

# Housing insecurity & homelessness among UCLA Students: Findings from the UCLA-CSUF Study

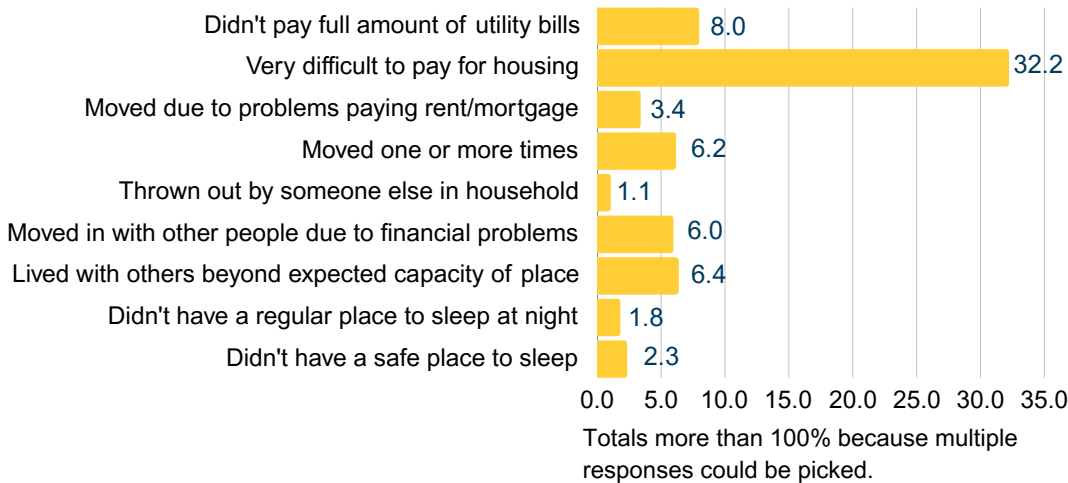
The housing crisis in America is affecting college students who have to contend with tuition and insufficient affordable housing. During Spring 2024, we surveyed a stratified random sample of 10,000 students representative of the UCLA student body to understand the extent of housing insecurity and homelessness among UCLA students. 940 students completed the online survey. We provide the rates for groups of students with at least 10 respondents. Housing insecurity encompasses many forms including trouble paying rent, overcrowding, moving frequently and being unhoused. We considered students to be unhoused if they reported, for at least one night, being homeless or living in a shelter, RV, trailer, couch-surfed until finding other housing, temporarily stayed at a hotel/motel without a permanent home to return to, or lived in a treatment center, transitional housing (including group home or independent living program), outdoor location, or area not meant for human habitation (abandoned building, car, truck, van, tent, or unconverted garage or basement).

## Housing Insecurity



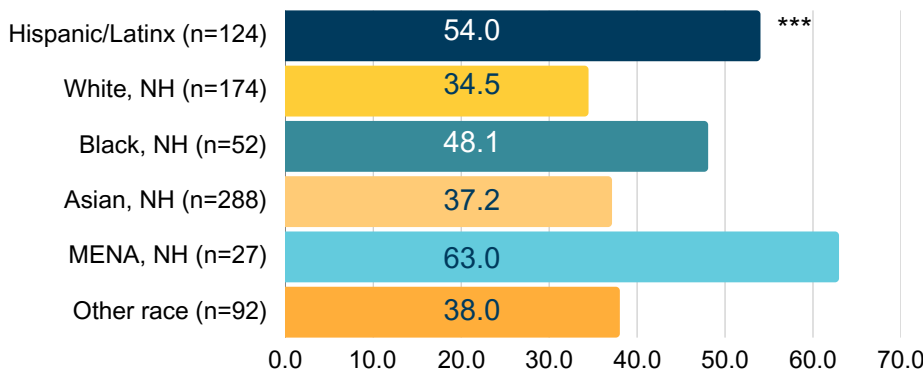
**38%** housing insecure  
**4%** unhoused

Figure 1. Types of housing insecurity reported by UCLA students (n=940)



More than half of students experienced at least one form of housing insecurity during the Spring 2024 quarter. Figure 1 reveals the housing challenges that students experienced with nearly a third having a very difficult time to pay for housing.

Figure 2. Percentage of housing insecure students by race/ethnicity



While high rates of housing insecurity affected all groups on campus, differences existed by race and ethnicity. Figure 2 shows that Middle Eastern and North African students had the highest rates, followed by Hispanic/Latinx students and Black students.

*We thank ECMC Foundation for their support of this research.*

*Suggested Citation: Nobari TZ, Babey S, Espericueta V, Wolstein J, Scheitler, AJ. Housing insecurity and homelessness among CSUF students: Findings from the UCLA CSUF study. UCLA Center for Health Policy Research 2024*

p-value \*<0.05; \*\*<0.01; \*\*\*<0.001

Other race includes American Indian, Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, and multiple race.

