

# Student Basic Needs at University of California: Data Collection and Results



Tongshan Chang, Courtney Sanders, Clarence Wheeler  
Institutional Research and Academic Planning  
University of California Office of the President

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## Presentation outline

- Data collection, reporting, and sharing with campuses
- Food insecurity results
- Homelessness/Housing insecurity results

## UC basic needs surveys administered since 2015

	<b>Student Food Access and Security Study (SFASS)</b>	<b>Undergraduate Experience Survey (UCUES)</b>	<b>Graduate Student Well-Being Survey (GSWBS)</b>
Population	Undergraduates & Graduates sample	Undergraduates population	Graduate sample
Survey time	April-May, 2015	March-August, 2016.2018, 2020	Jan.- Apr., 2016
# Responses	8,932	65,000 per administration	6,764
Response Rate	14%	Around 35%	50%
Periodicity	One-time administration	Every two years	One-time administration
Food Insecurity Module	Six-item	Two-item in 2016 Six-item module in 2018 & 2020	Two-item
Homelessness		One question	One question

# UC basic needs surveys administered in the future

	<b>Undergraduate</b>	<b>Graduate</b>
Survey	Undergraduate Experience Survey (UCUES)	Graduate Student Experience Survey (GSES)
Food Security Module	Six-item	Six-item
Housing Insecurity Module	UC Module	UC Module
Administration	Every two years (2022)	Every two years (2021)

# Assessing food security/insecurity

- Defining food security/insecurity (**adopted in 2016 UCUES and 2015 GWBS**)

Two-item module		Affirmative Response
<b>1.</b> I was worried whether my food would run out before I got money to buy more.	- Often True - Sometimes True - Never True	1
<b>2.</b> The food that I bought just didn't last, and I didn't have money to get more.	- Often True - Sometimes True - Never True	1

0 : food security

1 – 2: **food insecurity**

# Assessing food security/insecurity

- Six item module (**adopted in 2018/2020 UCUES and all future surveys**)

Six-item module	Response categories	Affirmative Response
1. The food that I bought just didn't last, and I didn't have money to get more.	often true/sometimes true/never true	1
2. I couldn't afford to eat balanced meals.	often true/sometimes true/never true	1
3. Did you ever cut the size of your meals or skip meals because there wasn't enough money for food?	yes vs. no	
4. [If 'Yes' is selected to c] How often did this happen?	almost every month/some months but not every month/only 1 or 2 months	2/1
5. Did you ever eat less than you felt you should because there wasn't enough money for food?	yes vs. no	1
6. Were you ever hungry but didn't eat because there wasn't enough money for food?	yes vs. no	1

0 – 1: high or marginal food security

2 – 4: low food security

5 – 6: very low food security

} *food insecurity*

More detailed information is available at:

<https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/sites/default/files/measuring-food-insecurity.pdf>

# Homelessness/housing insecurity questions

## One homelessness question in 2016 and 2018 UCUES, and 2015 GSWBS

**[UC-Only]** Q73. Since attending UC  $\{e://Field/CAMPUS\}$ , have you ever been **homeless** for any of the following lengths of time (check all that apply)?

**Homeless** means not having stable or reliable housing, e.g., living on the street, in vehicles, motels, camp grounds, single-occupancy facilities, or couch surfing in other people's homes for temporary sleeping arrangements.

- No (1)
- Yes, during Fall-Spring academic year (2)
- Yes, during Summer when taking classes (3)
- Yes, during Summer when not taking classes (4)
- Yes, during Winter break (5)

# Homelessness/housing insecurity questions

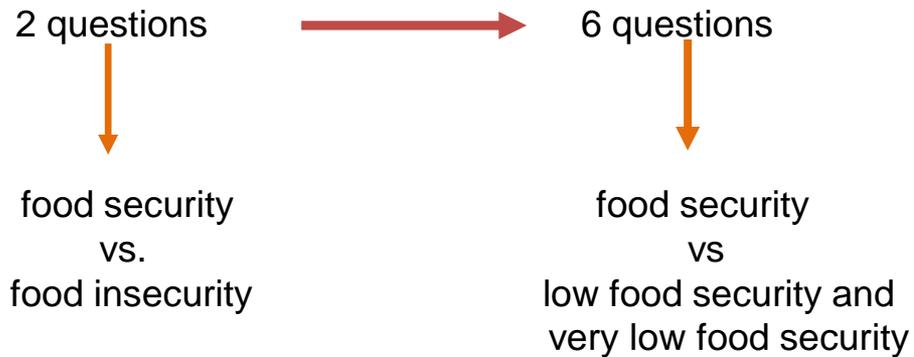
## Housing insecurity questions in 2020 UCUES

1. Where are you living this term?
2. How far do you live from campus this term?
3. With whom do you live?
4. In the last 12 months, have you slept overnight in any of the following places because you didn't have a permanent home to return to?
5. How many times have you moved from one residence to another in the last 12 months?
6. In the last 12 months, which of the following were reasons why you moved?
7. In the last 12 months, have you ever lacked a safe, regular, and adequate nighttime place to stay and sleep for any of the following lengths of time?
8. In the last 12 months, were you ever at risk of not having a safe, regular, and adequate nighttime place to stay and sleep while you were on a UC housing waiting list?
9. In the last 12 months, how often did each of these things happen to you because you were worried about paying for housing?

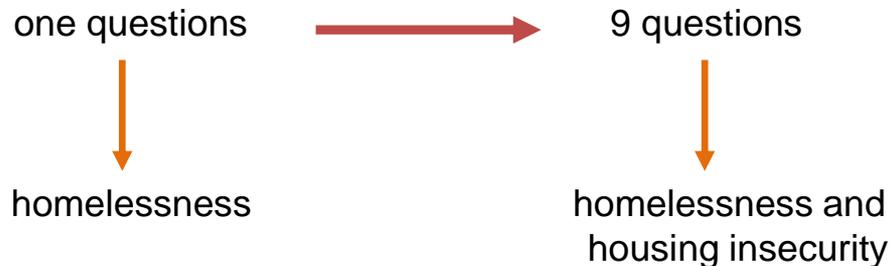
The UCUES instrument is available at: <https://www.ucop.edu/institutional-research-academic-planning//services/survey-services/UCUES.html>

# Major changes of basic needs questions in UC surveys

## Food insecurity



## Housing insecurity



# UC basic needs survey data reporting

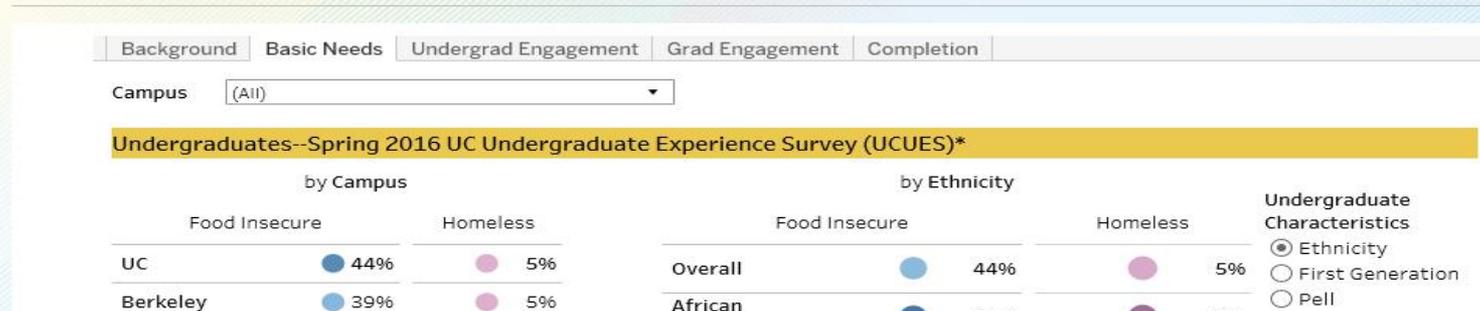
- Dashboards in UC Information Center

## University of California Undergraduate Experience Survey (UCUES) Data Tables, 2018



<https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/infocenter/ucues-data-tables-main>

