typically developing campers.

Most parents don't even know there are options.

Parents of prospective campers need to talk to current or alumni parents to help them with the "leap of faith" it takes to send your special needs child to overnight camp. Some parents need additional support to deal with their anxiety over letting go for the summer. Some could use help in not feeling guilty that they're relieved for the respite they're getting.

Some parents of some disabled children do their offspring a disservice by assuming that "typical" campers will truly accept them as peers instead of tolerating them or being nice to them. Some special needs kids grow up not wanting to identify with special needs communities, yet they're just not really accepted by "typical" communities.

Great if it's possible to have parents of special needs kids network with one another during camp or during the year.



We all want to belong.

Accurate medication administration is necessary for safety and health. Communication between the parent and the staff needs improvement. When parents fill out lengthy surveys with camper information the staff should have access to and read the information before meeting the campers.

Children with special needs are with other special needs children all the time. It is amazing what happens when the child is with other "mainstream kids". They will try and do things that normally would not happen because they want to be just like their peers. Everyone wants a friend. It is nice to be included in everything. Most of the time people do not take the time to get to know the special needs children. When you are with them all day and night you get to know how amazing they can be. This allows the "mainstream" kids to appreciate everyone for both their ability and disabilities.

The scariest thing for us to send out son to camp was the reassurance that no one would take advantage of him. We don't think it ever happened but it was a thought in the back of our minds. So if parents can be reassured that the counselors are well vetted and trained.

First, find more ways to let parents know these camps are available through synagogues, friendship circle, doctors, etc. I didn't know until someone randomly told me.

More communication on my individual kid. Maybe a weekly email saying "here's what your kid was working on this week. She showed improvement in following directions, took a shower by herself, and did x for the first time.

Further break down the wall between children with special needs/disabilities and non special needs/disabilities. All children need to learn patience/respect/acceptance of all children whether they have disabilities or not

The Jewish community lags behind in full inclusion. We must learn to create fully inclusive programs as our public policies in human service are all moving in that direction and it is a "general ed world". We aren't serving anyone well by not maximizing opportunities for inclusion.

Either lower the cost of camp or we need more scholarships available. The cost is so high and there are our other children that have needs like yeshiva and college.

Every child with and without disabilities wants to fit in with their peer group, be part of a community, and to be treated with respect. Include opportunities for kids with disabilities (whenever possible and as appropriate) to cultivate social skills, peer interaction skills, and self-reliance. Staff needs to be trained to facilitate and support these opportunities.

Planning must be based on the individual camper. It's not OK to send a child out of a sensory challenging event and put them in their cabin with a resentful staff member who would rather be at the event. 1. Good intake would uncover this issue and the camp would be able to meet the child's needs in a number of ways rather than expelling him/her. 2. Appropriate staff training on sensory behaviors and management should be provided. 3. Staff that want to work with kids with disabilities should be assigned for this kind of coverage rather than someone who would rather be with his other campers (as was the case I'm referring to.) 4. Considerations of a child's feelings of shame and embarrassment should be a priority and addressed.

To always respect our children. To expect more from them. To keep in mind independence is the greater goal.

Access to typical camping activities should not be limited for all campers because some are not able to access the activities. Either way, someone is limited, but is it better to preclude all from participation if one or two can't or to find a way for the one or two to support/participate in a different way so that the others can? Inclusion is not inclusion if it is significantly limited in what is eligible. That's simply self-contained. There is a wide range of functioning within the special needs community, and all kids should be able to participate to their ability.

Awesome staff who understand kids with disabilities is paramount.

Cost of camp is a barrier for middle class families who do not qualify for scholarships. There are no Jewish day camps in our area, NY metro area, which could serve as feeders camps to the Jewish overnight camps.

Staff training and support is crucial. Sharing of successful practices between staff of different camps. Connections between camp staff could enhance knowledge and help support staff members.

Developing skills/awareness in campers who may eventually make good special needs counselors would be a good investment, nurture the next generation of staff.

