Resources Supporting Homeless Students at California's Public Universities and Colleges

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Executive Summary

This research examines resources at California's public campuses that support homeless undergraduate students. A majority of the homeless youth surveyed in California, ages 17-24, recognized higher education as one of the primary paths to ending their homelessness and achieving economic stability.[1] Yet, homeless youth face numerous barriers to entering college and maintaining enrollment once accepted. A recent study of the California State University (CSU) system found that 1 in 9 CSU students are experiencing some form of housing instability.[2] In the California Community College system, 93 percent of faculty and staff agreed or strongly agreed that some students on their campuses are experiencing homelessness, but only 15 percent reported that their campuses are adequately prepared to support students experiencing housing and food insecurity.[3]

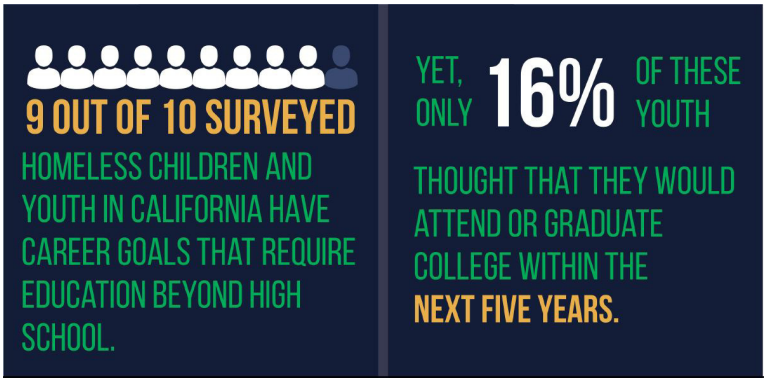
While research on homeless undergraduate students remains incomplete, we sought to assess the extent that resources exist to assist such students at California's public higher education institutions. Website searches were conducted on 82 public campuses (50 of the 113 California Community Colleges, and all of the 23 CSUs and the 9 University of California institutions) to identify the type and level of supportive resources found to be important to homeless youth. Specifically, we looked to see if campuses include mental health services, child care, centers for students who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer/questioning (LGBTQ), centers for non-Caucasian identifying students, advisors and programs for foster youth and students experiencing homelessness, student housing, food assistance, and discounted public transit. Findings were then quantified into individual campus scores and campus system averages.

Resources are present in varying degrees depending on the type of resource, campus, and campus system. The most commonly offered resources on California public campuses include: mental health services, discounted/free child care, foster youth advisors, and discounted/free bus passes. While advisors and supportive programs for foster youth are common in all three systems, they are rare for homeless students. On average, University of California (UC) campuses offer the most programs and services, followed by CSUs, while California Community Colleges (Community Colleges) are significantly less well-resourced. While the supply certainly does not meet the demand, all of the UCs and CSUs offer student housing compared to only 20 percent of the Community Colleges examined. Public campuses can further support students who struggle with housing instability by directly providing additional resources and increasing access to existing ones. They also have the potential to partner with public agencies to connect eligible youth with existing public social services.

Introduction

California's homeless youth ages 18-24 aspire for a life beyond daily struggles to meet basics needs and survive. Without adequate job training or education to prepare them for the workforce, they must often decide between participating in the underground economy or engaging in survival sex to afford a meal or secure a place to stay.[4] Despite facing many challenges such as unstable housing, a lack of steady income, high rates of incomplete secondary education, and the absence of adult support, many young people experiencing homelessness have career

goals that require postsecondary education. In fact, when interviewed by the California Research Bureau in 2008, more than 90 percent of the 208 youth identified a specific career goal that required education beyond high school.[5] However, only 16 percent said they believed they would be able to attend or graduate college within the next five years.[6] The stark difference between their aspirations and their perceptions of their futures reflect their understanding of the great challenges they must overcome to complete higher education.



California's public universities and colleges are in a unique position to offer assistance to homeless undergraduate youth. For one, California campuses can provide assistance and resources with less stigma than typically associated with receiving social services. Likewise, campus-related resources are physically accessible to students experiencing homelessness, alleviating transportation barriers that can make it difficult to access safety net programs.

This report examines the current supply of programs and services that could support unstably housed undergraduate students at California's public higher education institutions. Website searches were conducted on 44 percent of the 113 California Community College and all of the CSU and UC campuses to identify the type and level of supportive resources found to be important to homeless youth. While these programs and services are not exclusively available to students experiencing homelessness, they were deemed applicable based on the demographic trends of this community (such as being a parent, a former foster youth, and/or identifying as LGBT) and based on input from youth who have experienced homelessness first hand.

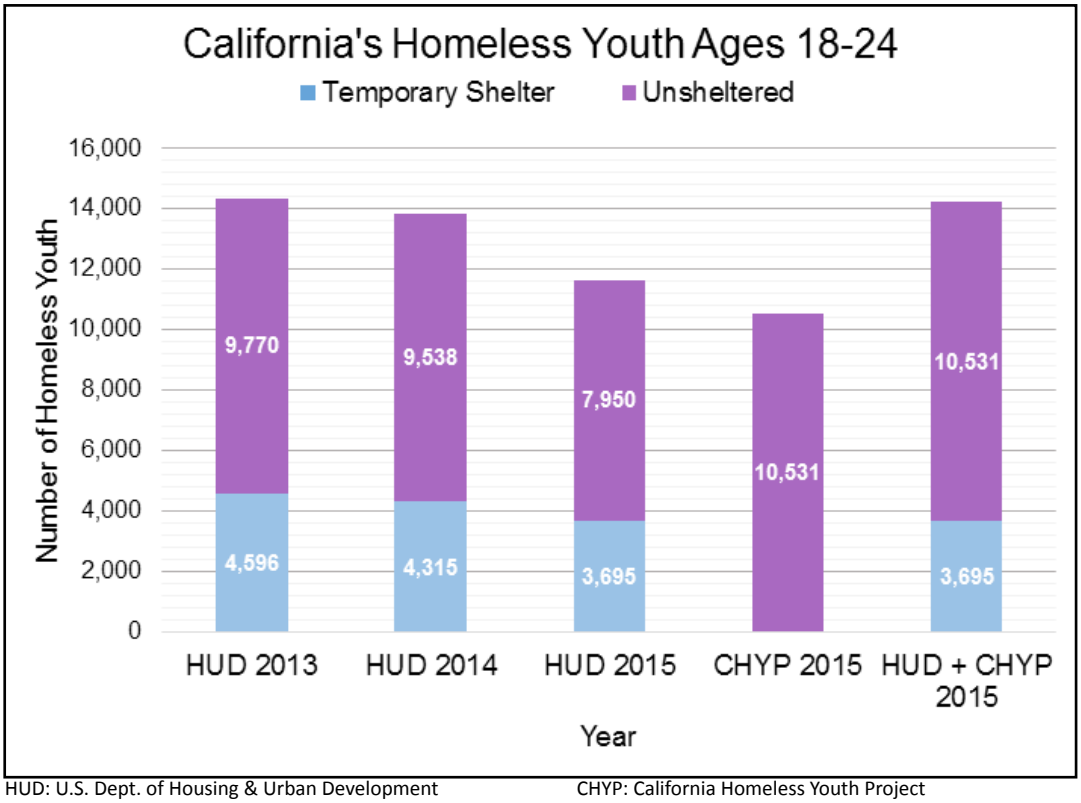
This report provides a brief overview of youth homelessness in California and the associated impacts. Public policy suggestions that speak to the findings of this research will be provided with the ultimate goal of closing resource gaps and empowering homeless youth to attain a college education, pursue their career goals, and achieve self-sufficiency.

California's Homeless Youth

What is Youth Homelessness?

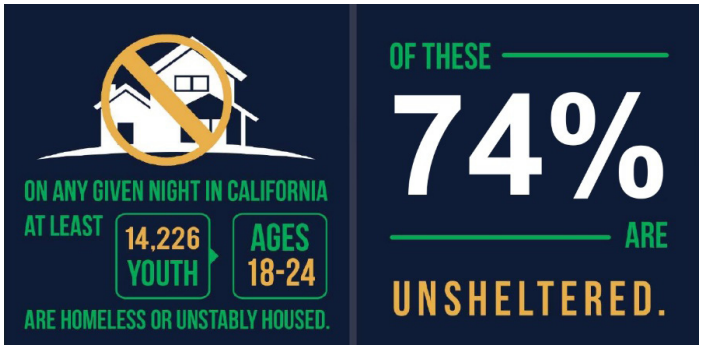
For the purposes of this report, the term "homeless youth" refers to all 18- to 24-year-olds who lack consistent access to a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence, and who lack regular adult supervision by a family member or guardian. This definition draws from the education subtitle of the McKinney-Vento Act.[7,8] Notably, this definition includes those living in shelters but excludes minors since this report focuses on college-age youth who are homeless. Furthermore, the term "higher education" in this report refers the pursuit of an associates or bachelor's degree. While vocational programs are another way to help young people competitively enter the job market, non-degree granting programs are excluded from this analysis.

How Many Youth are Homeless?



HUD: U.S. Dept. of Housing & Urban Development CHYP: California Homeless Youth Project

The exact number of youth experiencing homelessness in California is difficult to quantify because of the transient nature of this demographic. Combining findings from multiple agencies, there were at least 14,226 homeless sheltered and unsheltered youth in California in 2015.[9,10,11,12]

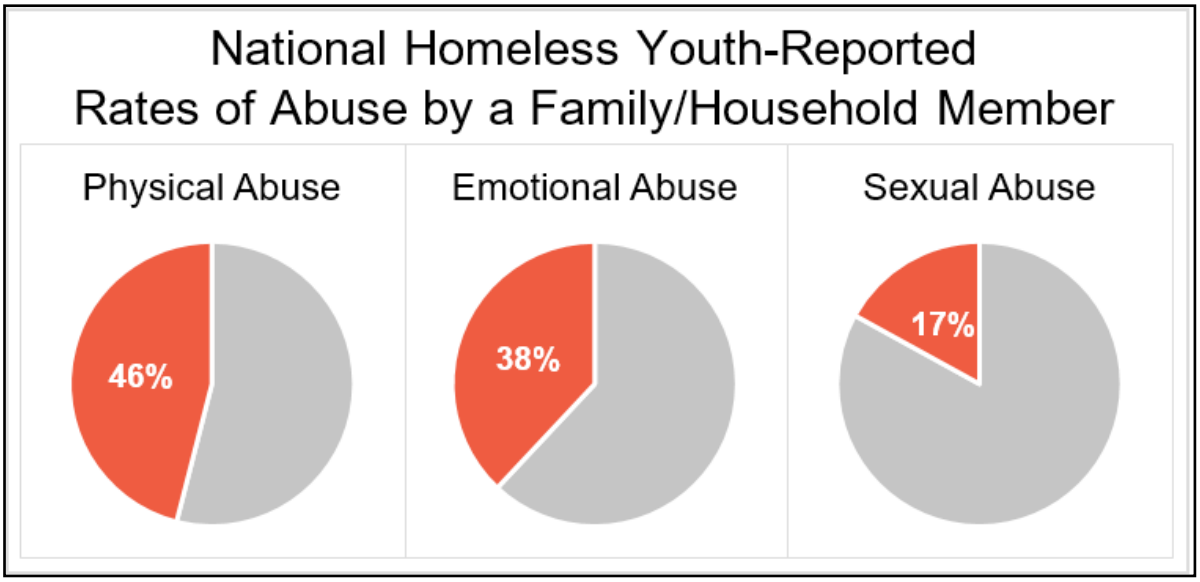


California has the largest number of young people experiencing homelessness in the nation.[13]

According to U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), California had at least 11,645 sheltered and unsheltered homeless youth in 2015.[14] However, HUD survey methods only count young people experiencing homelessness that can be visibly verified in public places (such as living under bridges and sleeping in parks) and in emergency shelters. This annual survey does not include youth sleeping in places such as abandoned buildings or on a friend's couch.[15] By comparison, a point-in-time count in 2015 conducted by communities across California, which was supported by technical assistance from the California Homeless Youth Project (CHYP), identified an additional 2,581 (or 32.5 percent more) unsheltered youth that same year.[16] Combining HUD's count of sheltered youth with CHYP's count of unsheltered youth, there were at least 14,226 unaccompanied homeless youth across the state in 2015—and likely many who were missed by these counts.

Homeless Youth Demographics

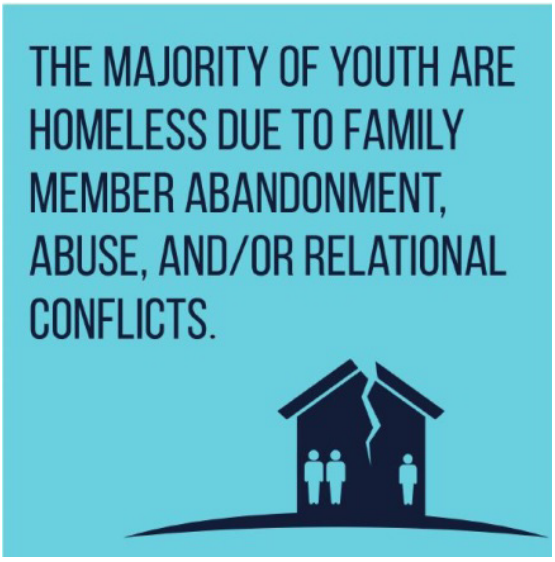
While anyone can become homeless, youth homelessness can be linked to poverty, a lack of support to address substance use or mental health challenges, child welfare and juvenile justice involvement, family/household conflicts, and a lack of affordable housing—with each factor capable of influencing the frequency and duration of homelessness.[17]



Prior to becoming homeless, homeless youth have higher rates of experiencing various forms of abuse by family/household members than the overall youth population, including physical, emotional, and/or sexual abuse.[20] Many youth fled to the streets because they determined it would be safer than staying at home.

Some youth become homeless alongside their families due to financial difficulties, such as unemployment, underemployment, a lack of affordable housing, or a costly financial emergency.[18] Over time they may separate from their families, in some cases to make it easier to find a temporary place to stay. Youth homelessness is also strongly associated with family conflict, much of which is exacerbated by poverty. According to CHYP, the majority of children and youth say they initially became homeless due to system failure or family/household conflicts.[19] These statewide findings align with national statistics. According to the National Conference of State Legislatures,

46 percent of homeless youth report being physically abused, 38 percent report being emotionally abused, and 17 percent report being sexual abused by a family or household member.[20] In short, the majority of youth either fled to the streets because they determined it would be safer than staying at home or because material constraints forced them into homelessness.



