



2019 #RealCollege Survey Report

System Report

July 2020



[HOPE4COLLEGE.COM](https://hope4college.com)

2019 #REALCOLLEGE SURVEY RESULTS

REPORT FOR PARTICIPATING COLLEGES IN FLORIDA

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

June 2020

OVERVIEW

* Invitations to complete the questionnaire were sent by email to approximately 96,500 students from 4 institutions from the Participating Colleges in Florida and 6,901 students participated. Thus, the estimated response rate is 7.2%.

* **Overall Basic Needs Insecurity Rates:**

- 46% of respondents experienced food insecurity in the prior 30 days
- 53% of respondents experienced housing insecurity in the previous year
- 16% of respondents experienced homelessness in the previous year

* 65% of students in Participating Colleges in Florida 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.

* 21% of food insecure students utilize SNAP benefits and 5% 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).

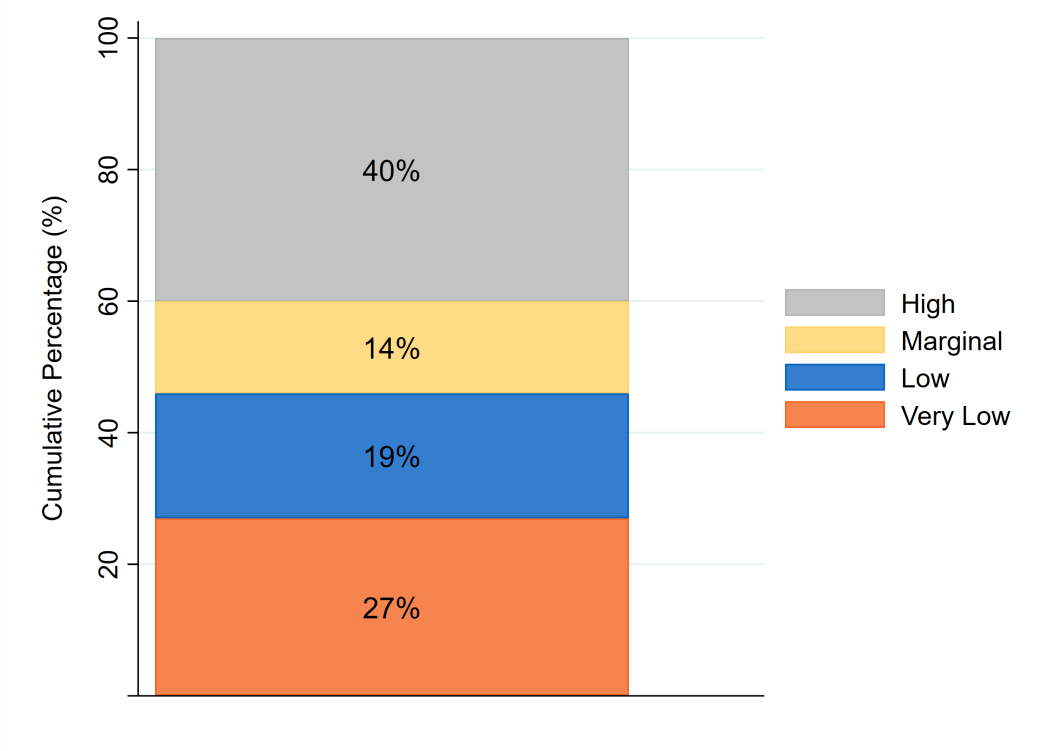
PREVALENCE OF BASIC NEEDS INSECURITY

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 46% of survey respondents in Participating Colleges in Florida experienced low or very low levels of food security (Figure 1). Moreover, 48% of survey respondents cannot afford to eat balanced meals and 48% worry about running out of food before they have money to buy more (Figure 2).

