

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

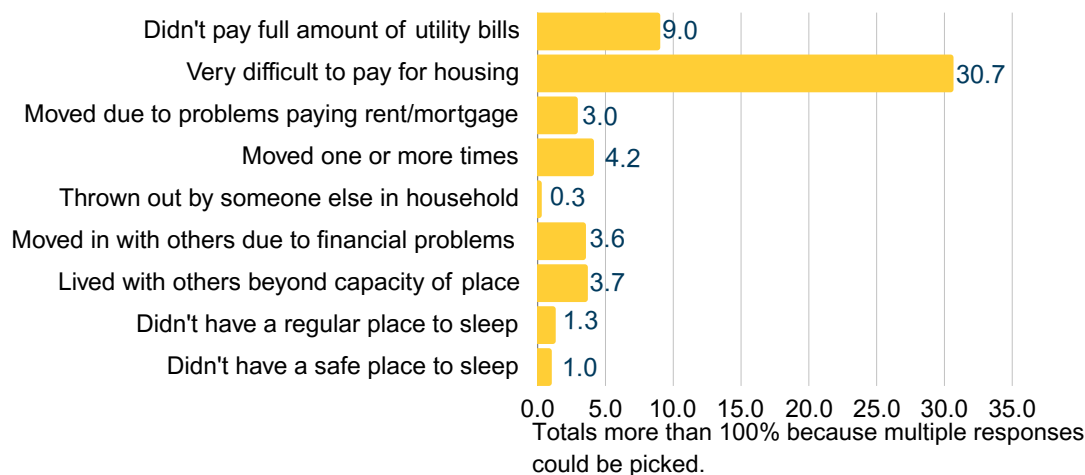
The housing crisis in America is affecting college students who have to contend with tuition and insufficient affordable housing. During Spring 2024, we surveyed a 20% random sample (8,000 students) representative of the UC Davis student body to understand the extent of housing insecurity and homelessness among UC Davis students. 675 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



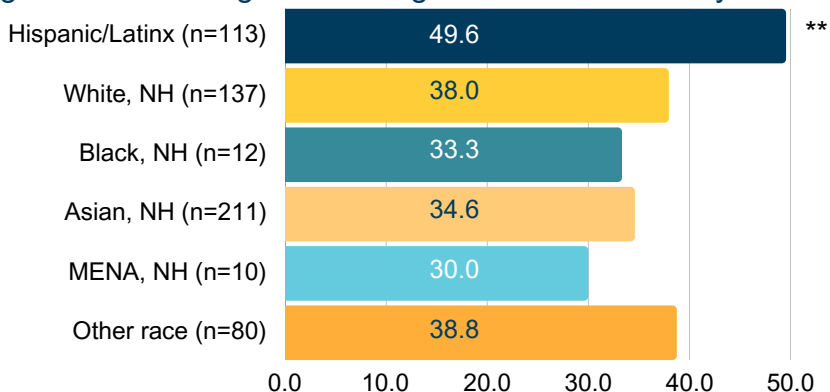
36% housing insecure
2% unhoused

Figure 1. Types of housing insecurity reported by UC Davis students (n=675)



More than a third of students experienced at least one form of housing insecurity. Figure 1 reveals the housing challenges that students experienced during the Spring 2024 quarter with nearly 31% of them experiencing a very difficult time paying 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 about half of Hispanic/Latinx students reported being housing insecure, followed by White and Other race students (38% and 39%, respectively).

We thank ECMC Foundation for their support of this research.

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

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Figure 3. Percentage of housing insecure students by sociodemographic characteristic

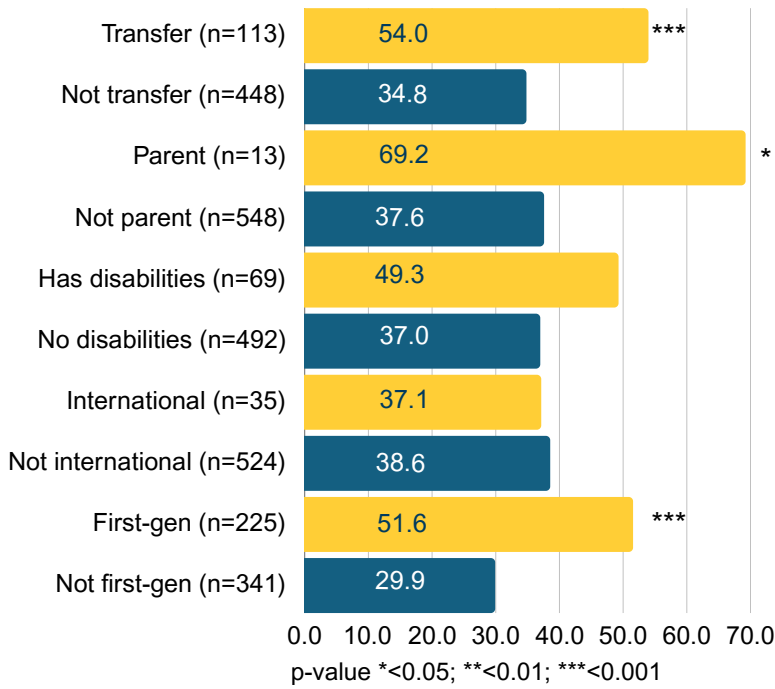


Figure 3 shows significantly higher rates of housing insecurity among students who were transfer students, parenting students, and first-generation college students compared to their counterparts.

