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2019 #RealCollege Survey Report

Institution Report

January 2020



HOPE4COLLEGE.COM

2019 #REALCOLLEGE SURVEY RESULTS

INSTITUTION REPORT FOR SAN DIEGO CITY COLLEGE

**Prepared by
The Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice
at Temple University**

January 2020

OVERVIEW

* Invitations to complete the questionnaire were sent by email to approximately 14,100 students from San Diego City College and 1,439 students participated. Thus, the estimated response rate is 10.2%.

*** Overall Basic Needs Insecurity Rates:**

- 53% of respondents experienced food insecurity in the prior 30 days
- 64% of respondents experienced housing insecurity in the previous year
- 25% of respondents experienced homelessness in the previous year

* 73% of students at San Diego City College experienced at least one of these forms of basic needs insecurity in the past year.

* There is substantial variation in basic needs insecurity across subgroups.

* 26% of food insecure students utilize SNAP benefits and 11% of homeless students utilize housing benefits.

For more information on the research methodology and survey participants, please refer to the online appendices for the 2019 National #RealCollege Survey report (available at www.hope4college.com).

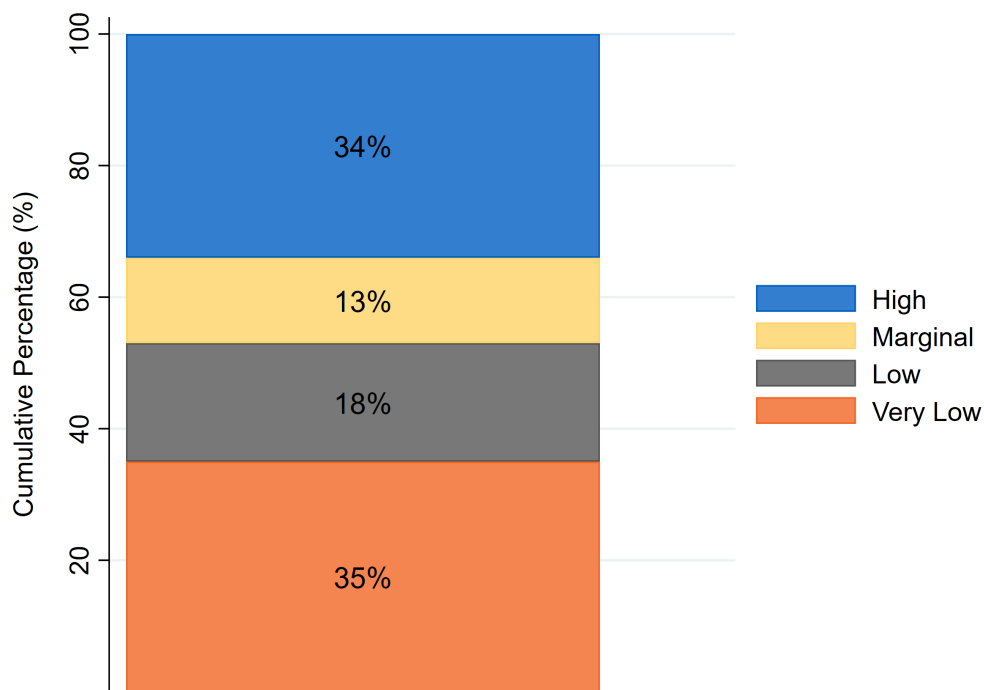
PREVALENCE OF BASIC NEEDS INSECURITY

Food Insecurity

Food insecurity is the limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe food, or the ability to acquire such food in a socially acceptable manner. The most extreme form is often accompanied with physiological sensations of hunger. We assessed food security among students using the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) 18-item set of questions.

During the 30 days preceding the survey, approximately 53% of survey respondents at San Diego City College experienced low or very low levels of food security (Figure 1). Moreover, 56% of survey respondents cannot afford to eat balanced meals and 56% worry about running out of food before they have money to buy more.

