

LGBTQ+ Student Enrollment & Experiences at UC Riverside: 2021 Statistics

LGBTQ+ students continue to be a growing population at UC Riverside, yet are still a marginalized group that face many challenges related to campus climate, health, well-being, and safety. Results from three UC Riverside campus data sources (UC Undergraduate Experience Survey 2020, ACHA-National College Health Assessment 2021, and enrollment data from UC Riverside Institutional Research via Banner) revealed troubling disparities in the student experiences for LGBTQ+ and heterosexual/straight students that suggest LGBTQ+ students face significant barriers that would make thriving at UC Riverside challenging without additional support and resources to address these struggles.

Enrollment: First Year Undergraduate Applicants

Sexual Orientation

- In Fall 2021, LGBTQ+ enrollment of first year applicants at UC Riverside was **12%** (N=699).
 - LGBTQ+ enrollment of first year applicants increased **2%** from 2019 to 2021, and has consistently grown over time ever since sexual orientation was added to the UC application in 2016.

Sexual Orientation of Fall 2021 First Year Applicants	%	N	% Change (2021 – 2019)
Asexual	0.1%	6	2.3%
Bisexual	7.9%	459	0.1%
Gay/Lesbian	2.3%	133	-1.6%
Heterosexual	87.5%	5,107	-2.2%
Pansexual	0.3%	18	0.6%
Prefer Not to Say	0.5%	30	0.5%
Queer	0.3%	15	0.1%
Questioning	0.2%	11	-0.1%
Not listed above (please specify)	1.0%	57	0.5%
Total	100.00%	5,836	--

[Data Source: UC application and Banner enrollment data from UC Riverside Institutional Research]

[Note: LGBTQ+ includes students who identify as asexual, bisexual, gay or lesbian, pansexual, queer, questioning, and not listed above (open-ended) and excludes students who identify as heterosexual/ straight or who selected prefer not to say.]

Gender Identity

- In Fall 2021, **1.2%** (N=74) of first year students enrolled at UC Riverside were transgender, nonbinary, genderqueer/gender non-conforming, or a different identity other than cisgender.
 - First year enrollment increased **0.7%** overall from 2019 to 2021 for transgender, nonbinary, and genderqueer/gender non-conforming students, and those with a different identity other than cisgender.

- Among the trans or non-cisgender student population, the largest enrollment increase from 2019 to 2021 occurred with students who identify as genderqueer/gender non-conforming (**0.4%**) and nonbinary (**0.3%**).

Gender Identity of Fall 2021 First Year Applicants	%	N	% Change (2021 – 2019)
Different Identity	0.1%	5	0.0%
Female	52.2%	3,153	-1.2%
Genderqueer/Gender Non-Conforming	0.6%	37	0.4%
Male	46.4%	2,801	0.5%
Nonbinary	0.3%	21	0.3%
Prefer Not to Say	0.1%	7	0.1%
Trans Female/Trans Woman	0.1%	4	0.0%
Trans Male/Trans Man	0.1%	7	0.0%
Total	100.00%	6,035	

[Data Source: UC application and Banner enrollment data from UC Riverside Institutional Research]

Undergraduate Student Experience

[Data Source: UC Riverside student responses from the UC Undergraduate Experience Survey 2020]

[Note: The UCR response rate for the 2020 UCUES was 48% (UCR total N=10,269), with 16% LGBTQ+ (N=1,453) and 84% heterosexual or straight (N=7,646). Due to small sample sizes based on gender identity, results primarily focus on experiences based on sexual orientation for undergraduate students at UCR.]

Sexual Orientation

- **16%** of undergraduates at UC Riverside identified as LGBTQ+ on the 2020 UC Undergraduate Experience Survey (UCUES), compared to **84%** who identified as heterosexual or straight.

Sexual Orientation	%	N
Gay/Lesbian	3%	301
Bisexual	7%	673
Queer	2%	138
Questioning	2%	210
Heterosexual or straight	84%	7,646
Not listed above	1%	131
Total	100%	9,099

[Data Source: UC Undergraduate Experience Survey 2020 (UCR responses only)]

Students with Disabilities

- LGBTQ+ students reported higher rates of disabilities/conditions than heterosexual/straight students.
 - Most notably, **61%** of LGBTQ+ students reported having an emotional or mental health concern or condition, compared to **29%** of heterosexual/straight students.

