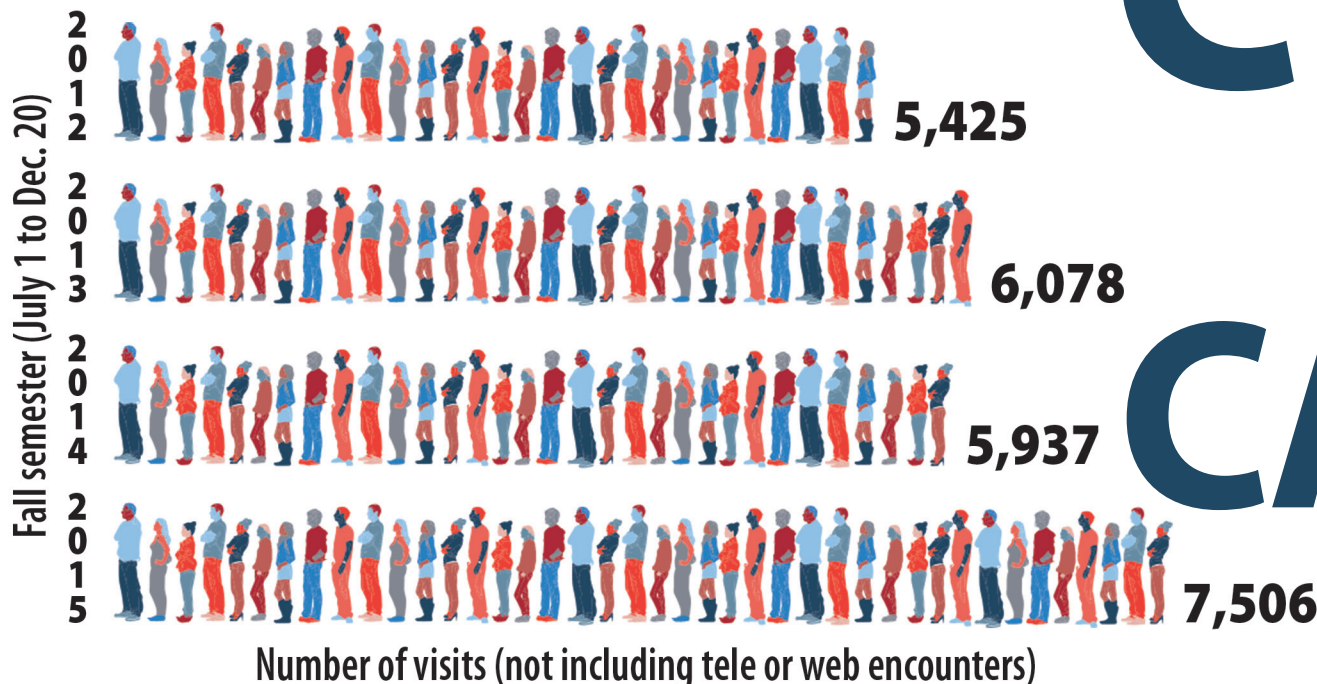


Comparing numbers from each fall semester shows that the number of visits to CAPS has increased since 2012. Experts say increasing awareness of mental health might be part of the reason why.



SOURCE: UNC COUNSELING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES

DTH/JOSÉ VALLE

CAPS AT CAPACITY

With visits rising, Counseling and Psychological Services needs more staff

By Piper Anderson
Staff Writer

If the number of students visiting UNC's Counseling and Psychological Services keeps increasing, something will have to change.

CAPS will either have to cut some of the services it currently provides — such as all-day walk-in hours — or find the money to hire more staff.

“We’re doing a good job;

we’re hanging in there,” said Dr. Allen O’Barr, director of CAPS.

“But last semester let us know that really, if you add just a little bit of weight on the back semester after semester, there gets to be a point where all that accumulates, and that’s what we began to be feeling last semester.”

The mental health center had 7,506 visits in fall 2015, as opposed to 5,425 visits in

fall 2012.

At a Jan. 27 meeting of the Board of Trustees’ University Affairs committee, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Winston Crisp said CAPS is at capacity.

“CAPS is a sustainable operation, but as our students’ needs and demands for services increase, we are working to identify opportunities to maintain or increase our general counseling services,” said Christi Hurt, chief

of staff for student affairs, in an email.

O’Barr said the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs has given him the OK to hire two temporary counselors so CAPS can finish the spring semester smoothly, but he said the long-term solution lies in hiring more employees and obtaining more space.

About 11.6 percent of the student body visited CAPS during the 2014-15 school

year, which is about the same as three years ago, O’Barr said — but as the student population increases, the number of students CAPS sees increases as well.

“When we first started seeing people on a walk-in basis, I don’t know, eight years ago, we were seeing somewhere around 24 people a day,” O’Barr said.

O’Barr said, now, 35 to 40 students visit CAPS each day. Rowan Hunt, co-chairper-

son of Rethink: Psychiatric Illness, a mental health advocacy group on campus, said the increase in visits may be a result of greater mental health awareness.

“As we are beginning to have more discussions about mental health on campus, we will consistently see a greater need for places like CAPS, because as students become more educated about the

SEE CAPS, PAGE 4

UNC experts discuss spread, impact of Zika virus

The virus’ spread to the U.S. is possible but not certain.