Year round Jewish activities are lacking. Only Yachad is doing this, and they are very orthodox. Jewish social programming for modern orthodox, conservative and reform Jews is lacking.

If our children are in special ed programs at school we want them to have full inclusion in the summer with typical kids. The typical kids need to know how to deal with the disabled kid's issues.

Thank you for trying to include all children.

There are a range of disabilities and abilities; our kids shouldn't be pitied by typical kids but appreciated for who they are

**TRAIN** your staff!! So many camp counselors are just teenagers!! I struggle letting a teenager even **KNOW** about my special needs child because most of them do not have the life experience to help them even begin to understand a special needs child! It is also a confidentiality issue where I don't want other people in my home congregation knowing that much information about my child, and sharing this information with a teen who may be a member of my congregation is not something I want to do! As much as the camp might insist on confidentiality, I doubt there are many teens who understand the importance of this issue. My child has a Pervasive Developmental Delay which is not easily recognized by others.

Children with disabilities are more than the label or diagnosis they have. They are singers, dancers, artists, affectionate, athletic, etc. and we need to celebrate what they can do and encourage the community to do the same.

There is a large population of kids and families who cannot access a camp experience. While every camp may not be appropriate for every camper, this is an area that camps must develop programs and facilities to serve.

Inclusion - when done right - with correct supports and training of staff and volunteers - does not take away from typically developing campers. It can enhance their experience to develop compassion, understanding, and awareness.

There should be a significant peer group of people with disabilities so they can make friends. Also, there should be thought about what happens as the age and can they be employed or otherwise function in a useful capacity.

Educate ALL staff on how to do inclusion. Do not focus solely on counselors of the children with disabilities. Educate all the staff so everyone understands what inclusion is and how the camp wants to be inclusive.

That each child is an individual and what one can do another might not be able to do it.

Special needs children enrich the lives of others; they are not a deterrent or a negative. Some of the kids need a little more supervision...but most are eager to participate in all the events and have a great attitude and willingness to participate.

The needs change as the camper ages - so the models and options need to evolve. Also, opportunities for young adults at Jewish camps are crucial. It's a great environment for learning work skills and social skills if the camps can facilitate and make such opportunities possible.

Provide experiences for young adults post high school.

Provide leadership opportunities for campers with disabilities.

To partner with families; communication is essential, as is having someone with knowledge who truly cares for children on site.

Providing enough activities that the special needs child is able to do and then encouraging the child to do these activities. Helping the child transition from one activity to another, and supervision in the bunk regarding taking care of daily needs. Be reasonable. Some camps are just not a good candidate for accommodating kids with more severe disabilities and trying to do so would be disruptive to the personality and success of the camp.