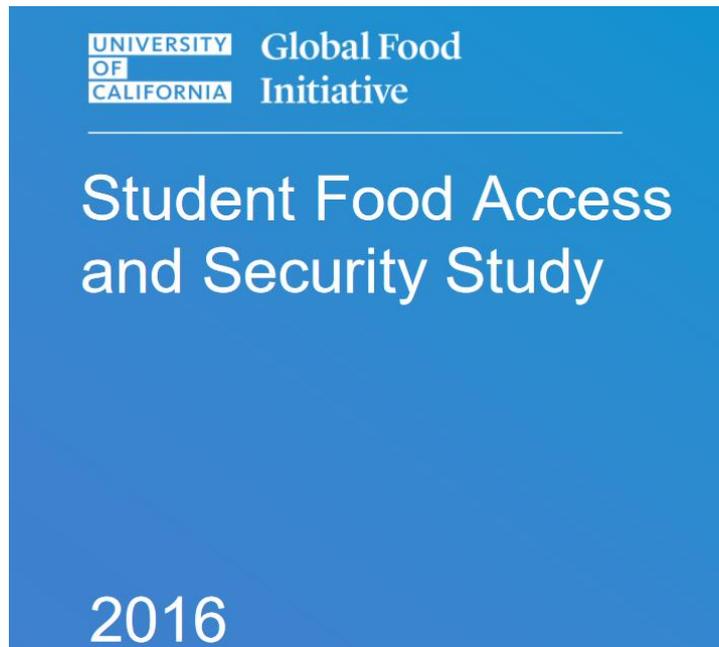
## Student Basic Needs



<https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/infocenter/student-basic-needs>

# UC basic needs survey data reporting

- Data analysis and comprehensive reports



<https://www.ucop.edu/global-food-initiative/best-practices/food-access-security/student-food-access-and-security-study.pdf>



[https://www.ucop.edu/global-food-initiative/\\_files/food-housing-security.pdf](https://www.ucop.edu/global-food-initiative/_files/food-housing-security.pdf)

# UC basic needs survey data sharing with campuses

**UCOP provides raw data to all campuses.**

Contact information for campus basic needs data (undergraduate and graduate)

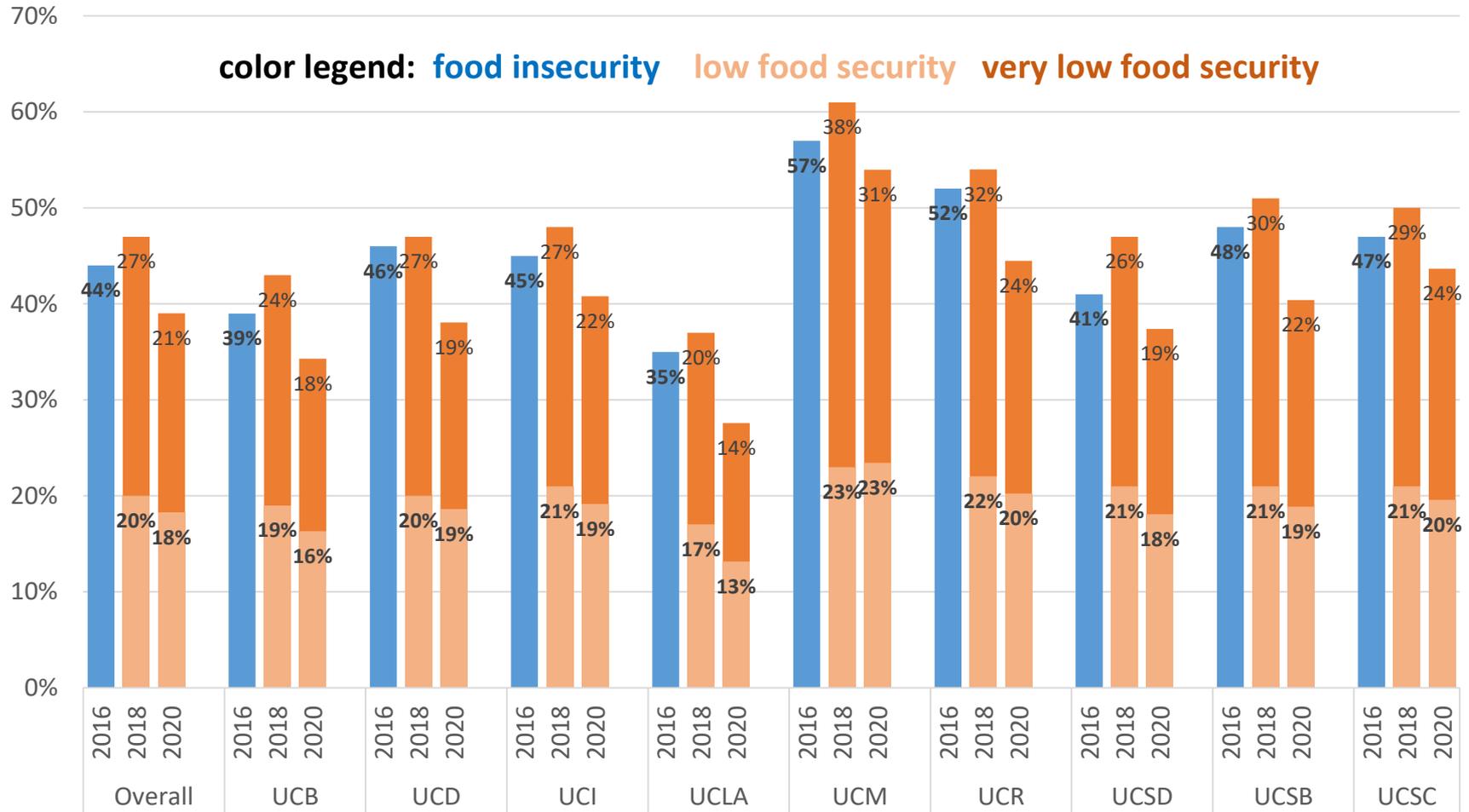
- Berkley: Sereeta Alexander in Planning & Analysis
- Davis: Erika Jackson in Budget and Institutional Analysis
- Irvine: Angela Miu in Campus Assessment/Institutional Research
- UCLA: Kristen McKinney in Campus Assessment/Academic Planning and Budget
- Merced: Cinnamon Danube in Institutional Research & Decision Support
- Riverside: Hayden Harris in Student Affairs Research & Evaluation/Institutional Research
- San Diego: William Armstrong in Institutional Research
- San Francisco: Ning Wang in Institutional Research
- Santa Barbara: Laurel Wilder in Institutional Research, Planning & Assessment
- Santa Cruz: Anna Sher in Institutional Research, Assessment & Policy Studies