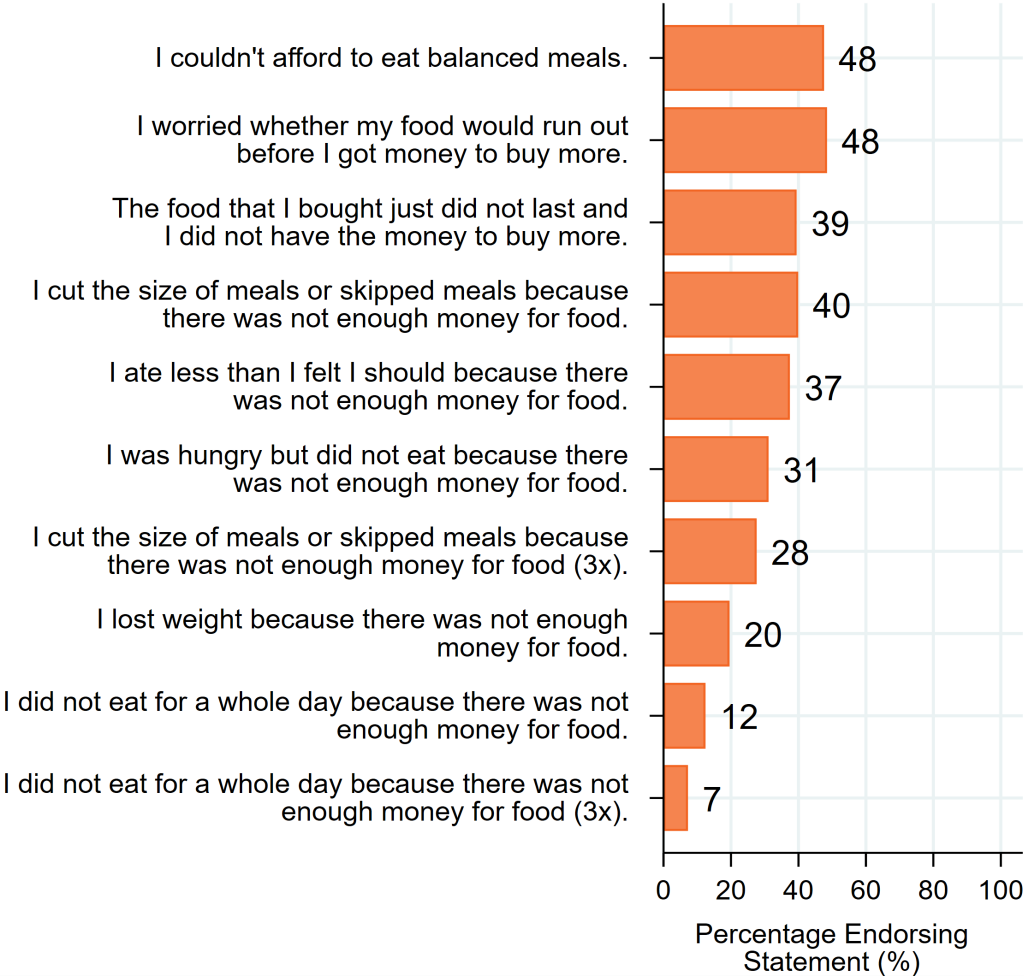
Figure 1. Food Security Among Survey Respondents at Participating Colleges in Florida



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 in Participating Colleges in Florida



Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey

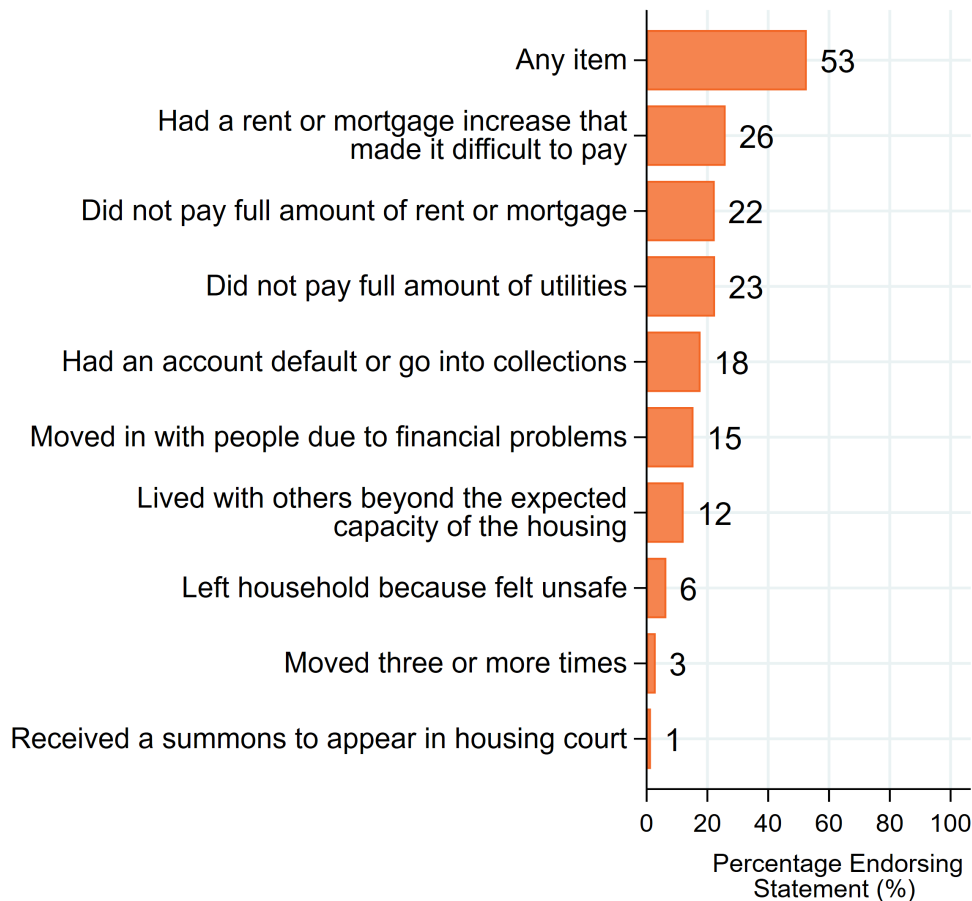
Housing Insecurity

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 in Participating Colleges in Florida? As displayed below, 53% of survey respondents are housing insecure (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Housing Insecurity Among Survey Respondents in Participating Colleges in Florida