NH= Non-Hispanic; MENA= Middle Eastern and North African

Figure 3. Percentage of housing insecure students by sociodemographic characteristic

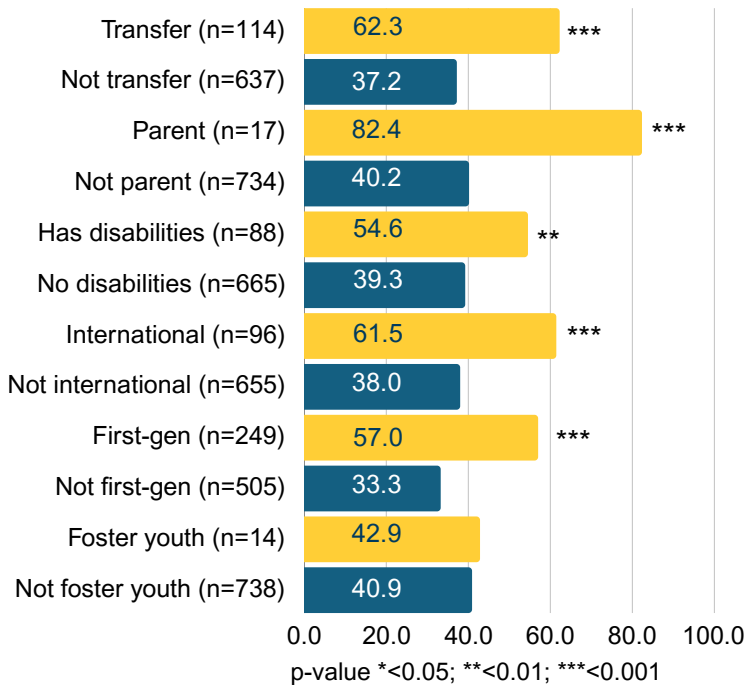


Figure 3 shows significantly higher rates of housing insecurity among students who were transfer students, parents, students with disabilities, international students and first-generation college students compared to their counterparts.

Figure 5. Percentage of unhoused students by student sociodemographic characteristic

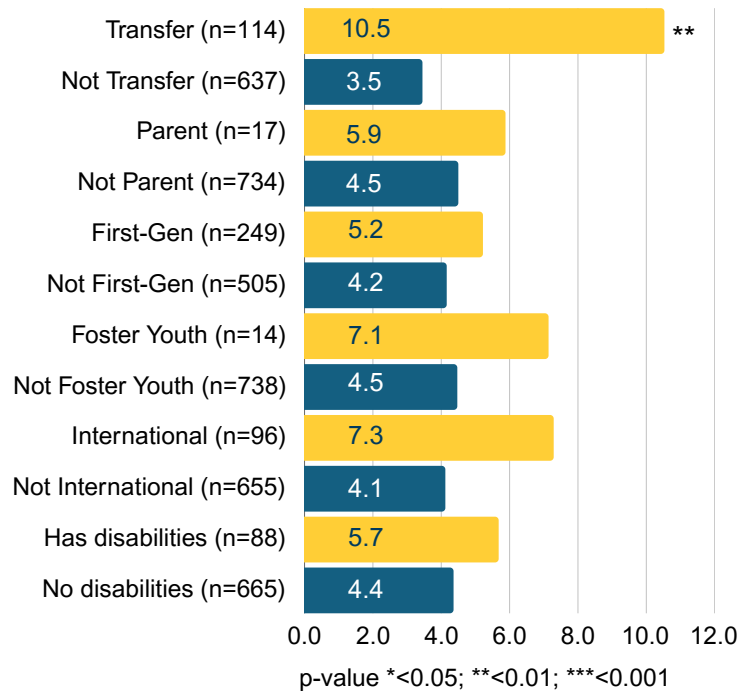
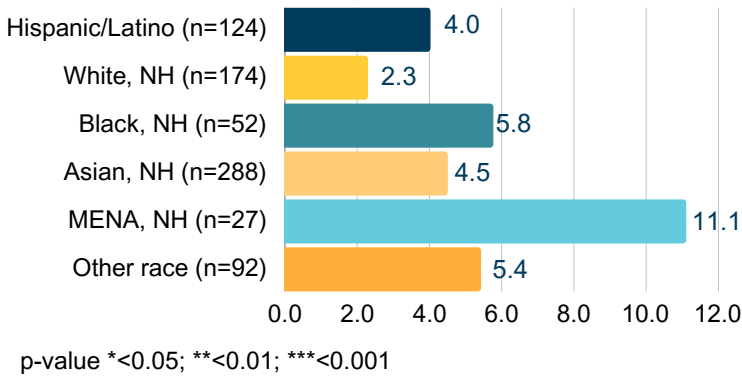


Figure 5 shows the rates of homelessness by various student demographic characteristics. Students who were transfer students, foster youth or international students experienced the highest rates of homelessness. Transfer students had rates of homelessness that were three times higher than non-transfer students.

## Homelessness

Figure 4. Percentage of unhoused students by race/ethnicity



Other race includes American Indian, Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, and multiple race.

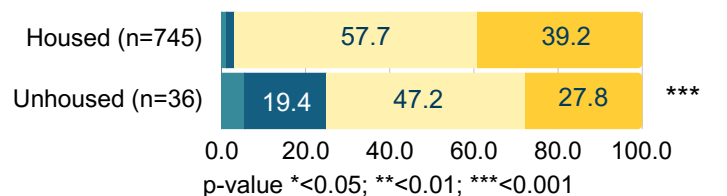
NH= Non-Hispanic; MENA= Middle Eastern and North African

Differences in homelessness existed by race and ethnicity. Figure 4 shows that 11% of Middle Eastern and North African students and nearly 6% of Black students reported being unhoused. However, the differences by race and ethnicity were not statistically significant.

## Housing Resources at CSUF

UCLA Basic Needs Services offers resources for students who need immediate emergency housing. Up to 14 days of housing in the UCLA residence halls and emergency meal plans are provided. Figure 6 shows the use and awareness of this resource. Less than 6% of unhoused students reported using it during the Spring 2024 quarter and 28% of unhoused students had never heard of it.

Figure 6. Percentage of students who use emergency housing services by homelessness



Legend:  
■ Currently use it  
■ Used it  
■ Heard of it but never used it  
■ Never heard of it