

PRIVACY IN INSTITUTIONAL LIVING: STUDENT DORMS AND ASSISTED LIVING FACILITIES

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Institutional living can make privacy and security challenging for people (French, 2000). This study was designed to compare and contrast the quality of living environments in public student housing and assistant living facilities in a midsize city in the southeast. Out of 20 participants, half were freshmen dormitory students and half were residents from an assisted living facility. While interviewing residents, they completed a questionnaire that assessed their impressions of the facility and its staff. Findings suggest that students feel they do not get enough privacy, and feel disorganized in their current dwelling, and assisted living residents feel they have sufficient privacy but also feel disorganized in their current dwelling. In conclusion, the students and residents that helped with this study had fewer negative statements about their current living environment. These findings could help institutional managers, interior Designers, and individuals considering moving into an institutional setting.