

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

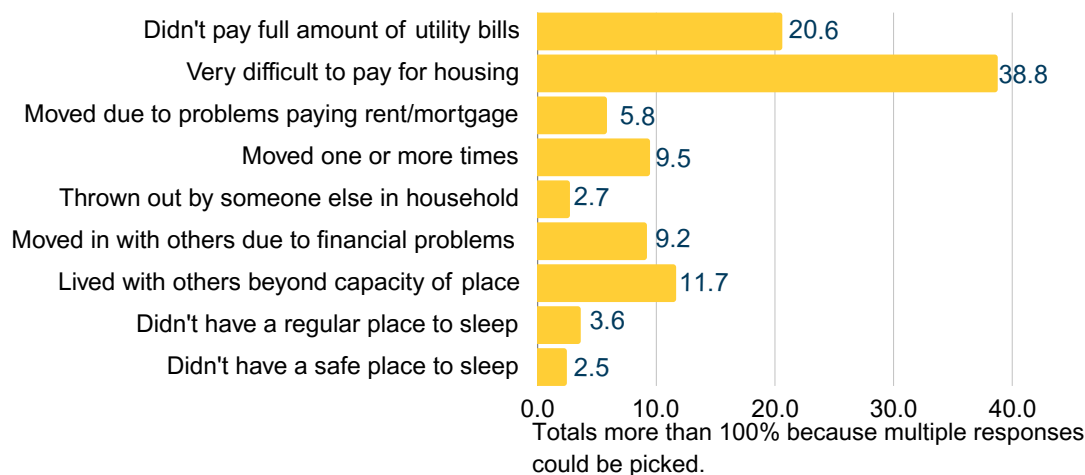
The housing crisis in America is affecting college students who have to contend with tuition and insufficient affordable housing. During Spring 2024, we surveyed a 25% stratified random sample representative of the CSUF student body to understand the extent of housing insecurity and homelessness among 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 instability encompasses many forms including trouble paying rent, overcrowding, and moving frequently. Housing insecurity increases the risk of becoming homeless. 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



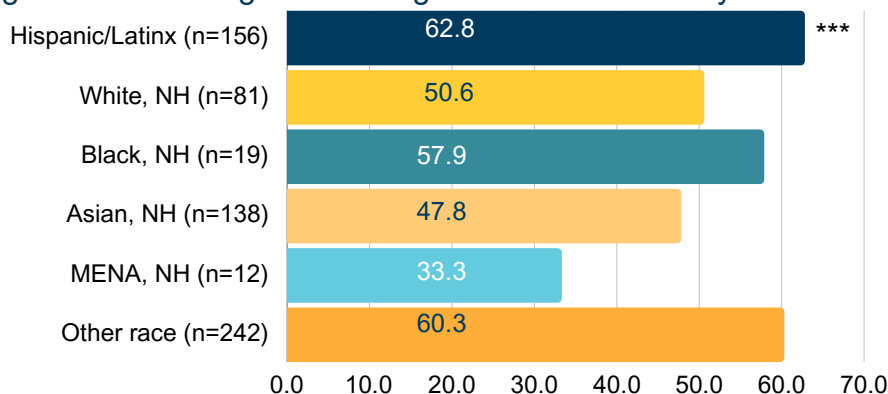
52% housing
insecure
6% unhoused

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. Figure 1 reveals the housing challenges that students experienced with nearly 40% of them having a very difficult time to pay for housing.

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



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

While high rates of housing insecurity affect all groups on campus, differences exist by race and ethnicity. Figure 2 shows that Hispanic/Latinx students have the highest rates, followed closely by students of other race and Black students.

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Figure 3. Percentage of housing insecure students by sociodemographic characteristic

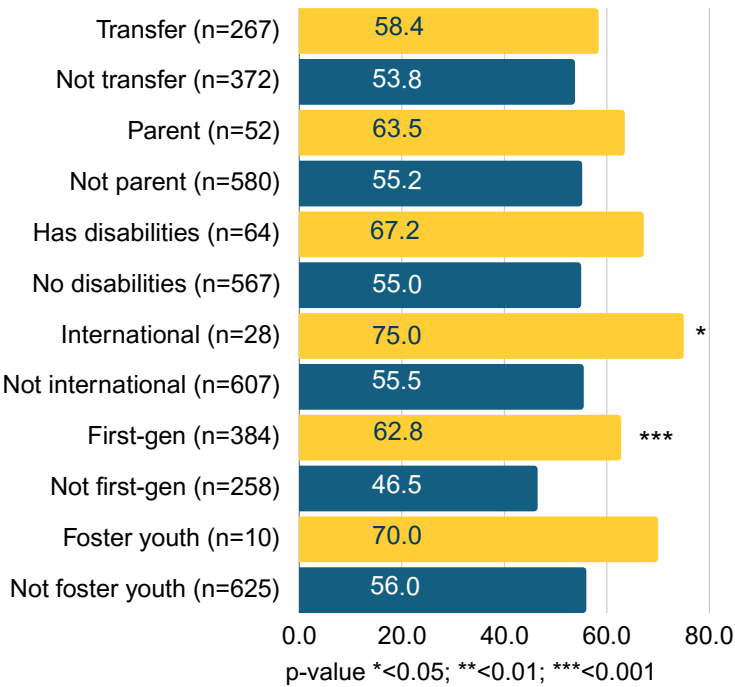


Figure 3 shows high levels of housing insecurity especially among international students, foster youth, and students with disabilities. While the other sociodemographic groups have lower rates compared to these, they are still notably high and should be accounted for and further assessed for interventions and outreach.