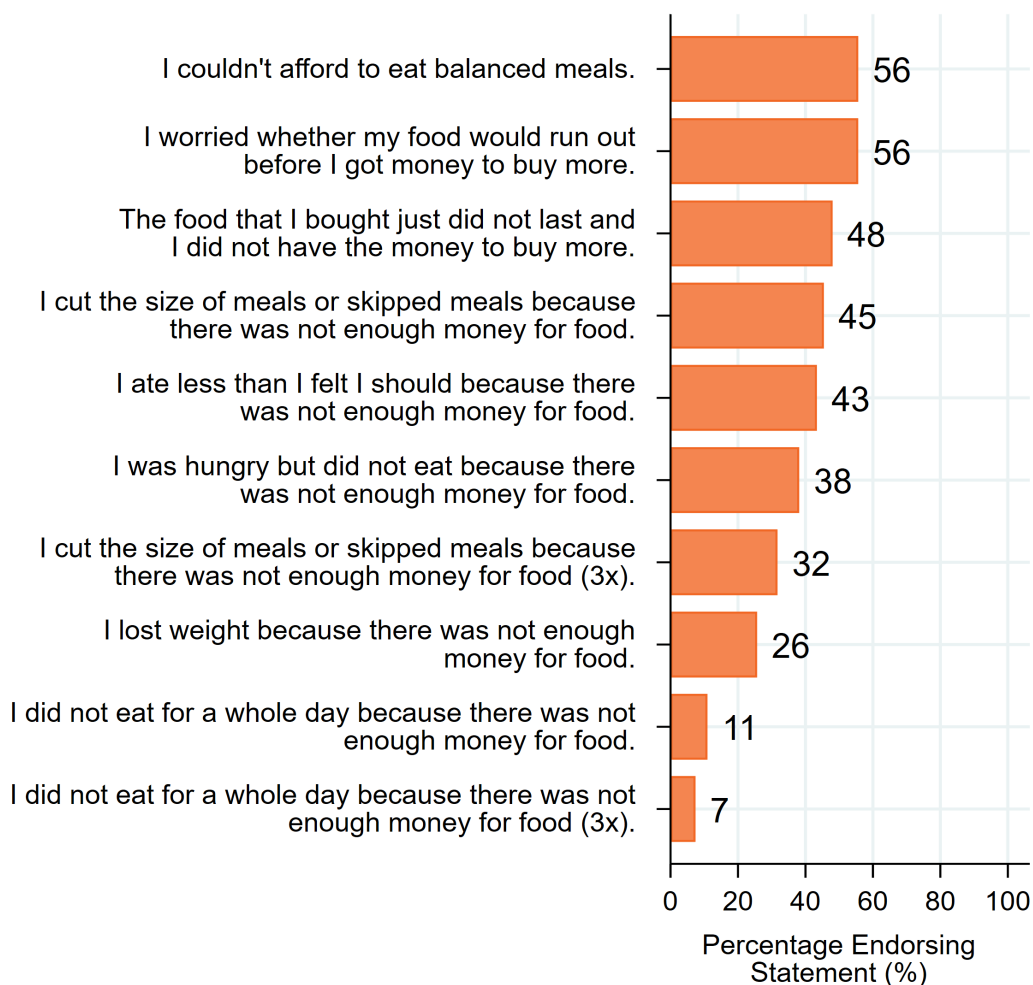
Figure 1. Food Security Among Survey Respondents at San Diego City College



Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey

Notes: According to the USDA, students at either low or very low food security are termed food insecure. For the full list of questions used to measure food security, see our full report available at www.hope4college.com. Cumulative percentage may not add up to 100 due to rounding error.

Figure 2. Food Insecurity Among Survey Respondents at San Diego City College



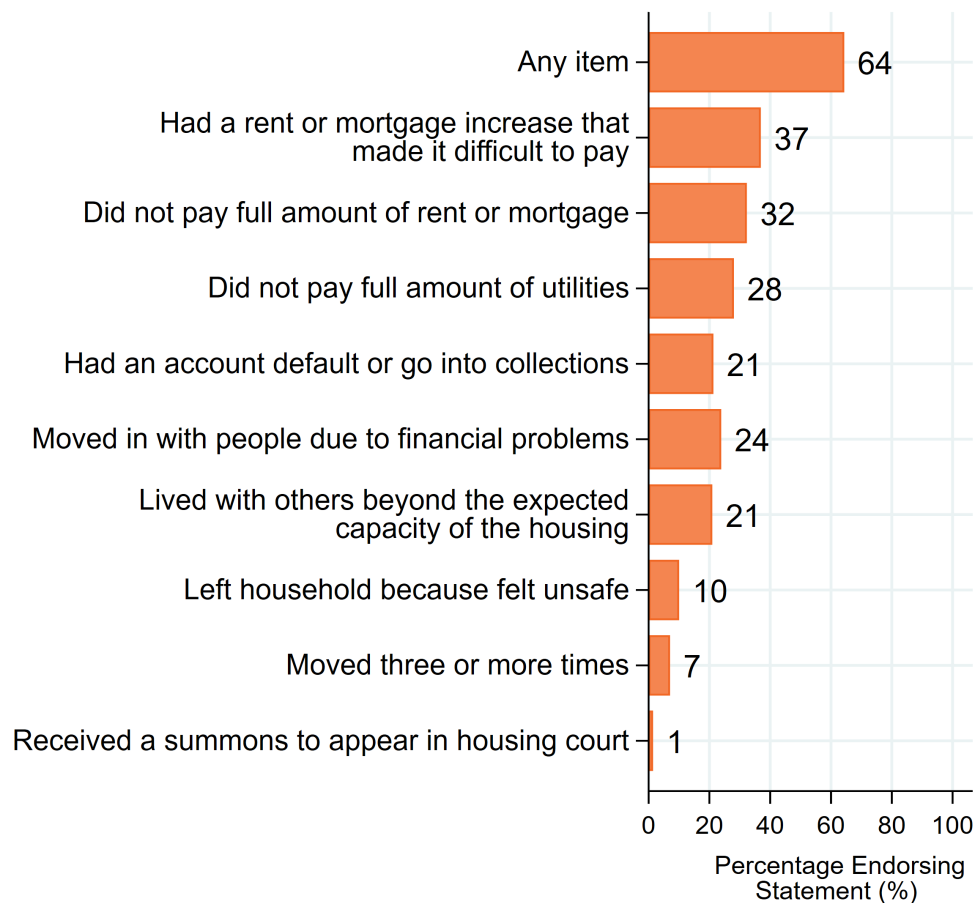
Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey

Housing Insecurity

Housing insecurity includes a broad set of challenges such as the inability to pay rent or utilities or the need to move frequently. All of these challenges affect students, and results suggest they are more likely to suffer some form of housing insecurity than to have all their needs met during college. Housing insecurity among students was assessed with a nine-item set of questions developed by the Hope Center. Students are classified as housing insecure if they answered affirmatively to experiencing at least one of those items in the previous year.

How prevalent is housing insecurity at San Diego City College? As displayed below, 64% of survey respondents are housing insecure (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Housing Insecurity Among Survey Respondents at San Diego City College



Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey

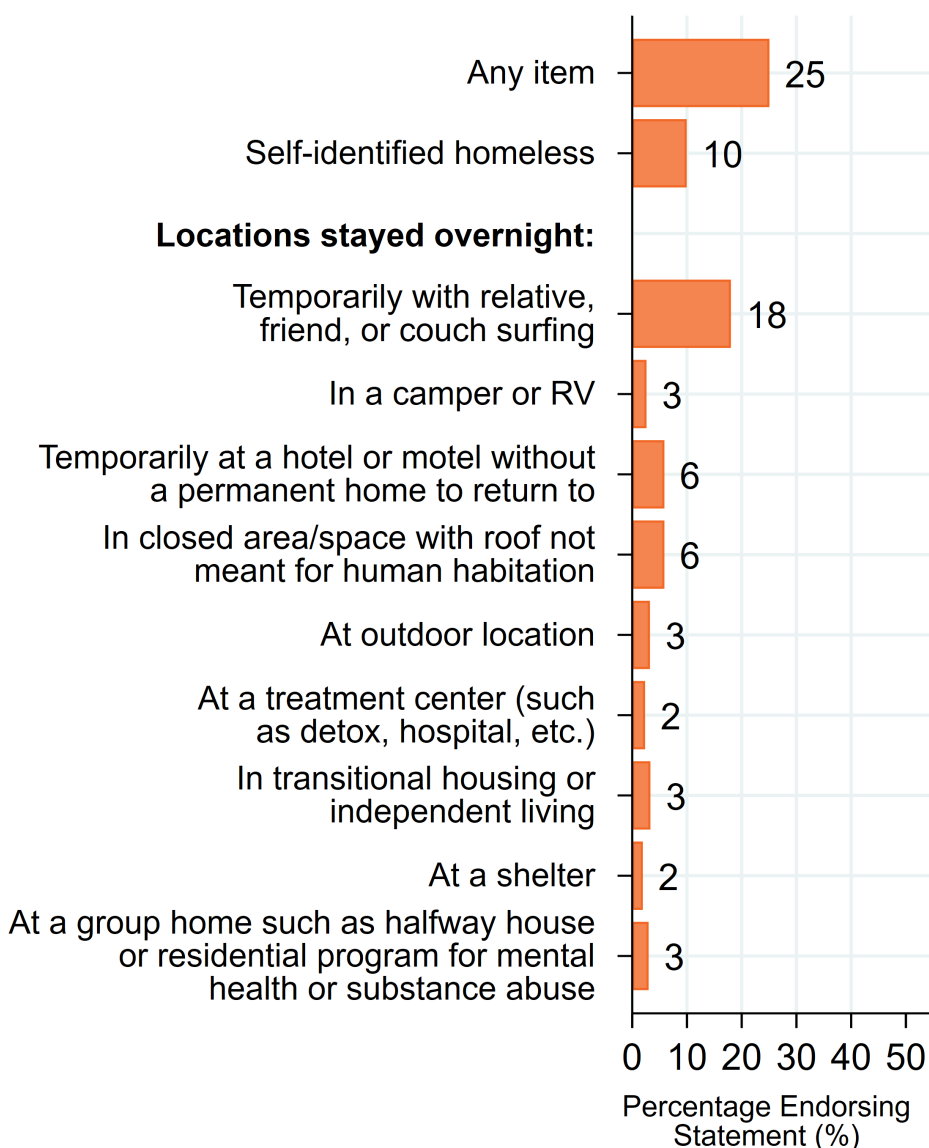
Homelessness