For graduate student data, can also contact

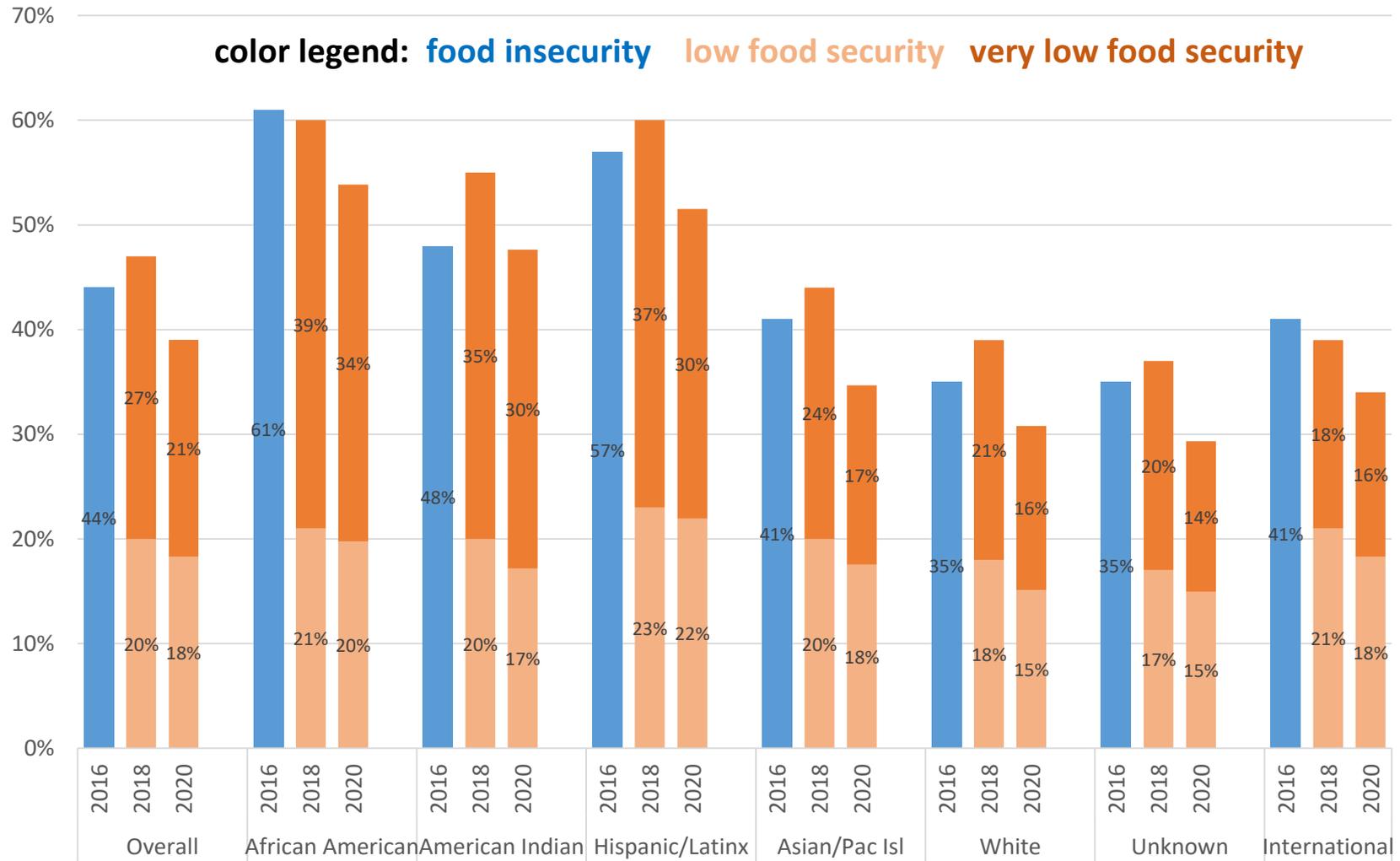
Graduate Divisions at all campuses

UCOP contact: Tongshan Chang email: [Tongshan.Chang@ucop.edu](mailto:Tongshan.Chang@ucop.edu)

# UC food insecurity survey results – by Campus (UCUES)

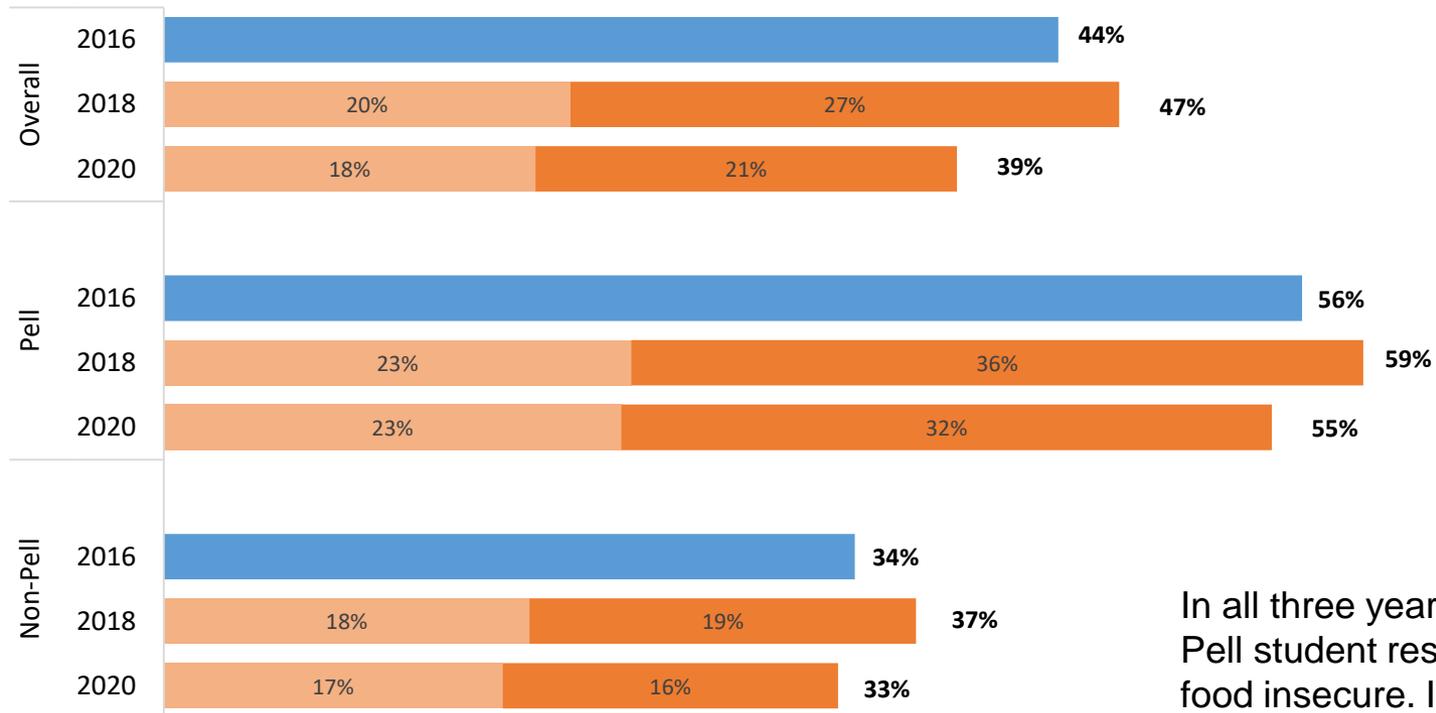


# UC food insecurity survey results – by Race/Ethnicity (UCUES)



# UC food insecurity survey results – by Pell (UCUES)

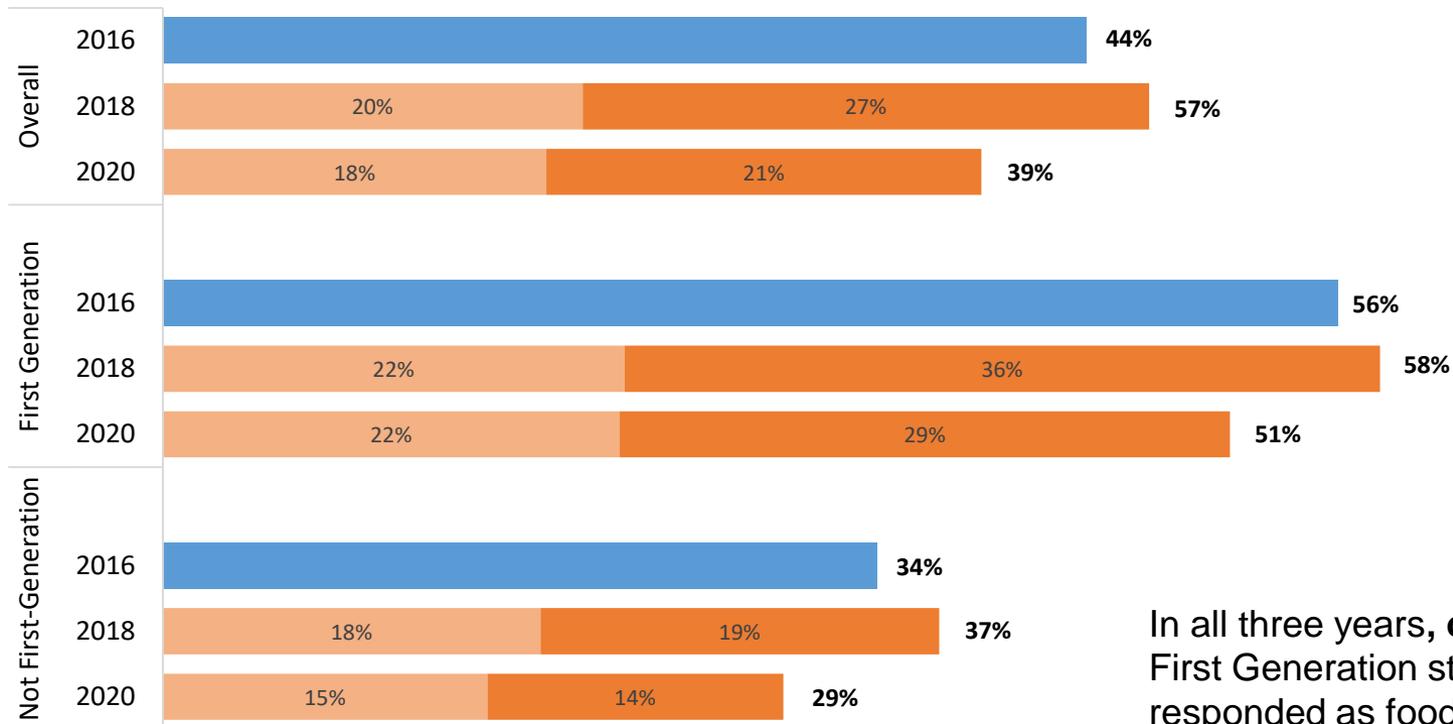
color legend: food insecurity low food security very low food security