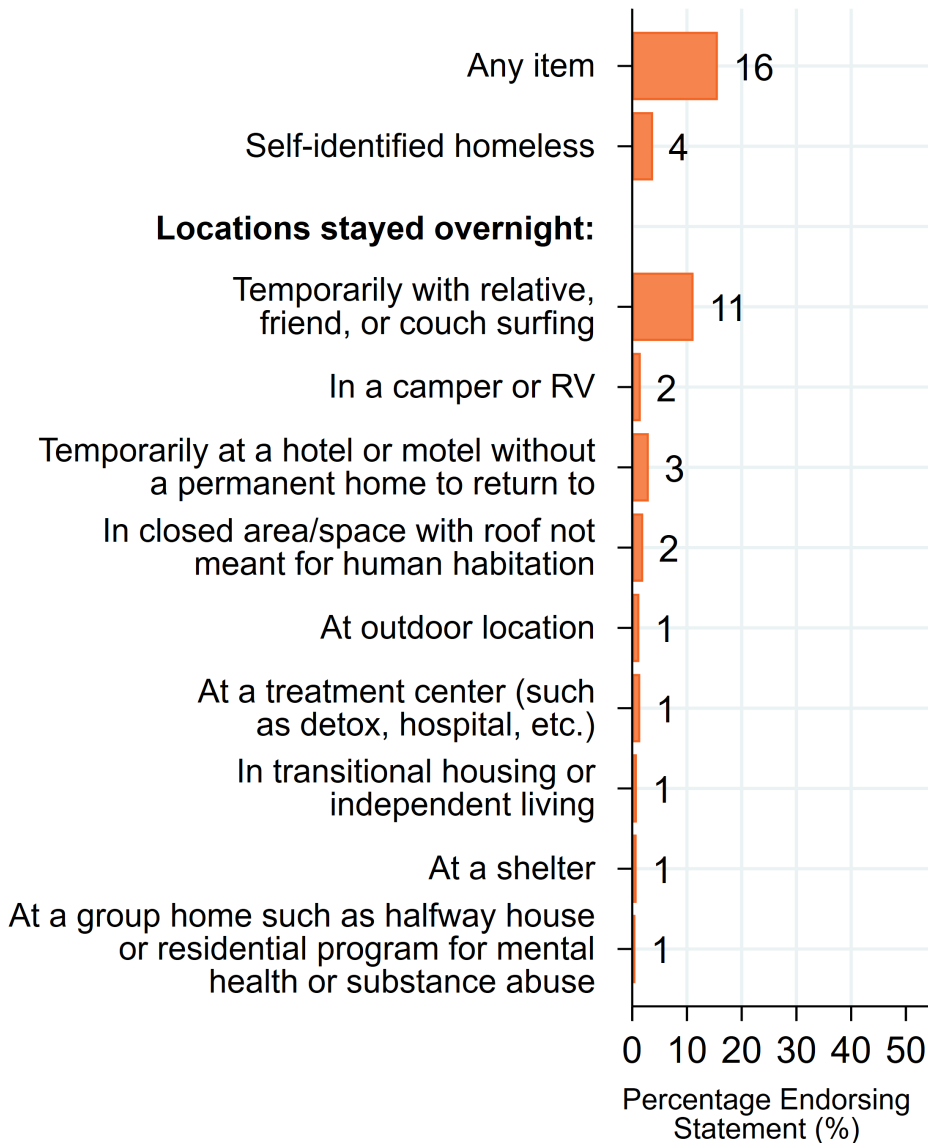
Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey

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 in Participating Colleges in Florida? As displayed below, 16% of survey respondents experience homelessness (Figure 4).

Figure 4. Homelessness Among Survey Respondents in Participating Colleges in Florida