Homelessness means that a person does not have a stable place to live. Students were identified as homeless if they responded affirmatively to a question asking if they had been homeless or they experienced living conditions that are considered signs of homelessness in the previous year.

Homelessness among students was assessed with a tool developed by California State University researchers.

How prevalent is homelessness at San Diego City College? As displayed below, 25% of survey respondents experience homelessness (Figure 4).

Figure 4. Homelessness Among Survey Respondents at San Diego City College

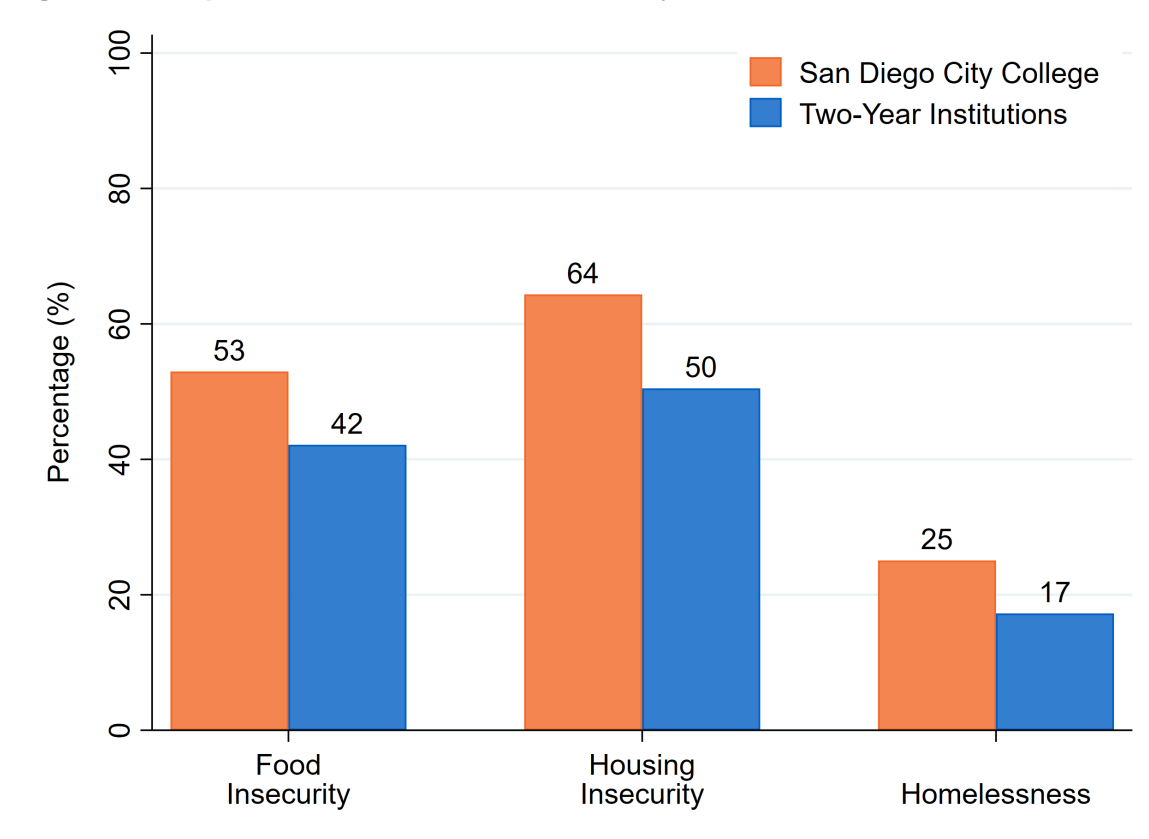


Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey

COMPARISON TO SURVEY RESPONDENTS ATTENDING TWO-YEAR INSTITUTIONS

In comparison to the rates for all survey respondents at two-year institutions nationwide in 2019, San Diego City College has a higher rate of food insecurity, a higher rate of housing insecurity, and a higher rate of homelessness (Figure 5).