In all three years, over 50% of Pell student respondents were food insecure. In 2018 and 2020, at least 30% of Pell students responded as having very low food security.

# UC food insecurity survey results – by First Generation (UCUES)

color legend: food insecurity low food security very low food security



In all three years, **over 50%** of First Generation students responded as food insecure.

# UC food insecurity survey results

## Graduate Student Well Being Survey (GSWBS, 2016)

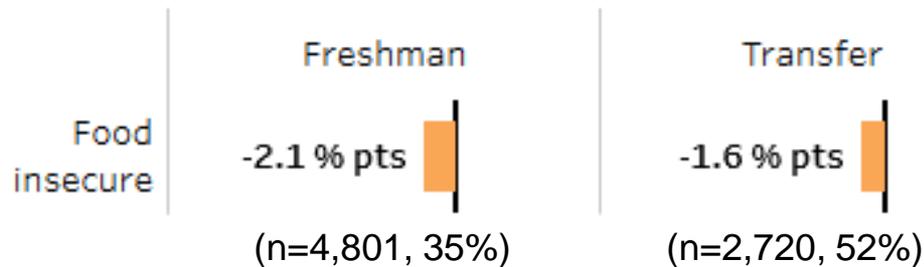
### By Campus

	Food Insecure	
UC		25%
Berkeley		21%
Davis		23%
Irvine		25%
UCLA		23%
Merced		25%
Riverside		33%
San Diego		26%
San Francisco		27%
Santa Barbara		27%
Santa Cruz		41%

### By Race/Ethnicity

	Food Insecure	
Overall		25%
African American		40%
American Indian		34%
Asian/Pac Isl		20%
Hispanic/Latinx		38%
White		23%
Domestic Unknown		25%
International		24%

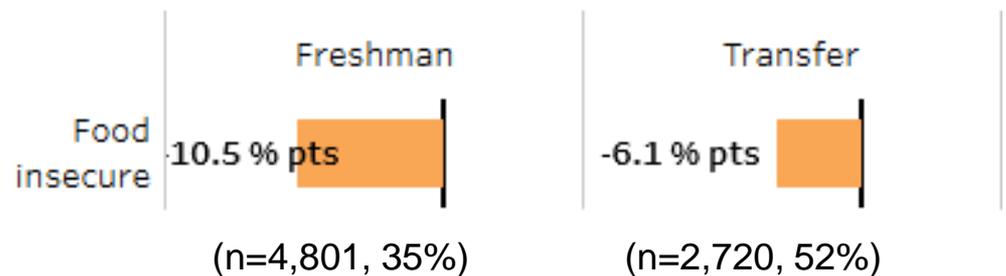
# UC food insecurity survey results - Completion (UCUES, 2016)



**The persistence rate of freshmen students who responded as food insecure, was 2.1% less than freshmen students who were not food insecure.**

**1<sup>st</sup> Year Persistence Rate:** Spring 2016 UCUES respondents who enrolled in fall 2016 – shown as gap from food secure

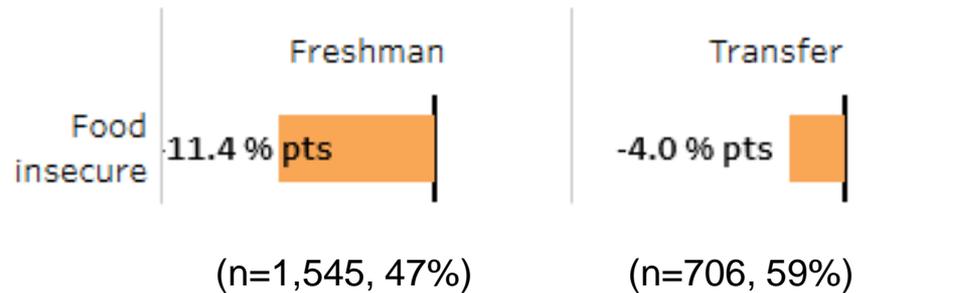
**The graduation rate of freshmen who responded as food insecure was 10.5% less than that of food secure respondents.**



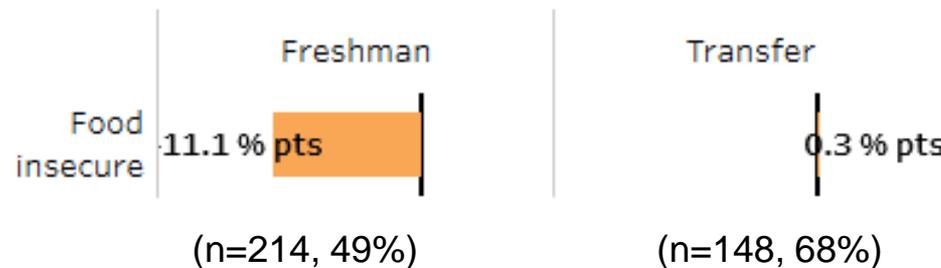
**Graduation Rate:** Spring 2016 UCUES respondents who graduated by spring 2019 for freshmen (within 4 years at UC) or by spring 2017 for transfer (within 2 years at UC) – shown as gap from food secure

# UC food insecurity survey results – Graduation Rate (UCUES, 2016)

## Hispanic/Latinx

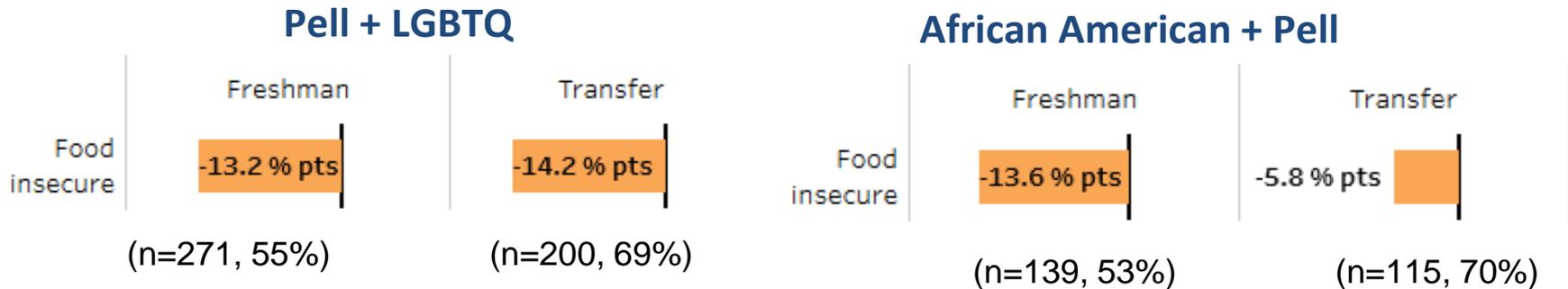


## African American

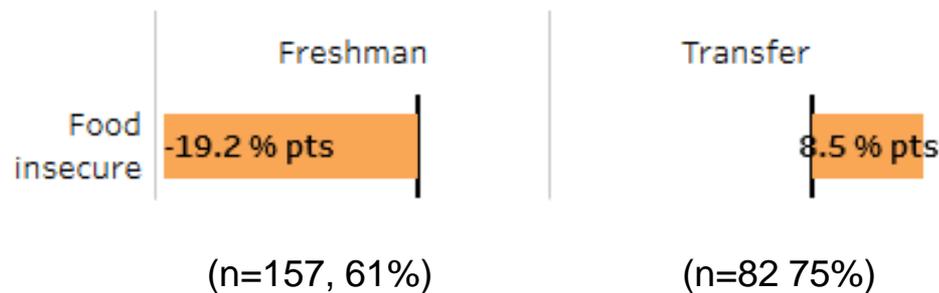


**African American and Hispanic/Latinx students who responded as food insecure had the lowest completion rates by race/ethnicity**

