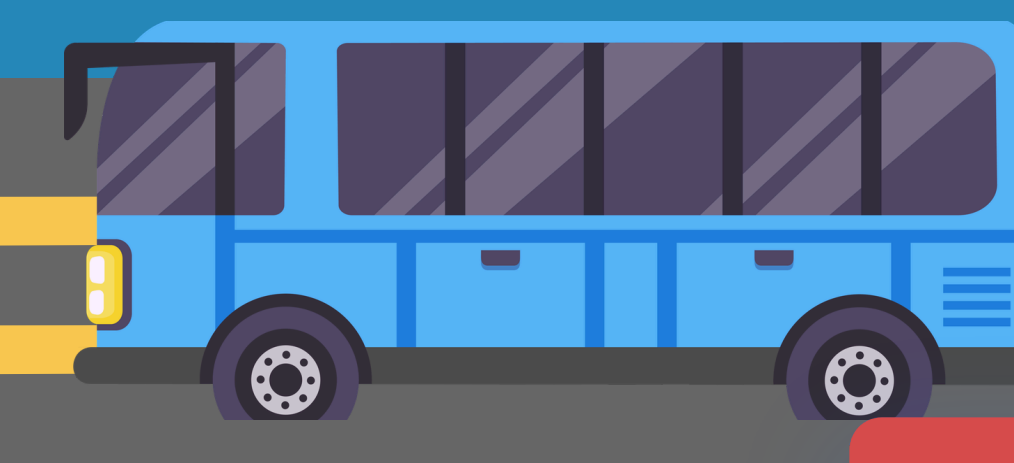


# TOO HOT, TOO COLD, TOO ABSENT: TEMPERATURE AND CLASS ATTENDANCE AMONG UCSD STUDENTS

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## Background

Outdoor temperature conditions may affect students' ability and willingness to attend class. Previous research has linked extreme temperatures to increased absenteeism, but limited research has focused on college students. This study examines whether outdoor temperature conditions are associated with class attendance among UCSD students.

## Methods

- 01 Total sample size was comprised of 97 UCSD students attending in person classes
- 02 Cross sectional study using an anonymous, online 14-question Qualtrics survey.
- 03 Exposure: Perceived outdoor temperature conditions (cold/hot days)  
Outcome: Class attendance (missed classes, late arrivals)
- 04 Covariates: Transport mode, living situation, commute time
- 05 Analysis: Chi-square test, IBM SPSS Statistics,  $\alpha = 0.05$

## Objective

- 01 Better understand the relationship between outdoor weather temperature and class attendance
- 02 Compare attendance and tardiness among students who perceived the weather as hot, cold, or neutral