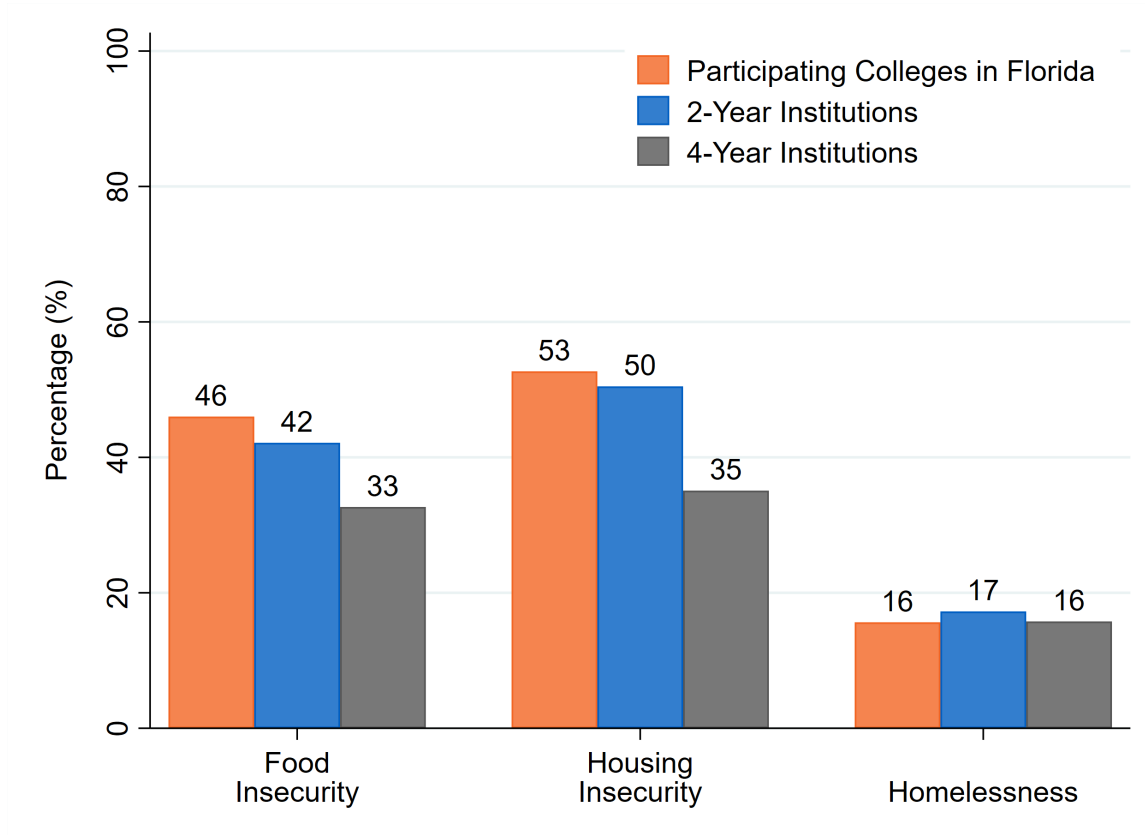


Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey

COMPARISON TO SURVEY RESPONDENTS ATTENDING TWO- OR FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTIONS

In comparison to the rates for all survey respondents at two-year institutions nationwide in 2019, the Participating Colleges in Florida has a higher rate of food insecurity, a higher rate of housing insecurity, and a lower rate of homelessness (Figure 5). In comparison to the rates for all survey respondents at four-year institutions nationwide in 2019, the Participating Colleges in Florida has a higher rate of food insecurity, a higher rate of housing insecurity, and a similar rate of homelessness.

Figure 5. Comparison of Basic Needs Insecurity Rates

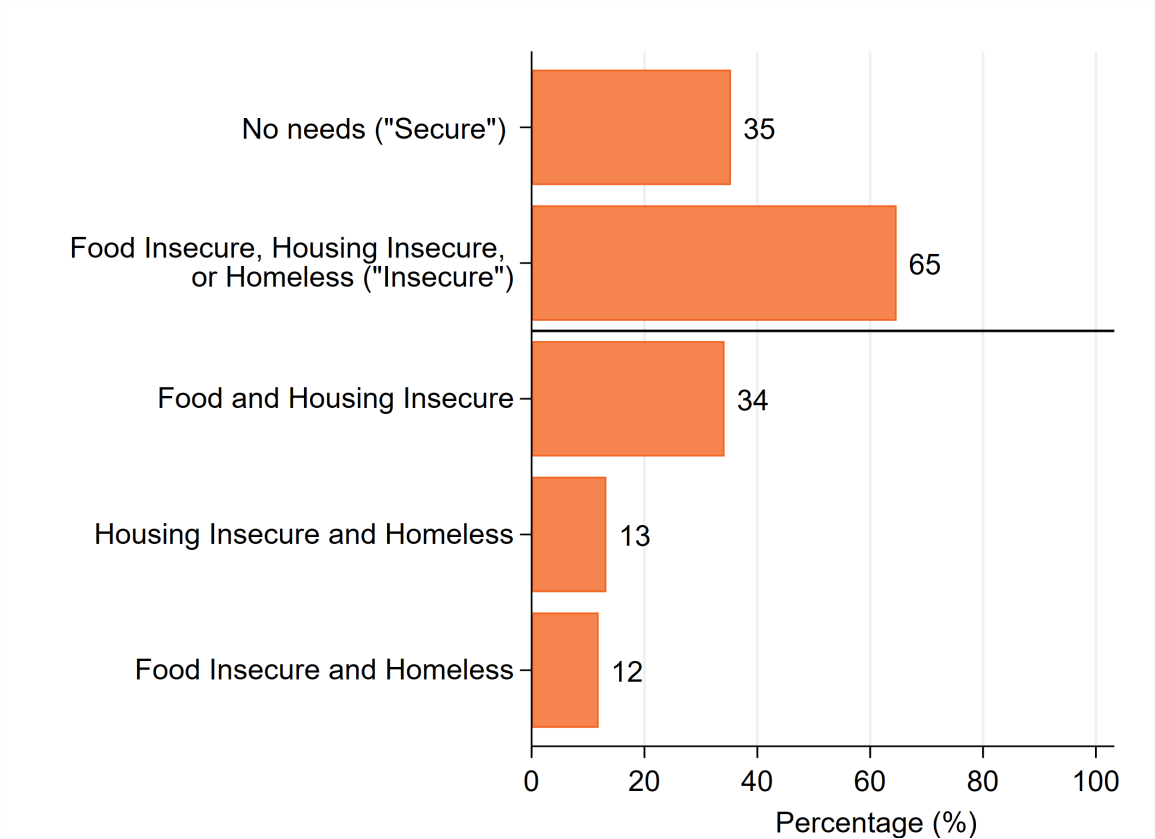


Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey

OVERLAPPING CHALLENGES

Food insecurity, housing insecurity, and homelessness are overlapping concerns, with 65% of students in Participating Colleges in Florida 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 in Participating Colleges in Florida