Figure 5. Comparison of Basic Needs Insecurity Rates

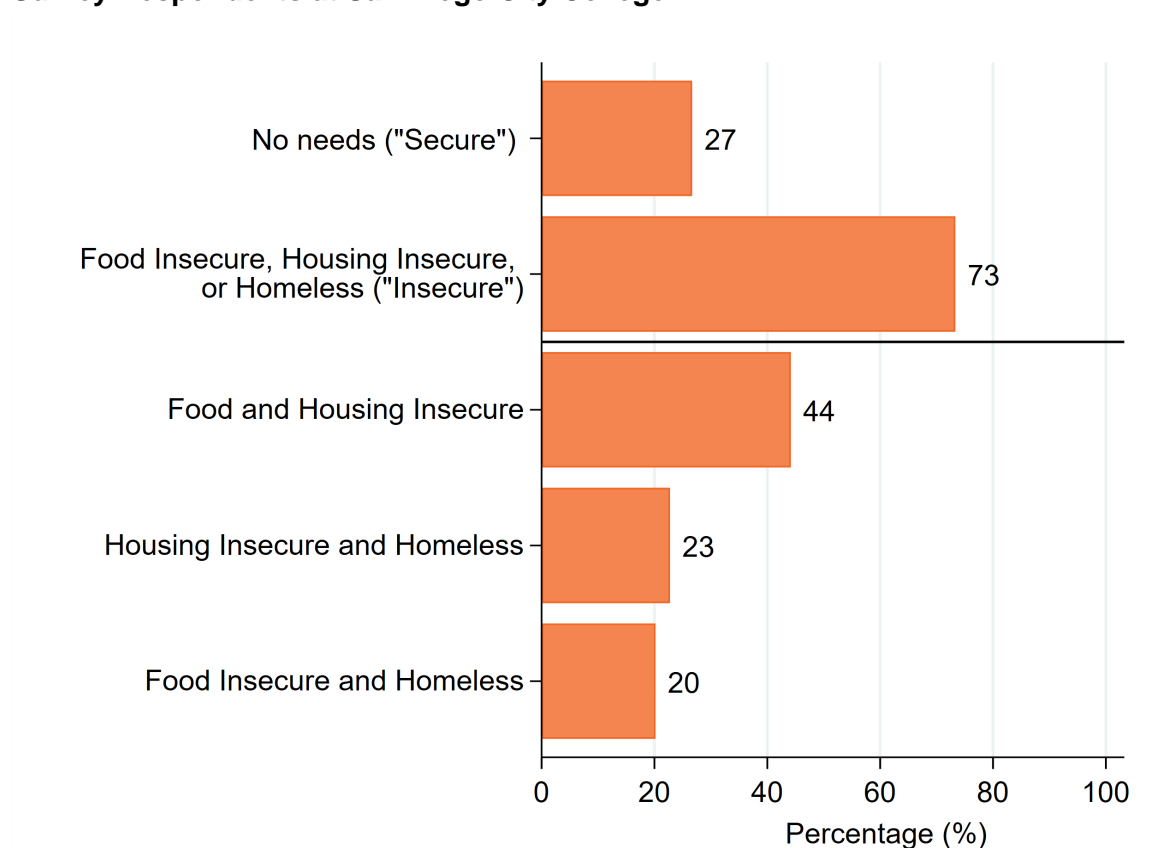


Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey

OVERLAPPING CHALLENGES

Food insecurity, housing insecurity, and homelessness are overlapping concerns, with 73% of students at San Diego City College experiencing at least one of these forms of basic needs insecurity in the past year (Figure 6).

Figure 6. Intersections of Food Insecurity, Housing Insecurity, and Homelessness Among Survey Respondents at San Diego City College



Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey

DISPARITIES IN BASIC NEEDS INSECURITY

Some students are at higher risk of basic needs insecurity than others. The tables in this section present rates of food insecurity, housing insecurity, and homelessness according to students' demographic, academic, and economic circumstances, as well as their life circumstances.

