

Office of the Secretary and Chief of Staff

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON BASIC NEEDS:

DISCUSSION ITEM

For Meeting of March 12, 2019

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA UNDERGRADUATE EXPERIENCE SURVEY (UCUES) DATA AND DASHBOARD INFORMATION ABOUT BASIC NEEDS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The UC Office of the President (UCOP) has been partnering with UC Systemwide Basic Needs Committee members to improve and institutionalize data collection and analytical efforts to understand undergraduate and graduate student experience related to food and housing security. This presentation will provide an update on data collection efforts, including relevant Spring 2018 UC Undergraduate Experience Survey (UCUES) results by demonstrating how to access information in the UC Information Center (<https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/infocenter>) UCUES data tables (<https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/infocenter/ucues-data-tables-main>).

BACKGROUND

Universities and other institutions across the state and country are working to better understand students' basic needs. Research indicates that the challenges students face are problems not only in California, but across the nation. Some of the salient findings among recent studies include:

- A 2015 study by the California State University (CSU) suggests 21 percent of CSU's 460,000 students lack consistent food sources and 9 percent are homeless.
- A fall 2016 study by the Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) found 63 percent of students surveyed experience food insecurity, with 38 percent experiencing very low food security. Nineteen percent indicated experiencing homelessness within a year of the time the questionnaire was administered.
- A 2017 survey that included 33,000 students across 70 community colleges in 24 states found that 66 percent of student had experienced food insecurity, 50 percent had experienced housing insecurity and 14 percent experienced homelessness at some point. Researchers also determined that there was minimal geographic variation in hunger and homelessness among community college students.

In partnership with the UC Systemwide Basic Needs Committee, UCOP's Institutional Research and Academic Planning (IRAP) supported initial data collection efforts through the 2015 Student

Food Access and Security Survey (SFASS) and incorporated questions regarding food and housing security into UC systemwide surveys, including UCUES and the Graduate Student Well-Being survey. Survey questions and approaches have evolved as we learn more about national standards and compare responses to information needed to support students. UC is now using the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) six-scale questions (<https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/sites/default/files/measuring-food-insecurity.pdf>) to help us disaggregate between low and very low food security. The USDA defines very low food security as reduced food intake or disrupted eating patterns at times due to limited resources. Low food insecurity is defined as reduced quality, variety or desirability of diet, with little or no indication of reduced food insecurity. The two categories comprise food insecurity. UC has also included a question on homelessness that may change if we get a different understanding of how to correctly measure housing insecurity; there is currently no national standard.

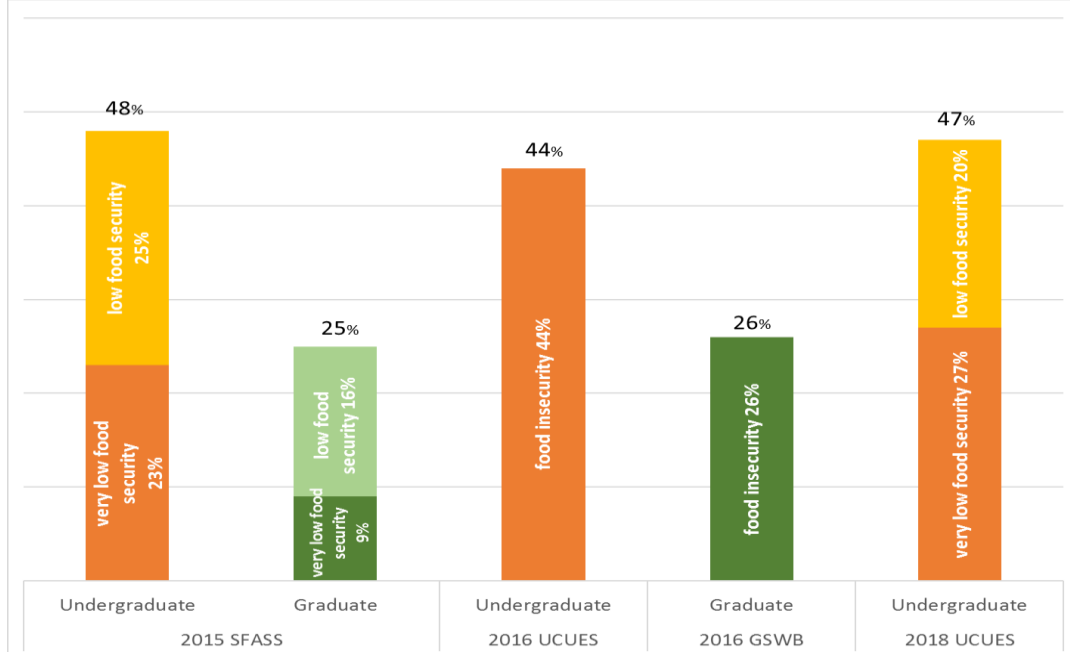
UCOP began with a deep dive into this new survey data to develop a better understanding of our student experiences related to basic needs, resulting in two reports