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 in Participating Colleges in Florida

	Number of Students	Food Insecurity (%)	Housing Insecurity (%)	Homelessness (%)
GENDER IDENTITY				
Male	1,377	42	46	17
Female	3,658	48	56	16
Non-Binary/Third gender	57	58	61	23
Prefers to self-describe	27	43	71	26
TRANSGENDER IDENTITY				
Identifies as transgender	44	57	57	18
Does not identify as transgender	5,004	46	53	16
SEXUAL ORIENTATION				
Heterosexual or straight	4,152	45	52	15
Gay or lesbian	184	61	64	26
Bisexual	425	55	59	24
Prefers to self-describe	109	49	64	28
HIGHEST LEVEL OF PARENTAL EDUCATION				
No high school diploma	530	53	59	16
High school diploma	1,076	49	53	16
Some college	1,939	49	57	17
Bachelors degree or higher	1,300	39	45	15
Does not know	192	42	49	10

Table continued on next page.

Table 1 (continued). Demographic Disparities in Rates of Basic Needs Insecurity Among Survey Respondents in Participating Colleges in Florida

	Number of Students	Food Insecurity (%)	Housing Insecurity (%)	Homelessness (%)
RACIAL OR ETHNIC BACKGROUND				
White or Caucasian	2,490	43	51	16
African American or Black	1,227	59	60	20
Hispanic or Latinx	2,384	42	52	13
American Indian or Alaska Native	103	57	70	35
Indigenous	46	54	59	26
Middle Eastern or North African or Arab or Arab American	80	38	51	20
Southeast Asian	88	40	40	16
Pacific Islander or Native Hawaiian	51	41	49	20
Other Asian or Asian American	140	35	44	14
Other	138	57	63	22
STUDENT IS A U.S. CITIZEN OR PERMANENT RESIDENT				
Yes	4,790	47	53	16
No	259	41	50	17
AGE				
18 to 20	2,280	41	41	14
21 to 25	1,294	52	59	19
26 to 30	538	54	65	19
Older than 30	911	49	68	15
STUDENT IS AN ATHLETE				
Yes	43	47	40	23
No	5,010	46	53	16

Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey

Note: Results from any category with fewer than 10 respondents 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.

By Student Academic, Economic, and Life Experiences

Table 2. Rates of Basic Needs Insecurity by Student Life Experiences Among Survey Respondents in Participating Colleges in Florida

	Number of Students	Food Insecurity (%)	Housing Insecurity (%)	Homelessness (%)
LEVEL OF STUDY				
Undergraduate	4,922	46	53	16
Graduate	589	47	54	17
Non-degree	335	42	54	16
COLLEGE ENROLLMENT STATUS				
Full-time (at least 12 credits)	3,745	45	50	16
Part-time (fewer than 12 credits)	2,106	47	57	15
YEARS IN COLLEGE				
Less than 1	2,108	43	46	16
1 to 2	2,308	48	55	15
3 or more	1,433	48	59	16
DEPENDENCY STATUS				
Dependent	1,609	45	47	15
Independent	2,402	50	62	17
Does not know	990	40	43	16
STUDENT RECEIVES THE PELL GRANT				
Yes	3,150	53	58	17
No	2,191	37	46	14
RELATIONSHIP STATUS				
Single	2,731	46	50	17
In a relationship	1,460	48	54	18
Married or domestic partnership	685	42	59	10
Divorced	86	59	72	19
Widowed	13	46	54	23

Table continued on next page.

Table 2 (continued). Rates of Basic Needs Insecurity by Student Life Experiences Among Survey Respondents in Participating Colleges in Florida

	Number of Students	Food Insecurity (%)	Housing Insecurity (%)	Homelessness (%)
STUDENT HAS CHILDREN				
Yes	1,003	56	71	16
No	4,639	44	49	16
STUDENT HAS BEEN IN FOSTER CARE				
Yes	151	62	71	36
No	4,881	46	52	15
STUDENT HAS BEEN IN MILITARY				
Yes	160	51	61	21
No	4,905	46	53	16
EMPLOYMENT STATUS				
Employed	1,318	51	59	19
Not employed, looking for work	507	48	47	18
Not employed, not looking for work	657	31	33	9
STUDENT HAS BEEN CONVICTED OF A CRIME				
Yes	102	68	86	40
No	5,267	45	52	15
DISABILITY OR MEDICAL CONDITION				
Learning disability	603	52	54	23
Physical disability	293	50	57	28
Chronic illness	593	55	61	23
Psychological disorder	1,249	57	63	23
Other disability or condition	132	45	63	25
No disability or medical condition	3,115	43	50	13

Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey

Note: Results from any category with fewer than 10 respondents 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 administered to a subset of randomly selected respondents. Classifications of Disability or Medical Condition are not mutually exclusive. Students could self-identify with multiple classifications.

