

Enhancing International Students' Experiences with Community Engagement

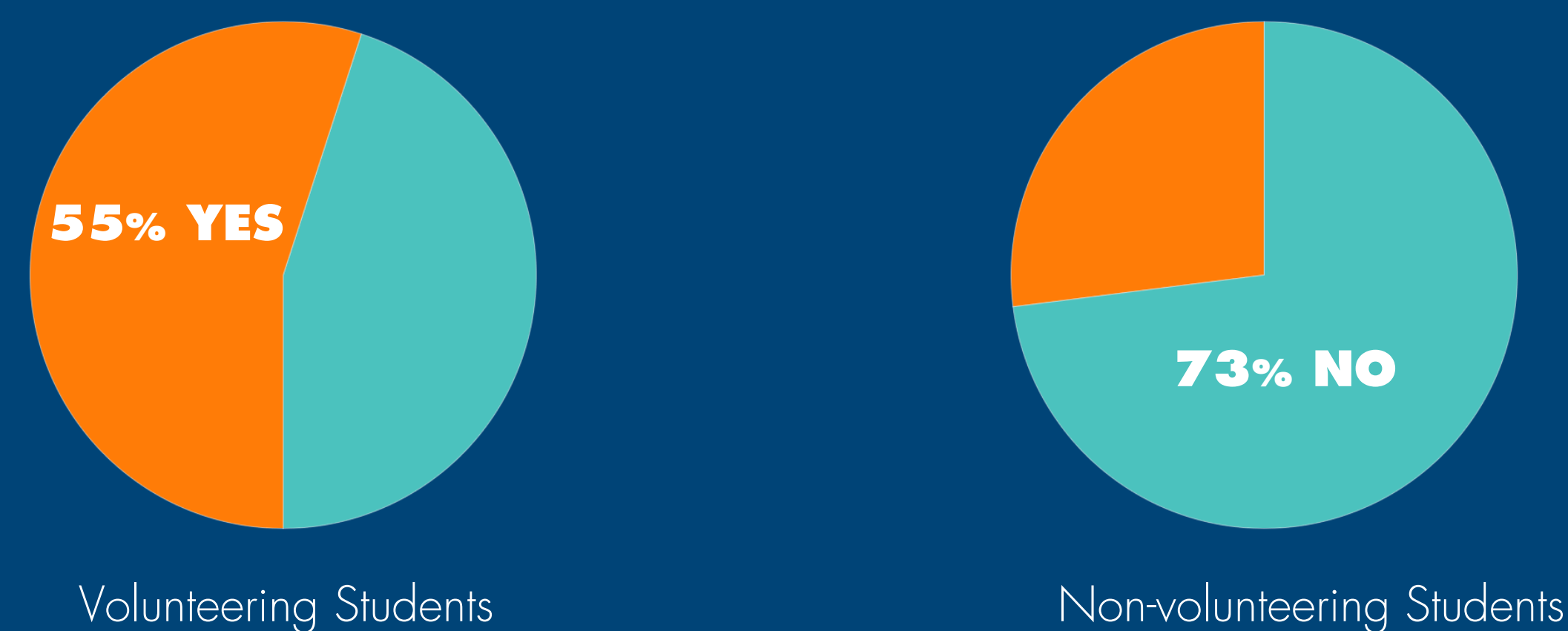
Does volunteering in International Students necessarily produce positive academic and social outcomes? Are Psychological Sense of Community markers (such as affiliation or influence) higher in volunteering students?

Objectives

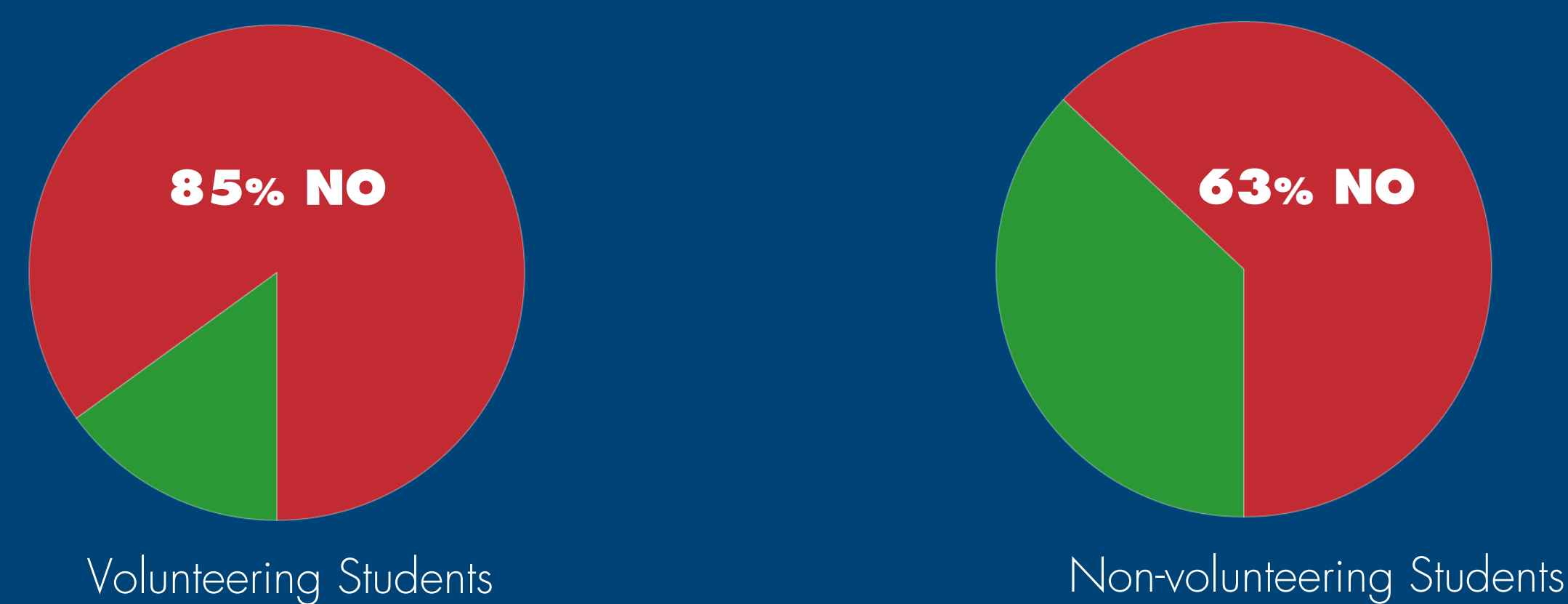
- ▶ Assess if impact that engagement has on **Psychological Sense of Community** (PSOC) indicators in International Students is positive.

