

Housing insecurity & homelessness among Fresno State: Findings from the UCLA-CSUF Study

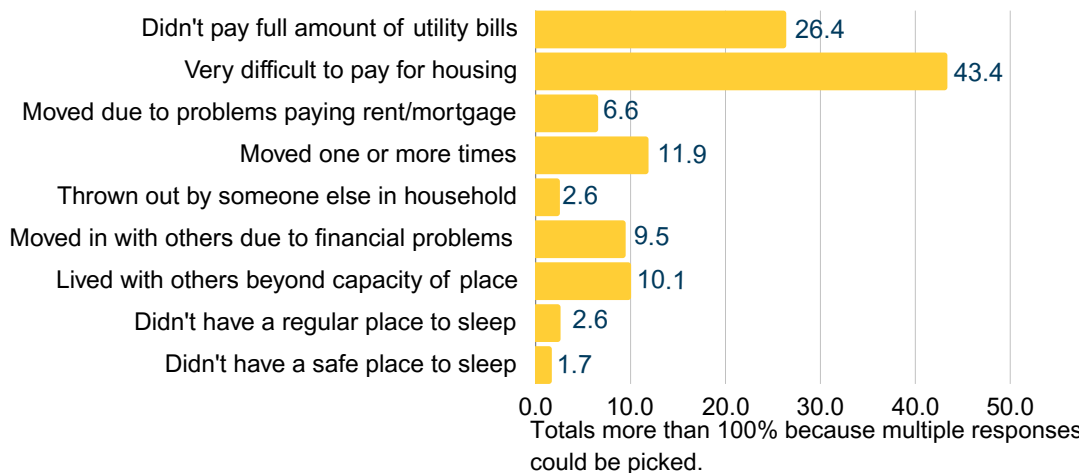
The housing crisis in America is affecting college students who have to contend with tuition and insufficient affordable housing. During Spring 2024, we invited all students of the Fresno State student body to participate in a survey to understand the extent of housing insecurity and homelessness among Fresno State students. 1,413 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



56% housing insecure
7% unhoused

Figure 1. Types of housing insecurity reported by Fresno State students (n=1,413)



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 43% of them 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 affect all groups on campus, differences exist by race and ethnicity. Figure 2 shows that Black students had the highest rates, followed closely by students of Other race and Hispanic/Latinx 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

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

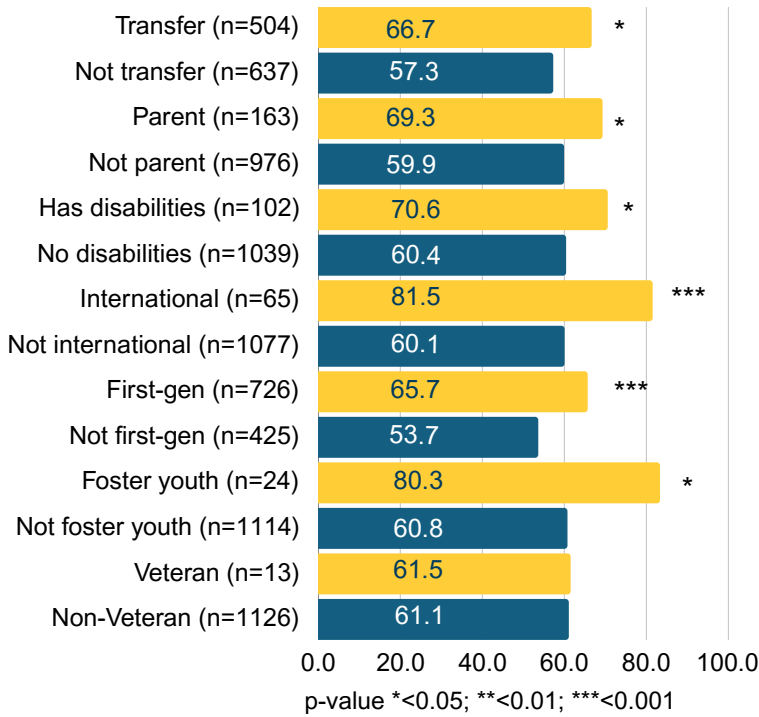


Figure 3 shows significantly higher rates of housing insecurity among transfer students, parenting students, students who have a disability, international students, first-generation college students, and foster youth compared to their counterparts.