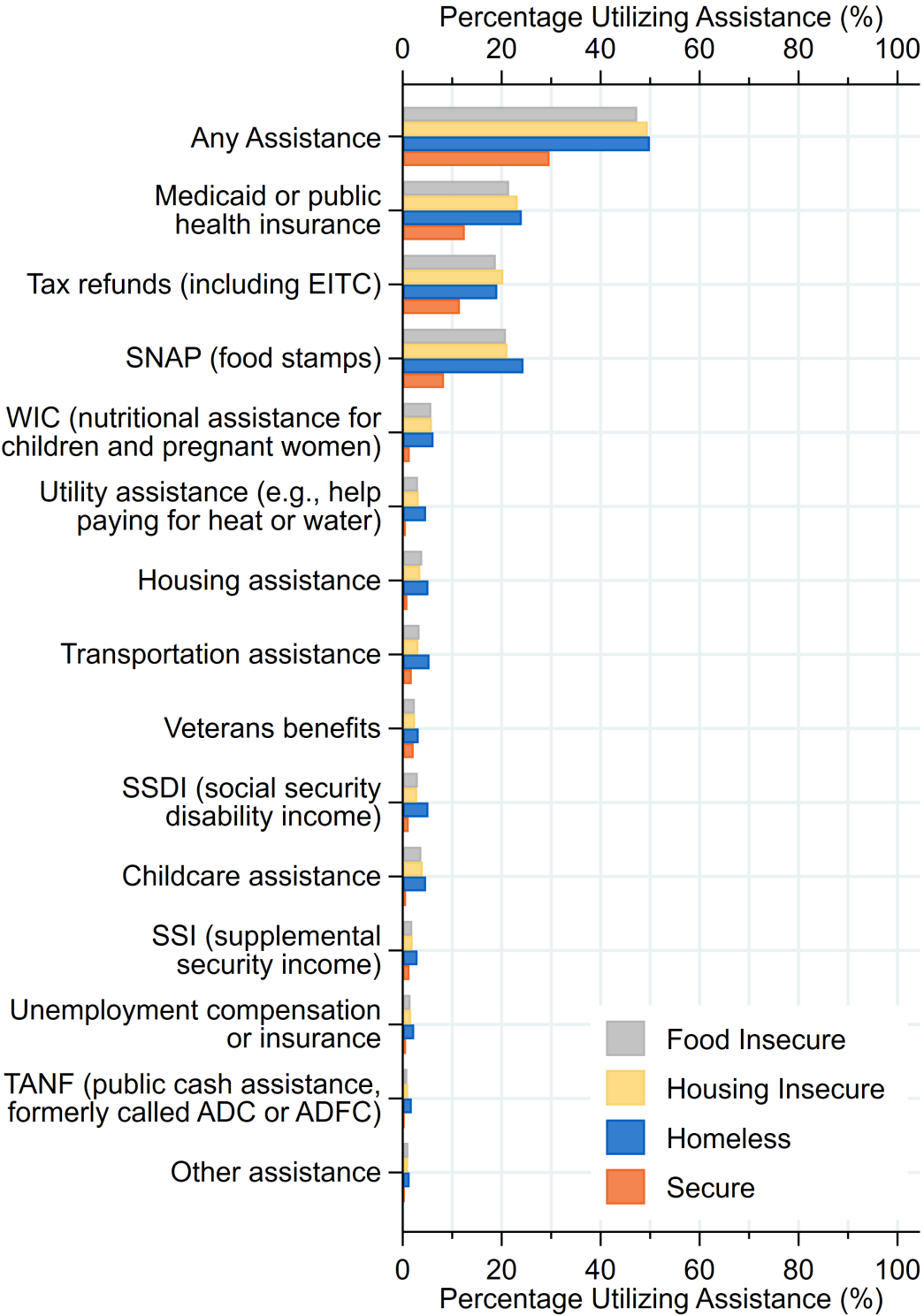
UTILIZATION OF SUPPORTS

Many students in Participating Colleges in Florida who experience basic needs insecurity do not receive public assistance (Figure 7). Among food insecure students, 21% receive SNAP benefits. In addition, 5% 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 (30%) than their peers.

A growing number of on-campus supports are being offered but again, only some students are accessing them (Figure 8). Of the students experiencing basic needs insecurity in Participating Colleges in Florida, only about 23% use on-campus supports.