Disability or Health Condition	LGBQ+		Heterosexual or Straight		% Diff
	%	N	%	N	
Physical disability or condition	5%	78	3%	227	-2%
Learning disability or condition	5%	74	2%	175	-3%
Neurodevelopmental/cognitive disability or condition	9%	130	4%	304	-5%
Emotional or mental health concern or condition	61%	877	29%	2,195	-32%

[Data Source: UC Undergraduate Experience Survey 2020 (UCR responses only)]

Ethnicity

- According to the 2020 UCUES, **87%** of LGBQ+ respondents identified as BIPOC or non-residents (Black/African American, American Indian, Asian, Hispanic or Latinx, multiple ethnicities, or non-resident) and **13%** identified as white. For heterosexual/straight respondents, **88%** identified as BIPOC and **11%** identified as white.

Ethnicity	Ethnicity and Sexual Orientation			
	LGBQ+		Heterosexual/ Straight	
	%	N	%	N
American Indian	0.1%	1	0.1%	4
Asian	28.8%	419	38.1%	2,916
Black/African American	2.8%	41	3.2%	241
Hispanic/Latinx	47.0%	683	40.0%	3,059
Multiple Ethnicities	5.6%	82	3.8%	290
Non-Resident	1.9%	27	2.5%	194
Pacific Islander	0.3%	5	0.5%	35
Unknown	0.9%	13	0.7%	56
White	12.5%	182	11.1%	851
Total	100.0%	1,453	100.0%	7,646

[Data Source: UC Undergraduate Experience Survey 2020 (UCR responses only)]

Note: UCR uses IPEDS standards for reporting race and ethnicity]

Gender Identity

- 1.5%** of undergraduate respondents identify as genderqueer/gender non-conforming, transgender, or another identity other than cisgender, based on the gender identity category options for UCUES.

Gender Identity		
	%	N
Genderqueer/Gender Non-conforming	0.8%	75
Trans Woman	0.1%	12
Trans Man	0.3%	25
Woman	61.1%	5,573
Man	37.4%	3,417
Not listed above	0.3%	24
Total	100.0%	9,126

[Data Source: UC Undergraduate Experience Survey 2020 (UCR responses only)]

Campus Climate

- **11%** of LGBTQ+ students *disagree overall* that students of their sexual orientation are respected on this campus, compared to **4%** of heterosexual/straight students.
- **80%** of LGBTQ+ students agree overall that UC Riverside is a safe and secure campus, compared to **85%** of heterosexual/straight students.
- **Financial Security: 72%** of LGBTQ+ students often worried about their debt and financial circumstances in the past year, compared to **64%** of heterosexual/straight students.
- **Food Security:**
 - **45%** of LGBTQ+ students cut the size of their meals or skipped meals in the past 12 months, compared to **35%** of heterosexual/straight students.
 - **38%** of LGBTQ+ students were hungry but did not eat in the past 12 months, compared to **29%** of heterosexual/straight students.
- **Housing Security:**
 - Despite housing security being a frequent problem within LGBTQ+ communities, there were no large differences between LGBTQ+ and heterosexual/straight students’ 2020 UCUES responses in where they lived at the time, how far from campus they lived, who they lived with, or any of the items regarding unstable living arrangements/homelessness, or inconsistent access to housing or homelessness as an obstacle in academic success.
 - However, there were differences in how LGBTQ+ students experienced any worries associated with housing. Specifically:
 - Every month, students reported experiencing the following because they were worried about paying for housing:
 - Anxiety: **21%** LGBTQ+; **14%** heterosexual/straight respondents
 - Depression: **18%** LGBTQ+; **10%** heterosexual/straight respondents
 - Skipped Meals: **15%** LGBTQ+; **10%** heterosexual/straight respondents
 - Ate less nutritious and/or balanced meals: **20%** LGBTQ+; **14%** heterosexual/straight respondents
 - Had difficulty focusing on their studies: **25%** LGBTQ+; **17%** heterosexual/straight respondents

