

Results from Pulse Survey #2

UC Berkeley Student Experiences in Spring 2022
April 2022

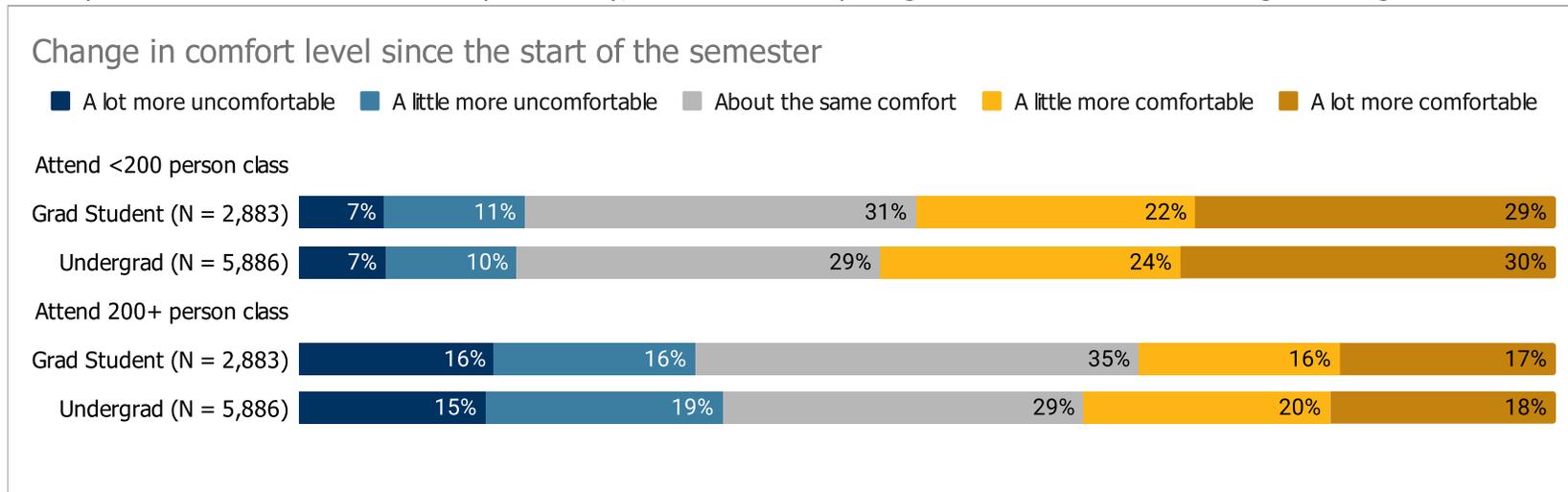


As we continually adjust to the changes due to the COVID-19 pandemic, UC Berkeley administered two Pulse Surveys in Spring 2022 to better understand and address student needs. The second survey of Spring 2022 was open from the 8th week of classes through spring break, and all undergraduate (N = 29,961) and graduate (N = 12,844) students were invited to take the survey. The response rate was 20% (n = 5,886) for undergraduates and 22% (n = 2,883) for graduate students.

