

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

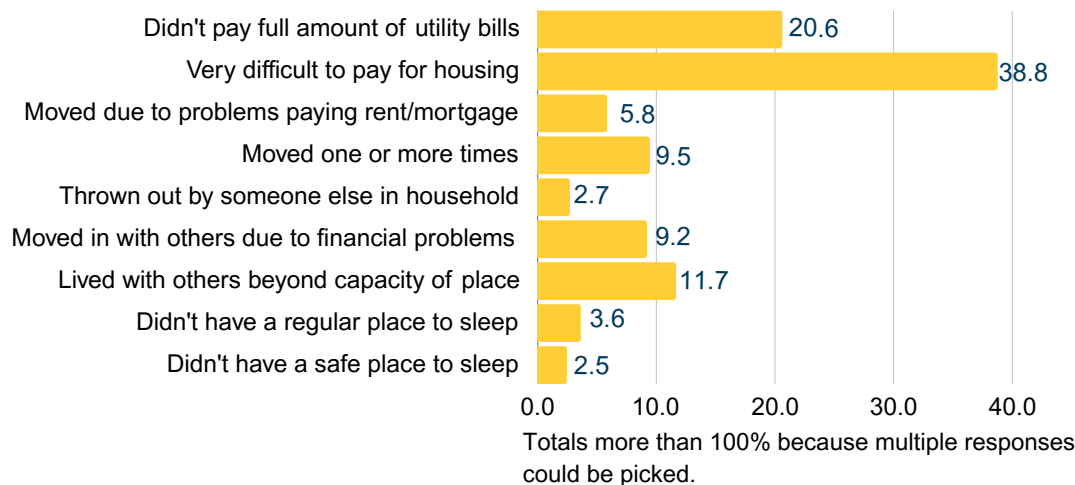
The housing crisis in America is affecting college students who have to contend with tuition and insufficient affordable housing. During Spring 2024, we surveyed a 25% stratified random sample representative of the CSUF student body to understand the extent of housing insecurity and homelessness among CSUF students. The sample also included an oversample of Black students to better capture racial/ethnic differences. 771 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



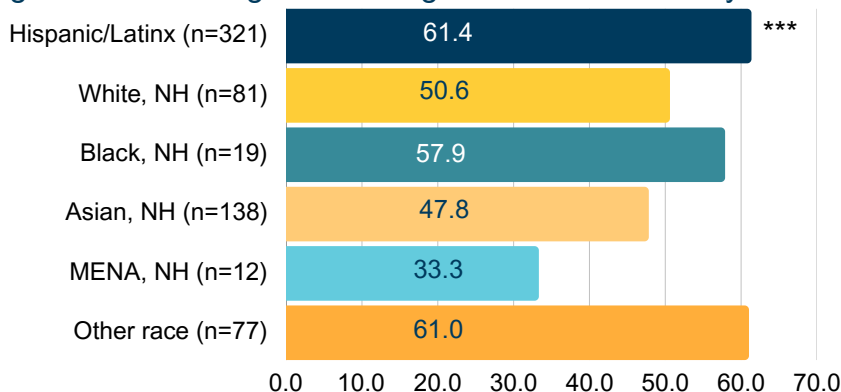
**52%** housing insecure  
**6%** unhoused

Figure 1. Types of housing insecurity reported by CSUF students (n=771)



More than half of students experienced at least one form of housing insecurity during the Spring 2024 semester. Figure 1 reveals the housing challenges that students experienced with nearly 40% of them reporting 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 Hispanic/Latinx students had the highest rates, followed closely by students of Other race and Black students.

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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