	LGBTQ+		Heterosexual or Straight		% Diff
	%	N	%	N	
Students of my sexual orientation are respected on this campus					
Agree Overall	89%	1,284	96%	7,323	8%
Disagree Overall	11%	166	4%	290	-8%
<i>Total</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>1,450</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>7,613</i>	

	LGBQ+		Heterosexual or Straight		% Diff
	%	N	%	N	
UC Riverside is a safe and secure campus					
Agree Overall	80%	1,163	85%	6,483	5%
Disagree Overall	20%	289	15%	1,140	-5%
<i>Total</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>1,452</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>7,623</i>	
How frequently - Worried about my debt and financial circumstances					
Often Overall	72%	1,040	64%	4,875	-8%
Rarely Overall	28%	410	36%	2,754	8%
<i>Total</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>1,450</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>7,629</i>	
Food insecurity - Cut the size of your meals or skip meals					
Yes	45%	644	35%	2,679	-9%
No	55%	801	65%	4,947	9%
<i>Total</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>1,445</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>7,626</i>	
Food insecurity - Hungry but didn't eat					
Yes	38%	555	29%	2,236	-9%
No	62%	892	71%	5,388	9%
<i>Total</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>1,447</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>7,624</i>	
How often did you experience the following because you were worried about paying for housing? -- Experienced anxiety					
Every month	21%	295	14%	1,021	-7%
Some months during the year	21%	287	18%	1,269	-3%
1 or 2 times in the year	17%	235	19%	1,366	2%
Never	41%	558	49%	3,546	9%
<i>Total</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>1,375</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>7,202</i>	<i>0%</i>
Experienced depression					
Every month	18%	249	10%	707	-8%
Some months during the year	20%	272	15%	1,098	-5%
1 or 2 times in the year	15%	200	17%	1,206	2%
Never	47%	652	58%	4,172	11%
<i>Total</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>1,373</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>7,183</i>	<i>0%</i>
Skipped meals					
Every month	15%	199	10%	710	-5%
Some months during the year	21%	289	17%	1,252	-4%
1 or 2 times in the year	13%	179	15%	1,071	2%
Never	51%	705	58%	4,153	6%
<i>Total</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>1,372</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>7,186</i>	<i>0%</i>
Ate less nutritious and/or balanced meals					
Every month	20%	278	14%	1,007	-6%
Some months during the year	24%	326	20%	1,465	-3%

1 or 2 times in the year	11%	153	14%	997	3%
Never	45%	616	52%	3,707	7%
Total	100%	1,373	100%	7,176	0%

	LGBQ+		Heterosexual or Straight		% Diff
	%	N	%	N	
Had difficulty focusing on studies					
Every month	25%	339	17%	1,250	-7%
Some months during the year	21%	282	22%	1,593	2%
1 or 2 times in the year	15%	205	16%	1,159	1%
Never	40%	549	44%	3,196	4%
Total	100%	1,375	100%	7,198	0%

**Agree Overall is the sum total of Strongly agree, Agree, and Somewhat agree. Disagree Overall is the sum total of Strongly disagree, Disagree, and Somewhat disagree.*

**Often Overall is the sum total of Very often, Often, and Somewhat Often. Rarely Overall is the sum total of Occasionally, Rarely, and Never.*

[Data Source: UC Undergraduate Experience Survey 2020 (UCR responses only)]

COVID-19 Effects on Learning

- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and campus closure beginning in March 2020, UCR students faced many difficulties with online learning overall. However, LGBQ+ students were more likely than heterosexual or straight students to report being “very concerned” with:
 - Learning effectively in the remote instruction environment (**60%** LGBQ+ students; **50%** heterosexual or straight students)
 - Having access to an appropriate study space (**44%** LGBQ+ students; **38%** heterosexual or straight students)
 - Doing well on tests and assignments in online courses (**66%** LGBQ+ students; **59%** heterosexual or straight students)
 - Missing classes (**34%** LGBQ+ students; **26%** heterosexual or straight students)
 - Ability to conduct research (**40%** LGBQ+ students; **33%** heterosexual or straight students)

