

Undergraduate Basic Needs

Summary

The University of California Undergraduate Survey (UCUES) 2024 was administered from April 19 to August 2. A total of 4,706 students responded to the survey (a response rate of 15%). This brief summarizes responses to the wildcard questions, which focused on access to basic needs support in the areas of food, housing, and health & well-being.

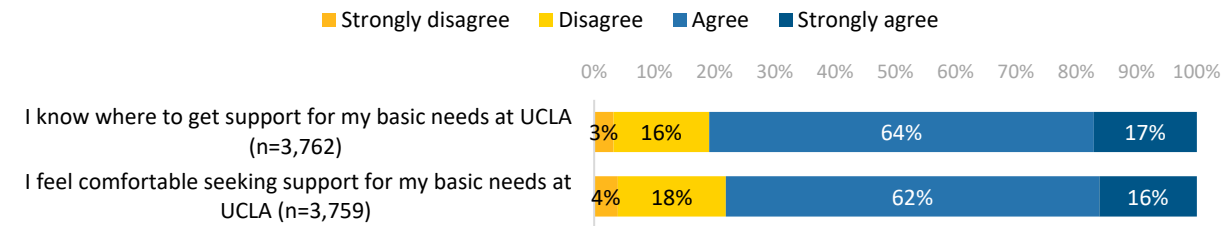
Key Findings

- Most students (81%) reported knowing where to find support for their basic needs at UCLA, yet 22% felt uncomfortable asking for support. Awareness of services is notably lower among transgender (72%) and Hispanic/Latine (78%) students, indicating a need for improved outreach to these populations.
- Transgender students reported the lowest access to housing (50%) and quality of overall diet (50%). Additionally, Black/African American and Hispanic/Latine students experienced lower quality diets (56%), showing disparities among demographic groups.
- 81% of students rated their physical health as 'good' to 'very excellent', and only about 60% felt similarly about their mental health. Notably, non-binary (70%) and transgender (76%) students showed lower confidence in accessing healthcare, contrasting with the higher confidence levels of Black/African American students (92%).

Results

Access to Basic Needs

The following section provides a summary of undergraduate students' overall access to basic needs support at UCLA. When asked to respond to the following statements: "I know where to get support for my basic needs at UCLA" and "I feel comfortable seeking support for my basic needs," most students (81%) reported knowing where to find support for their basic needs at UCLA. Seventy-eight percent of respondents expressed comfort in seeking support services. Notably, 22% reported feeling uncomfortable asking for support with basic needs.



Awareness of basic needs services offered appears high among most groups, with lower awareness among transgender (72%) and Hispanic/Latine (78%) students. However, comfort in seeking services varies, especially among Pell recipients (75%), non-binary (72%), transgender (61%), Multiracial (74%), and Hispanic/Latine (74%) students. The data suggests that additional efforts may be needed to ensure these students groups feel comfortable seeking basic needs support on campus.

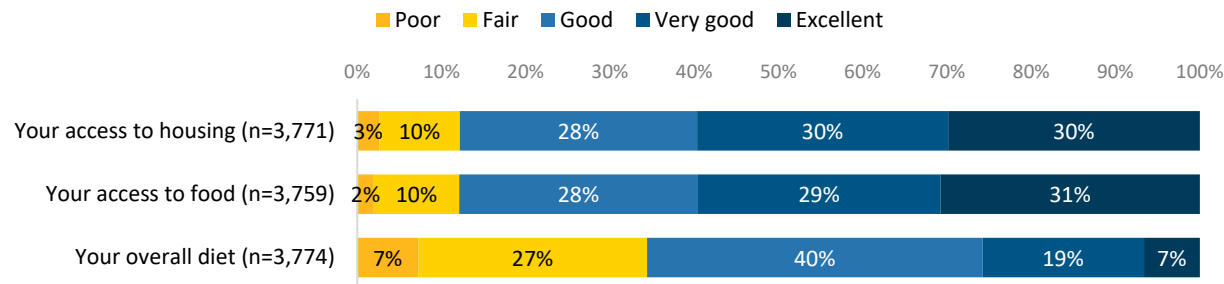
% with at least some agreement by demographic group

		I know where to get support for my basic needs at UCLA	I feel comfortable seeking support for my basic needs at UCLA
Gender	Women	81%	77%
	Non-binary/Another identity	79%	72%
	Men	81%	82%
	Trans	72%	61%
	Unknown/Unreported	72%	69%
Race/Ethnicity	Asian	83%	81%
	Black/African American	83%	84%
	Hispanic/Latine	78%	74%
	International	81%	81%
	Multiracial	80%	74%
	White	81%	79%
	Unknown/Masked*	80%	75%
Pell Ever	Yes	81%	75%
	No	81%	79%
Undocu Status	Undocumented	83%	80%
	Documented	81%	78%

*Unknown/Masked group includes unknown racial/ethnic groups and students' groups with low n's.

