# Summary of Spring 2019 student survey about housing, food, transportation, health, and digital access: select results (updated January 6, 2019)

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**Total number of responses (those 18 or older): 778** (survey sent to 6,000 students) = 13.0% response rate (531 answered the USDA questions); 178 questions with skip logic (22 minute mean time)

**Who is food insecure?**

32% of respondents are considered to have low or very low food security by the USDA, while almost 50% have high food security

*USDA food security scores (of those who answered the questions, N=531):*

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Number of affirmative answers | Number of respondents with this score | USDA categories | Count | Percent |
| 0 | 260 | High food security | 260 | 49 |
| 1 | 63 | Marginal food security | 101 | 19 |
| 2 | 38 |
| 3 | 30 | Low food security | 78 | 15 |
| 4 | 26 |
| 5 | 22 |
| 6 | 27 | Very low food security | 92 | 17 |
| 7 | 32 |
| 8 | 16 |
| 9 | 9 |
| 10 | 8 |
| Grand Total | **531** |  | **531** | **100** |

We also asked non-financial versions of the USDA food security questions, which gave us a similar set of percentages, with 24.94% at low or very low food security.

* *Year in school:* As in 2015, we

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| --- | --- |
| Year in school | Percent of students who are food insecure under the USDA measure (number of students) |
| First | 22.3 (23) |
| Second | 31.4 (22) |
| Third | 37.7 (43) |
| Fourth | 33.3 (33) |
| Fifth and above | 59.5 (25) |
| MA students | 26.9 (18) |
| PhD students | 15.6 (5) |

found that food insecurity

rates generally rise over total number of years in school.

(N=531 total) X2 (1, N=531) = 25.692, p<0.001.

* *Ethnicity:* White students are significantly more likely to be food secure – 27.7% are food insecure, vs 38.6% of non-white students X2 (1, N=531) = 6.861, p=0.009. Latino students are significantly more likely to be food insecure – 45.6% vs 30.4% of non-Latino students X2 (1, N=531) = 5.425, p=0.020.
* *Students with disabilities* are more likely to be food insecure, 42.1% of students self-declaring a disability are food insecure vs. 27.7% of those not declaring a disability X2 (1, N=531) = 10.686, p=0.001.
* *Students who have experienced housing insecurity* are more likely to be food insecure; 63.6% are food insecure compared with 19.1% of those who have not experienced housing insecurity. X2 (1, N=531) = 99.647, p=0.000.
* *Students who have been denied medical services* are more likely to be food insecure; 43.4% are food insecure, compared with 18.8% who have not been denied medical services X2 (2, N=472) = 33.228, p=0.000.

*Students who feel lonely sometimes, often, or always* are more likely to be food insecure:

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| --- | --- |
| How often do you feel lonely? | Percent of respondents who are food insecure |
| Never | 18.0 |
| Rarely | 18.9 |
| Sometimes | 29.9 |
| Very often | 53.8 |
| Always | 50.0 |

X2 (4, N=469) = 32.345, p=0.000.

*No significant differences in food security:* Part time vs. full-time students, past experiences in foster care, male vs. female identity, citizenship, car ownership, living with a child under 18 years of age.

*Food access challenges:* Those who are food insecure find it much more difficult to get to the grocery store due to transportation, time, or other factors (overall, 65.23% of all respondents say that is it easy to get to a grocery store, in terms of transportation, time, or other factors, while 8.96% say it is difficult or somewhat difficult)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Ease of getting to a grocery store | Percent of respondents who are food insecure |
| Difficult | 69.2% |
| Somewhat difficult | 39.4 |
| Neutral | 37.0 |
| Somewhat easy | 40.7 |
| Easy | 27.0 |

X2 (4, N=531) = 16.741, p=0.002.

Respondents found that eating a more nutritional diet might be helped by more money (55.38%), more time (53.05%), cheaper fruits and vegetables (50.0%), more knowledge about how to prepare meals (34.23%), more healthy food outlets on campus (33.33%), and others.

*Accessing food support:*

* 18.71% of respondents did not access support when needed because they believed someone else needed it more, 17.46% were not sure how to access needed resources, and 12.68% reported fear or shame preventing them from accessing help.
* 69.79% of respondents were unfamiliar with the Swipe Out Hunger Program, while 20.21% knew about the program but did not participate.
* 49.17% of respondents are aware of the Jamil Niner Student Pantry, while 34.79% were not aware but said they would be interested in using it. Most found out about the pantry from other students or physical advertisements (34.32% each), from faculty or staff (32.63%), walking by it (26.69%), or via email (23.73%). For those aware of the pantry but who have not used it, some (28.57%) report this is because they don’t want people to know or their schedule (26.19%). 24.56% of the same group would like to see it open more hours.