COVID-19 Effects on Learning: "Very Concerned" Responses	LGBQ+		Heterosexual or Straight		% Diff
	%	N	%	N	
Having reliable access to the Internet	22%	326	18%	1,367	-5%
Learning effectively in the remote instruction environment	60%	862	50%	3,760	-10%
Having access to an appropriate study space	44%	632	38%	2,852	-6%
Accessing the learning support services I need	31%	442	28%	2,081	-3%
Accessing library resources and services	37%	532	33%	2,460	-5%
Doing well on tests and assignments in online courses	66%	944	59%	4,430	-7%
Missing classes	34%	489	26%	1,942	-8%
Ability to conduct research	40%	500	33%	2,281	-6%
Other learning concerns	39%	144	27%	627	-12%

[Data Source: UC Undergraduate Experience Survey 2020 (UCR responses only)]

COVID-19 Effects on Students

- LGBTQ+ students reported being “very concerned” with the following effects from COVID-19 on them more often than heterosexual/straight students:
 - Not graduating on time (**26%** LGBTQ+ students; **22%** heterosexual or straight students)
 - Losing employment (**41%** LGBTQ+ students; **36%** heterosexual or straight students)
 - Not getting a job after graduation (**59%** LGBTQ+ students; **54%** heterosexual or straight students)
 - Paying bills (**54%** LGBTQ+ students; **46%** heterosexual or straight students)
 - Being isolated from friends (**57%** LGBTQ+ students; **47%** heterosexual or straight students)
 - Accessing healthcare (**39%** LGBTQ+ students; **31%** heterosexual or straight students)

COVID-19 Effects on You: "Very Concerned" Responses	LGBTQ+		Heterosexual or Straight		% Diff
	%	N	%	N	
Not graduating on time	26%	370	22%	1,572	-5%
Not attending my commencement	38%	444	37%	2,430	0%
Losing my job	41%	448	36%	2,180	-5%
Not getting a job after graduation	59%	778	54%	3,730	-6%
Paying bills	54%	712	46%	3,280	-7%
Being isolated from friends	57%	817	47%	3,525	-10%
Accessing healthcare	39%	549	31%	2,333	-8%
Meeting basic needs (e.g. housing)	29%	419	26%	1,910	-4%
Other (please specify)	27%	64	20%	309	-7%

[Data Source: UC Undergraduate Experience Survey 2020 (UCR responses only)]

[Note: UCUES 2020 was administered during the Spring quarter from April 2020 to June 2020. It is unclear whether the COVID-19 pandemic and campus closure impacted these results.]

Health, Well-being, & Safety

[Data Source: UCR responses from the American College Health Association-National College Health Assessment, 2021]

[Note: The UCR response rate for the 2021 ACHA-NCHA is 6.13% (N=613, based on a sample of 9,997 undergraduate and graduate students), with 29% LGBTQ+ (n=174) and 71% straight/heterosexual (n=431). Due to the small sample size, results may not be representative of the entire UCR student population.]

Abusive Relationships, Sexual Abuse, & Stalking

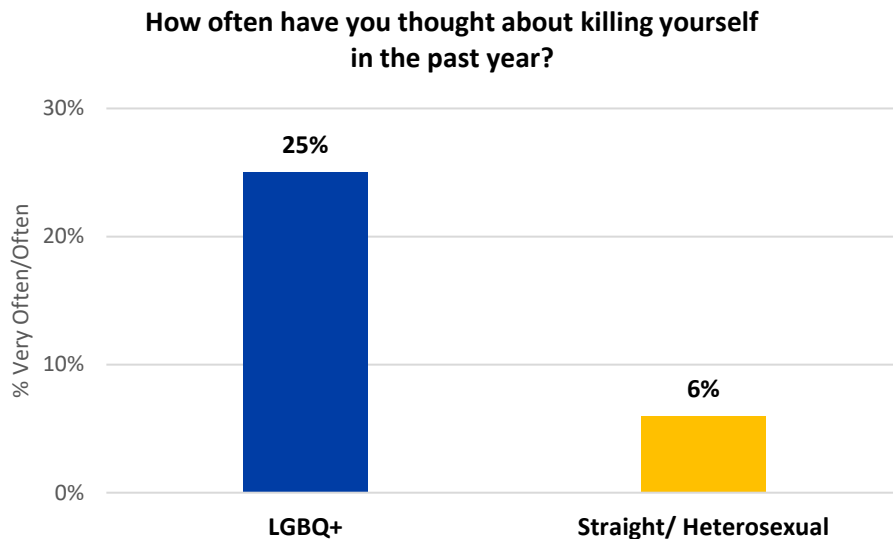
- **17%** of LGBTQ+ respondents, compared to **6%** of straight/heterosexual respondents, reported being verbally threatened in the last 12 months.

