OVERVIEW
This study investigated how the roommate assignment process influences interactional diversity and perceptions of the campus environment for first-year students living on campus, and if these relationships differ by race/ethnicity and national origin. On average, students whose roommates were assigned by the institution (as opposed to choosing their own roommates) did not interact with diverse others more often.
**ROOMMATE-MATCHING POLICIES: FINDINGS**

On average, students whose roommates were assigned by the institution (as opposed to choosing their own roommates) did not interact with diverse others more often. Asian, Black, and Multiracial students who were assigned roommates by the institution perceived a substantially less supportive campus environment than their same-race peers who chose their roommates. This difference was not observed for White or Latinx students.

**IMPLICATIONS FOR PRACTITIONERS**

- Institutions are encouraged to allow students to choose their own roommates.
- Programs should be developed for students of color to make social connections with peers early in their college experience (pre-enrollment, preferably).
- When considering policy changes, be aware of possible adverse effects on historically marginalized groups.

How might changes to your roommate-matching policy affect marginalized students?


For questions contact NSSE@indiana.edu