



Easy Read Edition

Institutions: **The Old, The New, and What** **We Should Do**

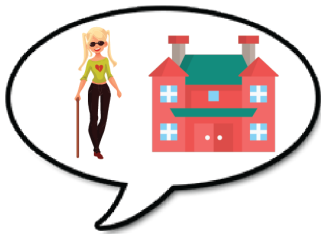
Part 6: Questions about **Institutions**

Questions about Institutions

Is Community Living Better for Everyone?



Some people say that certain people with disabilities can't live in the community.



They say that some people with disabilities have to live in institutions.



They think some people can only get the help they need in an institution.



Some people with disabilities need a lot of help to live in the community.



People with intellectual disabilities might need a lot of help.



Non-speaking people might have a hard time showing others what they need.



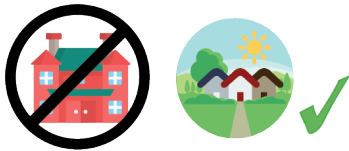
But that doesn't mean people with these disabilities need to live in institutions.



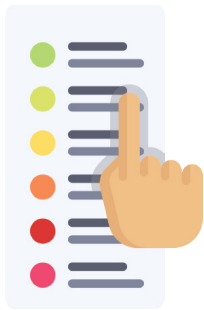
Everyone should get to live in the community.



The studies say that everyone should live in the community, too.



The studies found out that living in the community is better for everyone.



It helps everyone make more choices and learn new things.



It helps everyone be more safe.



It doesn't matter what kind of disability someone has.



People with intellectual disabilities do better in the community.



Non-speaking people do better in the community.



People who need a lot of help do better in the community.

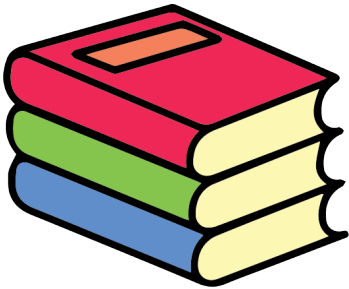


Nobody needs to be in an institution.

Does the community have no problems at all?



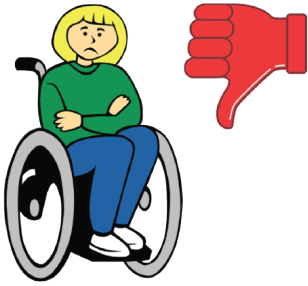
The studies found that the community is better than institutions.



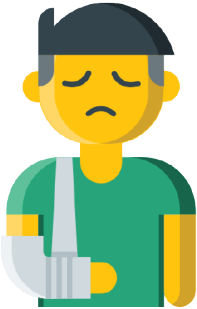
But we are still learning how to help people live in the community.



There are still things that can be better.



Problems can still happen in the community.



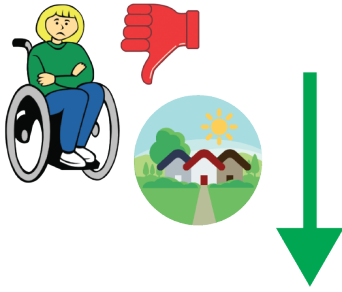
People can still get hurt in the community.



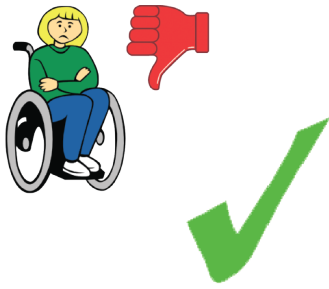
We don't always have enough choices.



Sometimes, we get treated unfairly.



The studies show that these problems happen less in the community.



But they do still happen.

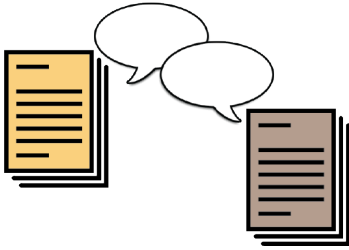


We need to work hard to help fix these problems.

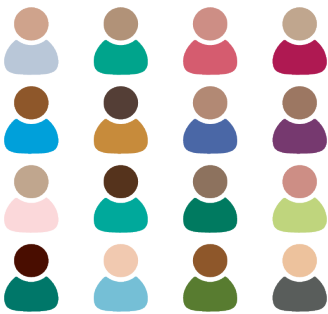


Everyone deserves a good life in the community.

What Counts as an Institution?



Studies have different ideas about what counts as an institution.



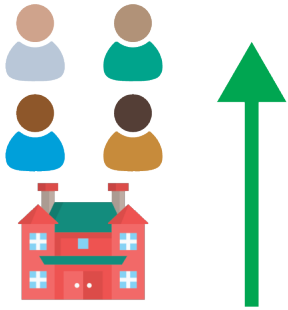
Some studies say an institution has to have more than 16 people.