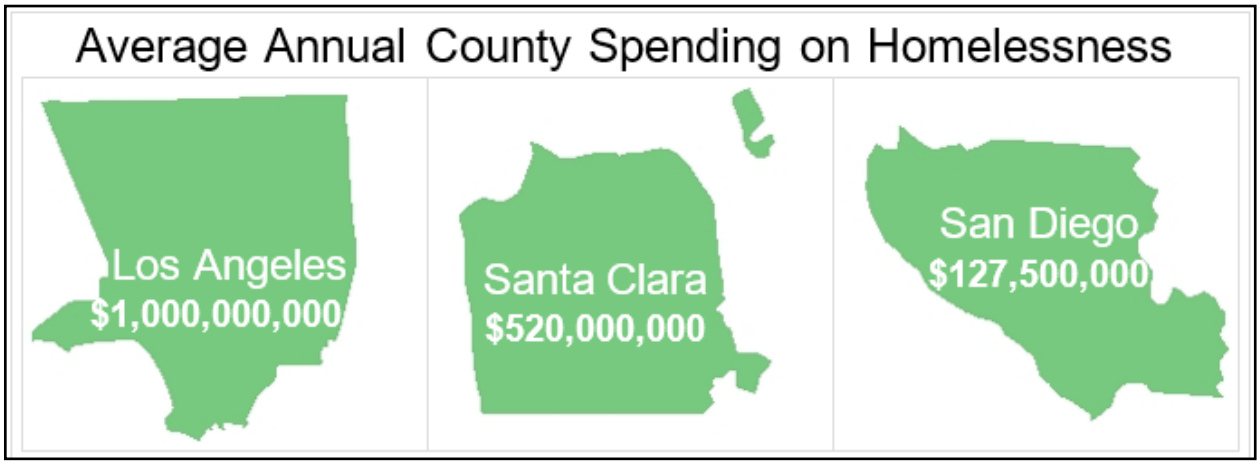
Homeless youth are also more likely to have experience in the child welfare system or the foster care system, identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer/questioning (LGBTQ), and be pregnant or parenting. Despite the passage of Assembly Bill 12, "The California Fostering Connections to Success Act" of 2010, which provides foster youth up to age 21 with additional services and funds to transition into adulthood, a national study in 2013 found that by age 26 "36% of former foster young adults … reported at least one episode of homelessness."[21,22] In Los Angeles County, almost 25 percent of former foster youth are predicted to experience homelessness within two years of exiting the foster care system.[23]

Homeless youth are also more likely to identify as LGBTQ. According to national statistics, about 30 percent of California's homeless youth identify as LGBTQ, which is about three times higher than the overall youth population.[24,25] Many homeless youth are also pregnant or parenting. According to a report presented to the U.S. House Committee on Ways and Means, homeless youth are "three times as likely as national samples of youth to be pregnant, to have impregnated someone, or to already be a parent."[26] It may be that identifying as LGBTQ or becoming a parent contributes to relational tensions at home, resulting in the youth either running away or being rejected by their family.

Consequences of Youth Homelessness

The personal toll of experiencing homelessness is incredibly traumatic. Homelessness among young people can become cyclical, and the dangers and harm of even a single episode can be extensive. Lacking adequate housing means not having a place to cook food, use the restroom, take shelter from the elements, and sleep safely. Issues related to physical health are prevalent among homeless youth such as sexually transmitted diseases, tuberculosis, and diabetes.[27] People experiencing homelessness are at a higher risk for substance use, victimization such as physical abuse and sexual exploitation, and mental health conditions including posttraumatic stress disorder, depression and suicidal ideation.[28]

Homeless youth are also more likely to be victims of crime. Nationally, homeless youth report experiencing sexual abuse significantly more than the youth population in general, with sexual abuse rates between 21 to 42 percent among homeless youth compared to 1 to 3 percent among the youth population in general.[29] Each year in the United States, it is estimated that 5,000 homeless youth die from assault, illness, or suicide.[30] In short, young people experiencing homelessness tend to face extreme hardship and decreased likelihood of reaching their fullest



Homelessness is costly both for the individual and for public agencies. The specific costs of youth homelessness across California have not been studied, but the comparable costs of adult homelessness were assessed by several California counties.

potential.

Each occurrence of homelessness that is prevented or quickly resolved results in potential cost savings in medical care, mental health care, and/or criminal justice involvement. The financial cost of youth homelessness in California is currently unknown. What is known is that homeless youth are at a higher risk of becoming chronically homeless as adults, an issue that has been studied and calculated for its impact of counties. For example, the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority calculates Los Angeles County spends on average $2,897 per month, or $34,764 per year, for just one adult experiencing homelessness.[31] Looking at the total annual costs incurred on a broad spectrum of public services for the homeless, Santa Clara County is estimated to spend about $520 million per year, San Diego County about $127.5 million, and Los Angeles County about $1 billion.[32,33,34]

Higher Education Barriers for Homeless Youth

Early interventions in youth homelessness such as the provision of stable housing, job training, and providing access and support to obtain a higher education have the potential for lasting impacts in the lives of these young adults while also saving California taxpayers millions of dollars a year. While young people experiencing homelessness recognize a college education as one of the primary means to acquiring stable housing and a stable life, they face many barriers in obtaining a college education including being eligible and applying, being accepted, navigating the financial aid process, and maintaining enrollment.[35] This report reviews each of these potential barriers to getting a college education, focusing on homeless youth who are already enrolled in college and the public campus resources that support them.

First, many homeless youth are not eligible to apply to California's higher education institutions. All Community College, UC, and CSU applicants are required to have a high school diploma or equivalent, with UCs and CSUs having additional requirements.[36,37,38] The CSU system uses an eligibility index that combines grades and test scores, while the UC system requires a minimum grade point average of 3.0 for California resident applicants.[39,40] Focused on daily survival, young

Higher Education Barriers for Homeless Youth

- Being eligible to apply for college
- Navigating the application process
- Being accepted
- Navigating the financial aid process
- Maintaining enrollment

people experiencing homelessness often have difficulty earning a high grade point average and graduating from high school. For example, only 6 of 54 homeless youth surveyed in 2007 by the California Research Bureau said they had a high school diploma or equivalent.[41]

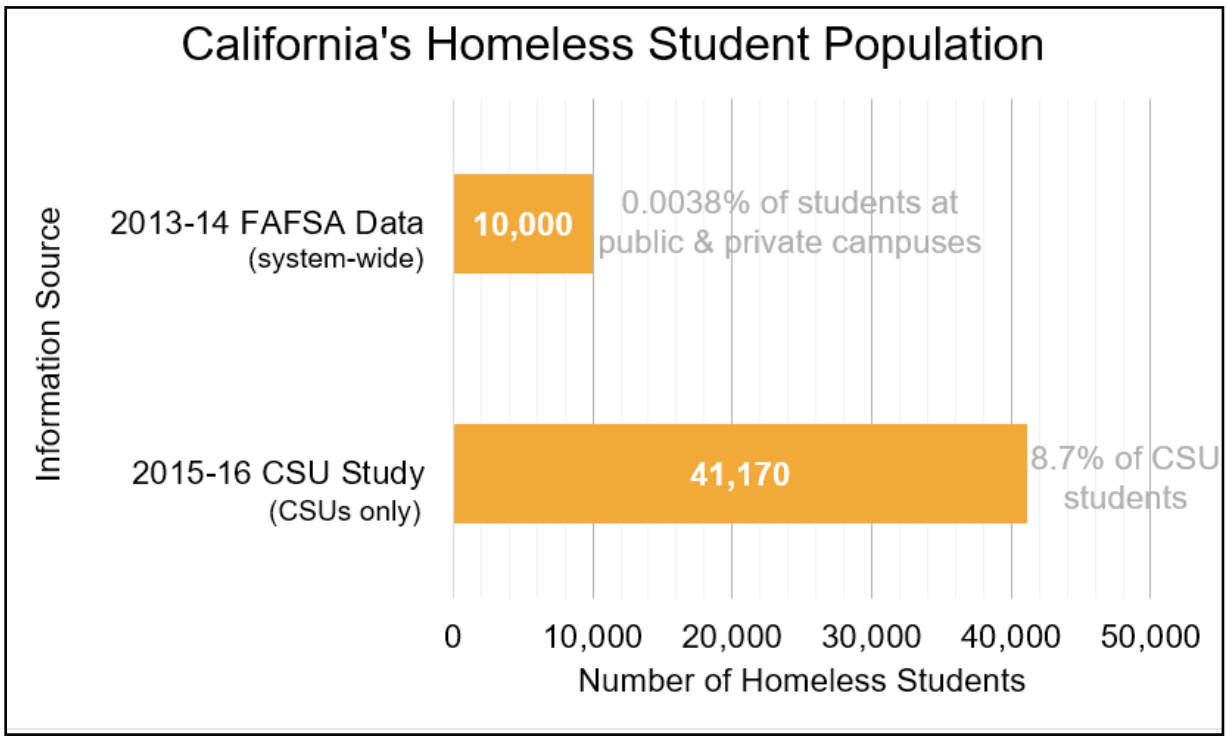
Assuming eligibility requirements are met, a youth experiencing homelessness must then navigate the college application process to be accepted. When asked "What kind of support or help would you need in order to go back to school?" none of the homeless youth surveyed by the California Research Bureau mentioned support during the application process.[42] Instead, their responses emphasized the need for immediate stability and addressing basic needs such as housing, food, and clothes. Another challenge homeless youth face during the application process is providing documentation such as proof of California residency for lower in-state tuition as well as primary school records (which may be fragmented for youth who experienced housing instability and moved frequently).[i,43]

Community Colleges are "open access," meaning they must accept everyone who is a state resident, who is 18 or older, and who has a high school diploma or equivalent. In contrast, being accepted to one of California's public universities is far more challenging for homeless youth.[44] Having a high GPA and a strong extracurricular portfolio are not the only barriers that homeless youth may face. At the CSUs, 11 of the 23 (48 percent) campuses have impacted majors, meaning more competitive eligibility requirements must be met to be accepted into these programs.[45]

Once accepted, the next big challenge for homeless youth is navigating the financial aid process. According to a 2015 survey by the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth, finances are the second most common barrier that homeless youth face in accessing postsecondary education—with "lack of knowledge of services available" taking first place.[46] Funding for low-income undergraduates can be provided by higher education institutions, government agencies and private organizations in the form of grants, scholarships, and loans. In order to access such funding sources, a homeless youth must provide proof of personal and/or parental income in the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), provide proof of their housing situation, submit electronic paperwork, and write compelling essays all by certain deadlines and/or have a good credit score. Without housing and food stability and without guidance from an adult mentor experienced in navigating the financial aid process, homeless youth face a daunting task to afford college.

Despite the many challenges that homeless youth face, some manage to get into college and

i There is not enough data to confirm the assumption that homeless youth in California pursuing higher education qualify as state "residents" for campus tuition purposes. Their states of origin, whether California or not, are unknown.



The estimated number of homeless students in California varies. The FAFSA, which allows students to self-report their lack of housing but requires it to be verified by an outside authority, has low estimates despite accounting for all undergraduate and graduate enrollment in public and private campuses across the state.47 In contrast, a recent study found more than four times the number of homeless students in the CSU system alone.[50]

stay enrolled but are not necessarily able to achieve and maintain stable housing. Information from the FAFSA reveals that about 56,588 college students nationwide, including about 10,000 in California, self-identified as homeless in 2013-14.[47] There are likely far more youth in college experiencing homelessness than the FAFSA numbers indicate because: 1) many students are unaware that temporary or periodic insecure housing counts as "homeless," 2) students may hide their homelessness because they fear stigma or discrimination, 3) students may begin experiencing housing insecurity after completing their FAFSA, and 4) proof of homelessness is required by FAFSA in order for a student to be designated as "homeless."[48,49]

Statewide, California's campuses are increasingly recognizing the issue of college student homelessness and exploring solutions. A CSU study in 2016, the first of its kind, found that 8.7 percent of the CSU student population (approximately 41,170 students) experience homelessness at any given time.[50] A recent survey of Community College faculty and staff found that students are being "increasingly impacted by issues of food insecurity, housing displacement and unmet financial needs."[51] Some 93 percent of Community College faculty and staff agreed or strongly agreed that their students were experiencing homelessness, but only 15 percent reported that their campuses were adequately prepared to support their students experiencing housing insecurity.

Public Campus Resources for Homeless Undergraduates

Research Purpose

California's public campuses are in a unique position to assist homeless and unstably housed undergraduates. For one, campuses can better promote awareness of resources to students compared to less proximate public social services. Second, campuses can make resources more physically accessible to students. In fact, when homeless youth and other attendees of a 2016 CSU-hosted Food and Housing Insecurity Conference were asked what they would do "to end homeless and housing insecurity on [their] campus," one of the more prominent responses was that "the resources would be on campus and students would know about them."[53]

This research examines existing programs and services at California's public higher education institutions that could support unstably housed undergraduate students. Programs and services examined include mental health services, child care, centers for students who identify as LGBTQ, centers for non-Caucasian identifying students, advisors and programs for foster youth and students experiencing homelessness, student housing, food assistance, and discounted public transit.[ii] This list was chosen based on the demographic trends of homeless youth as well as ideas collected from homeless students and attendees at the 2016 Food and Housing Insecurity Conference and at the 2016 California Coalition for Youth "Taking Action" Conference. In most instances, these resources were also available to low-income students more broadly.

Research Methods

To determine the current supply of programs and services that could support unstably housed undergraduate students, website searches were conducted on 50 of the 113 Community Colleges, all 9 UC campuses, and all 23 CSU campuses. The presence, affordability, and extent of campus-related services were evaluated. "Campus-related" refers to resources available through and/or supported by the higher education institution.[iii] "Presence" refers to the resource being offered on or near the campus. For some resources such as mental health services, only the presence of the resource was noted. Other resources such as child care services were also evaluated on the basis of "affordability," which refers to the level of discounts available to low-income undergraduates. Lastly, the "extent" of certain resources were examined; definitions of extent varied depending on the resource. See Appendix B for the list of criteria evaluated for each type of resource.

Online searches of resource information on campus websites were conducted using Google search engine. Each resource was researched using a set of search terms (see Appendix B for resource definitions and search terms). Search results were then examined for relevant links leading to web pages on each campus website. Campuses were also contacted by phone and email as needed to fill in information gaps.

Each campus was given a score based on the presence of the resource, affordability, and in

ii Resource constraints prevented this research from evaluating the extent of public and private financial aid available to California's homeless undergraduates. These constraints also prevented the examination of numerous other campus-related resources which could arguably support undergraduate youth experiencing homelessness.

iii Campus resources that depended solely on student clubs were not counted since regular club member turnover often results in irregularly available resources.

some cases the extent that the resource was offered. Resources deemed more impactful for homeless undergraduates, such as student housing and discounted bus passes, were weighted higher than other types of resources (see Appendices B and C for details on the scoring process).

Mental health services, which are important to homeless youth because of the high rates of trauma experienced by this population, were defined as personal counseling, crisis intervention, or any other similar one-on-one mental health service available to undergraduates and provided on campus for any number of sessions. To be counted, the mental health services had to involve at least one paid staff. Furthermore, these services had to be provided independent of other student services and programs (such as campus LGBT centers) and available to all undergraduate students.

Child care services were also examined because homeless youth are more likely than the general youth population to be parents. Child care services referred to at least one child care center on campus. The number of years a child could be cared for was taken into account, ranging from infancy (less than 1 year old) to a maximum of 6 years old or "kindergarten ready." The level of child care affordability, ranging from "no financial assistance" to "discounted" to "fully subsidized," was also factored into the scoring process

Campuses were also reviewed for resources that connect homeless youth to a supportive community such as programs that explicitly serve foster youth and/or students who are homeless, as well as programs for LGBTQ students and/or those who identify with non-Caucasian backgrounds. These programs were counted if they were located on campus and included at least two of the following: paid staff, programming (counseling, tutoring, events, and/or referrals), and/or "workshops." When LGBTQ services and programs supporting cultural diversity existed together under a broader program, both were counted as being present. In addition, foster youth and homeless student advising was defined as the presence of at least one paid adult staff whose explicit purpose was to advise, assist, or mentor current and former foster care students and/or homeless students.