- Global Food Initiative: Food and Housing Security at the University of California (<https://www.ucop.edu/global-food-initiative/files/food-housing-security.pdf>)
- University of California Graduate Student Well-Being Survey Report (https://ucop.edu/institutional-research-academic-planning/files/survey-documents-graduate/graduate_well_being_survey_report.pdf)

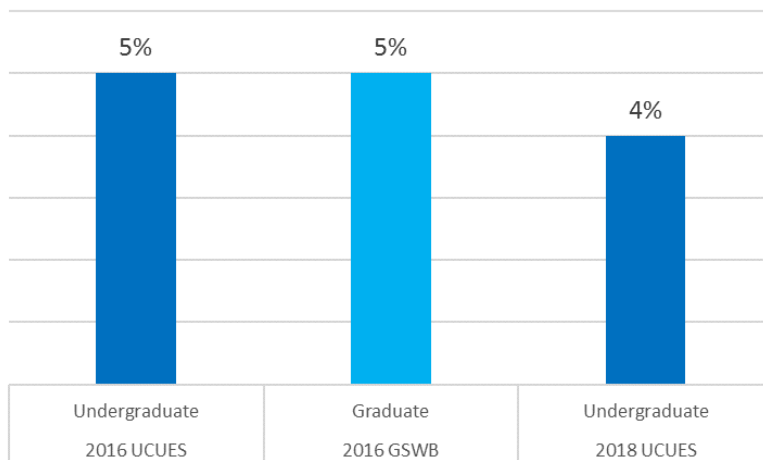
In addition, IRAP partnered with UC Systemwide Basic Needs Committee members to share data collection efforts and findings with intersegmental groups, including our California State University and California Community College colleagues and a presentation to the California Association of Institutional Research (<https://www.ucop.edu/institutional-research-academic-planning/files/student-basic-needs-at-uc.pdf>).

Below are systemwide findings across survey administrations regarding food insecurity and homelessness. To better understand gaps or areas for focus, IRAP produced additional analyses for the UC Systemwide Basic Needs colleagues for their presentations and also worked with campus institutional research offices to support campus analyses.

Overall undergraduate and graduate student responses related to food security/insecurity:



Overall undergraduate and graduate student responses related to homelessness



To make this effort sustainable, IRAP is looking for ways to institutionalize this data collection effort. UCUES includes the six-item USDA food security questions and current homeless question. In addition, food and housing security questions will be included in future Graduate Cost of Attendance surveys. UC Graduate Deans have also expressed an interest in IRAP conducting graduate student experience survey which could include basic needs questions.