- **6%** of LGBTQ+ respondents, compared to **2%** of straight/heterosexual respondents, reported being sexually touched without their consent in the last 12 months.
- **3%** of LGBTQ+ respondents, compared to **0%** of straight/heterosexual respondents, reported someone who was not their partner attempted sexual penetration (vaginal, anal, oral) on them without their consent

Violence and Intimate Partner Violence in the Last 12 Months					
Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)	LGBTQ+		Straight/ Heterosexual		% Diff
	%	N	%	N	
A partner called me names, insulted me, or put me down to make me feel bad	9%	16	7%	28	-3%
A partner often insisted on knowing who I was with and where I was or tried to limit my contact with family or friends	5%	8	3%	12	-2%
A partner pushed, grabbed, shoved, slapped, kicked, bit, choked, or hit me without my consent	3%	5	1%	5	-2%
A partner forced me into unwanted sexual contact by holding me down or hurting me in some way	3%	6	1%	4	-3%
A partner pressured me into unwanted sexual contact by threatening me, coercing me, or using alcohol or other drugs	3%	5	1%	6	-1%
Violence (Not IPV)					
I was in a physical fight	2%	4	3%	12	0%
I was physically assaulted (do not include sexual assault)	2%	4	2%	8	0%
I was verbally threatened	17%	30	6%	26	-11%
I was sexually touched without my consent	6%	10	2%	7	-4%
Sexual penetration (vaginal, anal, oral) was attempted on me without my consent	3%	5	0%	2	-2%
I was sexually penetrated (vaginal, anal, oral), or made to penetrate someone without my consent	2%	4	1%	4	-1%
I was a victim of stalking (for example: waiting for me outside my classroom, residence, or office; or repeated emails/phone calls)	6%	10	3%	15	-2%

[Data Source: American College Health Association-National College Health Assessment, 2021 (UCR responses only)]

Mental Health & Chronic Health Conditions



[Data Source: ACHA-National College Health Assessment, 2021 (UCR responses only)]

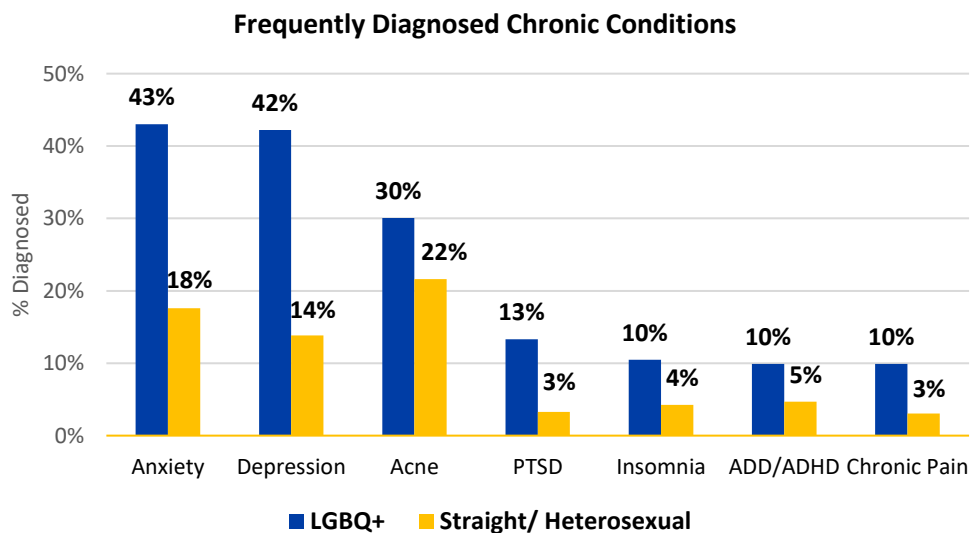
- **Suicidal Ideation and Suicide Attempts:**
 - **25%** of LGBQ+ respondents, compared to **6%** of straight/heterosexual respondents, reported “very often” or “often” having thoughts about killing themselves in the past year
 - **4%** of LGBQ+ respondents, compared to **2%** of straight/heterosexual respondents, reported that they attempted suicide within the last 12 months
 - **9%** of LGBQ+ respondents, compared to **2%** of straight/heterosexual respondents, indicated it was likely* that they will attempt suicide someday
[Note: *Likely is the sum total of Very Likely, Rather Likely, and Likely.]
- **Self-Injury:** **22%** of LGBQ+ respondents, compared to **5%** of straight/heterosexual respondents, reported intentionally cutting, burning, bruising, or otherwise injuring themselves at least once within the last 12 months.
- **Suicide Behavior:** **56%** of LGBQ+ respondents, compared to **18%** of straight/heterosexual respondents, screened positive for suicidal behavior based on the Suicide Behavior Questionnaire-Revised (SBQR).