Figure 5. Percentage of unhoused students by student sociodemographic characteristic

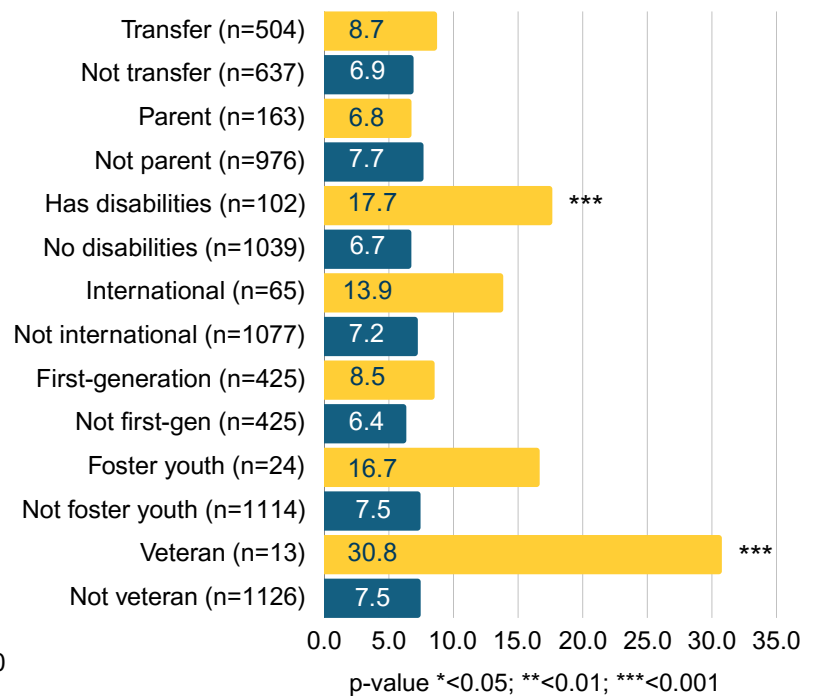
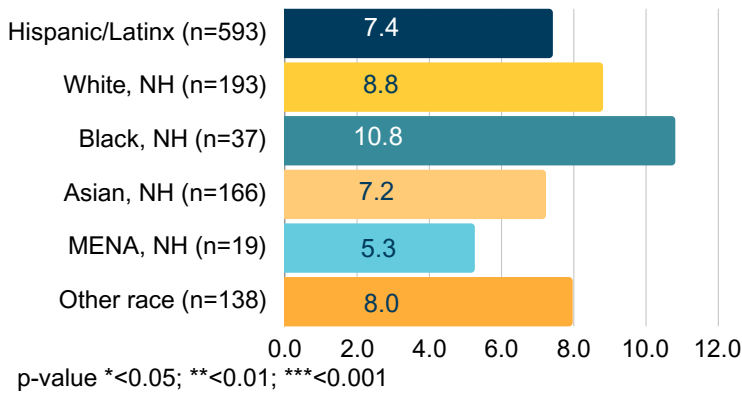


Figure 5 shows the rates of homelessness by various student demographic characteristics. Students who were veterans were over 4 times as likely to report being unhoused compared to students who were not veterans. Students with a disability were over 2.5 times as likely to report being unhoused compared to students who did not have a disability.

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 Black students and White students had the highest rates. However, these differences were not statistically significant.

Housing Resources at CSU Fresno

The Fresno State Emergency Housing Program offers resources for students facing housing displacement or homelessness. Up to 12 months of housing and meal vouchers are provided. Figure 6 shows the use and awareness of this resource. About 4% of unhoused students reported using it in Spring 2024 while 52% had never heard of the resource.

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

