

Housing insecurity & homelessness among Los Angeles Mission College students: Findings from the UCLA-CSUF Study

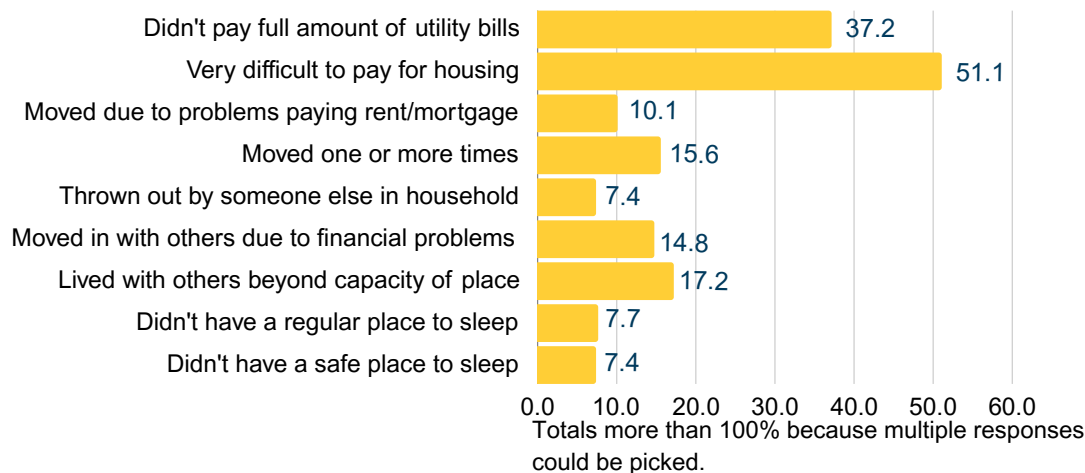
The housing crisis in America is affecting college students who have to contend with tuition and insufficient affordable housing. During Spring 2024, we invited all students of the Los Angeles Mission College (LAMC) student body to participate in a survey to understand the extent of housing insecurity and homelessness among LAMC students. 366 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



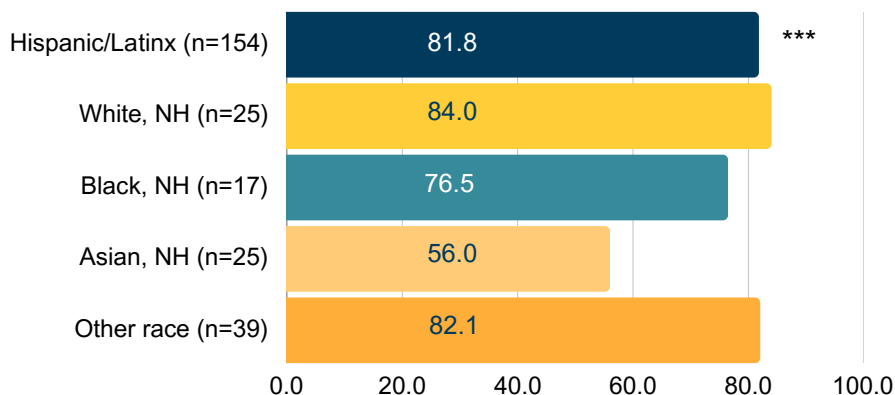
63% housing insecure
16% unhoused

Figure 1. Types of housing insecurity reported by LAMC students (n=366)



Nearly two-thirds of students experienced at least one form of housing insecurity. Figure 1 reveals the housing challenges that students experienced during the Spring 2024 semester with over half 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 affected all groups on campus, statistically significant differences existed by race and ethnicity. Figure 2 shows that 84% of non-Hispanic White students reported being housing insecure, followed closely by Hispanic/Latinx and Other race 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

Figure 3. Percentage of housing insecure students by sociodemographic characteristic