## Results

Figure 1. Distribution of Missed Classes by Perceived Outdoor Temperature

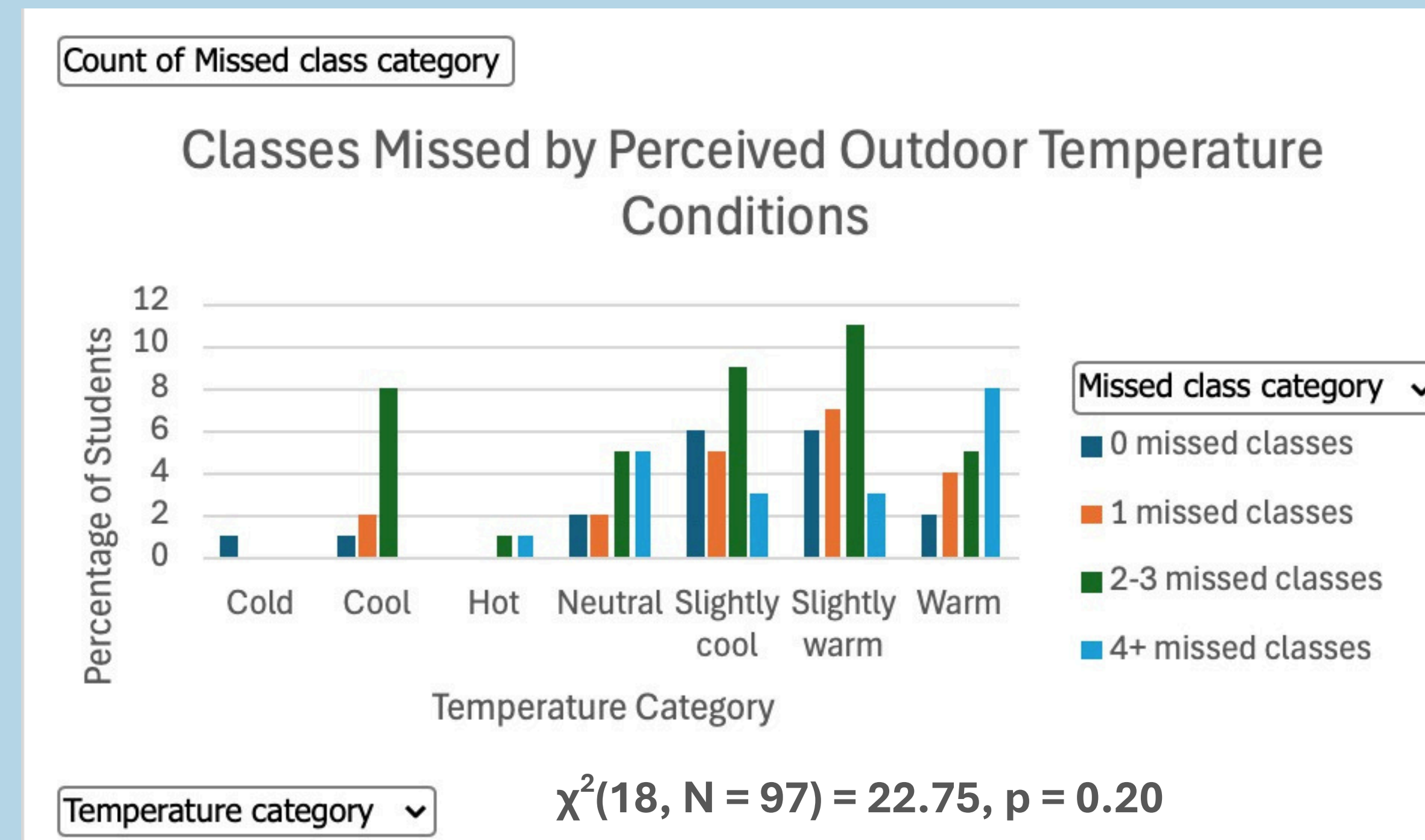
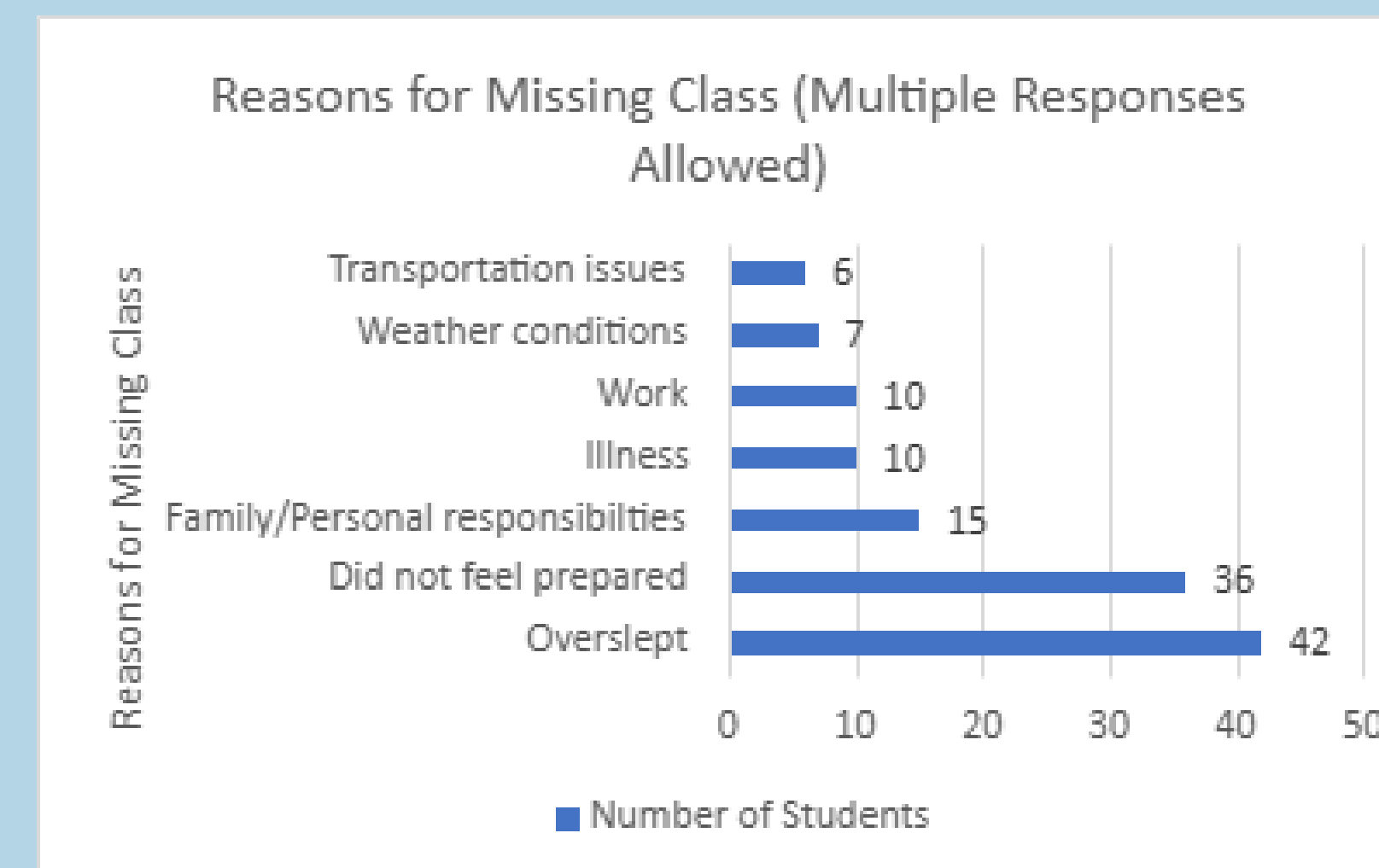