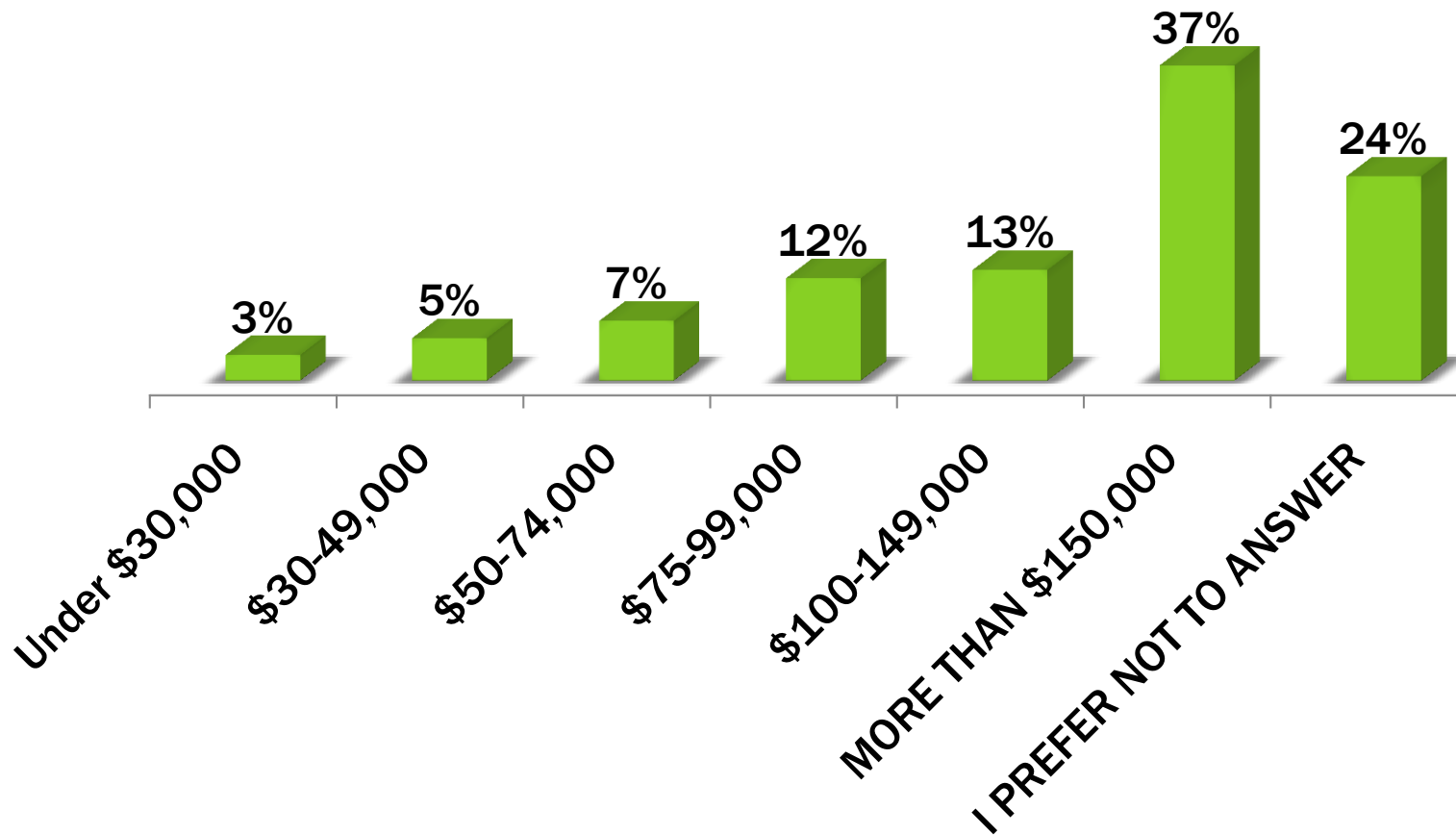
Camp staff could definitely use some education on kids with physical disabilities so to better understand how and when it is appropriate to push a child to participate - our daughter has Cerebral Palsy that effects predominantly her legs and ability to walk and balance ...she will sometimes opt to sit out an activity when she is actually perfectly capable to participate with some modification or assistance. Counselors often will let this go, allowing the child to sit-out when they should be active. Training counselors to have knowledge that encouraging and pushing a child to engage and be active is OK in many situations, but training to understand limits and what to look for would be a tremendous plus.

But PLEASE do not try and accommodate all disabilities at every camp - it is just not practical and will not best suit all childrens' and camps' needs. Provide some more training at all camps, a few camps can accommodate higher need children, all camps can make reasonable facilities and staff modifications for those with lesser disabilities where appropriate.

# WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES BEST DESCRIBES THE HOUSEHOLD IN WHICH YOUR CHILD IS GROWING UP? (PW/DIS)

<b>2 PARENT HOUSEHOLD</b>	<b>91%</b>
<b>1 PARENT HOUSEHOLD</b>	<b>9%</b>
<b>GRANDPARENTS</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>OTHER</b>	<b>1%</b>

# WHICH CATEGORY BELOW BEST DESCRIBES YOUR HOUSEHOLD INCOME? (PW/DIS)





# FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CAMP

[www.jewishcamp.org](http://www.jewishcamp.org)  
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(646) 278-4517