Student housing provided by the college, university, or partnering nonprofit organization either on or in close proximity to the campus was reviewed. Although student housing may not be the most affordable housing option for undergraduates, it eliminates the need for homeless students to navigate rental agreements, credit checks, and costly security deposits combined with first and last month's rent. In addition to removing transportation barriers to school, student housing typically includes a level of mentoring through residential advisors as well as access to food through campus cafeteria meal plans.

Various forms of food assistance on campus were examined. It is widely recognized that homeless students are at a higher risk of experiencing food insecurity which is generally defined as "the limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods" due to poverty and a lack of places to store and prepare nutritious foods.[54,55] Data on campus food assistance, including on-campus food pantries, meal vouchers, and financial assistance, were collected from campus websites through Google searches in December 2016.[iv] Food assistance findings for CSU campuses were then verified by CSU research examining levels of food assistance on its campuses.[56]

Lastly, access to public transit was examined. Access to public transit, for this study, refers to the provision of discounted or free bus passes through the campus or its primary bussing service. Discounts available through the campus and also through the campus's primary bussing service were both counted in order to prioritize student access.[v] A public bussing service was considered "primary" if the campus website indicated a particular bus line as the recommended mode of public transportation. In the instances where no bus lines were specified or more than two bus lines were specified, the most geographically extensive public transit system was examined. The distance covered by each primary transportation system was also taken into account (see Appendix B for details on research methodology).

Scores for each campus were compiled from the research findings and then turned into grades out of 100 percent, with higher grades representing well-resourced campuses. This allowed for comparisons to be made between individual campuses as well as between the three campus systems. The scoring process for each resource was determined based on perceived benefits of each resource to the majority of undergraduate students experiencing homelessness.

	Max. Score Per Resource	Mental Health Services	Child Care Services	Foster Youth Advisor	Homeless Youth Advisor	Foster Youth Program	Homeless Youth Program	Cultural Diversity Center	Gender Diversity Center	Campus Housing	Food Assistance	Public Transit (presence of discounted)	Max. Possible Score	Max Percentage Grade
All California Public Higher Education Systems (CSU, UC, CCC)	2.00	2.00	0.50	0.25	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	3.00	0.50	3.00	15.25	100%	

The highest possible score a campus could receive was 15.25 (see Appendices B and C for details on the scoring process). Student housing and discounted public transportation were allotted the highest number of points at a maximum of 3 each since these services were deemed crucial for the majority of homeless students. Discounted bus passes were weighted at 1.5 and free bus passes at 3. This score was then multiplied by the extent of the bus service.

Foster youth and/or homeless student programs, programs that promote racial, cultural and sex-orientation diversity, and mental health services were weighted slightly less, at a maximum of 2 points each. One point was given per foster youth program and homeless student program for a maximum of 2 points total. LGBTQ programs and cultural centers were scored in a similar

iv Food assistance provided through Cooperative Agencies Resources for Education (CARE) programs were not counted because not all homeless youth qualify to participate in this state-funded, statewide program.

v Campuses that only offered free or discounted bus passes to students in Educational Opportunity Programs (EOP) were not counted since not all homeless youth qualify for these programs.

way with a maximum of 2 points total.

While discounted campus child care may be crucial for some students experiencing housing insecurity, it may be irrelevant to others. Taking into account the extent of the discount and the age range of child care services available, the maximum possible score for child care was 2 points: 1 point for being present and discounted multiplied by a range of 1-6 years of child care divided by a weight of 3.

Advising was scored less than other resources, at a maximum score of .75, because in many instances campus staff that provided advising had other roles that may limit their capacity to attend to the needs of specific student communities. Foster youth advising was given a max score of 0.50 and homeless youth advising was given a max score of 0.25. The availability of homeless youth advising was weighted less than foster youth advising because, in every case, advisors for homeless youth were also advisors for foster youth. Thus, a homeless youth advisor represents an expansion of a foster youth advisor's roles and responsibilities rather than an additional staff providing student services.

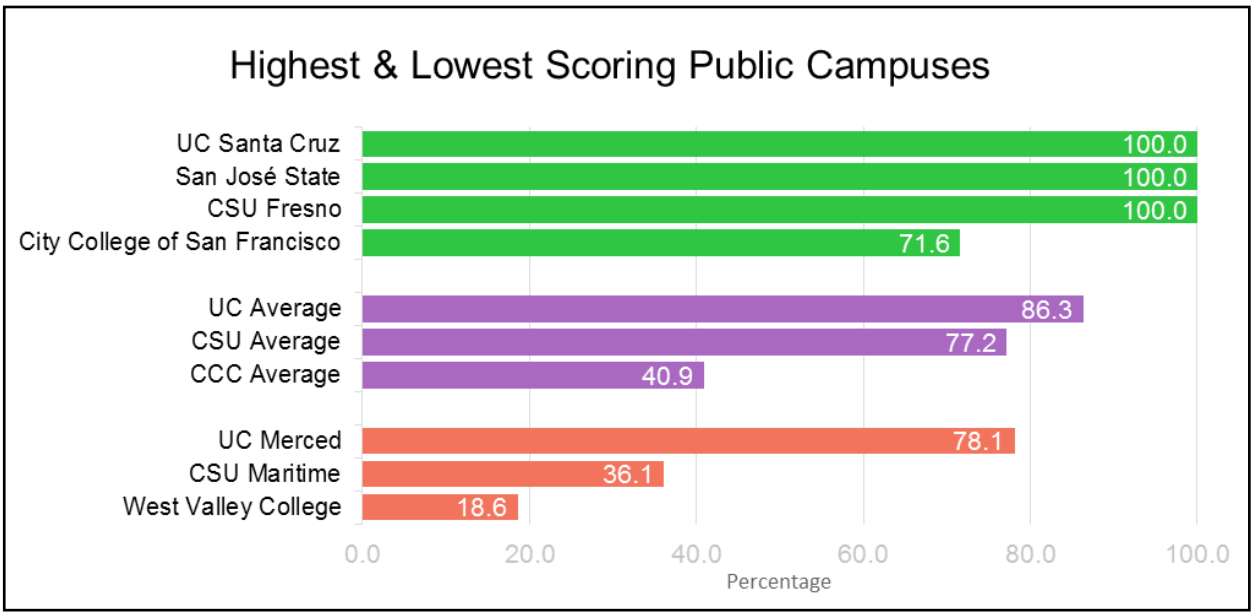
Food assistance was weighted at maximum of a half of a point. Campus-related food assistance may be one of a number of food source options that low-income students can access. Other potential food sources include local soup kitchens, food pantries, and the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, also known as CalFresh in California). With an estimated 21 percent of CSU students struggling with food insecurity, it is doubtful that this collection of resources fully meets student needs across California's public campuses.[57] In addition, campus-based food assistance is often limited; for example, the majority of food pantries are only opened for a few hours each week and limit the amount of grocery items a student can receive per visit.

Research Findings

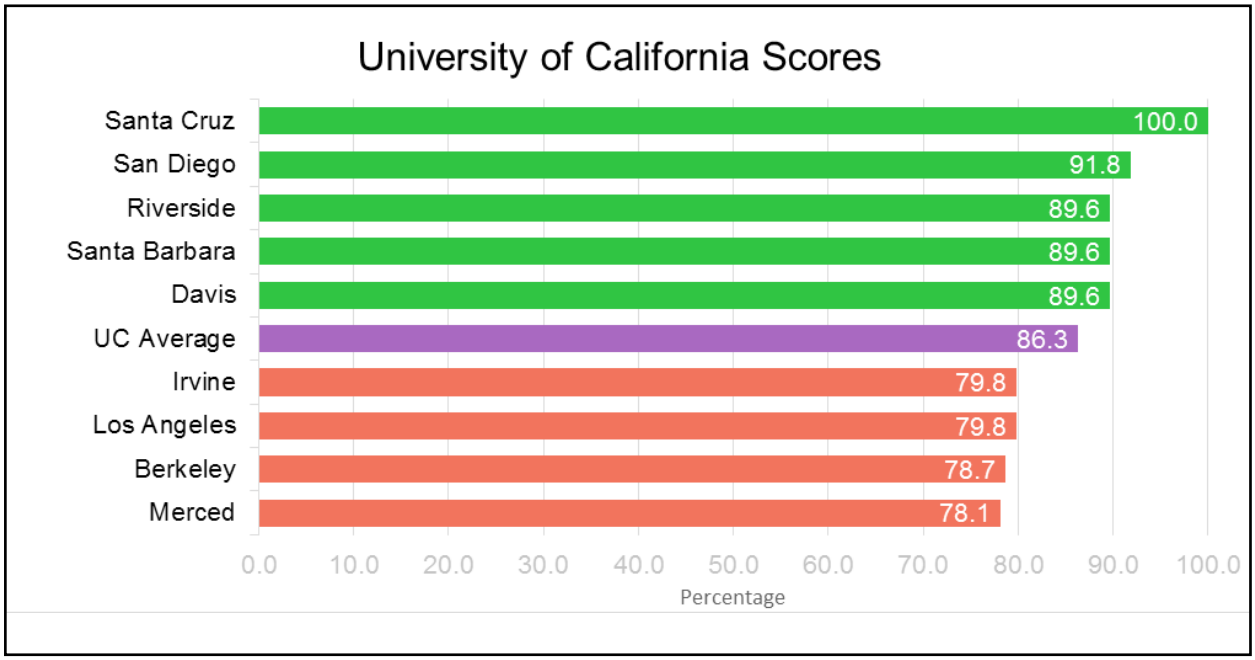
Percent scores listed in this section are based on the resources—mental health services, child care, centers for LGBTQ and non-Caucasian identifying students, advisors and programs for foster youth and homeless students, student housing, food assistance, and discounted public transit—that each campus posted online. Findings were then quantified into individual campus scores and averages for campus system. These scores may not be reflective of what is truly available at each campus since not all resources are posted online. In addition, this research focuses only on the supply of public campus resources for homeless students, not the demand for these resources. Thus, the availability of resources does not necessarily correspond to the demand for those resources. For example, a high supply of resources resulting in a higher campus score does not necessarily mean that all the needs of that campus's student body are being fully met.

Research Findings by Public Higher Education System and by Resource

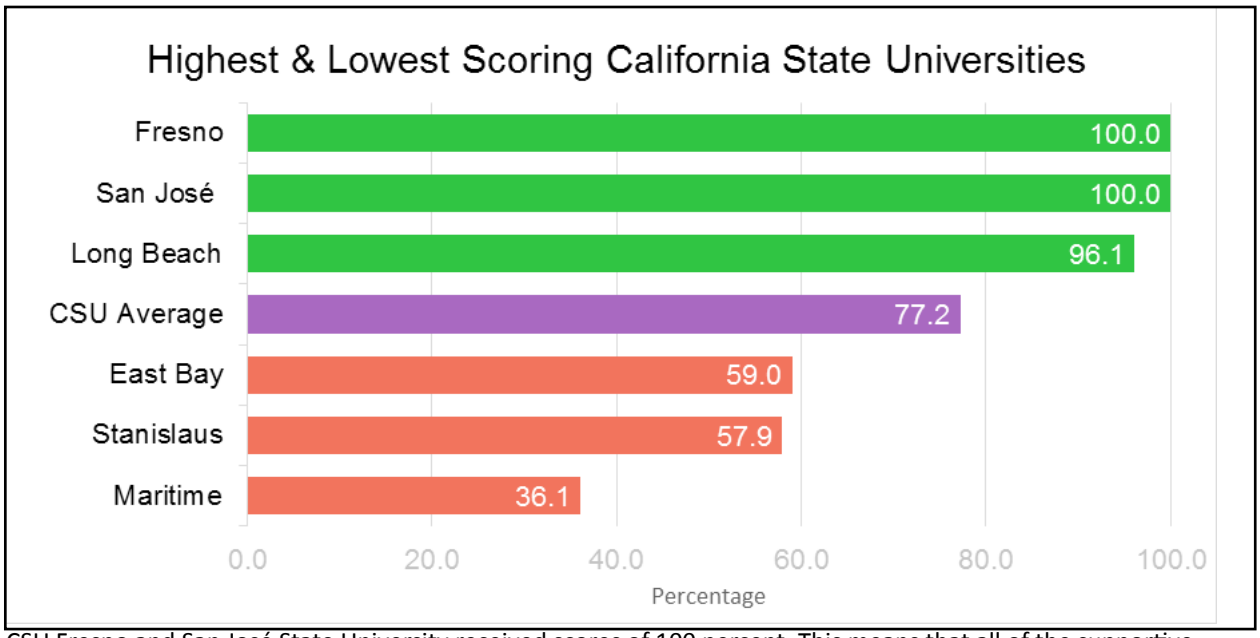
Based on our findings and methodology, UCs offer the most programs and services for homeless students, with an average score of 86 percent, followed by CSUs at 77 percent. The Community Colleges offer significantly less resources, with an average score of 41 percent. High-scoring campuses indicate that all or almost all of the supportive resources examined were present, in



The UC system offers the most resources followed by the CSUs. Community Colleges scored a little less than half of the UC average. Ranges between individual campus scores are the smallest for the UCs and the widest for Community Colleges.

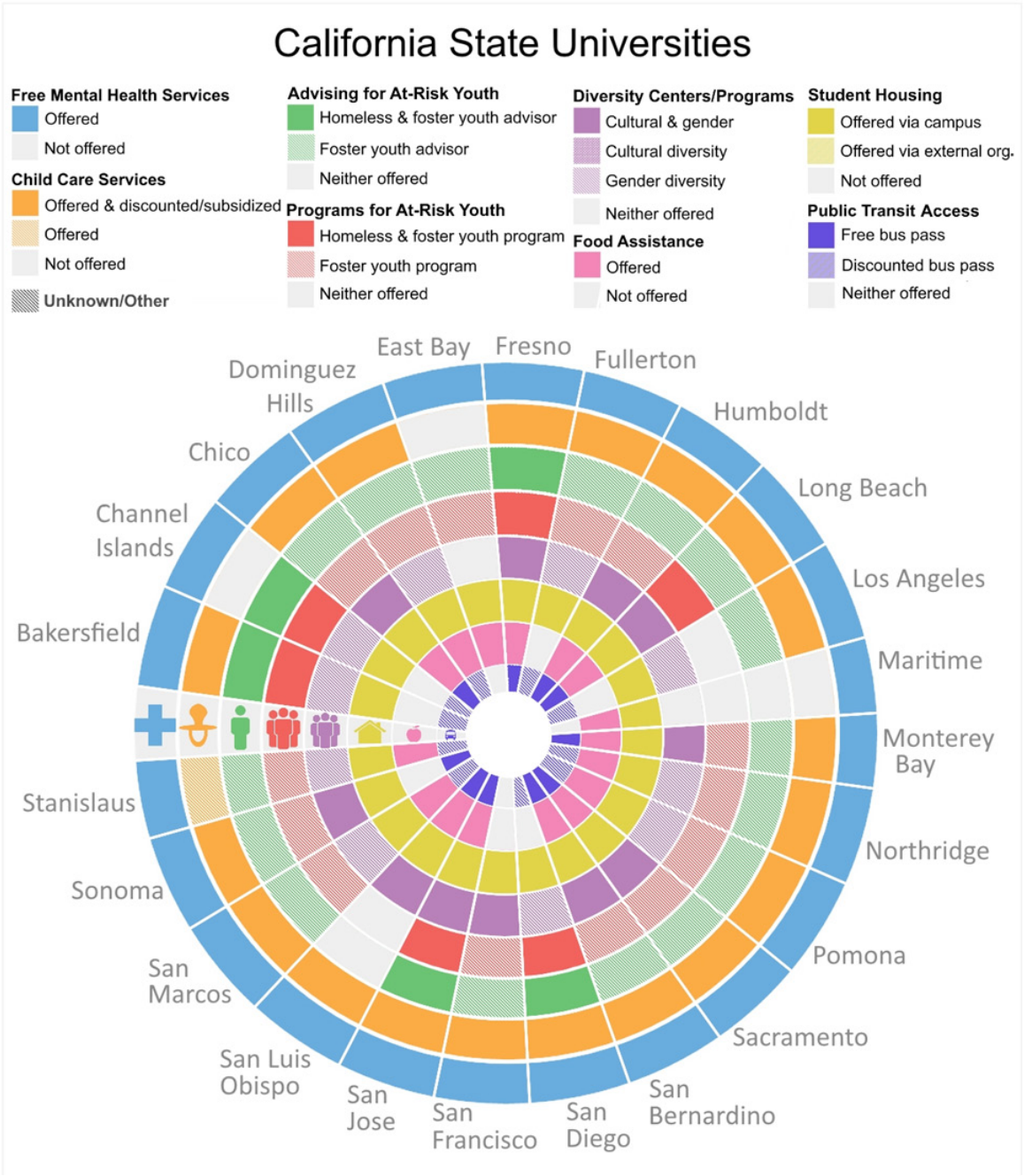


UC Santa Cruz and UC San Diego received scores above 90 percent. This means that all or almost all of the supportive resources deemed highly important to homeless students were present at these campuses (in addition to the resources being discounted and extensive where applicable).