By Demographic Background

Table 1. Demographic Disparities in Rates of Basic Needs Insecurity Among Survey Respondents at San Diego City College

	Number of Students	Food Insecurity (%)	Housing Insecurity (%)	Homelessness (%)
GENDER IDENTITY				
Male	339	50	60	29
Female	748	54	65	22
Non-Binary/Third gender	21	71	86	43
Prefers to self-describe
TRANSGENDER IDENTITY				
Identifies as transgender	14	71	79	50
Does not identify as transgender	1,090	53	64	24
SEXUAL ORIENTATION				
Heterosexual or straight	846	50	63	24
Gay or lesbian	55	45	65	27
Bisexual	116	72	73	32
Prefers to self-describe	23	83	87	43
HIGHEST LEVEL OF PARENTAL EDUCATION				
No high school diploma	265	57	69	23
High school diploma	239	52	59	26
Some college	363	62	72	27
Bachelors degree or higher	186	32	48	21
Does not know	54	52	67	26

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Table 1 (continued). Demographic Disparities in Rates of Basic Needs Insecurity Among Survey Respondents at San Diego City College

	Number of Students	Food Insecurity (%)	Housing Insecurity (%)	Homelessness (%)
RACIAL OR ETHNIC BACKGROUND				
White or Caucasian	369	51	64	28
African American or Black	149	66	75	31
Hispanic or Latinx	644	56	66	25
American Indian or Alaskan Native	41	71	80	29
Indigenous	32	75	81	34
Middle Eastern or North African or Arab or Arab American	19	47	63	5
Southeast Asian	56	45	61	20
Pacific Islander or Native Hawaiian	31	48	68	16
Other Asian or Asian American	57	34	49	12
Other	53	40	64	17
STUDENT IS A U.S. CITIZEN OR PERMANENT RESIDENT				
Yes	1,059	54	65	26
No	39	39	49	3
AGE				
18 to 20	315	49	49	22
21 to 25	245	57	66	22
26 to 30	161	59	77	31
Older than 30	378	53	69	26
STUDENT IS AN ATHLETE				
Yes	23	61	61	39
No	1,084	53	64	24

Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey

Note: Results from any category with fewer than 10 participants are not shown in the table. The Number of Students column indicates the number of survey respondents to our measure of homelessness. The number respondents to our measures of food and housing insecurity may vary slightly. Classifications of gender and race/ethnicity are not mutually exclusive. Students could self-identify with multiple classifications.

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By Student Academic, Economic, and Life Experiences

Table 2. Rates of Basic Needs Insecurity by Student Life Experiences Among Survey Respondents at San Diego City College

	Number of Students	Food Insecurity (%)	Housing Insecurity (%)	Homelessness (%)
LEVEL OF STUDY				
Undergraduate	941	56	66	25
Graduate	91	57	78	29
Non-degree	220	40	51	24
COLLEGE ENROLLMENT STATUS				
Full-time (at least 12 credits)	579	57	64	25
Part-time (fewer than 12 credits)	673	49	65	25
YEARS IN COLLEGE				
Less than 1	424	50	61	28
1 to 2	379	55	62	26
3 or more	451	54	70	21
DEPENDENCY STATUS				
Dependent	237	54	57	24
Independent	712	54	70	26
Does not know	160	51	51	21
STUDENT RECEIVES THE PELL GRANT				
Yes	680	62	72	29
No	478	43	54	21
RELATIONSHIP STATUS				
Single	558	56	65	26
In a relationship	280	54	62	23
Married or domestic partnership	205	42	60	19
Divorced	39	67	85	41
Widowed

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Table 2 (continued). Rates of Basic Needs Insecurity by Student Life Experiences Among Survey Respondents at San Diego City College

	Number of Students	Food Insecurity (%)	Housing Insecurity (%)	Homelessness (%)
STUDENT HAS CHILDREN				
Yes	296	62	77	22
No	914	50	60	26
STUDENT HAS BEEN IN FOSTER CARE				
Yes	59	80	85	58
No	1,044	51	63	23
STUDENT HAS BEEN IN MILITARY				
Yes	86	40	58	24
No	1,025	55	65	25
EMPLOYMENT STATUS				
Employed	293	58	71	28
Not employed, looking for work	97	50	61	20
Not employed, not looking for work	152	41	51	22
STUDENT HAS BEEN CONVICTED OF A CRIME				
Yes	89	69	75	54
No	1,058	51	63	22
DISABILITY OR MEDICAL CONDITION				
Learning disability	141	63	70	36
Physical disability	106	69	78	41
Chronic illness	166	61	73	30
Psychological disorder	361	68	76	36
Other disability or condition	42	64	79	36
No disability or medical condition	586	46	58	20

Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey

Note: Results from any category with fewer than 10 participants are not shown in the table. The Number of Students column indicates the number of survey respondents to our measure of homelessness. The number respondents to our measures of food and housing insecurity may vary slightly. Survey questions about employment status were randomly administered to a subset of respondents. Classifications of Disability or Medical Condition are not mutually exclusive. Students could self-identify with multiple classifications.