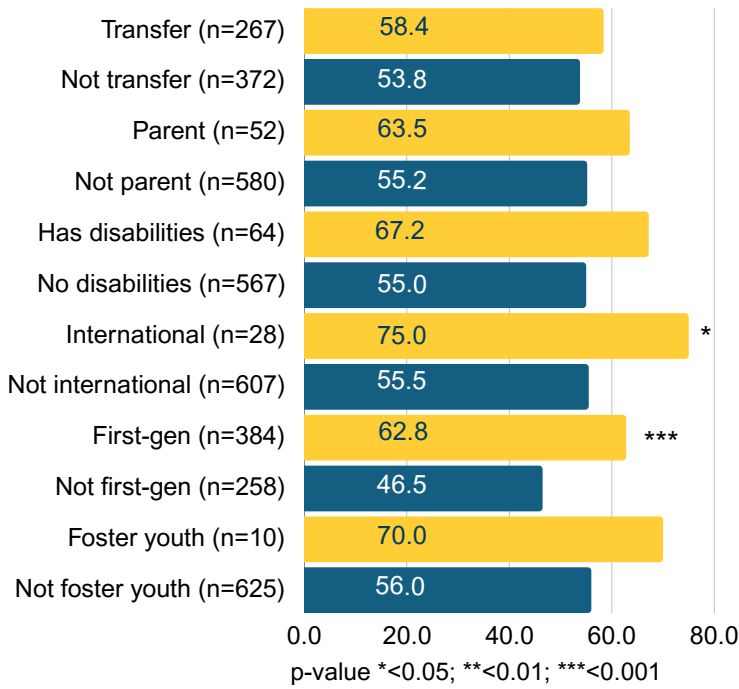


Figure 3 shows significantly higher rates of housing insecurity among students who were international students and first-generation college students compared to their counterparts.

Figure 5. Percentage of unhoused students by student sociodemographic characteristic

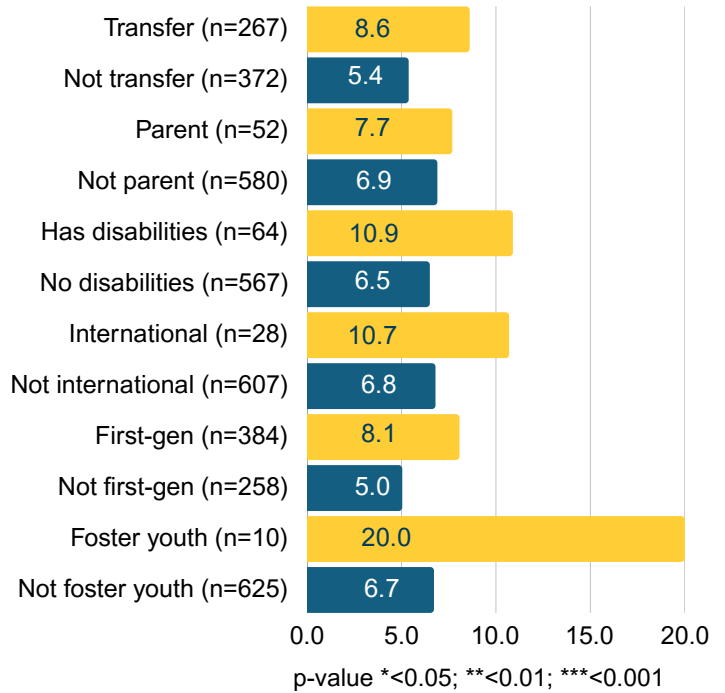
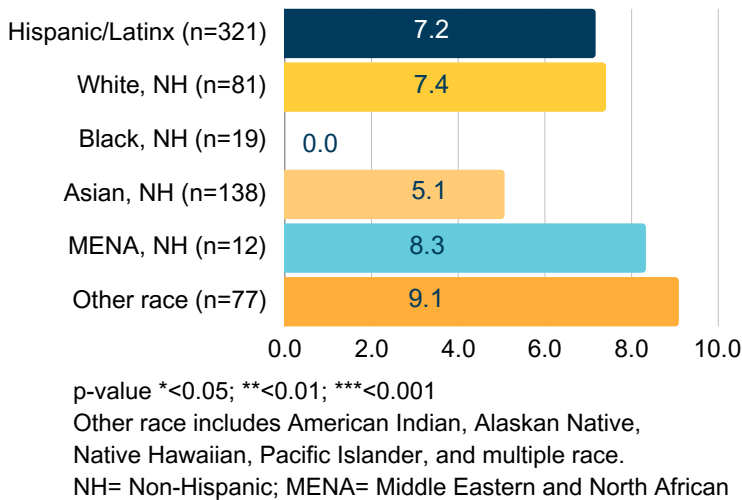


Figure 5 shows the rates of homelessness by various student demographic characteristics. Students who were foster youth, had disabilities or were international students experienced the highest rates of homelessness. However, these differences were not statistically significant which could be due to the small sample size.

## Homelessness

Figure 4. Percentage of unhoused students by race/ethnicity



Differences in homelessness exist by race and ethnicity. Figure 4 shows that students of Other race and Middle Eastern and North African race had the highest rates during Spring 2024. However, these differences were not statistically significant.

## Housing Resources at CSUF

CSUF Basic Needs Services offers resources for students facing housing challenges such as displacement, living in a car and couch surfing. Up to 3 weeks of housing in the CSUF residence halls and meals are provided. Figure 6 shows the use and awareness of this resource. Less than 0.5% of unhoused students reported using it, nearly 7% of unhoused students had used it and 61% had never heard of it.

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