CSU Fresno and San José State University received scores of 100 percent. This means that all of the supportive resources deemed highly important to homeless students were present at these campuses (in addition to the resources being discounted and extensive where applicable).

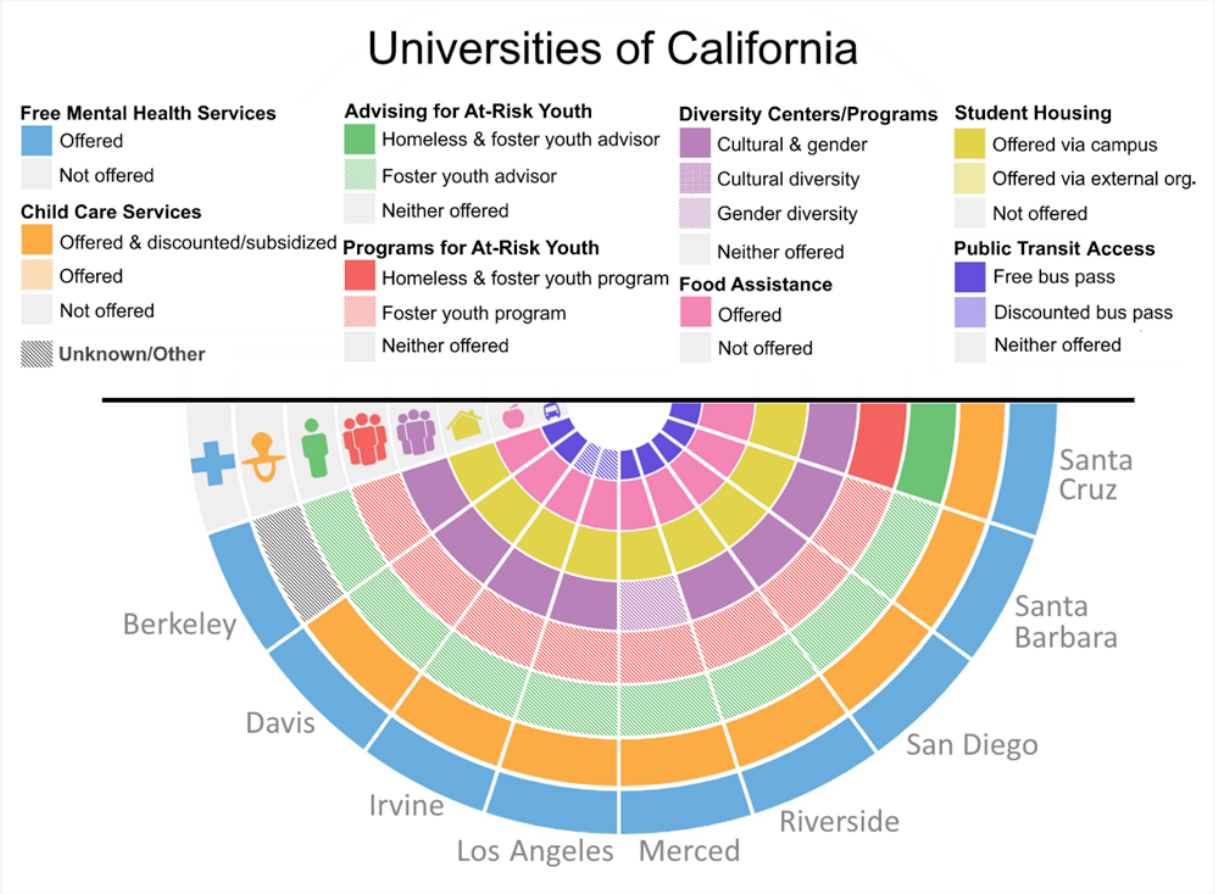
Campus Resources Available to Homeless Students



This infographic summarizes the resources available to homeless undergraduates in the CSU system. The resource category is indicated by color, while resource details such as affordability, type, and extent are indicated by shade (where applicable).

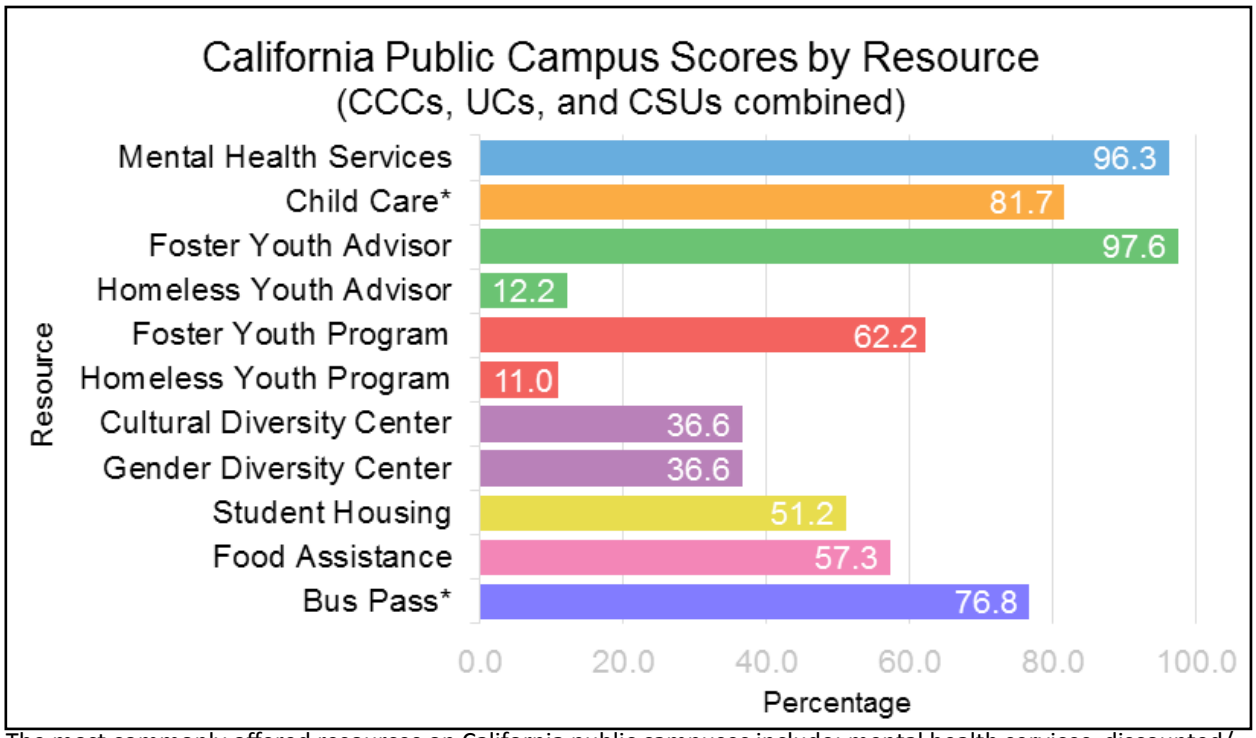
The CSU system shares many strengths with the UC system, including high rates of mental health services, discounted/free child care, foster youth advising and programs, cultural/diversity centers, student housing, and discounted/free bus passes. They also share similar resource gaps such as a lack of advisors and programs supporting homeless students.

Campus Resources Available to Homeless Students



This infographic summarizes the supportive programs and services for homeless undergraduates in the UC system. The resource category is indicated by color, while resource details such as affordability, type, and extent are indicated by shade (where applicable).

The UC system shares many strengths with the CSU system, including high rates of mental health services, discounted/free child care, foster youth advising and programs, cultural/diversity centers, student housing, and discounted/free bus passes. They also share similar resource gaps such as a lack of advisors and programs supporting homeless students.



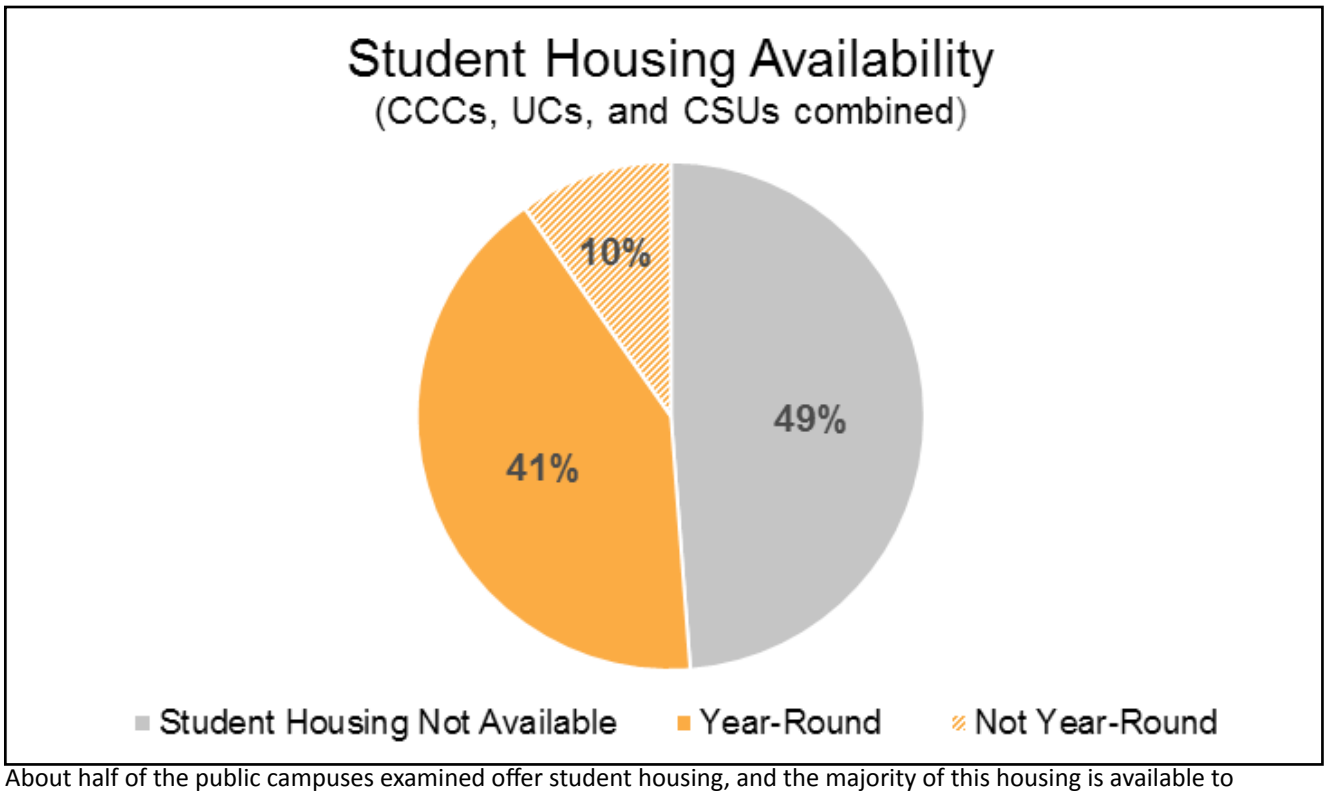
The most commonly offered resources on California public campuses include: mental health services, discounted/free child care and bus passes, and foster youth advisors. In contrast, advisors and supportive programs for homeless students are rare.

addition to key resources being discounted and extensive. Campuses that received scores of 100 percent include UC Santa Cruz, San José State University, and CSU Fresno. UC Merced was the least well-resourced University of California at 78.1 percent and CSU Maritime was the least well-resourced California State University at 36.1 percent. Ranges of individual campus scores within one system are smallest in the UCs, with a maximum difference of 21.9 percent, and greatest in community colleges, with a maximum difference of 53 percent (see Appendix E for a detailed breakdown of resources by public higher education system).

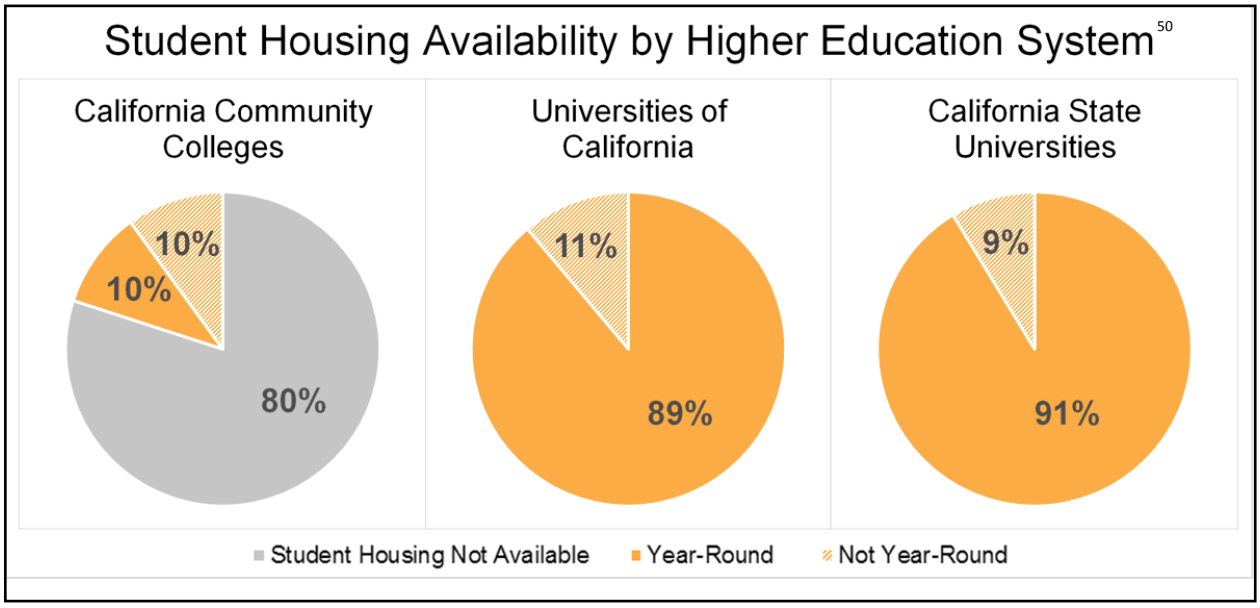
Research Findings by Resource

Among the resources offered on California public campuses, this study found the most common are mental health services, discounted or free child care, foster youth advisors, and discounted or free bus passes. While advisors and supportive programs for foster youth are also common in all three systems, supportive programs for homeless students are rare. In addition, Community Colleges tend to have fewer resources compared to the CSU and UC systems.