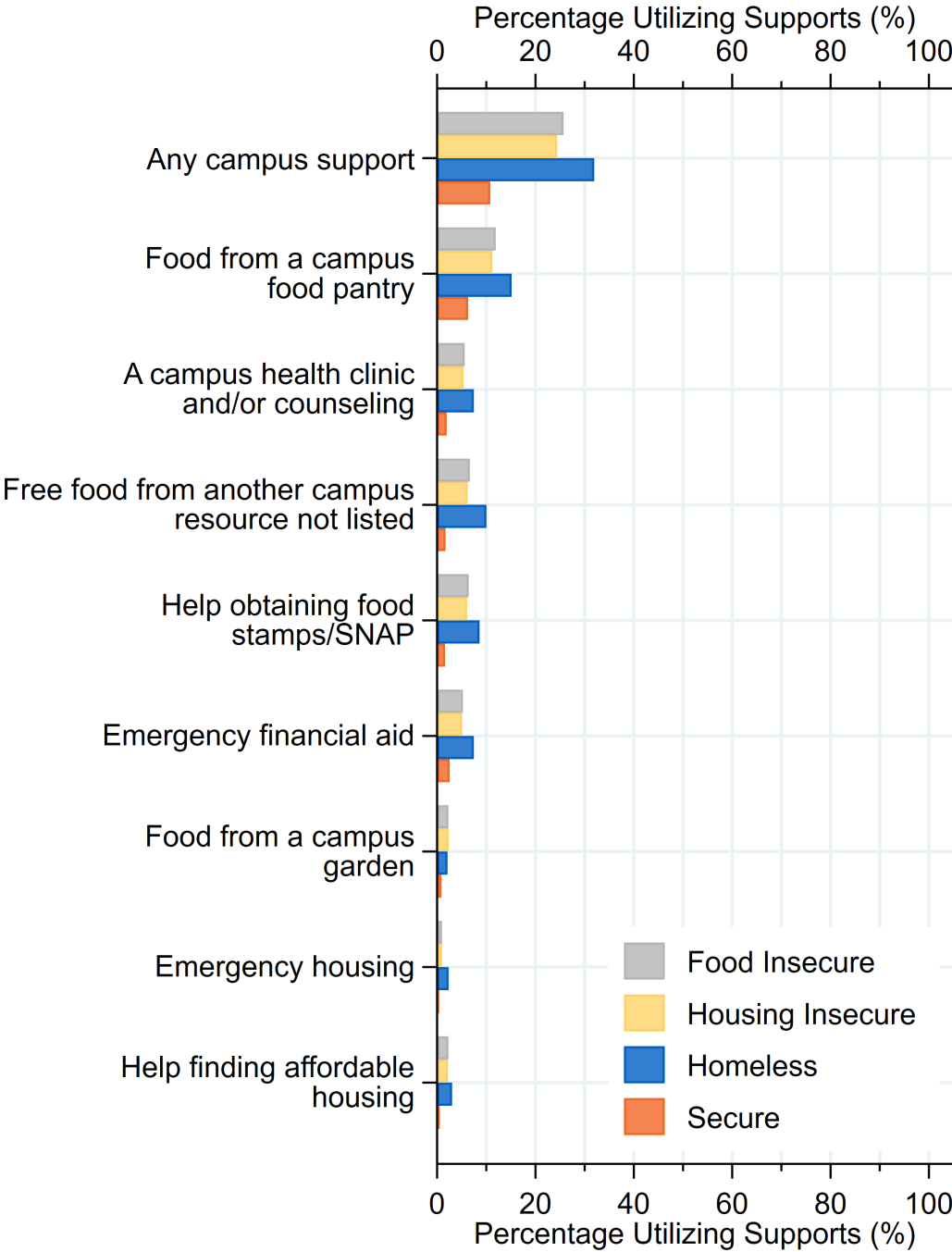


Figure 7. Use of Assistance Among Survey Respondents in Participating Colleges in Florida According to Basic Needs Security



Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey

Figure 8. Use of Campus Supports Among Survey Respondents in Participating Colleges in Florida According to Basic Needs Security



Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey

Note: Survey questions about campus supports were administered to a subset of randomly selected respondents.