**Housing issues:**

While 52.79% of respondents said they have always had a secure place to stay in the last 12 months, other respondents replied they had experienced the following issues:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **In the past 12 months, did you experience any of the following housing issues? (Please choose all that apply):**  (585 Respondents, 788 Responses) | |
| **21.03%** | Borrowed money from friends or family to help pay bills |
| **10.26%** | Not able to pay or underpaid your rent or mortgage? |
| **7.35%** | Experienced a rent or mortgage increase that made it difficult to pay rent or mortgage |
| **6.32%** | Did not pay the full amount of a gas, oil, or electricity bill |
| **5.13%** | Moved in with other people (e.g. couch surf), even for a little while, because of financial problems |
| **3.08%** | Lived with others beyond the expected capacity of the house or apartment |
| **2.91%** | Have an account default or go into collections due to housing related expenses |
| **2.39%** | Did not know where you were going to sleep, even for one night |
| **1.54%** | Other |
| **1.37%** | Lived in your car, camper, outdoor location, or abandoned building because you had no other place to stay |
| **1.20%** | Stayed temporarily at a hotel or motel without a permanent to return to (not on vacation or business travel) |
| **0.85%** | Was evicted or thrown out of housing (formally or informally) |
| **0.17%** | Receive a summons to appear in housing court? |
| **0.00%** | Stayed in a homeless shelter |
| **71.11%** | None of the above - I have always had a secure place to stay |

* 71.93% of students experienced these during the school year, and 32.16% experienced them over the summer and 19.88% did over winter break (n=171).
* The primary reason students reported leading to housing issues were lack money (88.47%), lack of support by family (22.35%), not knowing about resources (22.35%), or unexpected gaps in housing access (16.47%) (n=170).
* 71.9% of students feel very or extremely safe in their housing, while 24.43% feel somewhat safe, and 3.67% feel a little bit safe or not at all safe.

**Transportation:** 79.90% of respondents have a car; of those that do not, 43.86% have regular access to someone else’s car though around half have access only some of the time they need it or rarely have access, and most use public transportation or walk as an alternative to owning a car.

**Health care access:**

* Only 2.12% of respondents did not have healthcare; 17.37% had it through UNCC, while 58.26% accessed it through their parents.
* 59.53% had a routine medical exam within the last 12 months (17.48% received this at school), 71.40% had at least one dental exam within the same period
* In terms of mental health care, 15.04% accessed this at school, while 27.75% accessed this outside of school, and 18.01% did not access this (472 respondents).
* 40.04% report needing medical services but not seeking them, primarily for financial (62.43%), insurance (47.62%), or time constraints (48.15%).

**Digital access:**

* 97.44% of respondents report owning or leasing a smartphone; 92.52% report that this is fully functional.
* 27.56% own or lease a desktop computer, while 94.66% own or lease a laptop computer (84.62% report the laptop is fully functional).
* Respondents report that they use a computer for work or school:

A screenshot of a cell phone

Description automatically generated

* There are 151 responses about how technological problems have affected their schoolwork.
* 88.79% report that reliable internet access is extremely important to them with 404 responses about why they gave this rating. Most use the internet at home, though the library and school are also important locations.
* 52.21% report some delays in their internet speeds in their primary location, and 28.54% say they would use the internet more if they could, but they are limited primarily by availability of the internet and time constraints.

**Demographic data**

**Year in school (661 respondents) (UNCC data from** https://ir-analytics.uncc.edu/tableau/unc-charlotte-summary-dashboard)**:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sp 2019 | UNCC Number | UNCC Percent | Survey Percent |
| Fr | 3309 | 11.9050189s | 20.12 |
| So | 4675 | 16.8195719 | 14.67 |
| Jr | 6679 | 24.0295017 | 20.73 |
| Sr | 7483 | 26.9221083 | 18.46 |
| FYR | 367 | 1.32038136 | 7.56 |
| MA | 3178 | 11.4337111 | 12.1 |
| PhD | 967 | 3.47904299 | 5.75 |
| Other | 1137 | 4.09066379 | 0.61 |
| TOTAL | 27795 | 100 |  |

* 85.33% of respondents were full time students (12 credits or more for undergraduates, 9 for graduate students)
* 65.58% identified as female (compared with 48.7% of UNCC students), 30.86% as male, and 85.63% identified as heterosexual, 7.86% as bisexual, and 2.87% as gay or lesbian
* Most students born from 1990-2000
* 93.19% are US citizens or permanent residents

**Ethnic identity (checked all that applied):**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sp 2019 | UNCC Number | UNCC Percent | Survey Percent |
| White | 15115 | 54.3802842 | 51.75 |
| African American | 4416 | 15.8877496 | 17.52 |
| Hispanic | 2655 | 9.55207771 | 8.76 |
| Asian | 1894 | 6.81417521 | 10.92 |
| Multiracial | 1142 | 4.10865264 |  |
| American Indian | 85 | 0.3058104 | 2.42 |
| Pacific Islander | 29 | 0.10433531 | 0.27 |
| TOTAL | 27795 | 100 |  |