Spring 2018 UCUES Results

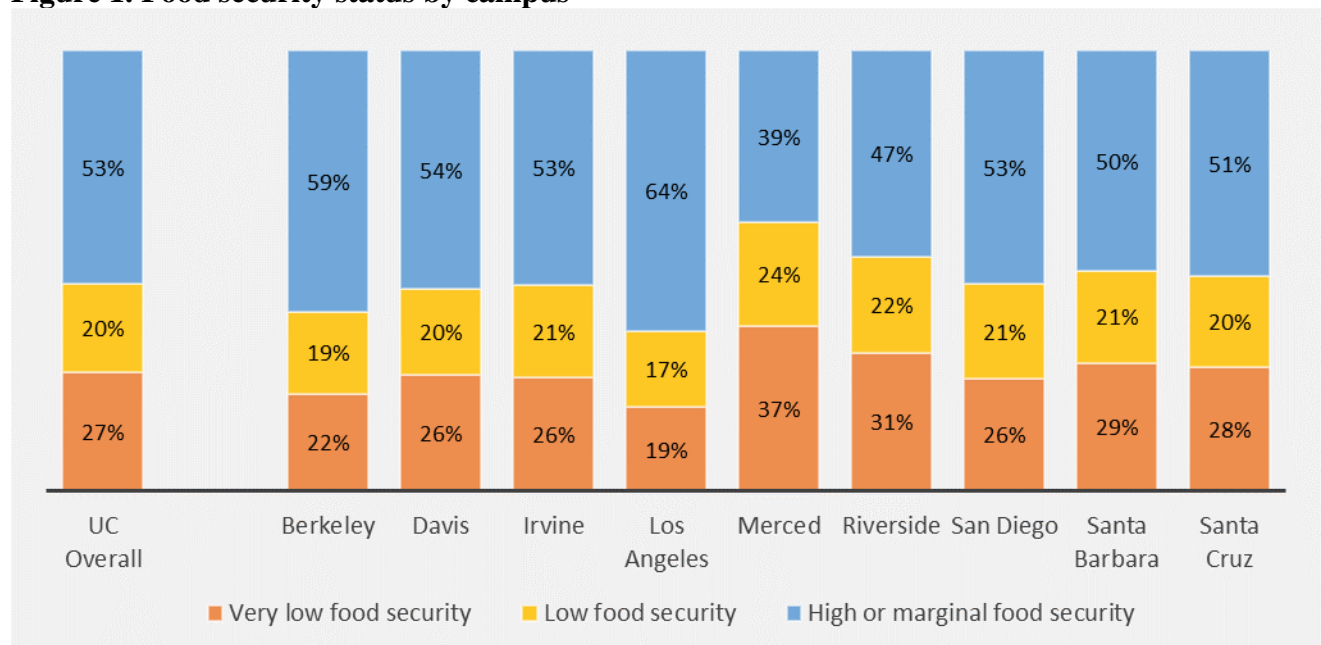
As seen above, the spring 2018 UCUES responses were similar to prior survey efforts. At the March Regents meeting, we will give a demonstration on how to access these survey results

through the UC Information Center. This approach makes it more accessible to users, including campus colleagues, to get responses by campus and for individual student characteristics, such as entry status (freshman or transfer), first-generation, Pell and race/ethnicity.

Using USDA’s definition of low and very low food insecurity based on the six-item module, 47 percent of UCUES respondents reported experiencing food insecurity. Of these students, 20 percent were identified as low food security, and 27 percent were identified as very low food security. A Chi-square test shows that there is no significant difference in percent of respondents experiencing low and very low food security between the 2018 UCUES and the 2015 SFASS. With the two-item food security module, the 2016 UCUES cannot distinguish the difference between students who reported experiencing low and very low food security. However, a Chi-square test did not find any significant difference in overall percent of students who reported experiencing food insecurity between the 2016 (44 percent) and 2018 UCUES (47 percent).

Across campuses (Figure 1), the percent experiencing food insecurity was highest at UC Merced (61 percent), followed by UC Riverside (54 percent), and lowest at UCLA (37 percent).

Figure 1. Food security status by campus



By race/ethnicity (Figure 2), the percent experiencing food insecurity was high among African American, Hispanic/Latino(a), and American Indian students. The percent was low among White, International and Asian/Pacific Islander students. By socioeconomic status (Figure 3), the percent experiencing food insecurity was higher among first generation students (58 percent) compared to not first generation students (37 percent), and higher among Pell recipients (58 percent) than not Pell Grant recipients (37 percent).