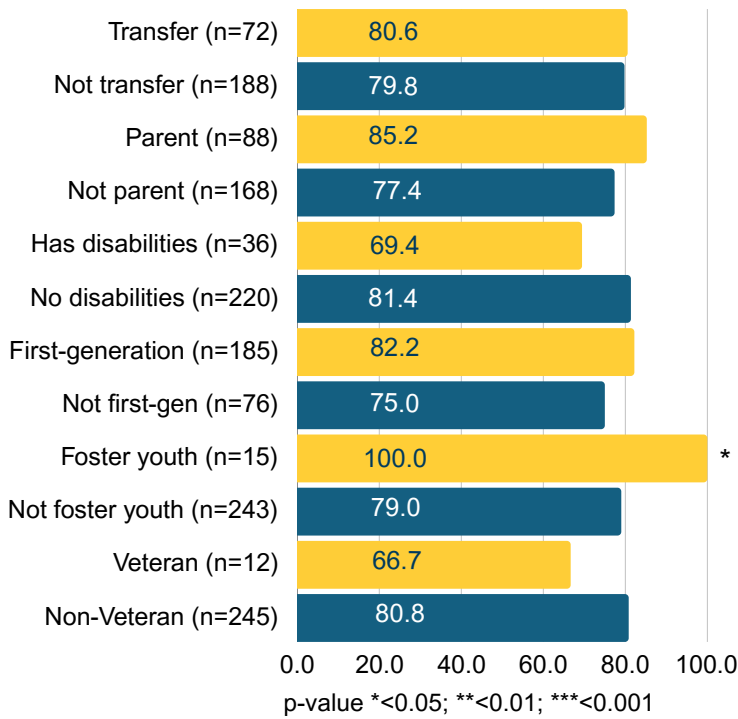


Figure 3 shows high levels of housing insecurity among all groups of students. Foster youth reported statistically significantly higher rates of housing insecurity compared to non-foster youth.

Figure 5. Percentage of unhoused students by student sociodemographic characteristic

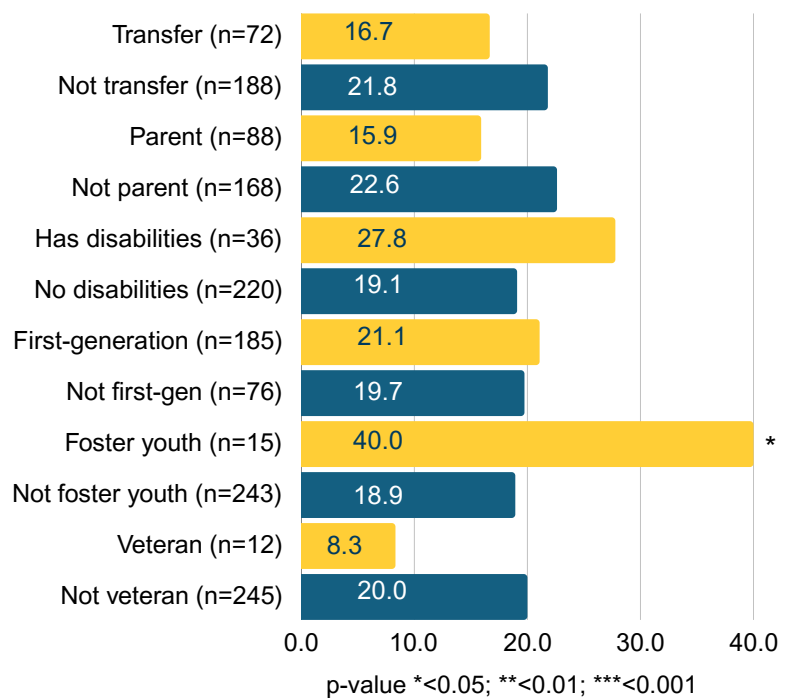
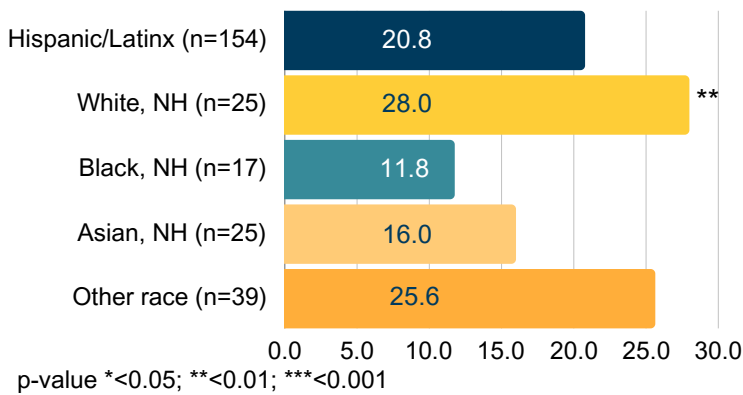


Figure 5 shows the rates of homelessness by various student demographic characteristics. Students who were foster youth were over two times as likely to report being unhoused compared to students who were not foster youth.

Homelessness

Figure 4. Percentage of unhoused students by race/ethnicity



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

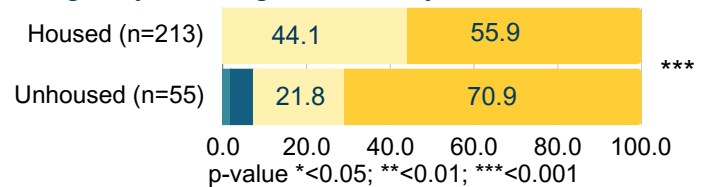
NH= Non-Hispanic

Statistically significant differences in homelessness exist by race and ethnicity. Figure 4 shows that non-Hispanic White students and students of Other race reported the highest rates of homelessness.

Housing Resources at LAMC

The LAMC Center for Wellness offers short-term emergency housing and food assistance for their students. Figure 6 shows the use and awareness of this resource. Less than 2% of unhoused students reported using it during Spring 2024, about 6% had used it, and 71% of unhoused students had never heard of the resource.

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