Food and Housing

Students were also asked to rate the quality of their access to housing, food, and overall diet. Eighty-eight percent of students said they had ‘good’ to ‘excellent’ housing and food. While most (66%) said that their overall diet was ‘good’ to ‘excellent,’ a notable portion (34%) said that their overall diet was ‘fair’ to ‘poor.’



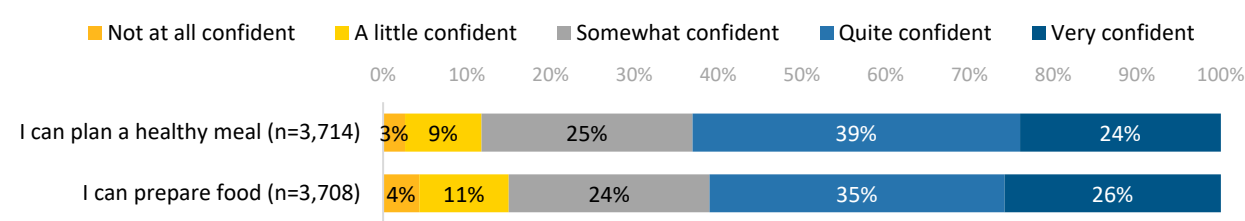
There are notable differences in access to housing, food, and overall diet quality when comparing demographic groups. Transgender students reported the lowest level of access to housing (50%) and quality of overall diet (50%), highlighting a substantial gap when compared to other student groups. In terms of disparities by race and ethnicity, both Black/African American and Hispanic/Latine groups reported lower quality in overall diet (56%), especially when contrasted with White students (74%). Pell grant recipients reported lower access to housing and lower diet quality. Additionally, undocumented students had the lowest access to food (76%) and reported a lower quality of overall diet (60%) compared to documented students.

% selecting ‘good’ to ‘excellent’ by demographic group

		Access to housing	Access for food	Overall diet
Gender	Women	89%	88%	64%
	Non-binary/Another identity	89%	87%	59%
	Men	87%	89%	70%
	Trans	50%	78%	50%
	Unknown/Unreported	76%	78%	78%
Race/Ethnicity	Asian	88%	90%	65%
	Black/African American	89%	86%	56%
	Hispanic/Latine	84%	82%	56%
	International	81%	86%	77%
	Multiracial	92%	91%	63%
	White	91%	90%	74%
	Unknown/Masked	87%	86%	68%
Pell Ever	Yes	83%	79%	55%
	No	89%	90%	68%
Undocu Status	Undocumented	86%	76%	60%
	Documented	88%	88%	66%

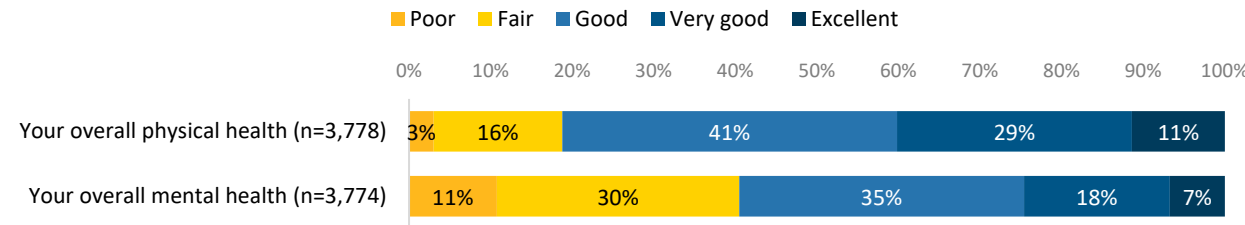
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Most students (88%) felt at least somewhat confident in their ability to plan a healthy meal, and 85% said they felt at least somewhat confident in their ability to prepare food.