Table 1. Sample Demographic Characteristics

Characteristic	n (%)
Total participants	97
On-campus housing	54 (55.7%)
Off-campus housing	43 (44.3%)
Morning classes (before 12 PM)	66 (68.0%)
Afternoon classes (12-5 PM)	72 (74.2%)
Evening classes (after 5 PM)	24 (24.7%)

Figure 2. Reported Reasons for Missing Class During the Past Two Weeks



The chi-square test produced a p-value of 0.20, indicating no statistically significant association between perceived outdoor temperature and missed class frequency among UCSD students at the  $\alpha = 0.05$  significance level. However, visual trends suggested that students reporting more extreme temperature conditions, especially warmer temperatures, tended to report higher numbers of missed classes.

## Discussion

- 01 Students who reported warmer outdoor temperatures tended to report missing more classes
- 02 Attendance appeared better when students described the weather as neutral or cooler.
- 03 These findings support prior research showing that hot weather can increase student absences and that cold weather does not seem to have as strong of an effect in our samples.
- 04 Limited sample size and inconsistent weather during the 2-week survey may have weakened the statistical significance. A larger sample and longer collection period with more consistent temperature patterns could show a clearer relationship between outdoor temperature and attendance.

## Conclusion & Implications

- 01 No statistical significance association between perceived outdoor temperature and missed class attendance among UCSD students was found (p-value = 0.20).
- 02 Warmer outdoor temperatures were linked to higher missed-class categories, especially students reporting 2-3 or 4+ missed classes.
- 03 These findings suggest that weather may be one factor that affects students' daily attendance and academic engagement.
- 04 Temperature alone may not explain absences, but it can worsen other barriers like commute time, transportation, and campus travel.
- 05 Future research should look more closely at how transportation access, commuting methods, and outdoor campus conditions work together to influence student attendance.

## Resources