Fast Facts

Perception of Belonging in Canada

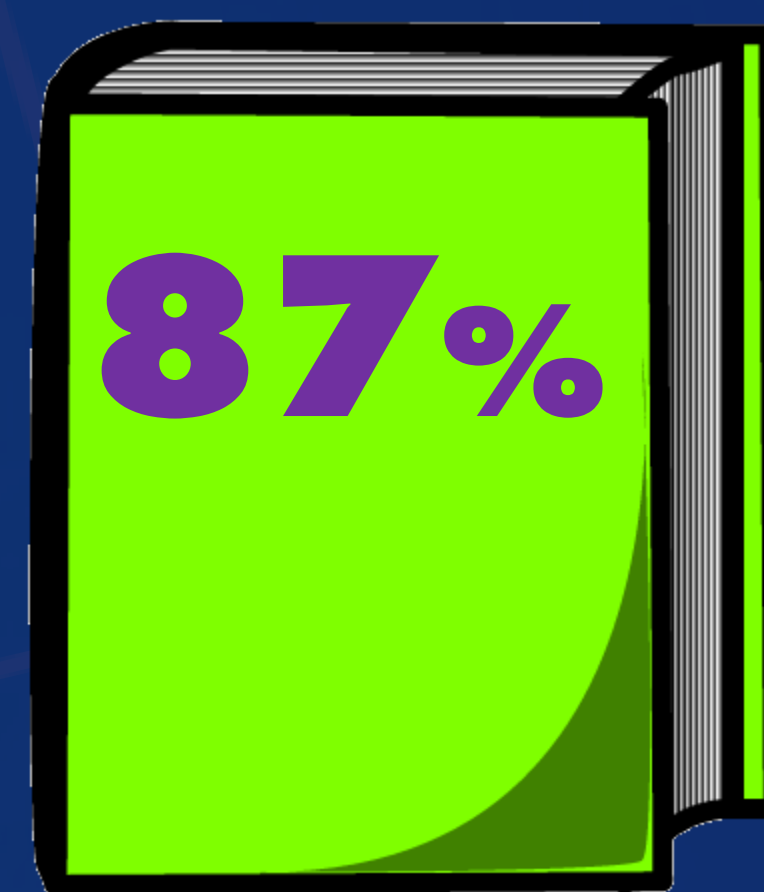


Difficulty Finding Activities



89% of Volunteers said they actively wanted to immigrate, only 42% of non-volunteers responded similarly.

Academic Success



Volunteering Students



Non-volunteering Students

A much larger portion of volunteering students identify as academically successful compared to their counterparts.

Effects of Engagement

- ▶ A **strong correlation** with perceptions of academic success, and volunteering having an impact on the respondent's academic performance.
- ▶ **51%** of volunteers believed they had agency in affecting social change in Canada.
- ▶ A **weak, positive correlation** between time spent volunteering and sense of belonging (but, a **weak, negative** one between time in Canada and sense of belonging!)
- ▶ **81%** of volunteers reported having a multicultural social circle (compared to 67% of non-volunteers).

Psychological Sense of Community

A **Psychological Sense of Community** (PSOC) is measured via four dimensions:

- ▶ **Membership:** feeling belonging or relatedness (e.g., "I feel like I belong in Canada").
- ▶ **Influence:** making a difference, mattering (e.g., "I feel like I can change what happens in my community").
- ▶ **Fulfillment of Needs:** that needs will be met via membership or affiliation with community (e.g., "My community helps meet my needs," "I have no trouble finding things to do").
- ▶ **Shared connection:** belief of a shared emotional and historical connection (e.g., "I have good relationships with people in my community").
- ▶ **Additional factors measured:** mental health, desire to immigrate, sociability, and perception of academic success.

Next Steps

- ▶ **Obtain a representative sample:** the survey period is not done.
- ▶ **Investigate impact of time** in Canada vs. time spent volunteering on PSOC.