Change in comfort level with in-person classes

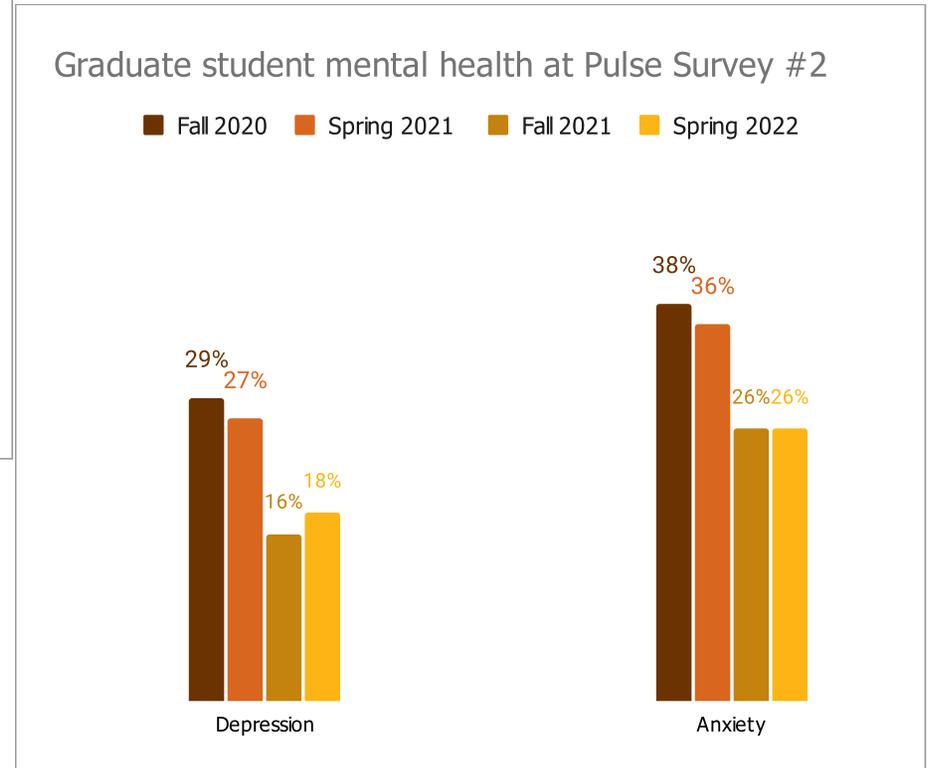
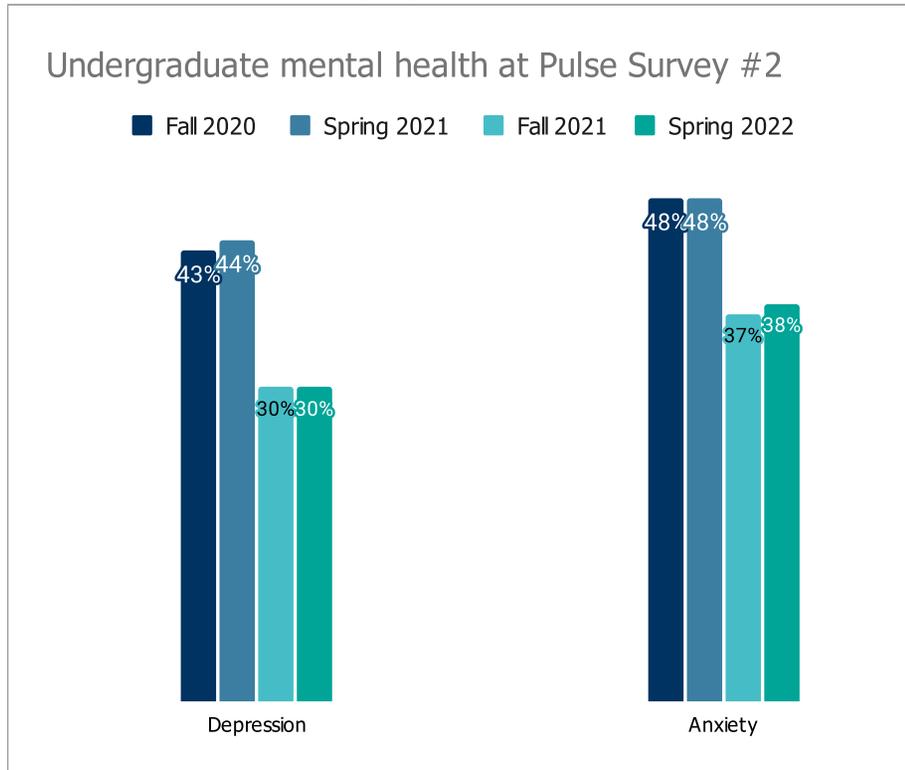
In the first pulse survey of the semester (January and February 2022), two-thirds of graduate students said they probably or definitely would attend a class with fewer than 200 students in-person. This figure was over three-quarters for undergraduates. In the second pulse survey, students were asked how their level of comfort attending in-person class had changed. About 30% of students said their level of comfort was about the same and over 50% of graduate and undergraduate students reported feeling a little more or a lot more comfortable.