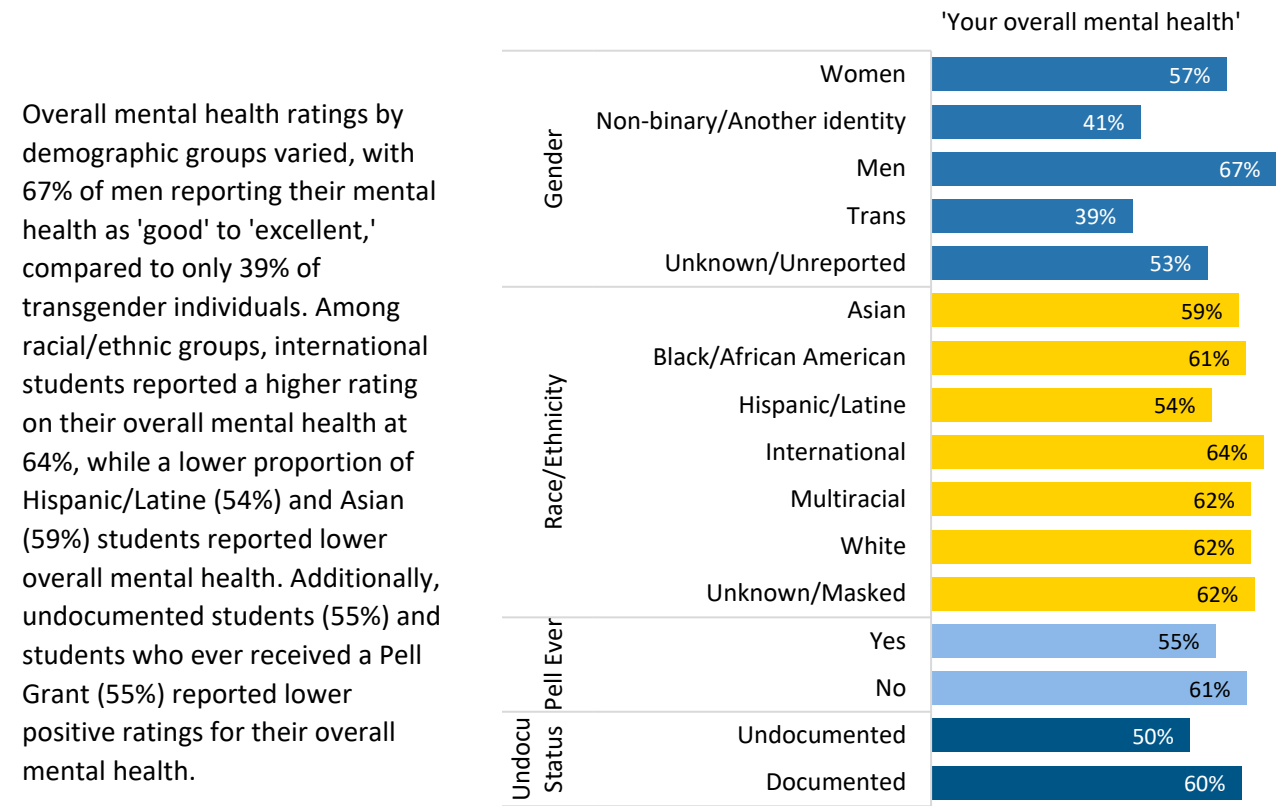


Health and Wellbeing

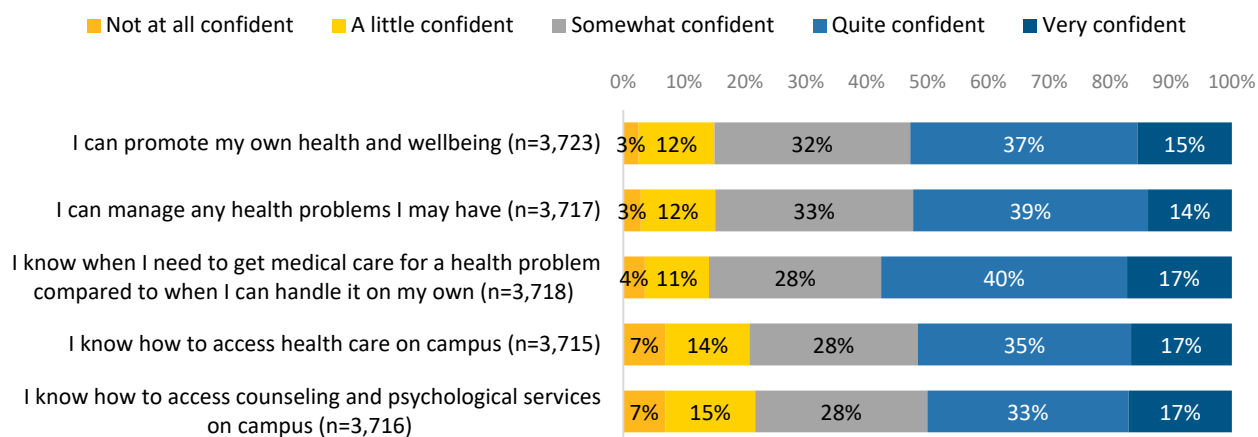
Students were asked to describe their overall physical and mental health, and access to services. Eighty-one percent reported having 'good' to 'excellent' physical health, while only about 60% reported the same for their overall mental health.