# UC food insecurity survey results – Graduation Rate (UCUES, 2016)



## Hispanic/Latinx + LGBTQ + First-Generation



# UC food insecurity survey results - Completion (GSWBS, 2016)

**45% of graduate students who identified as food insecure were upbeat about their post-graduation career prospects compared to 60% of food secure students.**

I'm upbeat about my post-graduation career prospects.



I'm on track to complete my degree program on time.



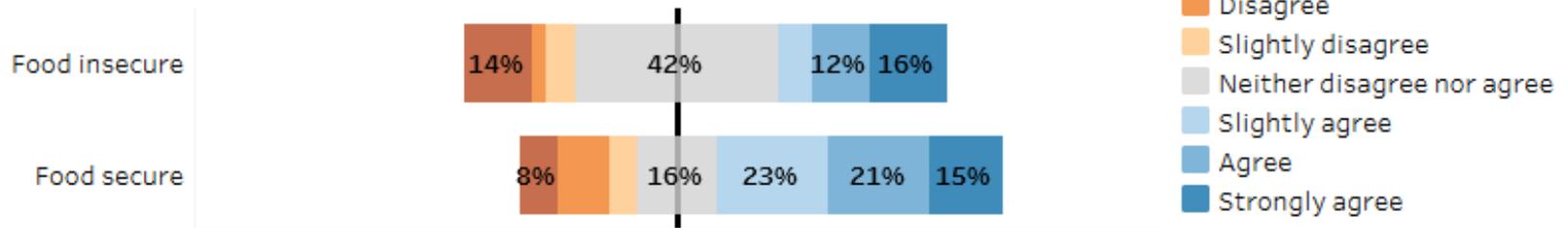
**Respondent count:  
Food insecure – 1,535  
Food secure – 3,755**

**75% of graduate students who identified as food insecure agreed they were on track to complete their degree program compared to 82% of food secure students.**

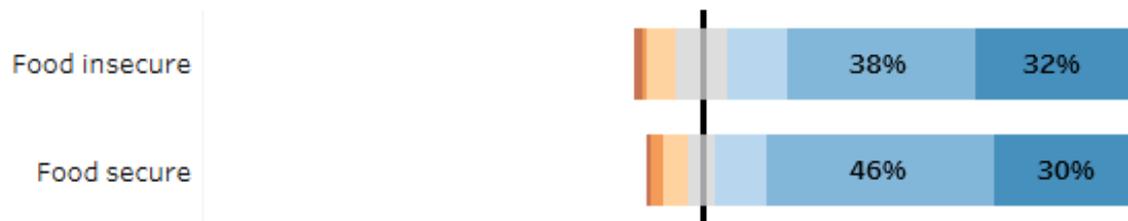
# UC food insecurity survey results - Completion (GSWBS, 2016)

## Hispanic/Latinx + Masters Level

I'm upbeat about my post-graduation career prospects.



I'm on track to complete my degree program on time.



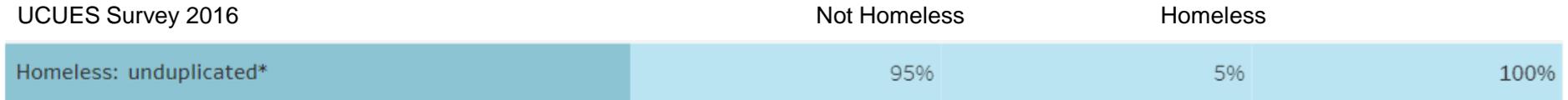
**Respondent count:**  
**Food insecure – 30**  
**Food secure – 46**

**35% of Hispanic/Latinx Masters students who identified as food insecure were upbeat about their post-graduation career prospects compared to 59% of food secure students. Over 80% of both groups agreed they were on track to complete their degree program.**

# UC Homelessness and Housing Insecurity

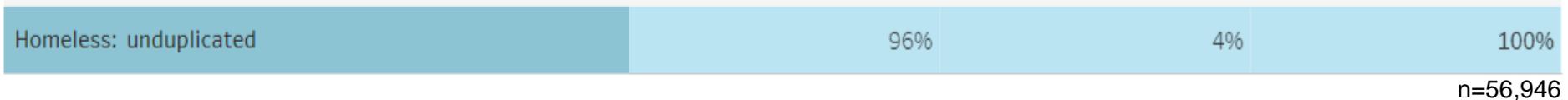
Since attending University of California, have you ever been homeless for any of the following lengths of time (check all that apply)? \*

UCUES Survey 2016

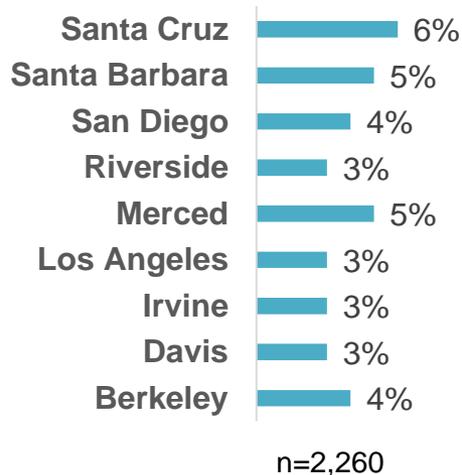


\* This is a multiple selection question. The "homeless" count in the "Homeless: unduplicated" row is unduplicated and shows the number of students who selected any of the four options. n=55,771

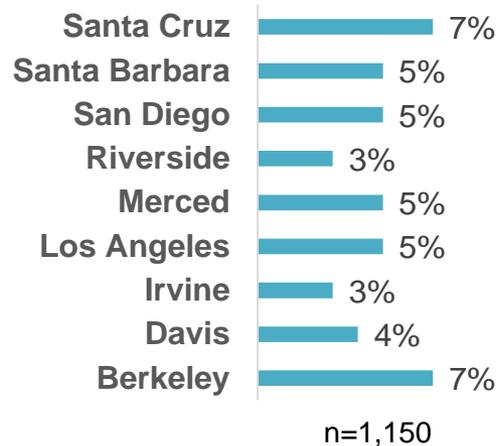
UCUES Survey 2018



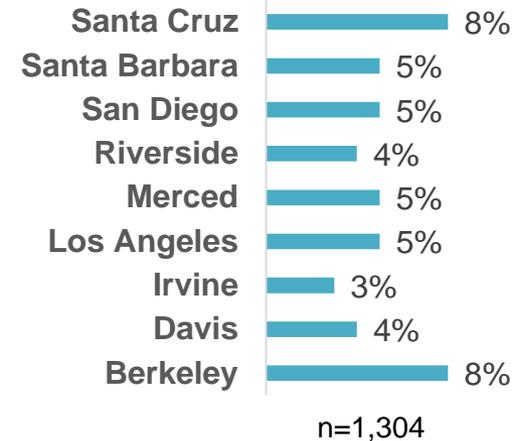
## Overall by Campus



## First Generation by Campus



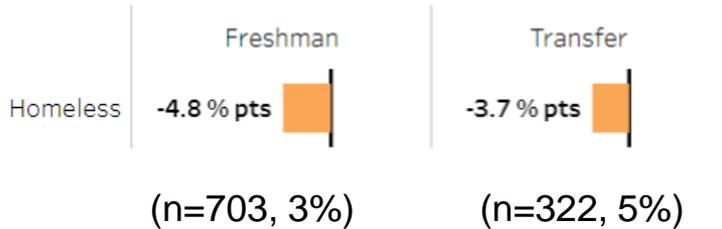
## Pell by Campus



# UC Undergraduate Basic Needs and Completion – Housing Insecurity

## Undergraduate Student Basic Needs and Completion--Spring 2016 UCUES\*

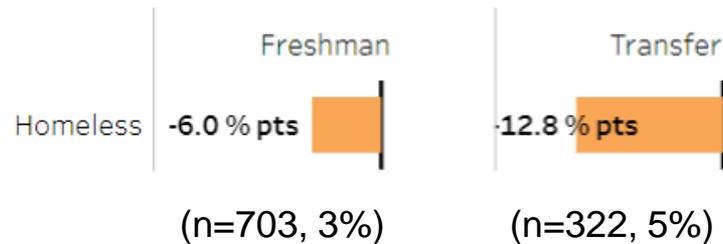
**1st Year Persistence Rate:** Spring 2016 UCUES respondents who enrolled in fall 2016  
Shown as gap from: Not homeless



Freshman who reported as being homeless during any academic term were **4.8% pts** less likely to persist.