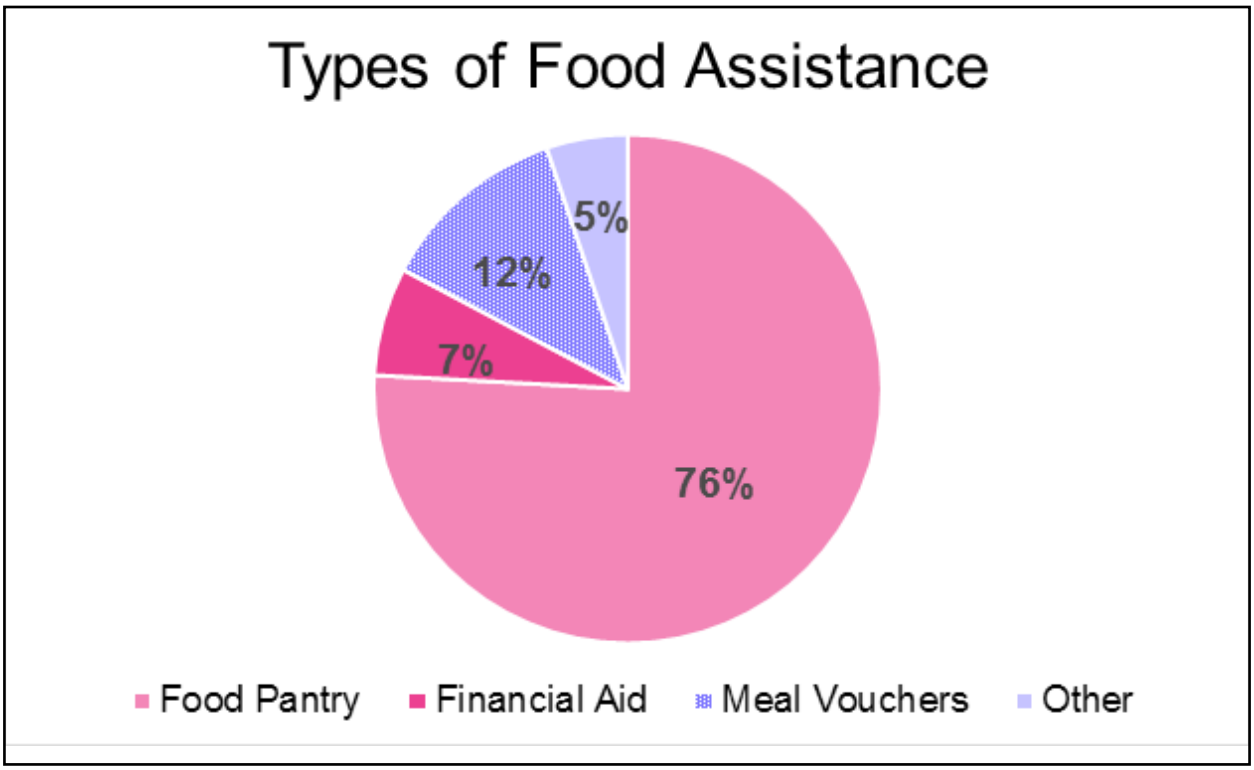
All of the UCs and CSUs offer student housing compared to only 20 percent of the Community Colleges examined. Of the Community Colleges that offer student housing, half do not offer this resource year-round, meaning that students have to move out during breaks in the academic year (such as winter intersession and spring break). This can be problematic for students who do not have other housing options, putting them at risk of experiencing temporary homelessness until classes resume. Although student housing may be expensive, it is an important resource to students experiencing homelessness because it offers a safe and structured environment where critical resources like mentoring and meal plans are available in one setting.[58]



About half of the public campuses examined offer student housing, and the majority of this housing is available to students year-round. Year-round student housing is important for youth who may not have other housing options during academic breaks.



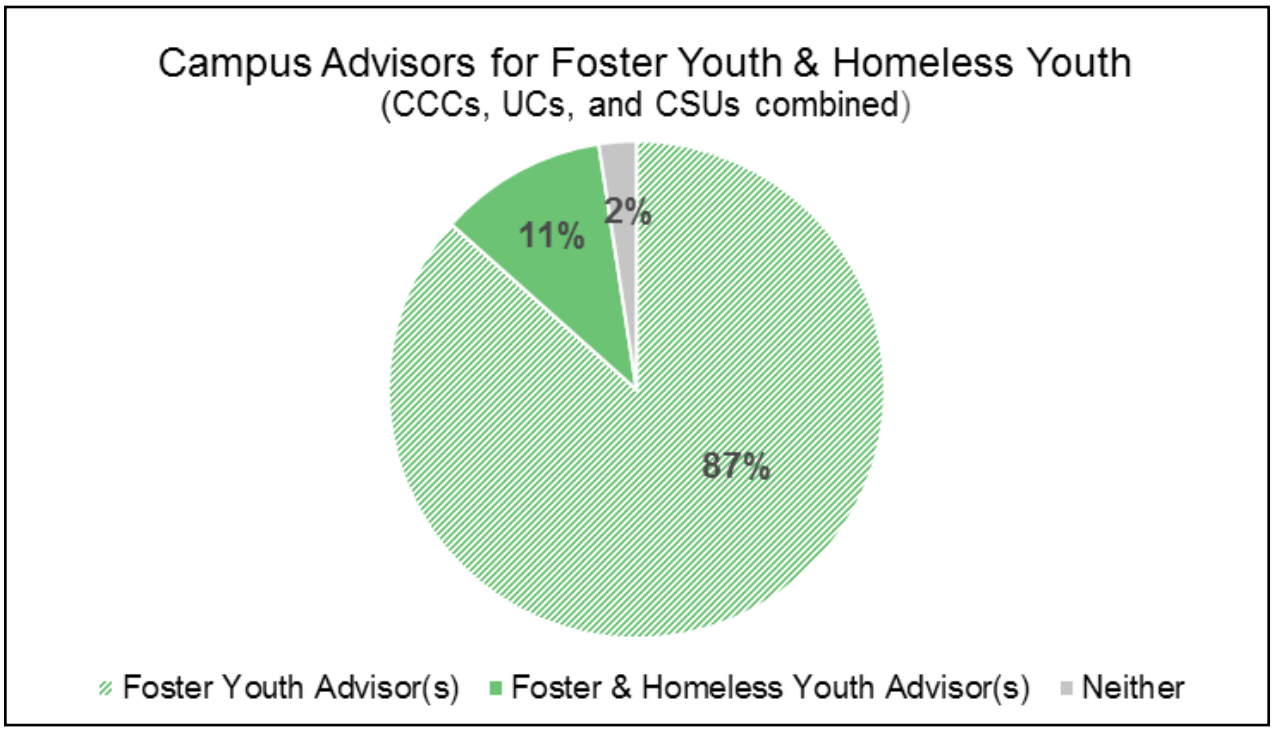
Student housing is more available at California's public universities compared to the larger community college system (which has 113 campuses total). Of the community colleges that offer student housing, half do not offer student housing during academic breaks.



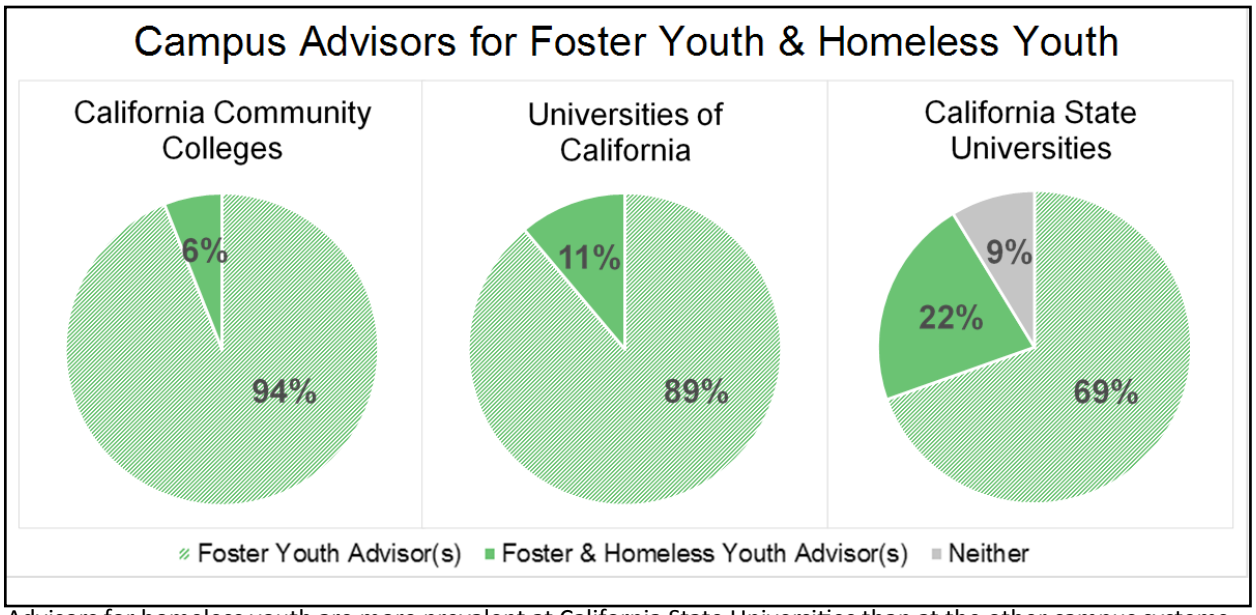
Food pantries are the primary form of food assistance at California's public campus. Despite limited hours of availability, this resource is geographically accessible to homeless students and usually has low barriers to receiving aid.

A little more than half of the public campuses examined offer some form of food assistance. Food assistance includes emergency financial aid, meal vouchers, and access to catering leftovers, but the most common form is food pantries. Campuses that offer food assistance do not necessarily resolve student food insecurity. For example, the majority of food pantries are open for a limited number of days per month in addition to having limits on the number of items a student can take each day. Nevertheless, this resource is geographically accessible to homeless students and usually has low barriers to receiving aid.

Advisors for foster youth are prevalent across all three public higher education systems. A concerted effort beginning in 2007 by the California Community College system called the Foster Youth Success Initiative led to all Community Colleges having foster youth liaisons.[59] These liaisons assist current and former foster youth with accessing financial aid and other resources to raise their odds of academic success. Similarly, both the CSUs and UCs have high rates of foster youth advisors (91.3 percent and 100 percent respectively). The Success for Homeless Youth in Higher Education Act (Assembly Bill 801), which Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. signed in September 2016, is expected to close the remaining 8.7 percent CSU gap in foster youth advisors by requiring all Community Colleges and CSUs to establish a liaison for both foster youth and homeless youth.[60] It may also prompt all of California's public campuses to increase the currently scarce amount of homeless youth advisors by either expanding the role of existing foster youth liaisons or by hiring new staff. However, this new law comes with no new additional funding, requiring public campuses to fill the gap.



While advisors for foster youth are prevalent across all three public higher education systems, advisors for homeless youth are scarce. Yet, homeless youth tend to face similar challenges as foster youth; in fact, both demographics have many overlapping needs.



Advisors for homeless youth are more prevalent at California State Universities than at the other campus systems, but this resource is scarce compared to the number of campuses that offer advising specifically for foster youth.

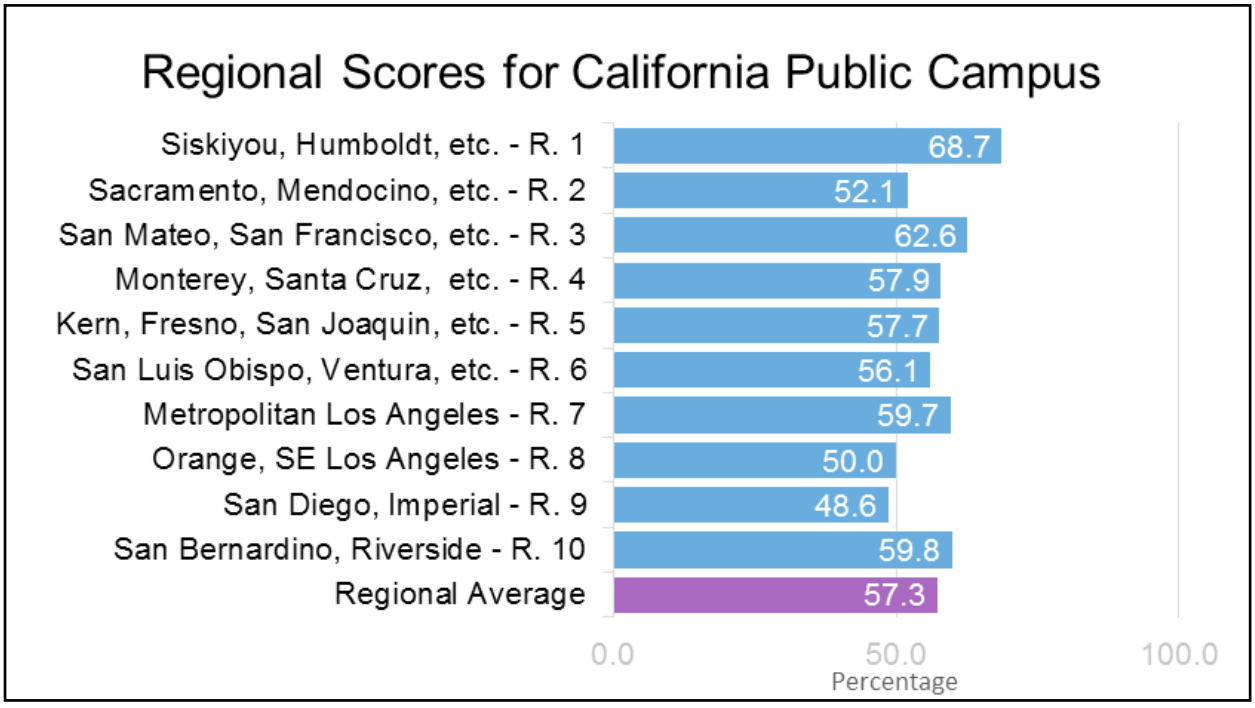
Almost 80 percent of the campuses examined either offer affordable bus passes to students or are located within a public transportation system that does. Low-income students can access free bus passes at 33 of the 82 campuses examined (40.2 percent) or can buy discounted bus passes at 31 of the 82 campuses examined (37.8 percent). “Free” bus passes were often paid for