In the first pulse survey, about one-third of graduate students and 47% of undergraduates said they would probably or definitely attend classes with over 200 students in-person. As measured in the second pulse survey, about one-third reporting more discomfort with attending these large classes.



Mental health

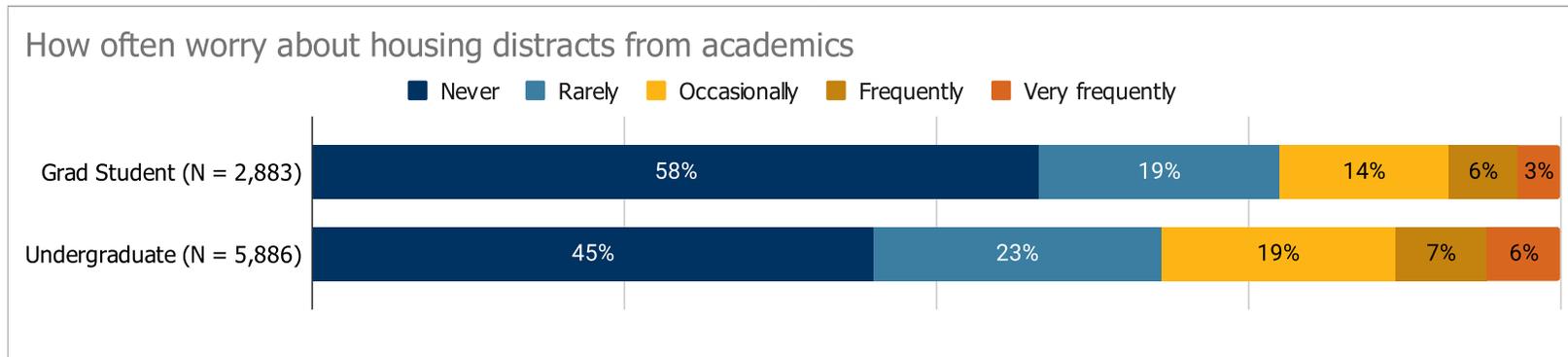
Self-reported symptoms of depression and anxiety among both undergraduates and graduate students were lower in Spring 2022 compared with the same time period in Fall 2020 and Spring 2021.



Housing insecurity

Five percent (n = 154) of graduate students and 10% (n = 552) of undergraduates reported **lacking** a safe, regular, and adequate nighttime place to stay and sleep since the beginning of in-person classes during the Spring 2022 semester (beginning of February). The respondents who said they lacked this basic need were asked how many nights they were affected this semester, and of those who answered (graduate students, N = 150; undergraduates, N = 522), 69% (n = 103) of graduate students and 72% (n = 378) of undergraduates reported they did **not** sleep elsewhere than their permanent home this semester. Based on validation of the pulse survey housing insecurity question and these follow-up question results, the percentage of students who experienced housing insecurity is likely lower than found in this pulse survey. There is a separate [report on recent survey results about housing insecurity](#).

While the majority of graduate students (75%) and undergraduates (68%) said worries about housing rarely or never distracted them from academics, still 9% of graduate students and 13% of undergraduates said worries about housing frequently or very frequently distracted them from academics.



Commuting to campus

Among undergraduate respondents, 58% (n = 3,273) said they lived on campus or less than a mile from campus, 23% (n = 1,299) were one to two miles away, and a sizeable portion lived 3-10 miles (9%, n = 502), 11-20 miles (5%, n = 270), and 21 miles or more (5%, n = 298). As distance increased, the effect of the commute on respondents' ability or desire to participate in on-campus activities also increased. Of undergraduates who lived on campus or less than one mile away, 47% (n = 1,523) said their commute **never** affected this ability or desire; whereas 54% (n = 158) of those who lived 21 miles or more away said their commute **very frequently** affected this ability or desire.