Psychological Distress, Loneliness, & Suicidal Ideation					
	LGBQ+		Straight/ Heterosexual		% Diff
	%	N	%	N	
Kessler 6 (K6) Non-Specific Psychological Distress Scale					
Serious psychological distress	48%	82	27%	115	-21%
Moderate psychological distress	44%	75	52%	221	8%
No or low psychological distress	9%	15	21%	89	12%
<i>Total</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>172</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>425</i>	<i>0%</i>

	LGBQ+		Straight/ Heterosexual		% Diff
	%	N	%	N	
UCLA Loneliness Scale					
Positive for loneliness	70%	121	56%	243	-13%
Negative for loneliness	30%	53	44%	188	13%
<i>Total</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>174</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>431</i>	<i>0%</i>
Suicide Behavior Questionnaire-Revised (SBQR)					
Positive for suicidal screening	56%	95	18%	79	-37%
Negative for suicidal screening	44%	76	82%	349	37%
<i>Total</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>171</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>428</i>	<i>0%</i>

[Data source: American College Health Association-National College Health Assessment, 2021 (UCR responses only)]

- **Chronic Health Conditions:** Respondents frequently reported being diagnosed with the following ongoing, chronic conditions:
 - Depression: **42% LGBQ+; 14%** straight/heterosexual respondents
 - Anxiety: **43% LGBQ+; 22%** straight/heterosexual respondents
 - Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD): **13% LGBQ+; 3%** straight/heterosexual respondents
 - Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADD/ADHD): **43% LGBQ+; 18%** straight/heterosexual respondents
 - Chronic Pain: **10% LGBQ+; 3%** straight/heterosexual respondents



[Data source: ACHA-National College Health Assessment, 2021 (UCR responses only)]

- Within the last 12 months, LGBQ+ respondents reported experiencing high distress due to problems or challenges with:
 - Bullying: **20% LGBQ+ respondents; 6%** straight/heterosexual respondents

- Sexual harassment: **29%** LGBTQ+ respondents; **13%** straight/heterosexual respondents

[Data source: American College Health Association-National College Health Assessment, 2021]

Summary & Conclusion

The LGBTQ+ undergraduate student population at UC Riverside is growing every year. Currently, LGBTQ+ undergraduates make up approximately **16%** of the population and **1.2%** are transgender, nonbinary, or gender non-conforming students. Despite the large percentage of LGBTQ+ students on campus, they are still a small minority and continue to face significant barriers and marginalization. Some key findings from the present analyses include:

1. LGBTQ+ undergraduate students were more likely to have higher rates of disabilities, chronic conditions, and mental health concerns than straight/heterosexual undergraduate students.
 - LGBTQ+ undergraduate students were more likely to report experiencing serious psychological distress and loneliness compared to straight/heterosexual undergraduate students.
2. Suicidal ideation and behavior was greater among LGBTQ+ students than straight/heterosexual students.
 - LGBTQ+ undergraduate students were more likely to report frequently wanting to kill themselves in the past year, compared to straight/heterosexual undergraduate students, as well as to report engaging in self-injury within the last 12 months.
3. LGBTQ+ undergraduate students were more likely to report higher rates of intimate partner violence, sexual abuse, assault, and other violence compared to heterosexual/straight undergraduate students.
4. LGBTQ+ students reported not feeling respected on campus based on their sexual orientation.
5. LGBTQ+ students reported lower levels of financial security, food security, and feelings of safety on campus than heterosexual/straight students.
6. Due to COVID-19, LGBTQ+ students reported more concerns than heterosexual/straight students regarding online learning, having an appropriate study space, doing well in online courses, missing classes, and having the ability to conduct research.
7. Due to COVID-19, LGBTQ+ students were more likely than heterosexual/straight students to be very concerned with not graduating on time, losing employment, not getting a job after graduation, paying bills, being isolated from friends, and accessing healthcare.

Taken together, LGBTQ+ students face significant barriers that would most likely make thriving at UC Riverside challenging without support and resources to combat these struggles.

Data Limitations

Disclosure: While the LGBTQ+ student population at UC Riverside is growing each year, the number of LGBTQ+ students on campus could actually be much higher depending on students' willingness to disclose their sexual orientation. Sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) data could be impacted by social stigma attached to identifying as LGBTQ+, as well as students' personal identity development timelines, which could result in underreporting as LGBTQ+. The timing of when students come out as LGBTQ+ does not necessarily correlate with when, or if, they update their academic records and indicate their sexual orientation on campus surveys.

Data Security & Privacy: In addition to social stigma, data security and privacy could also impact these results. Specifically, UCUES and Banner are not anonymous data sources, leaving ACHA-NCHA, a randomized sample survey, as the only anonymous source for students to report on their sexual orientation and gender identity, thus limiting data collection opportunities. ACHA-NCHA has a very low response rate this year with only 613 total participants, which could impact the generalizability of the results.

Gender Identity: It is important to note that the number of students who identify as transgender, nonbinary, and gender non-conforming is not large enough to develop reliable analyses to examine student experiences based on gender identity. This gap limits the current understanding of LGBTQ+ undergraduate student experiences and likely results in these students being underserved and marginalized based on gender identity.

Intersectionality: Another major gap in the current analyses is the lack of intersectionality; for example, BIPOC LGBTQ+ students may face greater disparities than white LGBTQ+ students. However, the small population of LGBTQ+ students limits the ability to further break down the results by additional demographic groups. Without identifying any major differences based on the combination of demographic groups such as sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity, and disability, knowledge of intersectional differences is limited.

Social Stigma & SOGI Data: Considering the social stigma attached to identifying as LGBTQ+, it is likely that many students are not out about their identities in Banner and campus surveys, meaning this social stigma also restricts individuals' willingness to report their sexual orientation, which results in a lack of data for LGBTQ+ students of color, transgender and nonbinary students, students with disabilities, and other demographic groups as well.

Student Comparisons: The current analyses compare LGBTQ+ students to straight/heterosexual students. While this is an important comparison, it could be interpreted that being straight/heterosexual is the default sexual orientation. Straight/heterosexual students were selected as the comparison group because the majority of students identify this way, which suggests the student experience on campus may differ for LGBTQ+ students, who are in the

minority. While straight/heterosexual students are the comparison group for these analyses, many of these students are struggling as well. For example, differences based on ethnicity or socioeconomic status would highlight further barriers within each group. Thus, many of these analyses illustrate large differences based on overall averages, but not the distinct range in experiences for individual students.

Conclusion

Taken all together, the extent of difficulties experienced based on sexual orientation or gender identity could be much larger, suggesting a greater need for LGBTQ+ resources to fully support the variety of issues LGBTQ+ students face while enrolled at UC Riverside. Considering that the LGBTQ+ student population at UC Riverside is likely much larger than current data indicate, the level of resources and support needed for this community would need to increase to compensate for this expected difference.