Freshman who reported as being homeless during any academic term were **6.0% pts** less likely to graduate within 4 years.

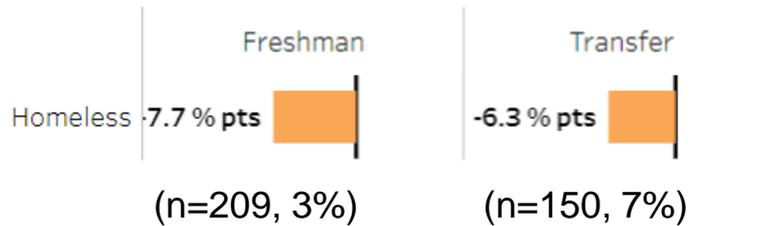
**Graduation rate:** Spring 2016 UCUES respondents who graduated by spring 2019 for freshmen (within 4 years at UC) or by spring 2017 for transfers (within 2 years at UC)  
Shown as gap from: Not homeless



# UC Undergraduate Basic Needs and Completion – Housing Insecurity (Pell + First Generation)

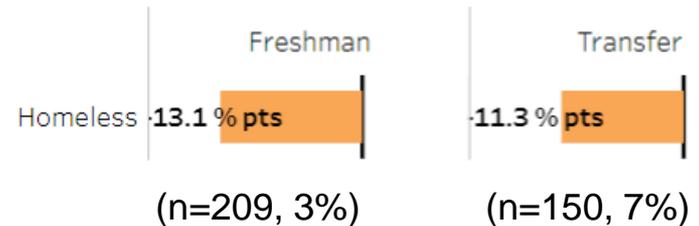
## Undergraduate Student Basic Needs and Completion--Spring 2016 UCUES\*

**1st Year Persistence Rate:** Spring 2016 UCUES respondents who enrolled in fall 2016  
Shown as gap from: Not homeless



Freshman who reported as homeless during any academic term, along with pell recipient and first generation, were **7.7% pts** less likely to persist, when students were pell recipients and first generation.

**Graduation rate:** Spring 2016 UCUES respondents who graduated by spring 2019 for freshmen (within 4 years at UC) or by spring 2017 for transfers (within 2 years at UC)  
Shown as gap from: Not homeless

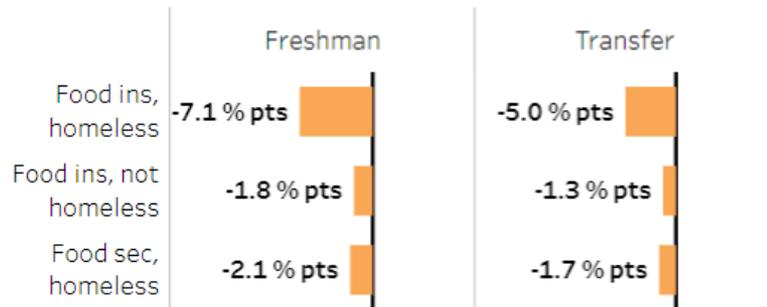


Freshman who reported as homeless during any academic term, along with pell recipient and first generation, were **13.1% pts** less likely to graduate within 4 years,

# UC Undergraduate Basic Needs and Completion – Housing and Food Insecurity

## Undergraduate Student Basic Needs and Completion--Spring 2016 UCUES\*

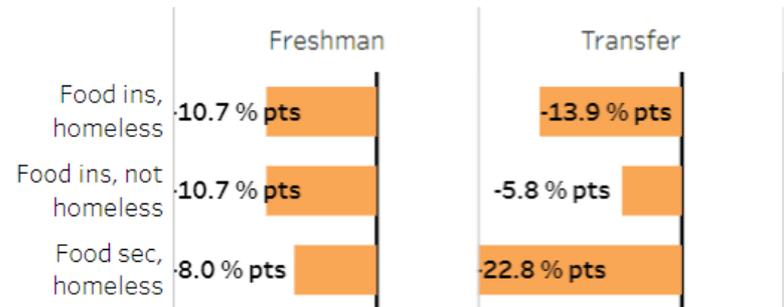
**1st Year Persistence Rate:** Spring 2016 UCUES respondents who enrolled in fall 2016  
Shown as gap from: Food secure, not homeless



**Food Insecurity + Homelessness:**  
(n=222, 2%)      (n=190, 4%)

Freshman who were food insecure and homeless were **7.1% pts** less likely to persist in their first year than students who were food secure and not homeless.

**Graduation rate:** Spring 2016 UCUES respondents who graduated by spring 2019 for freshmen (within 4 years at UC) or by spring 2017 for transfers (within 2 years at UC)  
Shown as gap from: Food secure, not homeless



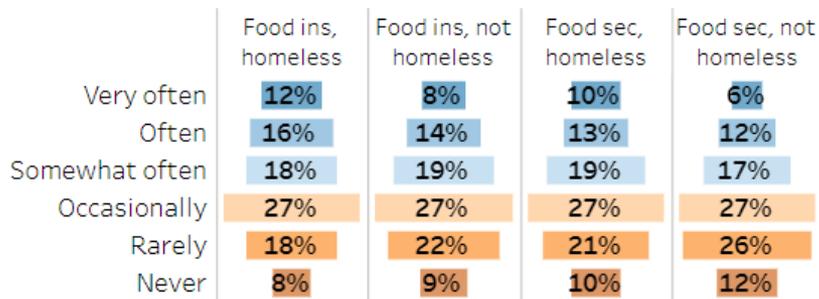
**Food Insecurity + Homelessness:**  
(n=222, 2%)      (n=190, 4%)

Freshman who were food insecure and homeless were **10.7% pts** less likely to graduate within 4 years, when compared to students who were food secure and not homeless

# UC Undergraduate Engagement - Housing and Food Security

## Undergraduate Learning Obstacles, Engagement, Satisfaction, and Employment--Spring 2016 UCUES\*

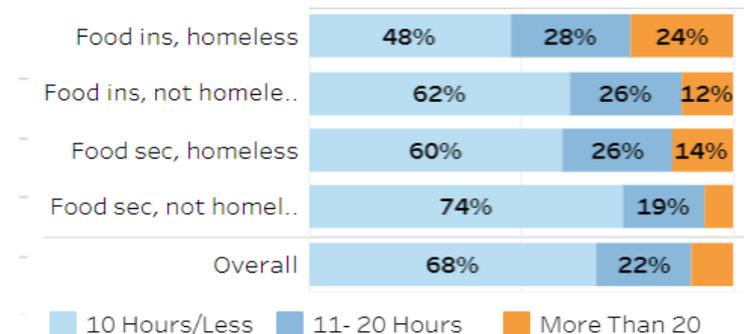
Communicated w/ instructor outside class about issues/concepts



Students who identified as food insecure and homeless reported having more communication with instructors

Students who identified as food insecure and homeless consistently reported working longer hours than their counterparts.