Others say an institution has to have more than 4 people.

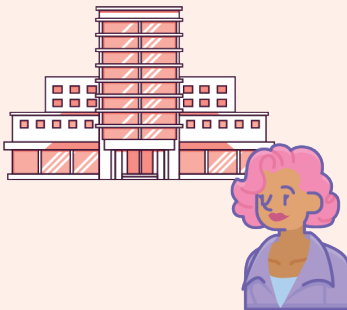


The studies also found out that some institutions are less bad than others.



The ones with less people are usually less bad.

For example:



Richelle lives in an ICF. 30 people with disabilities live there.



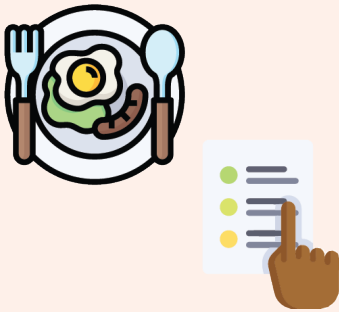
She doesn't get to choose what she eats.



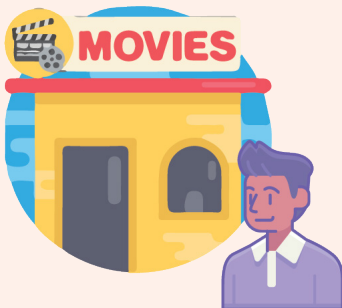
She never gets to leave the institution.



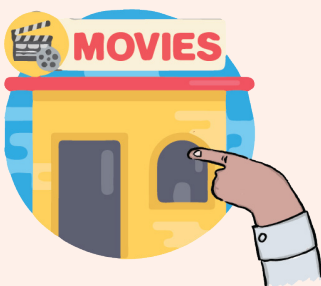
Maya lives in a group home. 5 people with disabilities live there.



Maya gets to choose what they eat for breakfast.



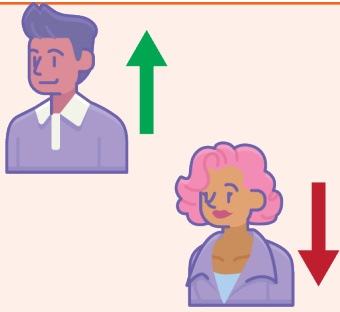
They take a field trip to the movies once a week.



But Maya can only go to the movies.



They can't go anywhere else.



Maya gets to make more choices than Richelle.



Maya gets to go out more than Richelle.



But they still both live in institutions.



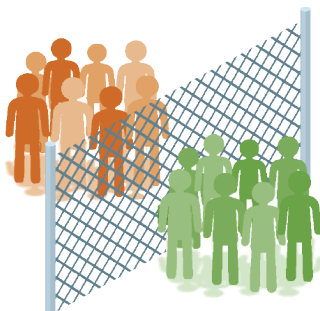
Smaller institutions might be less bad than bigger institutions.



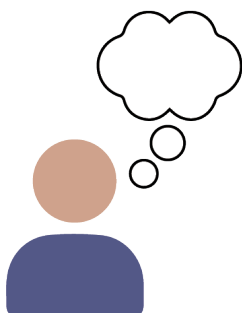
But they all take away the rights of people with disabilities.



They don't let us make all the choices about our lives.



They keep us separate from other people.



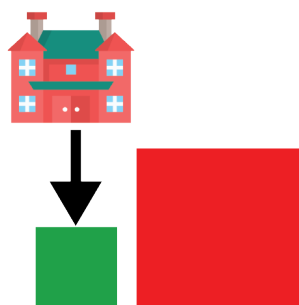
ASAN thinks about institutions in a different way.



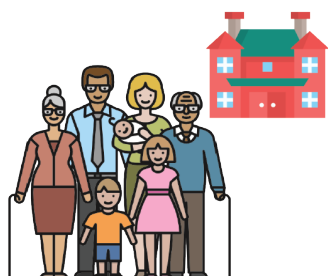
We think big buildings and group homes are institutions.



But the most important thing is how people get treated.



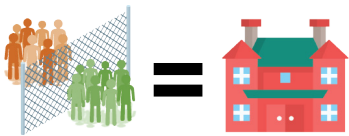
Smaller places can still be institutions.



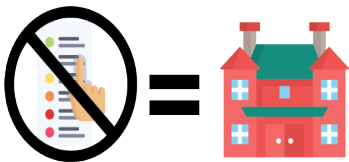
Someone who lives with their family can be in an institution.



Even someone who lives in their own apartment can be in an institution.



If they get kept separate from other people, then they are in an institution.



If they don't get to make choices, then they are in an institution.

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