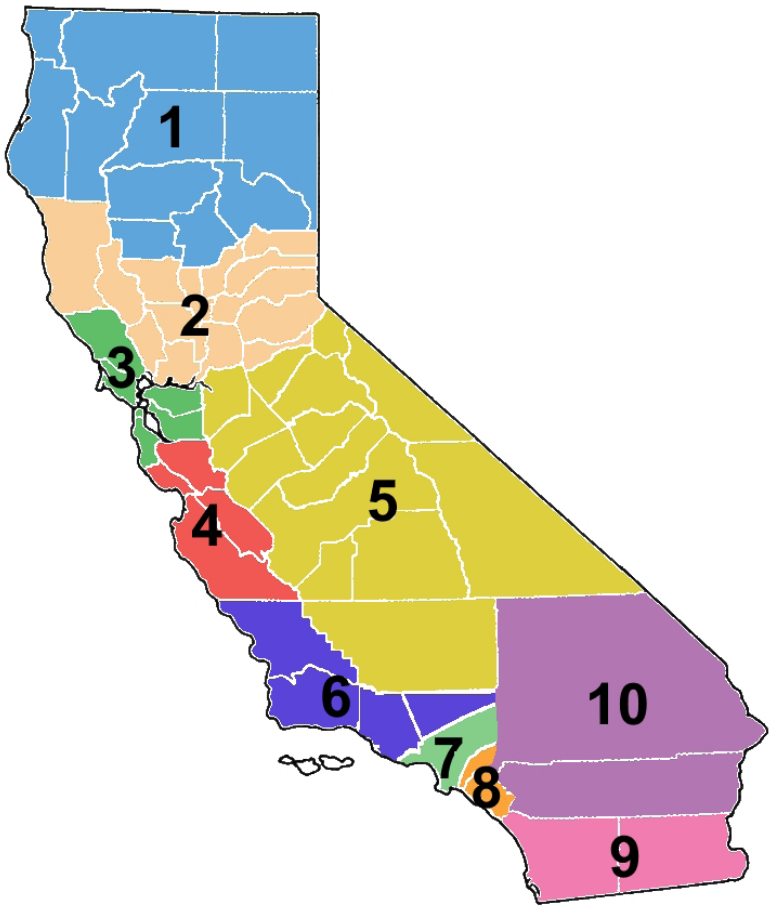
via the student's tuition but for a much lower fee than if the student bought a bus pass directly from the public transportation system. Almost all of these free and discounted bus passes were for regional transportation systems, giving students access to destinations far beyond each campus's city.

Lastly, nearly all of the campuses examined offer free mental health services—which was broadly defined—as well as discounted/free campus child care for low-income students. However, limits on the number of individual therapy sessions and the number of child care spots available are also prevalent, indicating less accessibility for homeless students than the findings may imply. Many campus child care websites have prominent disclaimers explaining the reality of long waitlists for child care spots. Across all three public higher education systems, child care was the most prevalent for children between the ages of 3 and 5.9 (or "kindergarten ready") and the least prevalent for infants less than a year old. More than 80 percent of the campus child care programs examined offered some form of discount, subsidy, or scholarship, making for an overall robust resource across all three systems.

Research Findings by Region

In addition to differences in resources offered between campus systems and individual campuses within each system, location may play a factor in the amount of resources offered to California's homeless students. For a location-based analysis, all of the campuses examined were divided into 10 geographic regions that were determined by the California Community College Chancellor's Office (see Appendix D for a breakdown of regional scores and see Appendix F for a regional map).[61] CSUs and UCs were well distributed across the regions, with 9 out of 10





All 82 campuses studied were divided into the 10 regions determined by the California Community College Chancellor's Office.[61] CSUs and UCs were well distributed across the regions, with 9 out of 10 regions having at least one UC and two CSUs (see Appendix F for a detailed regional map).

regions having at least one UC and two CSUs. Region 1, which includes the northern counties of Plumas, Lassen, Shasta, and Humboldt, has the highest average regional score of 68.7 percent. This reflects their high rates of offering student housing and affordable public transportation, both resources which were heavily weighted. In contrast Region 9, which includes San Diego and Imperial Counties, has the lowest average regional score at 48.6 percent. This is followed closely by a 50 percent score by Region 8, which includes Orange County and a portion of Los Angeles County.[vi]

Compared to the other regions across the state, campuses in Region 5 (which included non-costal central California counties Kern, Merced, and Fresno) had the lowest percentage of discounted campus child care at 62.5 percent. Campuses in Region 2, which includes Yolo, Napa, Sacramento and Placer Counties, had the lowest percentage of affordable bus passes at 28.6 percent. Programs that support foster youth are the least common in Region 6, which is primarily San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura Counties. The prevalence of student housing in Region 1 (83.3 percent) and Region 5 (62.5 percent) may be related to the fact that acquiring

vi The high concentration of CSUs, UCs, and CCCs located in Los Angeles County were divided up to more evenly distribute California's public campuses for this geographical analysis. Several campuses from portions of Los Angeles County were added to Region 6 and to Region 8, and the remaining geographic area became Region 7.

land is cheaper in northern and central California compared to urban and coastal areas that are in higher demand. In contrast Region 7, which includes metropolitan areas of Los Angeles County, also has a high prevalence of student housing in part because this region has the highest university to community college ratio, and universities have more capacity to build, acquire, and/or manage student housing. The regions that scored the lowest overall are Region 8, which is primarily Orange County, and Region 9, which includes San Diego and Imperial Counties. These two regions have the highest ratios of community colleges, none of which offer student housing.

In conclusion, significant resource gaps exist at all three public higher education systems. Foster youth advisors and programs are common in the Community Colleges, UCs and CSUs, while advising and supportive programs for homeless students are very rare. Campus-related housing is sparse for Community Colleges, and a little more than one third of the campuses examined offer programs that support student diversity. Lastly, geographic location might account for the availability or lack of certain resources such as affordable public transportation and student housing.

Explaining Differences Between Higher Education Systems

Differences in the amount of resources that support homeless youth at California's higher education systems are reflective of financial realities. All three educational institutions receive funding from California's general fund and student tuition (which is subsidized by federal, state and institutional aid).[62] Yet, California's public universities have other robust funding sources that its Community Colleges do not. Funding for Community Colleges primarily comes from the Proposition 98 general fund, local property tax revenue, and student enrollment fees. About two-thirds of CSU funding comes from the state's general fund and student tuition.[63,64] CSUs also operate enterprises that offer additional student resources such as dormitories and parking facilities, and the revenues accrued generally return to supporting these operations.[65] At the University of California system, only one-quarter of its funding comes from state's general fund and student tuition revenue.[66] The remaining funds come from other sources, including fees charged for providing health care services to patients, federally funded research activities, philanthropy and patents.[67] California's public universities are able to offer more resources for homeless undergraduates because of their larger, more diverse funding sources.

Differences in tuition fees between the universities and the community colleges also explain why the UC and CSU systems can offer more resources for homeless youth. Under California's Master Plan for Higher Education, Community Colleges were designed to be the least expensive option and required to allow any resident to enroll. In contrast, the UCs and CSUs set their own admission criteria and are more expensive per student. UC's average annual cost for a full-time undergraduate student is the highest, at $12,240.[68] The CSU system charges students $5,472 for a full course load each year, while Community Colleges charges $1,380 for a full course load each year.12 Nonresidents at the UCs and CSUs further augment these revenues because these students pay supplemental tuition fees. The UC system successfully attracts a high amount of non-resident students, who make up 17 percent of the UC student body and pay about $27,000 more per year for tuition than California students.[70] By comparison, about 6 percent of CSU students are nonresident, and about 4 percent are nonresident at Community Colleges.[71] Greater funding pools generated from non-state government sources and from higher tuition may

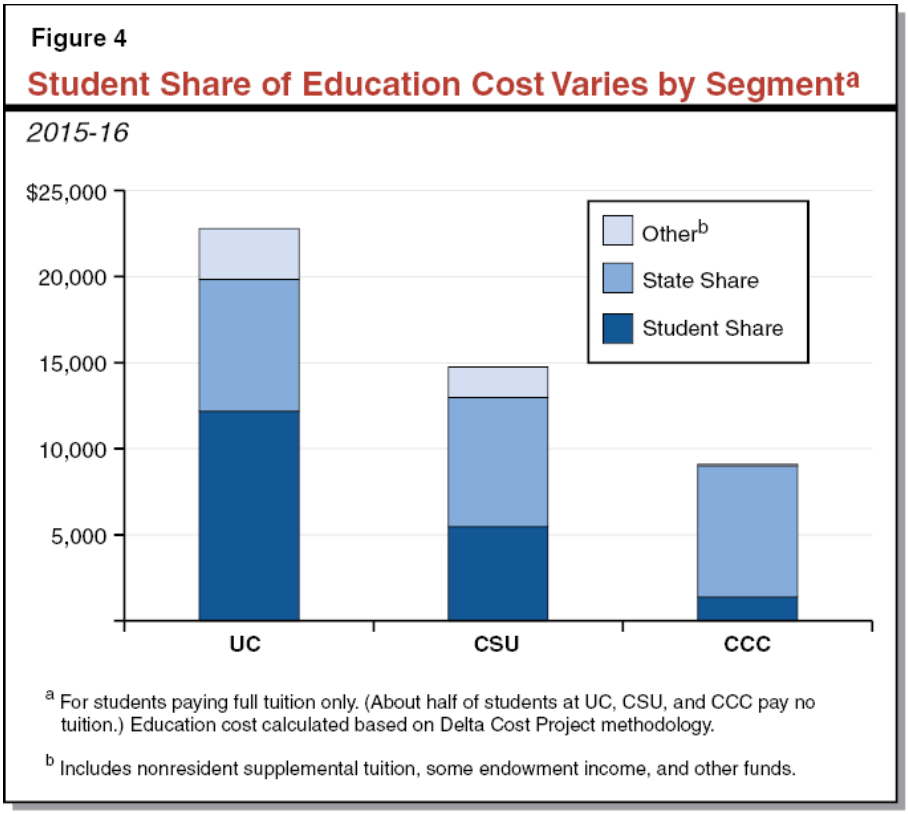


Image from "The 2016-17 Budget: Higher Education Analysis" by the Legislative Analyst's Office.
Higher amounts of UC and CSU funding may explain why these systems offer more resources for homeless youth compared to Community Colleges. California's universities charge more for tuition, attract more international students (who pay higher fees), and have additional revenue sources.

explain why the UC and CSU systems offer more supportive resources to homeless youth than California Community Colleges.

Research Limitations

This report focuses on the presence, affordability, and extent of specific campus-related resources deemed important to homeless undergraduate youth in California. It examines the supply of public campus resources but not the demand nor the quality of these resources. More research is needed to investigate, for example, what other areas of need homeless undergraduate youth identify as important. Additional questions formed during the course of this research include:

- What campus-related and public resources do students experiencing homelessness currently utilize?
- To what extent are they aware of the various resources they have access to?
- How could awareness and the delivery of these resources be improved to increase accessibility and utilization?
- What is the quality of these public campus resources?

Further inquiry is needed to better understand the needs of homeless youth on California public campuses to develop a holistic picture of the barriers and supportive resources required for these youth to access higher education.

The research methods used in this study may also be a limitation. Findings on resources for homeless undergraduate youth were primarily collected by searching public campus websites using Google. Follow-up phone calls were made to complete missing information. Housing and food assistance results were confirmed with findings from a 2016 CSU study. Although the results in this report are reflective of the resources posted online, they may not be reflective of the totality of what is available on campus. Furthermore, research findings may not be up to date as campuses add or remove resources to their websites. Since the initial data collection concluded in December 2016, resources posted online after this date are not accounted for in this report.

Another noteworthy limitation in this study is the lack of data on homeless undergraduate youth in California. Moving the focus from "homeless youth" to "homeless undergraduate students who may also be youth" is difficult due to a lack of data. During the course of this research, none of the campus websites mention their number of enrolled homeless students. It is unknown whether this reflects a lack of data on the part of the higher education institution or a reluctance to share this data publicly. While searching campus websites for the term "homeless student," only one research project focusing on homeless undergraduate youth was discovered. CSU Long Beach was commissioned by CSU Chancellor Timothy White to examine homelessness and food instability in the California State University system; the study concluded in the summer of 2016 and some of its findings were incorporated into this report.[72] Federal agencies such as the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development examine youth homelessness across the nation but not homeless students specifically. Similarly, the National Center for Education Statistics does not currently survey college students on food and housing insecurity.[73]

The U.S. Department of Education collects one line of information on the FAFSA concerning college student homelessness. When California's current and future college students use the form to apply for federal aid, they have the option of disclosing whether they are "unaccompanied youth who is homeless or in danger of becoming homeless" in order to bypass including parental financial information on the form.17 Though this data underestimates the number of homeless students in California for a variety of reasons, the rate trends over time could help inform counties and individual campuses of need and progress in combating homeless youth. In short, more information is needed to understand the scope and needs of California's homeless undergraduate youth.

State Policies Influencing Public Campus Resources for Homeless Undergraduates

Strengthening state policies can empower California's homeless youth to achieve their aspirations of career development, personal accomplishment, and self-sufficiency through higher education attainment. In recent years, a number of bills that increased homeless youths' access to resources, including priority course registration, priority access to campus housing, and waived community college tuition, have been signed into law.

Concerning basic necessities, Assembly Bill 1228 (2015) expands priority housing at Community Colleges, UCs and CSUs for former foster youth to also include homeless youth. Current and formerly homeless youth also have priority access to public campus housing facilities that are "open for uninterrupted year-round occupation… at no extra cost during academic or campus breaks" wherever this is an available option.[75] Additionally, Assembly Bill 1995 (2016) requires the Community Colleges to allow homeless students free access to campus shower facilities.[76] Building on laws that expand low-income student eligibility for CalFresh, Assembly Bill 1747 (2016) increases the likelihood that on-campus restaurants or cafeterias participate in the Restaurant Meals Program. This program permits homeless CalFresh beneficiaries to buy hot, prepared food using their benefits.[77] AB 1747 also improves access to funds supporting CalFresh outreach at campuses with the hopes of increasing student enrollment in the food supplemental program.[78]

AB 801, the Success for Homeless Youth in Higher Education Act (2016), will also bring substantial assistance for California's homeless students. This Act requires that CSUs and Community Colleges, and requests that UCs expand priority registration from former foster youth to also include homeless youth and establishes designated staff to be homeless and foster student liaisons.[79] These liaisons would help homeless and current/former foster youth access financial aid and resources. Also as a result of Assembly Bill 801, students experiencing homelessness are eligible for a tuition fee waiver at California Community Colleges, removing the enrollment fee of $46 per unit per semester.[80] The currently low percentages of homeless youth liaisons, at 11 percent of the 82 campuses examined, can be explained by the fact that AB 801 is likely still being implemented by California's public campuses.

While these laws address a variety of challenges that homeless students face, other challenges confronting this community remain partially or fully unmet such as securing stable housing, paying for tuition, and receiving adequate supportive services.

Opportunities for Intervention to Support Homeless Youth in Higher Education

Recent research and the stories of students experiencing homelessness at California colleges and universities illuminate the need to be responsive to this student community to help ensure their academic success. Individuals, local and state government, and our higher education institutions can take action to improve stability, educational attainment and graduation rates for students experiencing homelessness.