Paid employment--weekly hours

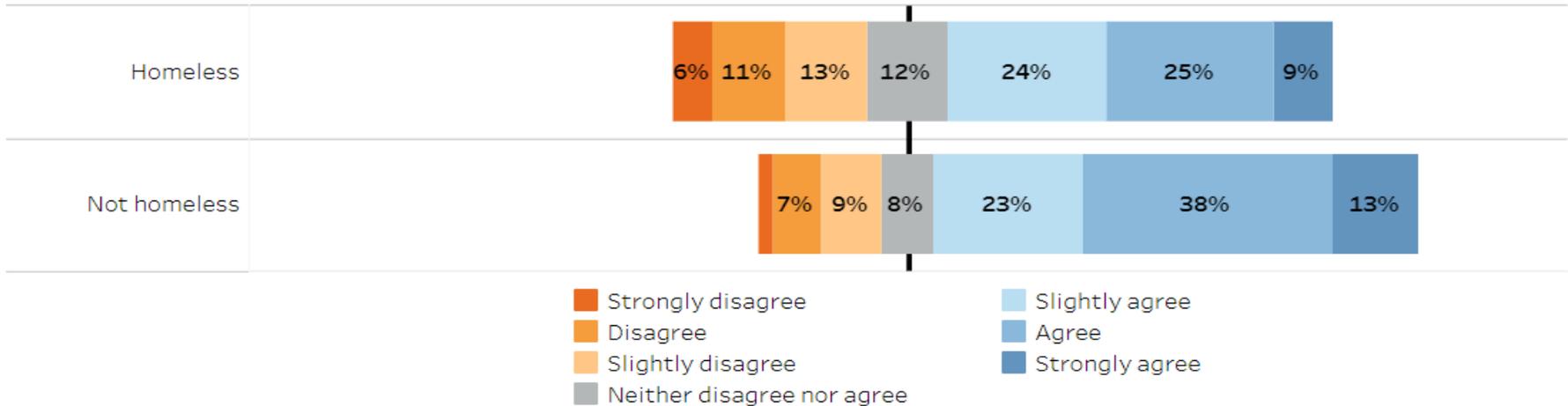


# Student Basic Needs - Grad Engagement

## Graduate Student Engagement and Satisfaction--2016 Graduate Well-Being Survey\*

**58%** of students who identified as homeless were satisfied with life, compared to **74%** of Not Homeless students.

I am satisfied with life.

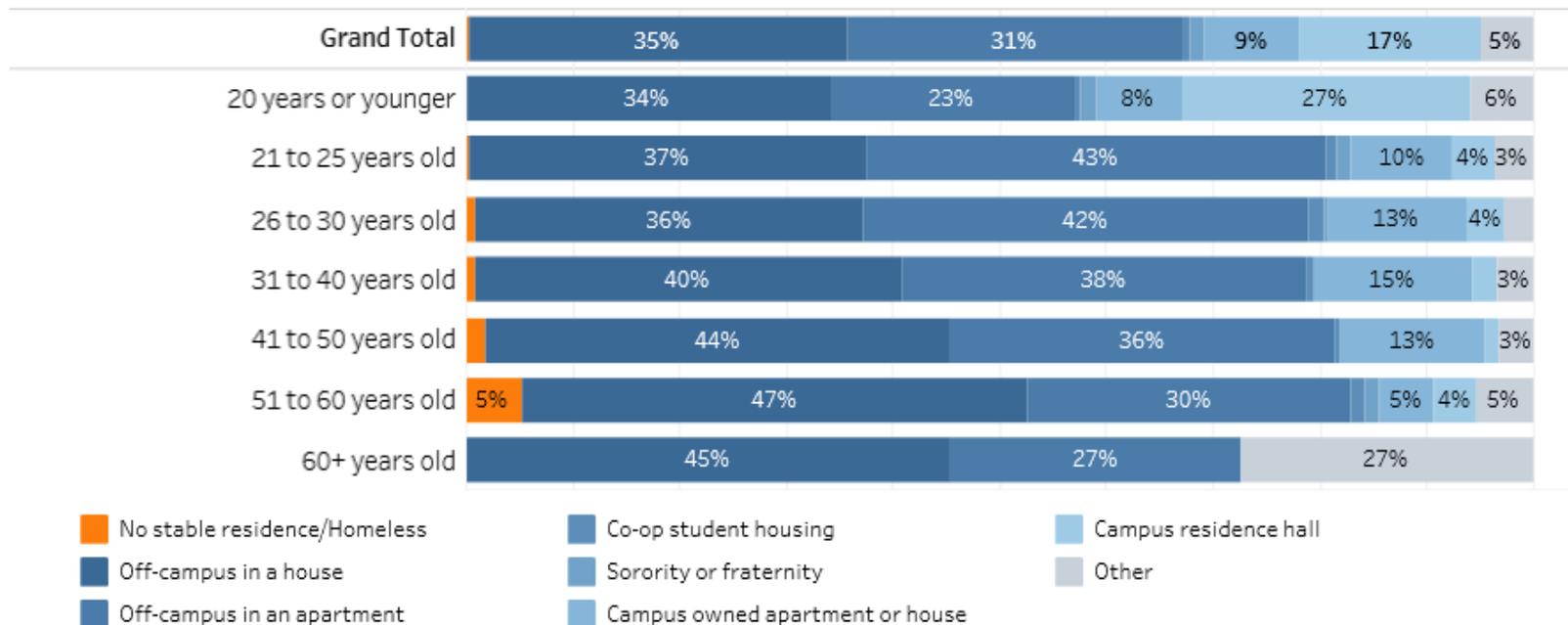


\*Respondents are weighted to reflect the population (see background tab). Food security and/or homelessness categories with group size fewer than 20 are hidden.

# 2020 UCUES Preliminary Data – Housing Insecurity

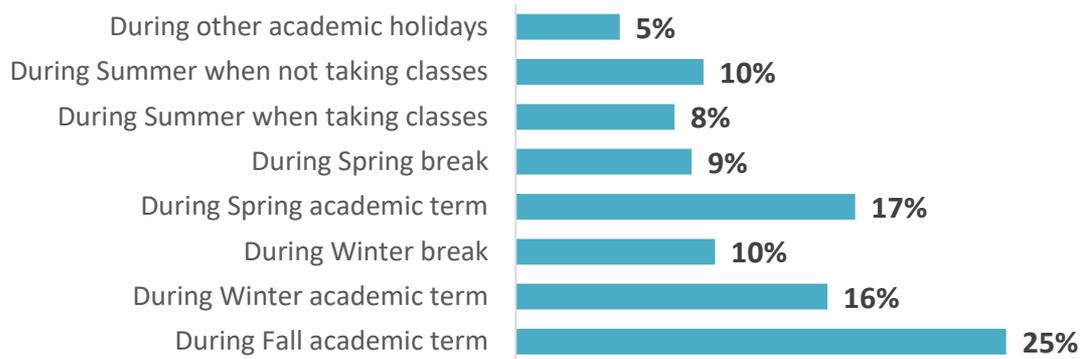
Based on preliminary data, nontraditional students (age) exhibit higher levels of unstable housing

Where are you living this term?



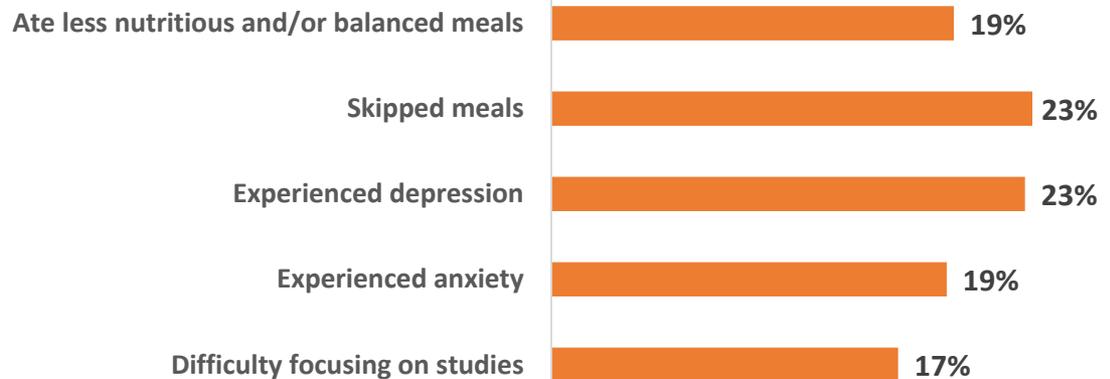
# 2020 UCUES Preliminary Data – Housing Insecurity

In the last 12 months, have you ever lacked a safe, regular, and adequate nighttime place to stay and sleep for any of the following lengths of time? (Check all that apply)



Most students who lacked a safe, regular, and adequate nighttime place to sleep, did so during the Fall academic term.