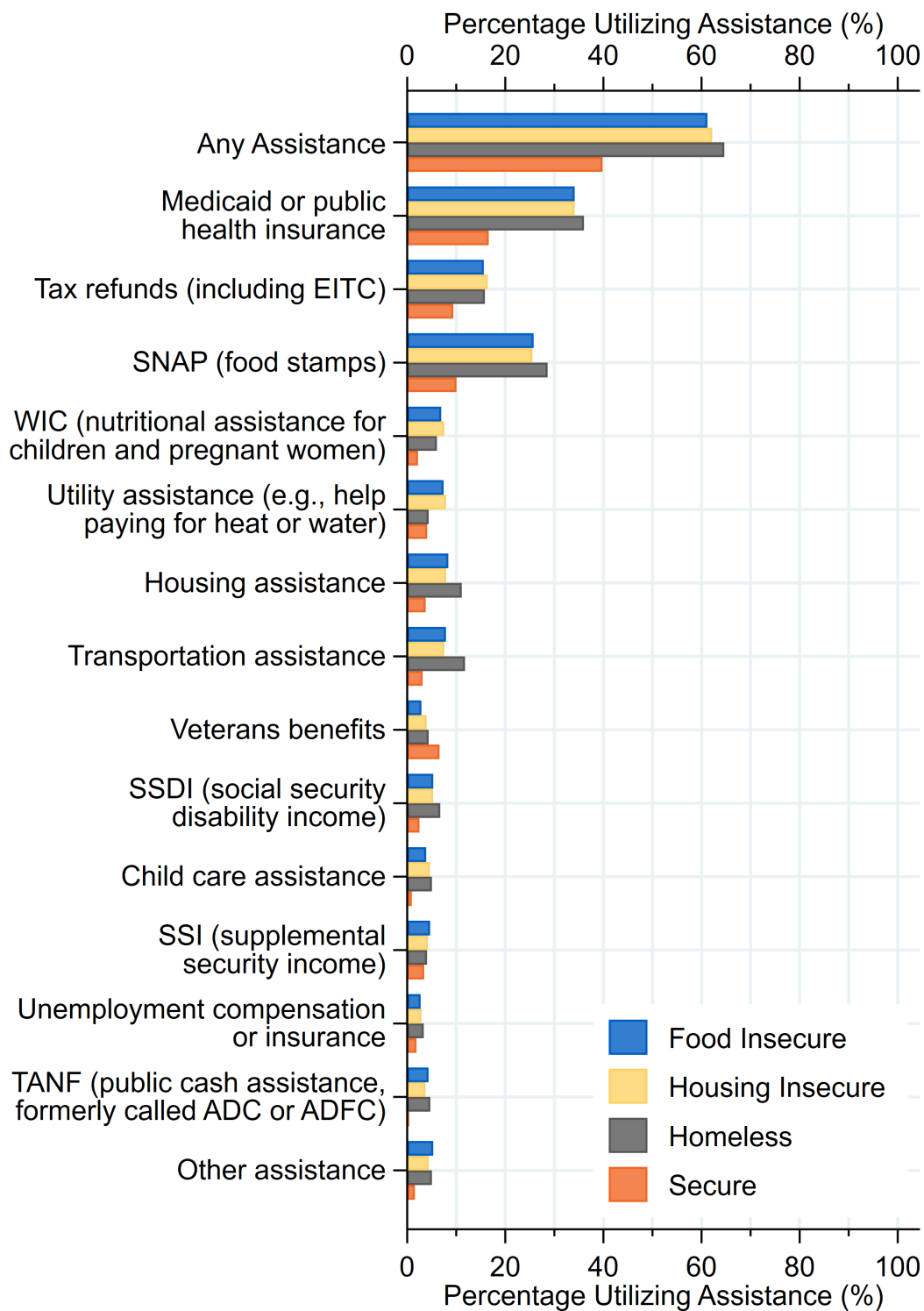
UTILIZATION OF SUPPORTS

Many students at San Diego City College who experience basic needs insecurity do not receive public assistance (Figure 7). Among food insecure students, 26% receive SNAP benefits. In addition, 11% of students who experience homelessness receive housing assistance. It is also worth noting that students who are secure in their basic needs are still accessing public benefits, albeit at lower rates (40%) than their peers.

A growing number of on-campus supports are being offered but again, few students are accessing them (Figure 8). Of the students experiencing basic needs insecurity at San Diego City College, only about 23% use on-campus supports.