Recommendations for California's Public Campuses

- ✓ **Promptly implement AB 801 to establish homeless and foster student liaisons on all college campuses.**
- ✓ **Create a plan to provide year-round housing to students who struggle with housing insecurity during academic breaks.**
- ✓ **Expand eligibility of foster youth programs to also include homeless students, who have similar needs.**
- ✓ **Promote student support and awareness for resources in ways that are visible and non-stigmatizing using social media, flyers and posters, and peer outreach.**

Recommendations for Local Government Agencies

- ✓ **Form partnerships with public campuses to help eligible low-income students enroll in government social service programs when they access related campus resources such as enrolling eligible students in CalFresh who access on campus food pantries.**
- ✓ **Provide incentives that encourage the development of affordable student housing near college campuses, particularly community campuses that are less likely to have student housing.**

Recommendations for the State Legislature

- ✓ **Increase state investment in higher education for homeless/unstably housed students.**
- ✓ **Collect better data on the needs of students experiencing homelessness.**
- ✓ **Create accountability measures to ensure implementation of recent landmark legislation supporting this community.**

Additional recommendations include:

The U.S. Department of Education should publicize the FAFSA's number of students who self-identify as "homeless/at risk of being homeless," filling current information gaps on homeless youth and further informing California's discussions on this issue.

Recommendations for California's Public Campuses

California Community Colleges and California State Universities should promptly implement AB 801, the Success for Homeless Youth in Higher Education Act (2016), by establishing homeless and foster student liaisons on all college campuses. The most common barrier that unstably housed students face in accessing postsecondary education is navigating system resources.[81] Staff with the training and capacity to serve this community would be invaluable. Liaisons could assist homeless students with navigating financial aid, selecting courses, finding housing, and accessing other resources to help them meet their daily needs. The state's homeless youth, service providers, and campus staff agree. In June 2016, three months before AB 801 passed, attendees at a Food and Housing Insecurity Conference workshop identified the importance of a single point of contact for homeless students, suggesting that campus employees should be hired to "support students experiencing homelessness" who would not be "pulled in 10 other directions."[82]

Half of the Community Colleges examined and two of the 23 CSUs that do offer student housing shut down these services during academic breaks. This poses a challenge for students who do not have homes to return to during spring and winter breaks. Campuses that provide student housing should ensure that their programs can accommodate the needs of unstably housed youth by providing year-round dorms, mirroring the design of international student housing.

Public campuses can further support homeless students by expanding eligibility for existing foster youth programs. For example, the Guardian Scholars Program at San José State University includes "unaccompanied homeless youth" in their mission statement.[83] In doing so, this program makes advising, priority registration, workshops, housing assistance, tutoring, and mentoring available to students experiencing homelessness. Similarly, the 43 foster youth-specific programs offered at Community Colleges, UCs and CSUs could make their resources accessible to homeless and unstably housed youth who have similar needs.

One major barrier preventing unstably housed youth from accessing the campus resources they need is awareness of what is available. In addition to establishing homeless and foster student liaisons, campuses should promote student support and awareness for programs and services in ways that are visible and non-stigmatizing. For example, public campuses could table campus events and local community events to distribute information about campus resources. They could also spearhead campaigns that promote open dialogue among their student body about housing insecurity challenges.

Recommendations for California's Local Government Agencies

California's public campuses have the potential for even greater impact by partnering with local government agencies to connect students experiencing homelessness with existing public social

services whenever they access campus resources. Resources offered through campuses are physically accessible to homeless students, can more easily promote awareness, and may have less stigma typically associated with receiving social services. The opportunities that come when these youth access campus resources should not be wasted. For example, students accessing mental health services could be assisted with Medi-Cal enrollment and students accessing a campus food pantry can be assisted in CalFresh enrollment (which is already being practiced at some campuses such as CSU Chico).[84] Collaboration between public campuses and counties could lead to connecting eligible youth with existing government supports, ultimately empowering them to continue pursuing higher education.

Student housing is available yet in high demand at all of California's universities, and it is rare at the Community Colleges. To assist students who struggle with housing insecurity, local governments should provide incentives and supports that encourage nonprofit developers to build or establish affordable housing near colleges and universities. Incentives may include density bonuses, fee waivers or deferrals, subsidies, and low or no-cost financing. Campus websites could also promote awareness of nearby affordable housing. For example, Cerro Cosco Community College associates with, but does not necessarily endorse, nearby nonprofit-managed Mammoth Lake housing.[85] Affordable housing does not have to be on campus grounds, which tends to be in high demand and more expensive. Rather, nearby sites can be developed so long as students have access to public transportation that will take them to campus.

Recommendations for the State of California

Homeless undergraduate youth face substantial barriers to degree completion and would benefit from campus supports. Yet, advisors and programs for homeless youth are scarce across all three public higher education systems. In addition, student housing is uncommon in the California Community College system (at only 10 of the 50 campuses examined), which has lower costs and less barriers to entry than CSUs or UCs. The State of California should increase investment in the higher education system as a whole, with a particular focus on unstably housed students, by establishing funding for resources that would empower this demographic with advisors, student housing, and foster youth and homeless youth programs in the CSUs, UCs and Community Colleges.

Until recently, little research has been done to examine the intersection of homelessness and higher education in California. This report evaluates the supply of public campus resources deemed important to homeless youth succeeding at college, but many other questions remain. More research is needed to investigate, for example, what other areas of need homeless undergraduate youth identify as important, what campus-related and public resources homeless students currently utilize, the quality of these resources, to what extent the supply of resources is meeting demand, the awareness of the various resources that homeless students can access, and how awareness and the delivery of these resources can be improved.

Additional Recommendations

Attendees of the 2016 CSU Food and Housing Insecurity Conference discussed the importance of other student housing interventions such as providing state rental subsidies through student financial aid, increasing student housing affordability, and supplementing student housing with

intense case management for unstably housed students.[86] Two-year community colleges are an affordable gateway into the degree granting universities, yet they tend to lack student housing, which is crucial for students experiencing homelessness. Meanwhile, all of the CSUs and UCs have student housing, but tuition tends to be higher which adds further financial strain on students living in poverty. Increasing the availability and affordability of student housing in all three higher education systems would stabilize the lives of homeless undergraduate youth and support their goals of receiving a college degree.

Lastly, the U.S. Department of Education should publicize the FAFSA's number of students who self-identified as "homeless/at risk of being homeless," which would be especially useful when organized by state, legislative district, county, city, and individual campus. Doing so would fill current information gaps as well as further inform discussions on this issue. Likewise, individual campuses and campus systems should develop processes to regularly identify unstably housed students in order to understand the size of this community and proactively connect them with much needed resources.

Conclusion

Studies reveal that the majority of California's unaccompanied homeless youth ages 18-24 have career goals that require college completion. These youth also recognize that higher education is key to overcoming their poverty and unstable circumstances. Unfortunately, they also face many barriers to completing an undergraduate education. To understand what resources are currently in place at California's public higher education institutions to support homeless students, website searches were conducted on 82 California public campuses (50 Community Colleges and all of the CSUs and UCs). The findings were quantified into individual campus scores and system-wide averages.

Public campus resources are present at varying degrees depending on the specific program, campus, and campus system. UCs offer the most programs and services with an average score of 86 percent, followed by CSUs at 77 percent. Community Colleges are significantly less well-resourced with an average score of 41 percent. Prevalent resources include free mental health services, discounted child care, advisors for foster youth, and discounted bus passes. However, all three public higher education systems are lacking in advising and programs specifically for homeless youth. Discounted bus passes and student diversity centers are more common at CSUs and UCs compared to Community Colleges. Similarly, all of the universities offer student housing compared to only 20 percent of the 50 Community Colleges examined. Of the Community Colleges that do offer student housing, half of these housing programs are not available year-round, meaning that students have to move out during breaks in the academic year.

Despite the many public campus resources already in place, much work remains to be done to increase the capacity, accessibility, and awareness of these resources in order to support California's homeless undergraduate youth. It is recommended that public campuses: 1) promptly implement AB 801 to establish homeless and foster student liaisons to help connect homeless youth with needed resources, 2) provide the option of year-round housing to students who struggle with housing insecurity during academic breaks, 3) expand eligibility of foster youth programs to also include homeless students who have similar needs, and 4) promote student support and awareness for campus resources in ways that are visible and non-stigmatizing.

In addition, it is recommended that local government agencies: 1) form partnerships with public campuses to help eligible low-income students enroll in government social service programs when they access related campus resources and 2) provide incentives that encourage the development of affordable student housing near colleges and universities. To close resource gaps, state policy interventions include increasing state investment in higher education for homeless and unstably housed students and further researching the needs of students experiencing homelessness.

Appendix A: Acronym Key

California Community College (CCC)

California State University (CSU)

California State University Food and Housing Insecurity Conference (FHIC)

Current and Foster Youth (FY)

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

Homeless Student (HS)

California Homeless Youth Project (CHYP)

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer/Questioning (LGBTQ)

University of California (UC)

United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

APPENDIX B: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY FOR EVALUATING CALIFORNIA'S PUBLIC CAMPUS RESOURCES

Public Campus Resources for Homeless Students	Definition	Selection Criteria	Search Terms	Base Score	Weight	Extent Multiplier	Max Score
Mental Health Services	presence of personal counseling, crisis intervention, or any other similar one-on-one mental health service	available to at least low income undergraduates for any number of sessions • located on campus • involves at least one paid staff • services standalone (not part of other non-mental health programs)	counseling: services • center • personal • crisis	0 - no 1- yes	2.00	N/A	2.00
Child Care Services	presence and afforability of at least one child care center which serves children from infancy (less than 1 year old) up to 6 years old	available to at least low income undergraduates • located on campus • provided by or associated with campus • discounts provided through subsidies, reduced fees, or sliding scale fees	child care: low income • subsidized • grant • scholarship • discount • reduced fees • sliding scale	0 - no 0.33 - yes 1 - yes (discounted)	1.00	(# of years ranging from 1-6) / 3	2.00
Foster Youth Advisor	presence of at least one paid staff whose explicit job is to advise, assist, and/or mentor current/former foster youth	available to at least low income undergraduates • located on campus	foster youth: advisor • liaison • mentor	0 - no 1- yes	0.50	N/A	0.50
Homeless Youth Advisor	presence of at least one paid staff whose explicit job is to advise, assist, and/or mentor students who struggle with housing instability	available to at least low income undergraduates • located on campus	homeless youth: advisor • liaison • mentor	0 - no 1- yes	0.25	N/A	0.25
Foster Youth Program	presence of at least one campus program that explicitly serves former current/former foster youth	located on campus • exists independently or as a part of another program • has at least 2 of the following: paid staff, services (counseling, tutoring, events, and/or referrals), and/or workshops	foster youth: program • center	0 - no 1- yes	1.00	N/A	1.00
Homeless Youth Program	presence of at least one campus program that explicitly serves students struggling with housing instability	located on campus • exists independently or as a part of another program • has at least 2 of the following: paid staff, services (counseling, tutoring, events, and/or referrals), and/or workshops	homeless youth: program • center	0 - no 1- yes	1.00	N/A	1.00
Cultural Diversity Center	presence of at least one campus program that explicitly serves non-Caucasian racial/ethnic identifying students	located on campus • exists independently or as a part of another program • has at least 2 of the following: paid staff, services (counseling, tutoring, events, and/or referrals), and/or diversity-related workshops	multicultural center • cultural center	0 - no 1- yes	1.00	N/A	1.00
Gender Diversity Center	presence of at least one campus program that explicitly serves LGBTQ-identifying students	located on campus • exists independently or as a part of another program • has at least 2 of the following: paid staff, services (counseling, tutoring, events, and/or referrals), and/or diversity-related workshops	LGBTQ center • pride center • gender center	0 - no 1- yes	1.00	N/A	1.00

APPENDIX B: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY FOR EVALUATING CALIFORNIA'S PUBLIC CAMPUS RESOURCES (CONT.)

Public Campus Resources for Homeless Students	Definition	Selection Criteria	Search Terms	Base Score	Weight	Extent Multiplier	Max Score
Campus Housing	presence of student housing located on or in close proximity to the main campus	available to at least undergraduate students • provided by or associated with the school	housing	0 - no 0.5 - yes (externally operated) 1 - yes (campus operated)	3.00	N/A	3.00
Food Assistance	presence of any form of food assistance such as food pantries, meal vouchers, and financial assistance for food insecure students	located on campus • provided by or associated with the school	free food • free meals • food pantry	0 - no 1- yes	0.50	N/A	0.50
Public Transit	presence, affordability, and extent of discounted bus passes for undergraduate students	available to at least low income students and/or homeless youth • available through campus or through primary bussing service • examines "campus recommended" public transportation or countywide public transit system	bus pass • transportation	0 - no 1 - discounted 2 - free	1.50	0.75 - campus vicinity and/or city 1 - beyond city	3.00

19. The chart above describes how each public campus resource was defined, identified, and scored. Resources were chosen based on homeless youth demographics and on feedback of youth with lived experience. Definitions indicate whether the presence, affordability, and/or extent were taken into account. The selection criterion was formed during the initial research phase for each resource, and it is based on the goals of this report (to evaluate supportive resources for homeless undergraduate youth). Base scores, weights, and extent multipliers were determined based on perceived benefits of each program and service to the majority of homeless undergraduates. For this reason, resources that would most likely benefit the majority of homeless students, such as student housing, public transit, are weighted more overall.

APPENDIX C: SCORING PROCESS IN EVALUATING CALIFORNIA'S PUBLIC CAMPUS RESOURCES

Campus System	Max. Score Per Resource: Mental Health Services	Child Care Services	Foster Youth Advisor	Homeless Youth Advisor	Foster Youth Program	Homeless Youth Program	Cultural Diversity Center	Gender Diversity Center	Campus Housing	Food Assistance	Public Transit (presence of discounted)	Max. Possible Score	Max Percentage Grade
California Community Colleges (CCCs)	2.00	2.00	0.50	0.25	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	3.00	0.50	3.00	15.25	100%
Universities of California (UCs)	2.00	2.00	0.50	0.25	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	3.00	0.50	3.00	15.25	100%
California State Universities (CSUs)	2.00	2.00	0.50	0.25	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	3.00	0.50	3.00	15.25	100%

The chart above describes the scoring method for California Community Colleges (CCCs), Universities of California (UCs), and California State Universities (CSUs). Maximum possible scores and percent grades for each public campus resource are the same across all three college systems.