% with at selecting 'good' to 'excellent' by demographic group



More than half of respondents felt quite or very confident in promoting their well-being, managing health problems, knowing when to seek medical care, accessing healthcare on campus, and using counseling and psychological services. However, approximately 21 to 22 percent of undergraduate students responding to the survey had little to no confidence in accessing health care and mental health services on campus.



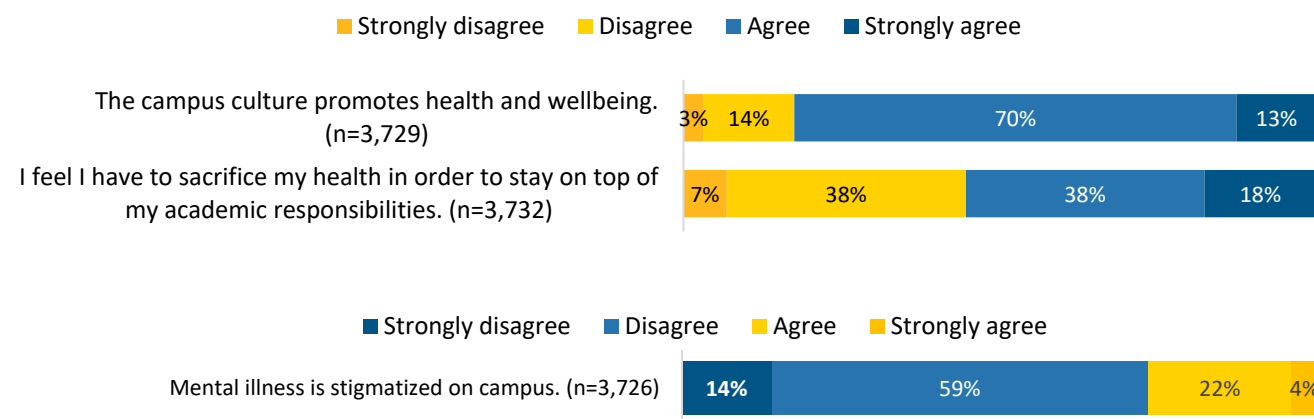
The data indicates that non-binary and transgender students had lower confidence than other student groups in knowing where to seek access to healthcare on campus, with 70% of non-binary and 76% of transgender students selecting they were at least somewhat confident to very confident (compared to 80% of overall respondents). Black/African American students show the highest confidence in knowing where to access health care on campus (92% selecting at least somewhat confident) compared to other racial/ethnic groups. In contrast, multiracial students had the lowest confidence in knowing where to access healthcare on campus.

% selecting at least 'somewhat confident' by demographic group

		I know how to access health care on campus.	I know how to access counseling/psychological services on campus.
Gender	Women	79%	79%
	Non-binary/Another identity	70%	70%
	Men	80%	80%
	Trans	76%	76%
	Unknown/Unreported	74%	74%
Race/Ethnicity	Asian	78%	78%
	Black/African American	92%	82%
	Hispanic/Latine	79%	79%
	International	86%	85%
	Multiracial	77%	76%
	White	80%	77%
	Unknown/Masked*	76%	81%
Pell Ever	Yes	83%	81%
	No	78%	78%
Undocu Status	Undocumented	87%	87%
	Documented	78%	79%

*Unknown/Masked group includes unknown racial/ethnic groups and students groups with low n's.

Most students (83%) felt UCLA promotes health and well-being, with 73% disagreeing with the statement that mental health is stigmatized on campus. However, a notable proportion of students (56%) felt they had to sacrifice their health to stay on top of their academic responsibilities.



% with at selecting ‘agree’ to ‘strongly agree’ by demographic group