Figure 5. Percentage of unhoused students by student sociodemographic characteristic

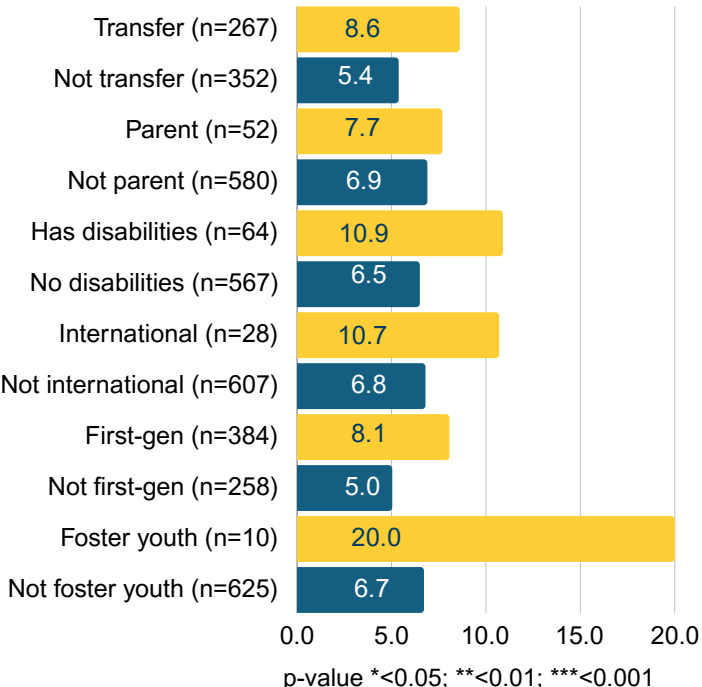
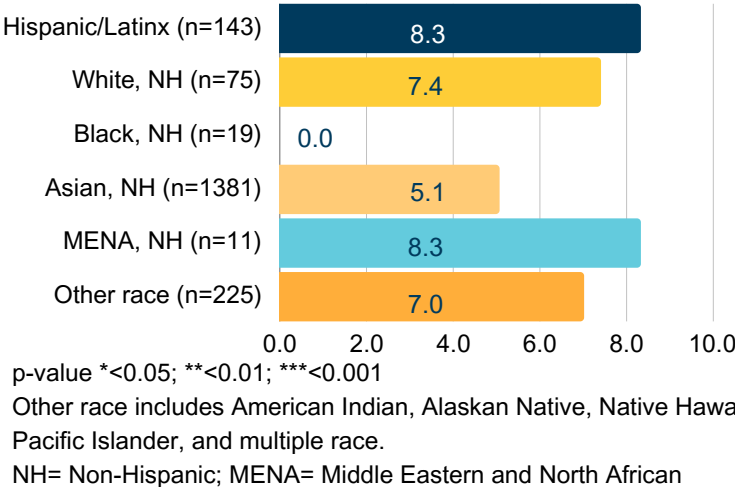


Figure 5 shows the rates of homelessness by various student demographic characteristics. Students who were foster youth, had disabilities or were international students experienced the highest rates of homelessness. However, these differences were not statistically significant which could be due to the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

Homelessness

Housing Resources at CSUF

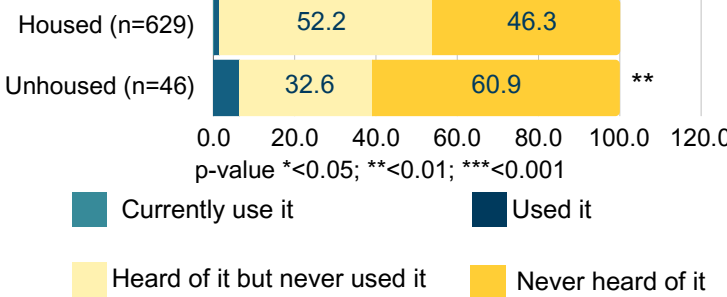
Figure 4. Percentage of unhoused students by race/ethnicity



Differences in homelessness exist by race and ethnicity. Figure 4 shows that Hispanic/Latinx and MENA students have the highest rates. However, these differences were not statistically significant.

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 students currently use it and 60% of unhoused students have never heard of the resource.

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



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