By CJ Farris
Staff Writer

Amidst the rapid spread of the Zika virus across Latin America, N.C. Sen. Richard Burr and the White House — among other politicians and scientists — have called for a stronger government response.

Called a “public health emergency of international concern” by the World Health Organization, Zika virus is transmitted by mosquitoes in 26 countries and territories in the Americas.

“We must be prepared to protect the American people from the full range of threats we may face,” Burr said in a press release.

The White House requested \$1.8 billion in emergency funding from Congress to better prepare efforts to combat the virus as mosquitoes become more active in spring and summer.

“We must be fully prepared to mitigate and quickly address local transmission within the

continental U.S., particularly in the Southern United States,” the administration said in a press release.

Much to learn about Zika virus

Helen Lazear is an assistant professor in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at the UNC School of Medicine and an expert on the virus.

“We’re still learning a lot more about what’s going on,” she said. “Although this virus isn’t new to science — we’ve known about this virus for 70 years — very little basic research has been done on it, and there’s a lot we don’t know.”

An overall lack of knowledge about the virus can be chalked up to the little trouble humans have had with Zika in the past, according to Dr. Myron Cohen, the chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases and director of the UNC Institute for Global Health and Infectious Diseases.

Lazear said we do know several things about the virus, including its relation to yellow fever

SEE ZIKA, PAGE 4

NC State remembers fallen students at vigil

The campus held a traditional call to prayer Wednesday.

By John Foulkes
Staff Writer

Hundreds of people braved 30-degree weather Wednesday night to commemorate the tragic deaths of Deah Barakat, Yusor Abu-Salha and Razan Abu-Salha at the Talley Student Union at N.C. State University in a vigil titled the “Day of Light.”

A year ago Wednesday, the three students were killed in a senseless act of violence. Craig Stephen Hicks is charged with shooting the victims in their home at the Finley Forest Condominiums, launching national concern about increasing violence and



DTH/ALEX KORMANN

Hundreds of people gathered at the Our Three Winners vigil one year after the Chapel Hill shootings.

intolerance toward Muslim-Americans.

Hicks has been charged with three counts of first-degree murder and is facing the death penalty.

The police originally report-

ed that Hicks was provoked over a parking dispute, but the victims’ families disagree.

“If this was over a parking dispute, then Rosa Parks was

SEE VIGIL, PAGE 4

UNC-system exempt from out-of-state enrollment increases

Flagship universities rely on out-of-state tuition for funding

By Danielle Chemtob
Staff Writer

Feeling budgetary constraints, many public flagship universities are increasing the number of out-of-state students, according to a recent analysis by The Washington Post.

But with an 18 percent cap for out-of-state students, UNC-Chapel Hill remains an exception to the trend.

The share of in-state students at 74 public universities declined between 2004

and 2014. The University of Alabama experienced the largest drop of 36 percentage points. Other schools such as the University of South Carolina, University of California at Berkeley, University of California Los Angeles and University of Oregon, experienced declines greater than 20 percentage points.

Daniel Byrd, director of policy research at the Los Angeles-based Campaign for College Opportunity, said state legislatures are to blame for this change.

“The reason why they’re doing it is because of inconsistent state funding,” Byrd said. “They’re going to try to enroll more out-of-state

students to pay for in-state students.”

Since the 2008 recession, he said many states have reduced the amount of money allocated to the universities. 67 of the schools studied by The Washington Post experienced declines — South Carolina decreased by 12 percentage points, and UC-Berkeley by 14 percentage points.

But Jenna Robinson, president of the Pope Center for Higher Education Policy, said UNC-system schools are able to continue their out-of-state enrollment caps because North Carolina spends more on its students than other states.

According to a report from the Pope Center, North

Carolina is ranked fourth in the nation in terms of per student expenditures, and 43 percent of the UNC system’s revenue comes from the state.

Robinson said the state pays universities the difference in cost between an in-state and out-of-state student — embracing a commitment to lowering the cost of higher education.

“Out-of-state students are not, in general, a huge moneymaker,” she said. “So an out-of-state student might be paying \$20,000, but then the (General Assembly) — for that in-state student — is paying \$12 (thousand).”

Tuition for in-state students at UNC-CH is \$8,562,

and \$33,644 for out-of-state students. Ashley Memory, senior assistant director of admissions at UNC-CH, said North Carolina takes pride in its service to the state’s students.

And some UNC-system schools remain below the enrollment cap. UNC-Wilmington has 13.1 percent out-of-state enrollment, and Appalachian State University has 9 percent.

But Mary Spiegel, associate provost and executive director of undergraduate admissions for the University of Alabama, said in an email that an increase in out-of-state students has been beneficial for the campus.

Out-of-state students

carry the messages of the University of Alabama back to their home states, she said.

While schools like the University of Wisconsin at Madison have lifted their caps on out-of-state enrollment, Byrd said a California bill aims to implement one — and threatens to withhold funding otherwise.

But for the cap to be sustainable, he said the state will need to allot more money to the schools.

“The biggest thing is for the states to invest more in their higher education system — give the system the money they need to enroll the in-state students,” Byrd said.

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