Figure 2. Food security status by race/ethnicity

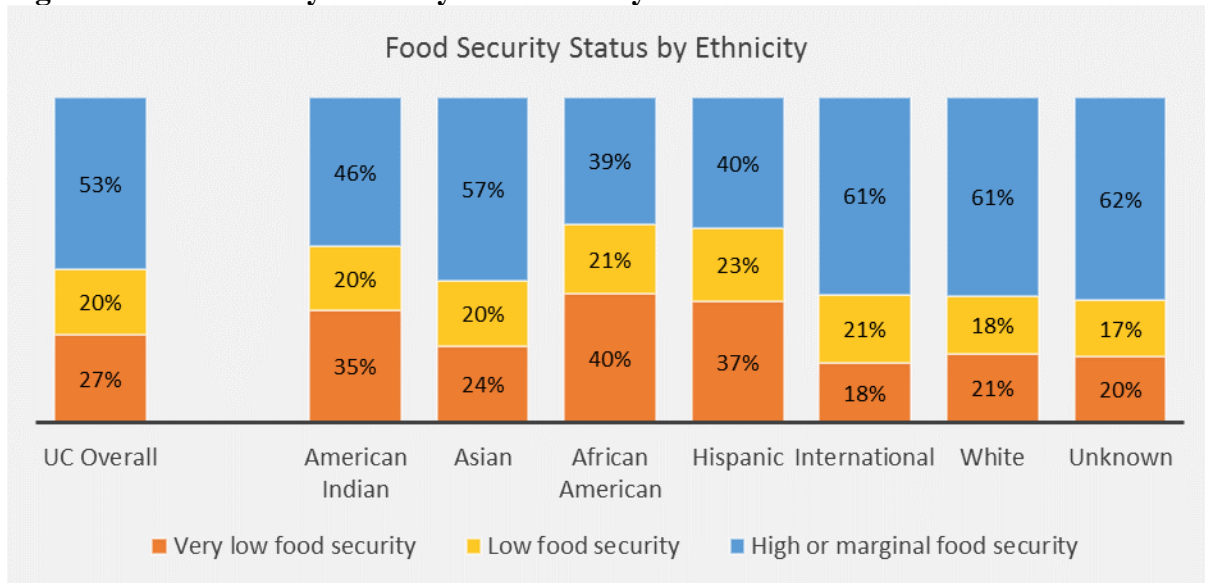