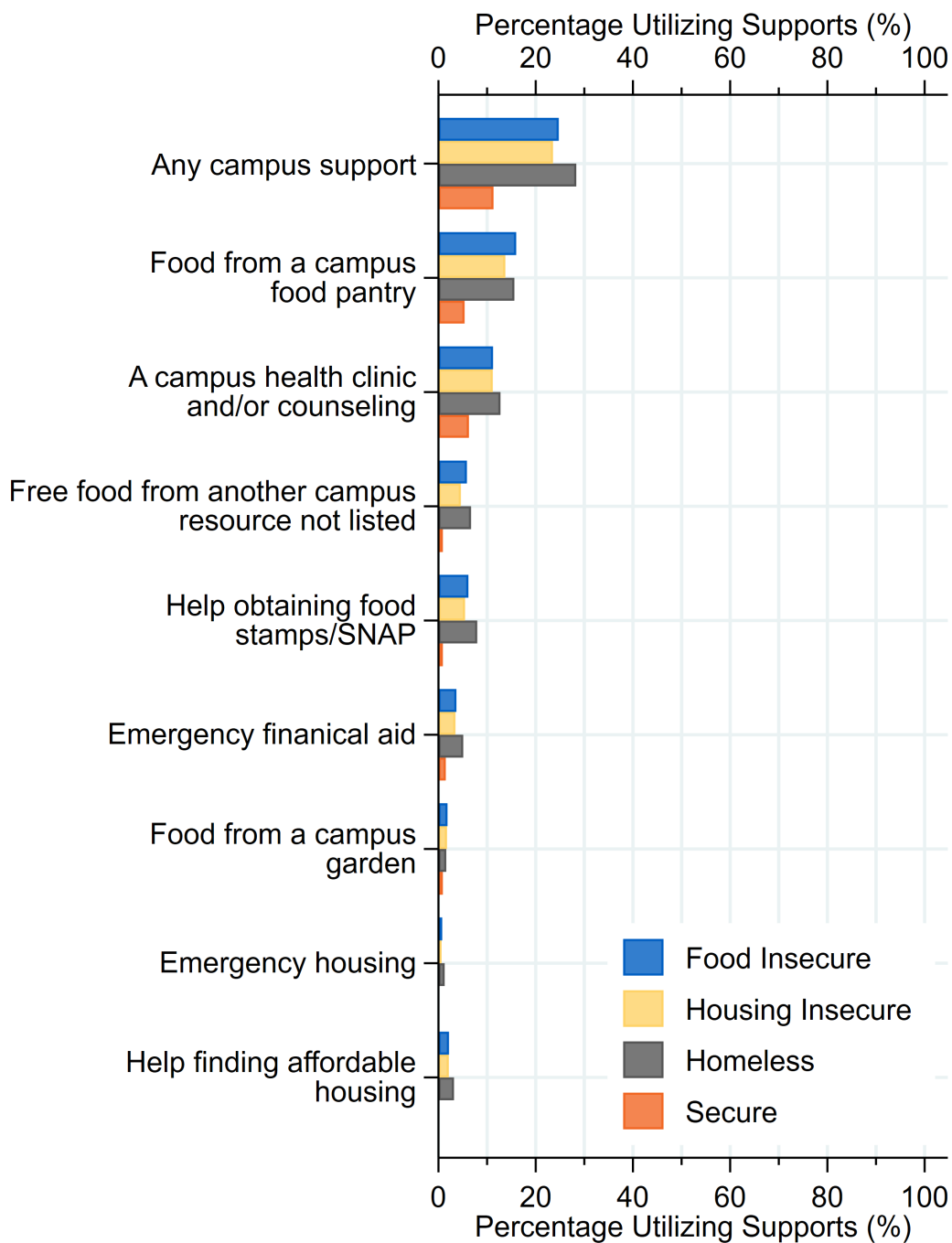


Figure 7. Use of Assistance Among Survey Respondents at San Diego City College According to Basic Needs Security



Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey

Figure 8. Use of Campus Supports Among Survey Respondents at San Diego City College According to Basic Needs Security



Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey

CONCLUSION

The #RealCollege survey affirms what has been evident to college administrators, faculty, staff, and students for years: basic needs insecurity is a condition challenging many undergraduates pursuing credentials. The scope of the problem described here is substantial and should be cause for a systemic response.

ABOUT US

The Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice is redefining what it means to be a student-ready college with a national movement centering #realcollege students' basic needs. In order to advance the necessary systemic changes to support those needs, our work includes four pillars: action research, engagement and communication, advocacy, and sustainability. For more information, visit www.hope4college.com.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have questions about this report, please contact the Hope Center Research Team at hopesrvy@temple.edu.