APPENDIX D: PERCENTAGE GRADES OF PUBLIC CAMPUS RESOURCES BY REGION

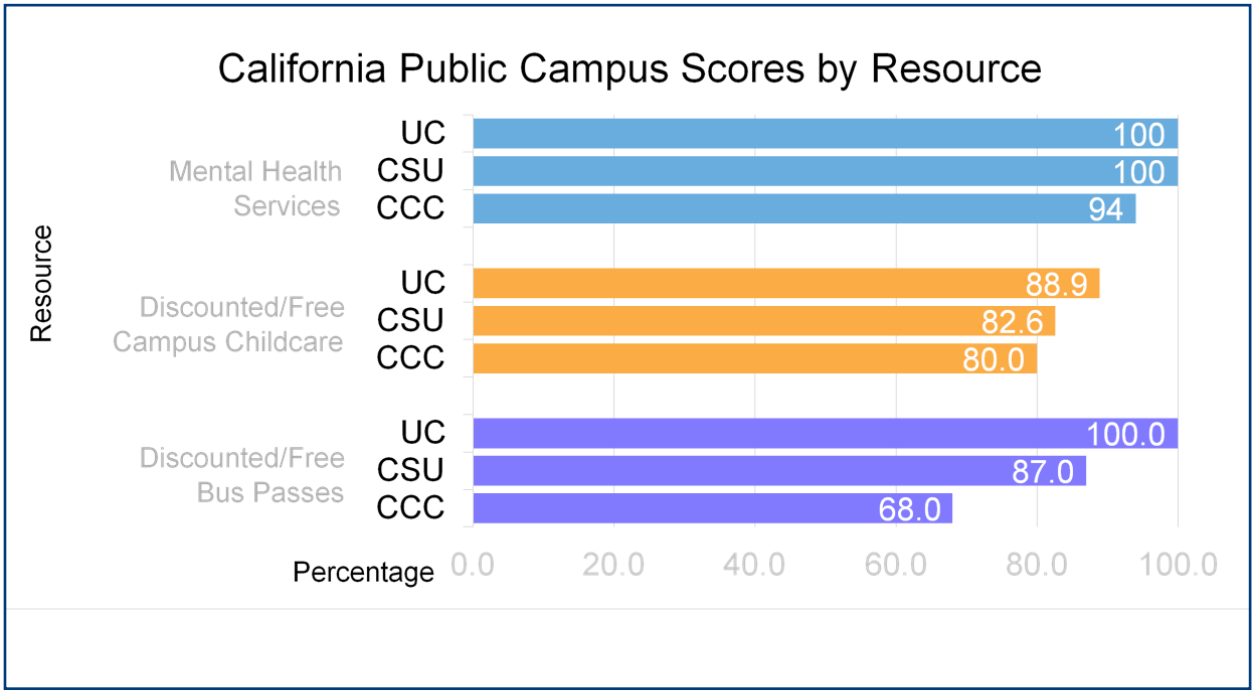
California Regions	Sample Size	Mental Health Services	Child Care Services (discounted or free)	Foster Youth Advisor	Homeless Youth Advisor	Foster Youth Program	Homeless Youth Program	Cultural Diversity Center	Gender Diversity Center	Campus Housing (managed by campus)	Food Assistance	Bus Passes (discounted or free)	Average Regional Weighted Score
Region 1	6	83.3%	100.0%	100.0%	0.0%	50.0%	0.0%	33.3%	33.3%	100.0%	83.3%	100.0%	68.7%
Region 2	7	100.0%	85.7%	85.7%	14.3%	57.1%	0.0%	28.6%	28.6%	57.1%	85.7%	28.6%	52.1%
Region 3	8	100.0%	75.0%	100.0%	12.5%	62.5%	12.5%	50.0%	50.0%	37.5%	62.5%	75.0%	62.6%
Region 4	10	100.0%	70.0%	100.0%	20.0%	60.0%	20.0%	40.0%	50.0%	40.0%	50.0%	80.0%	57.9%
Region 5	8	100.0%	62.5%	100.0%	25.0%	62.5%	25.0%	12.5%	25.0%	62.5%	62.5%	75.0%	57.7%
Region 6	8	100.0%	87.5%	87.5%	12.5%	37.5%	12.5%	50.0%	37.5%	50.0%	62.5%	75.0%	56.1%
Region 7	8	87.5%	75.0%	100.0%	0.0%	62.5%	12.5%	50.0%	50.0%	62.5%	62.5%	100.0%	59.7%
Region 8	10	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	0.0%	80.0%	0.0%	40.0%	30.0%	30.0%	30.0%	70.0%	50.0%
Region 9	11	90.9%	72.7%	100.0%	9.1%	54.5%	9.1%	27.3%	27.3%	27.3%	36.4%	72.7%	48.6%
Region 10	6	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	16.7%	100.0%	16.7%	33.3%	33.3%	33.3%	66.7%	100.0%	59.8%
Averages by Resource		96.3%	81.7%	97.6%	11.0%	62.2%	11.0%	36.6%	36.6%	47.6%	57.3%	78.0%	

APPENDIX E: PUBLIC CAMPUS RESOURCES BY HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM

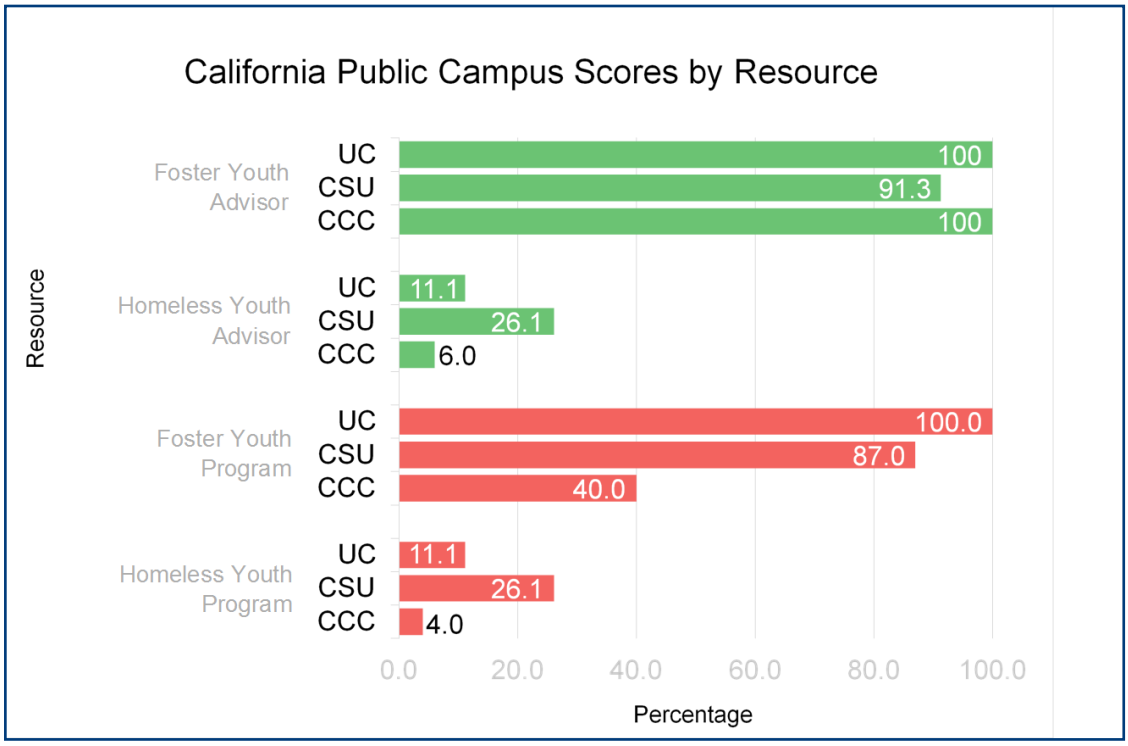
Type of Public Campus	Sample Size	Mental Health Services	Child Care Services (presence of discounted)	Foster Youth Advisor	Homeless Youth Advisor	Foster Youth Program	Homeless Youth Program	Cultural Diversity Center	Gender Diversity Center	Campus Housing (managed by campus)	Food Assistance	Discounted or Free Bus Passes	Average Regional Weighted Score
California Community Colleges	50	94.0%	80.0%	100.0%	6.0%	40.0%	4.0%	10.0%	4.0%	14.0%	44.0%	68.0%	40.9%
Universities of California (UCs)	9	100.0%	88.9%	100.0%	11.1%	100.0%	11.1%	88.9%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	86.3%
California State Universities (CSUs)	23	100.0%	82.6%	91.3%	21.7%	87.0%	26.1%	73.9%	82.6%	100.0%	69.6%	87.0%	77.2%

Appendix E: Public Campus Resources by Higher Education System (cont.)

Graph 1

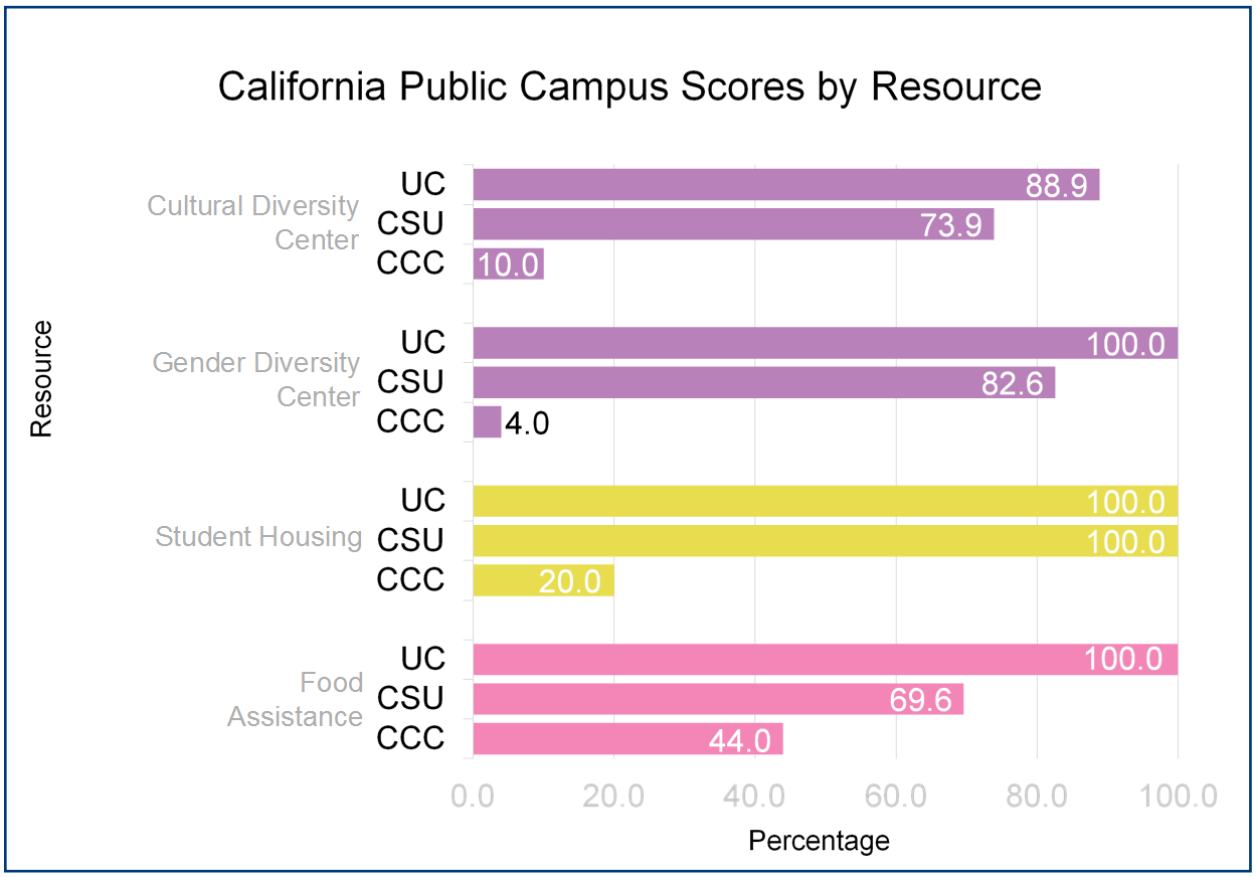


Graph 2

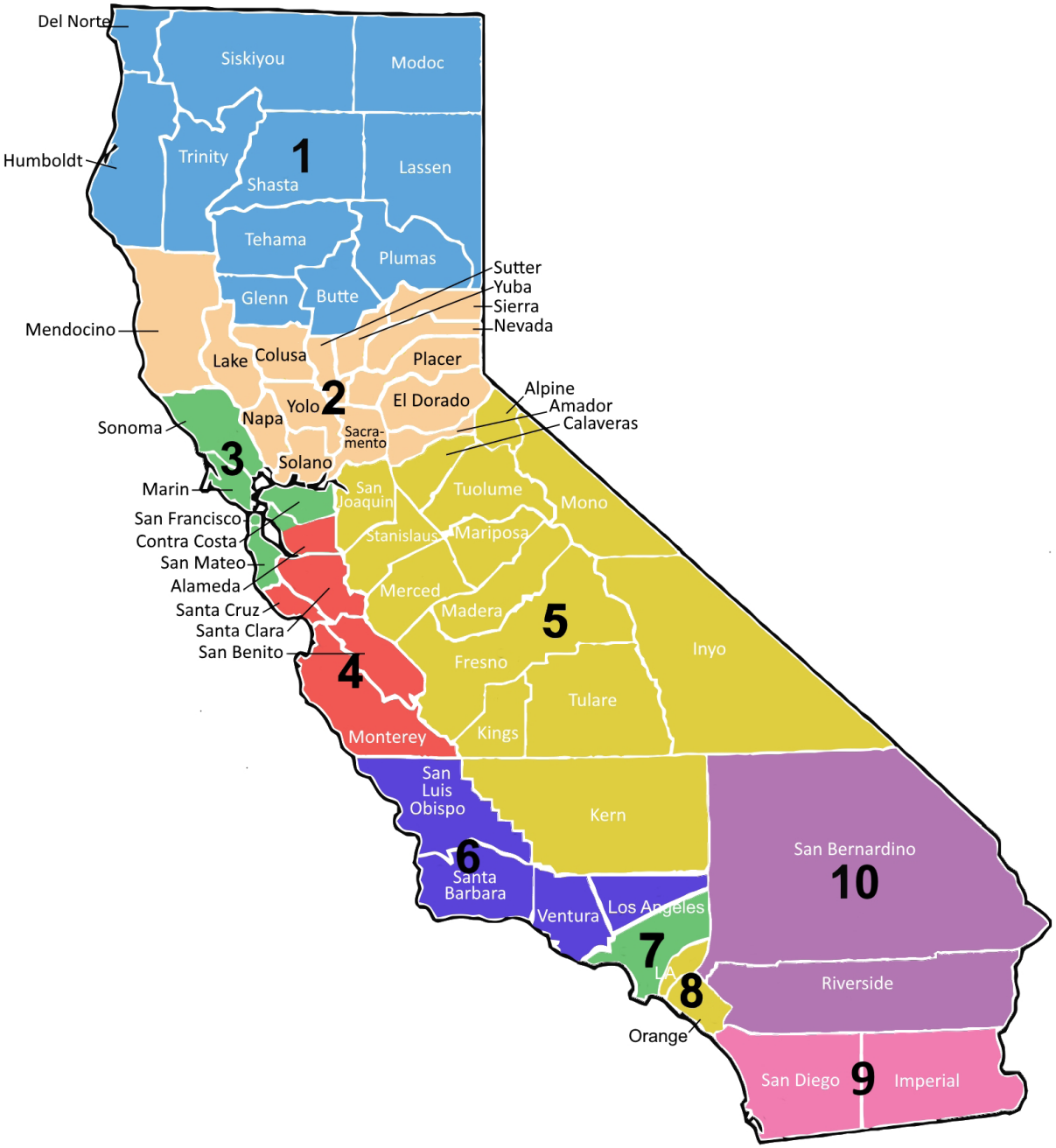


Appendix E: Public Campus Resources by Higher Education System (cont.)

Graph 3



Appendix F: Map of California's Public Campus Regions



Based on data from cccco.edu

All 82 campuses examined were divided into 10 regions, as determined by the California Community College Chancellor's Office.[61] This allows for a regional analysis of public campus resources that support homeless undergraduate students. CSUs and UCs were well distributed across the regions, with 9 out of 10 regions having at least one UC and two CSUs.

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