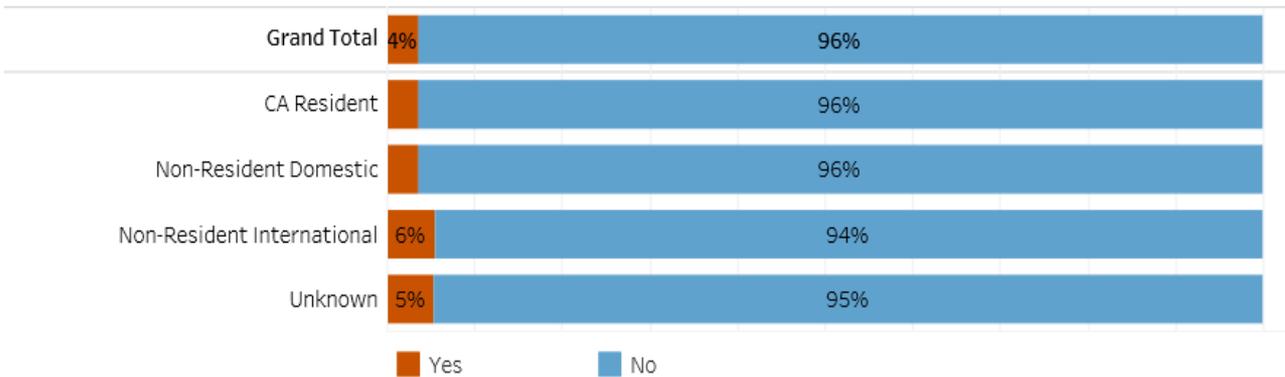
In the last 12 months, how often did each of these things happen to you because you were worried about paying for housing?



Most UC students who were worried about paying for housing, either skipped meals or experienced depression.

# 2020 UCUES Preliminary Data – Housing Insecurity

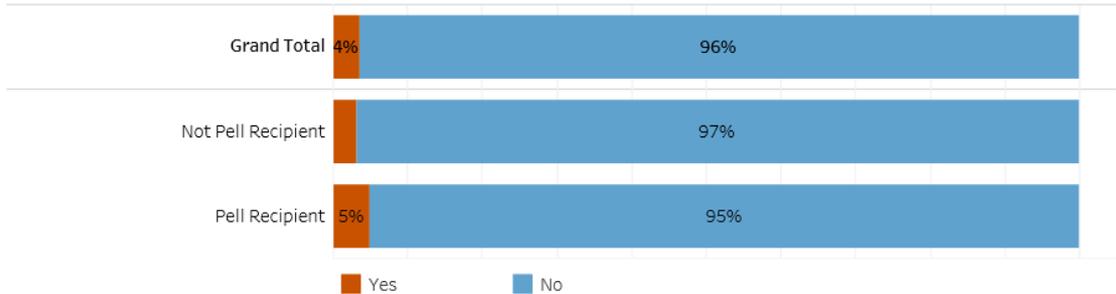
In the last 12 months, were you ever at risk of not having a safe, regular, and adequate nighttime place to stay and sleep while you were on a UC housing waiting list?



Based on residency and being placed on UC housing waiting list, Non-Resident students (6%) report the highest risk of not having a place to stay and sleep.

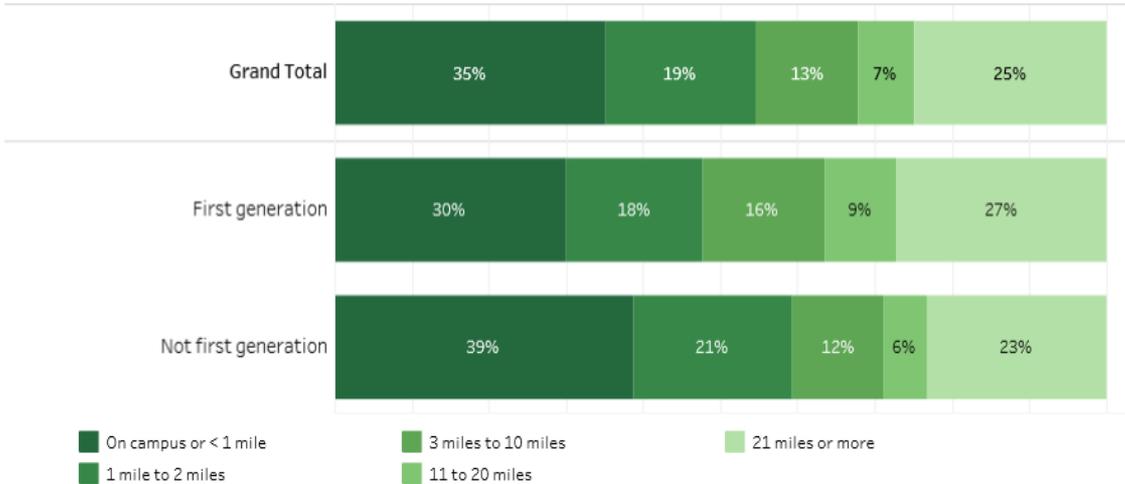
Based on Pell Status and being placed on UC housing waiting list, 5% of Pell recipients reported a risk of not having a place to stay and sleep.

In the last 12 months, were you ever at risk of not having a safe, regular, and adequate nighttime place to stay and sleep while you were on a UC housing waiting list?



# 2020 UCUES Preliminary Data – Housing Insecurity

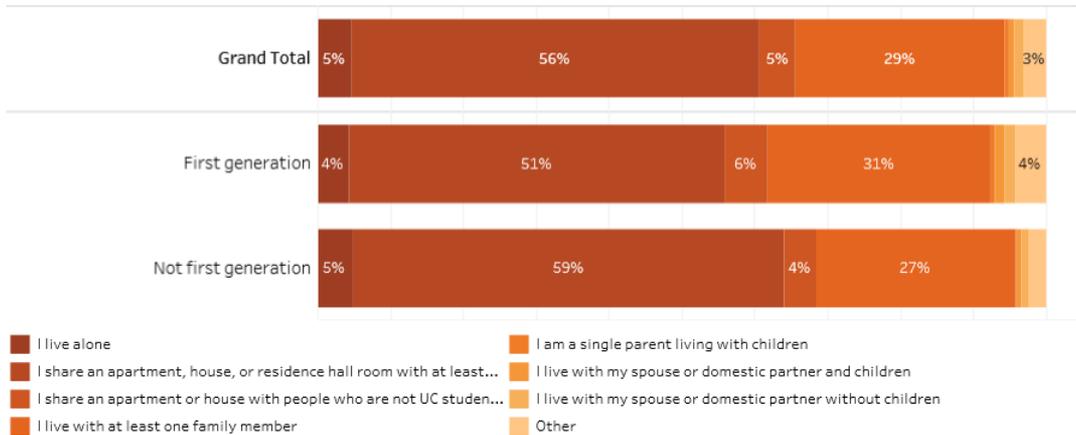
How far do you live from campus this term?



First Generation students tend to live further away from their UC campus.

First Generation students tend to live with more than 1 family member, as oppose to non-first generation students.

With whom do you live? Please select the option that best describes your living situation this term.



## Summary & Takeaway Points

- The question modules have been improved over time, which leads to more accurate data and more actionable results
- Food and housing insecurity is a critical issue across UC campuses that needs continued attention
- Basic needs issues have impacts on student completion, particularly among international, economically disadvantaged, underrepresented groups, and when considering intersectional characteristics
- Future plans include looking at:
  - additional graduate student data
  - other student characteristics (e.g., parenting students)

Thanks! Questions?



Explore the UC story through data at UC Information Center!

<http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/infocenter>