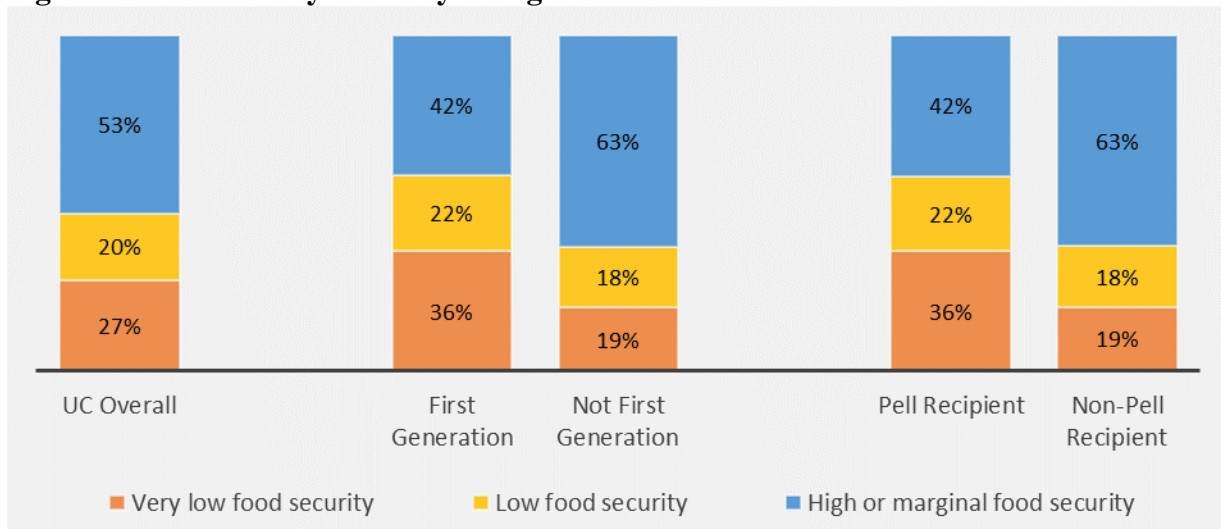
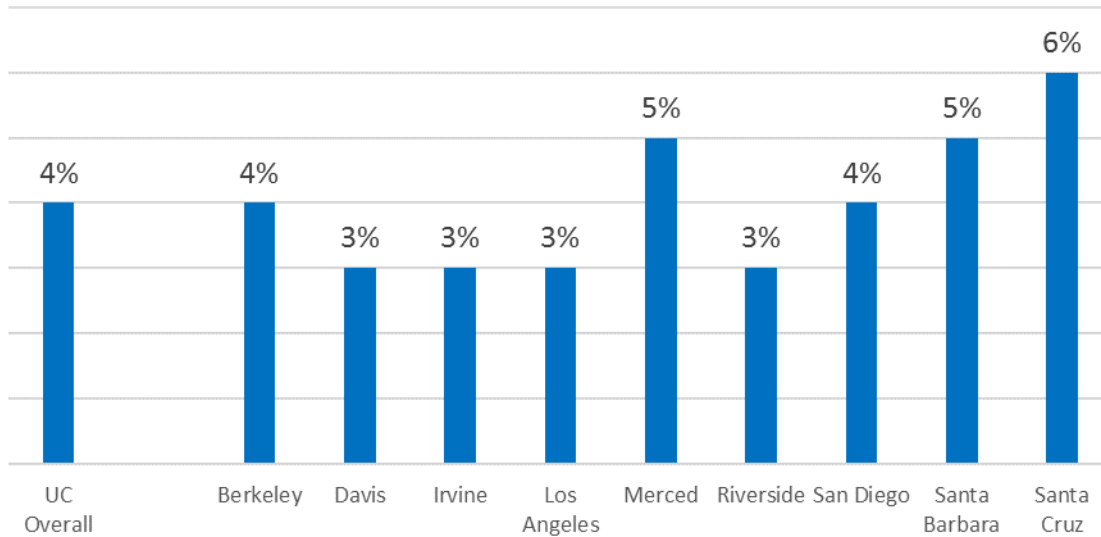