Figure 5. Percentage of unhoused students by student sociodemographic characteristic

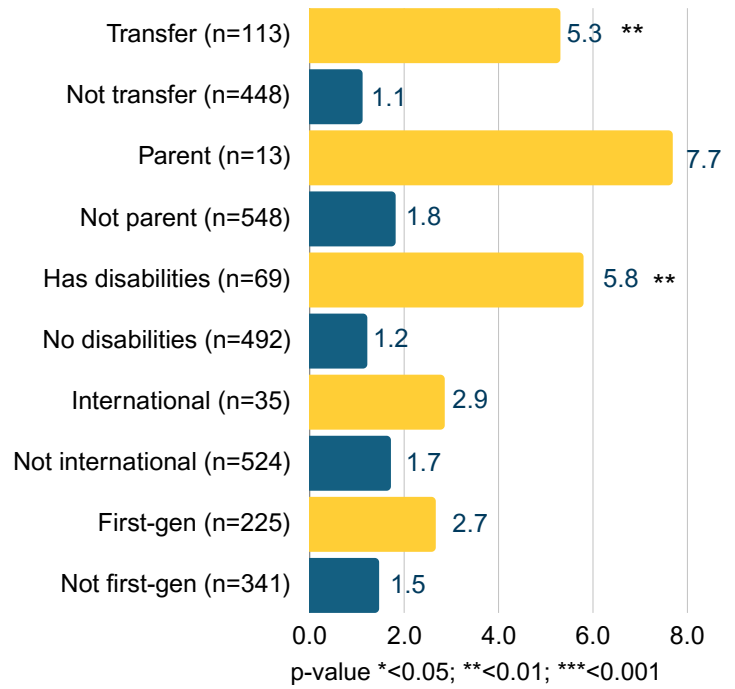
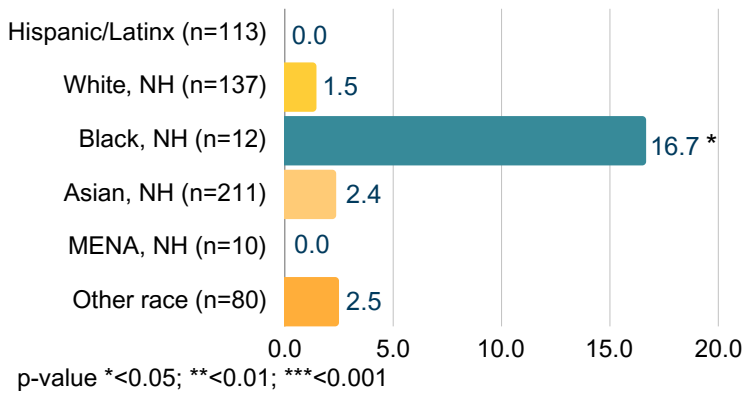


Figure 5 shows the rates of homelessness by various student demographic characteristics. Students who were transfer students or had a disability were about five times more likely to report being unhoused during the Spring 2024 quarter compared to their counterparts.

Homelessness

Figure 4. Percentage of unhoused students by race/ethnicity



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

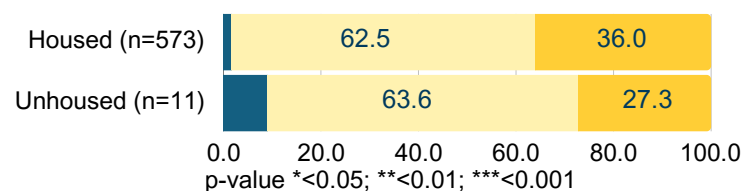
NH= Non-Hispanic; MENA= Middle Eastern and North African

Statistically significant differences in homelessness existed by race and ethnicity. Figure 4 shows that nearly 17% of Black students reported being unhoused during Spring 2024 compared to about 2% of non-Hispanic White, Asian and Other race students.

Housing Resources at UC Davis

The Aggie Compass Basic Needs Center offers resources for students facing housing challenges or are facing imminent danger of becoming unhoused. Up to 90 days of housing, meals, clothing, and transportation are provided. Figure 6 shows the use and awareness of this resource. Less than 0.5% of unhoused students reported using it during Spring 2024, 9% of unhoused students had used it previously and 27% 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