Figure 3. Food security status by first generation and Pell status



Using the spring 2018 UCUES data, 4 percent of respondents reported being homeless at some point in time. Across campuses (Figure 4), the percent experiencing homelessness was highest at UC Santa Cruz (6 percent), followed by UC Merced and UC Santa Barbara (5 percent each). A Chi-square test found that the decline from 4 percent who reported experiencing homelessness at some point in time in 2018 from the 5 percent reported in 2016 is statistically significant difference.

Figure 4. Homelessness by campus



By race/ethnicity (Figure 5), the percent experiencing homelessness was high among African American, American Indian and International students. By socioeconomic status (Figure 6), the percent experiencing homelessness was higher among first generation students (5 percent) compared to not first generation students (3 percent), and higher among Pell recipients (5 percent) than not Pell Grant recipients (3 percent).

Figure 5. Homeless status by race/ethnicity

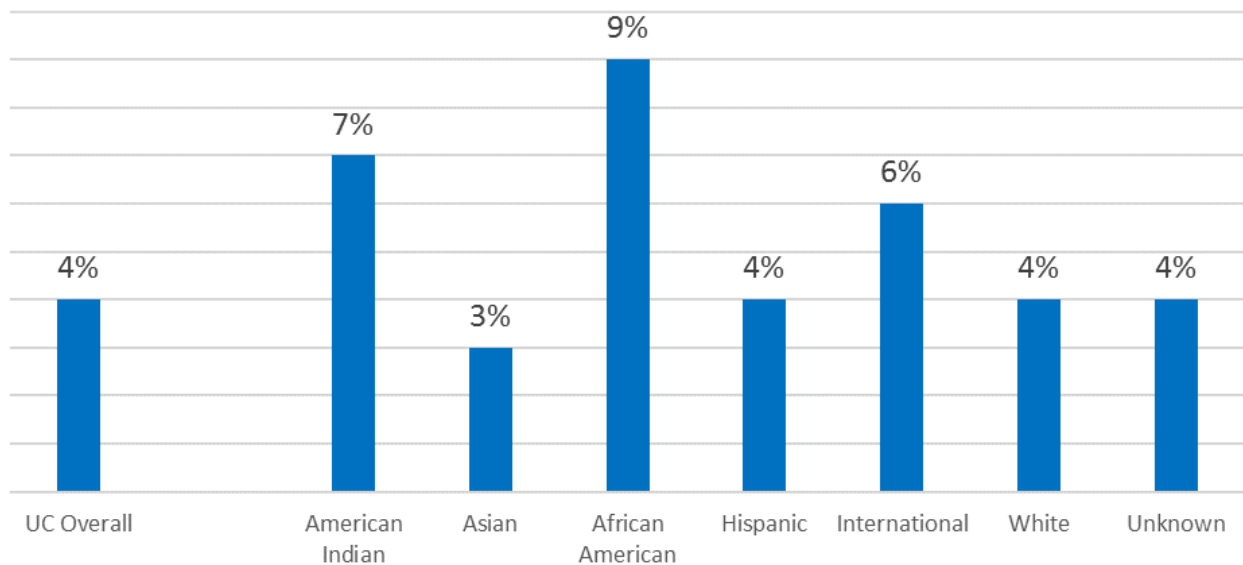
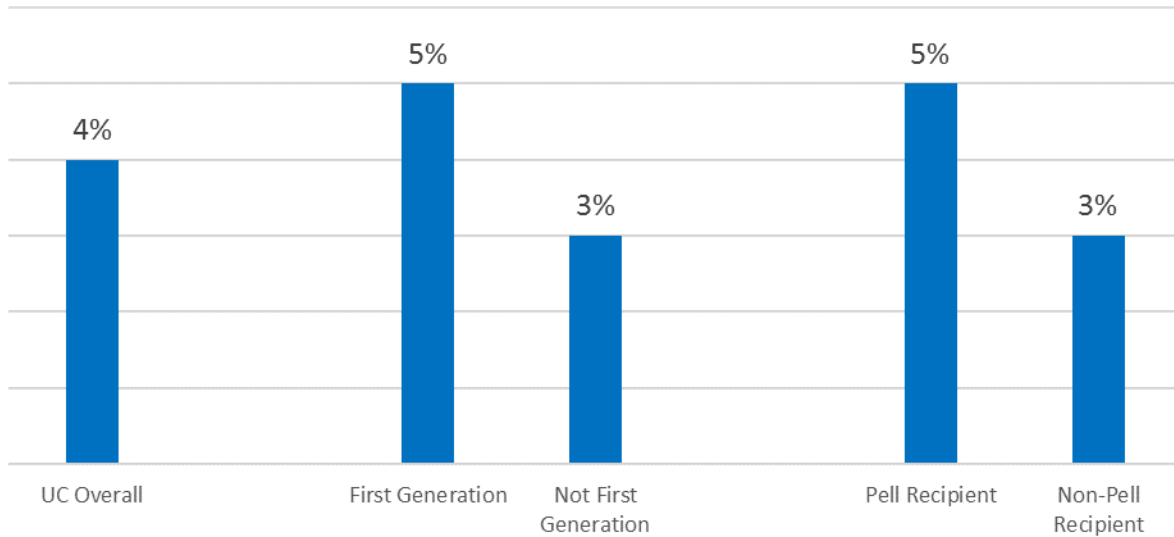


Figure 6. Homeless status by first generation and Pell status



There is also some variation in food and housing insecurity by gender, residency, first language spoken at home, applicant level, student level, and discipline. UCUES dashboards on the UC Information Center provide data by these characteristics.

Key to Acronyms

CSU	California State University
GSWB	Graduate Student Well-Being
IRAP	Institutional Research and Academic Planning
SFASS	Student Food Access and Security Survey
UCOP	UC Office of the President
UCUES	UC Undergraduate Experience Survey
USDA	US Department of Agriculture