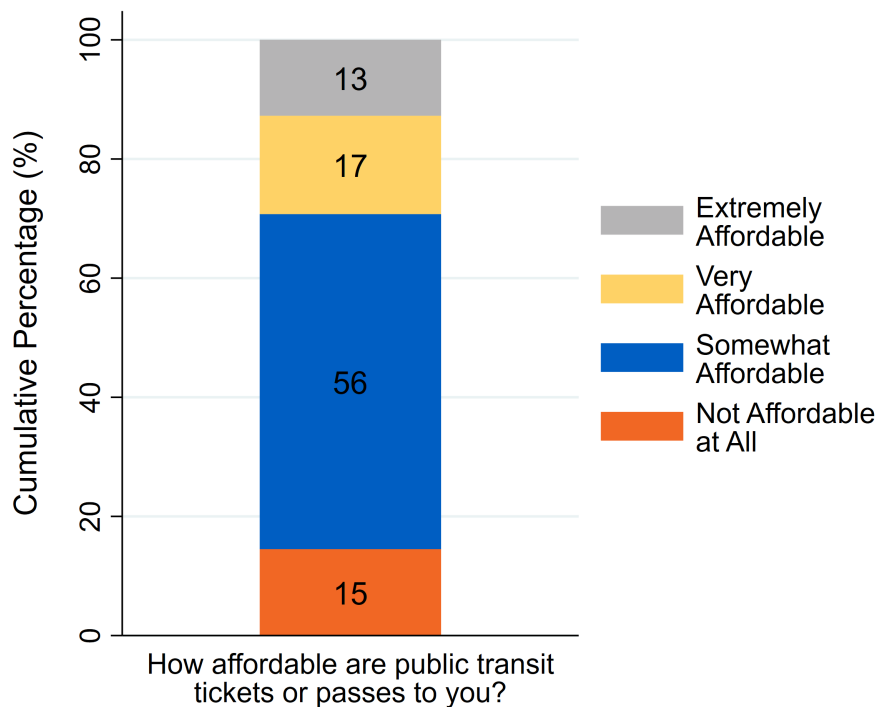
TRANSPORTATION & CHILDCARE

TRANSPORTATION

In order to succeed academically, students need affordable, reliable transportation between home and campus. Currently, the College Board estimates that transportation costs make up approximately 17% of an average postsecondary student's budget who commutes to school. It is therefore critical to ensure that students, especially students who are already making difficult choices about how to spend their money, are able to secure transportation to campus.

Approximately 15% of survey respondents in Participating Colleges in Florida say they use public transit in order to get to their college campus (not shown). When those students were asked about the affordability of public transit tickets or passes, 15% said those transit tickets or passes were unaffordable, and another 56% said they were only somewhat affordable (Figure 9).

Figure 9. Affordability of Public Transit Tickets or Passes Among Survey Respondents in Participating Colleges in Florida



(Among those who take public transit)

Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey

Note: Survey questions about transit use and affordability were administered to a subset of randomly selected respondents.

Paying for public transit is related to students' experiences with basic needs insecurity. About 75% of survey respondents in Participating Colleges in Florida who experience basic needs insecurity and use public transit report that public transit tickets or passes are unaffordable or only somewhat affordable (Table 3).

Table 3. Transit Affordability Among Survey Respondents in Participating Colleges in Florida Who Take Public Transit, by Basic Needs Security

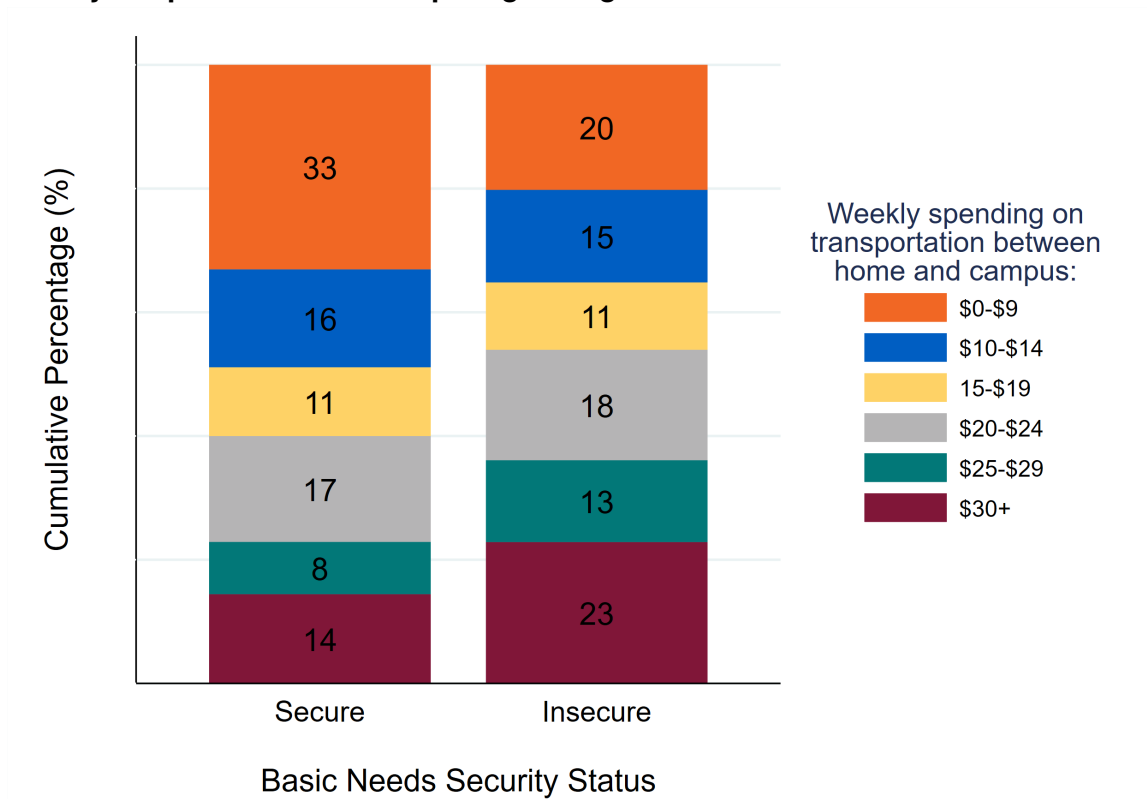
BASIC NEEDS SECURITY STATUS	Number of Students	Not Affordable at All (%)	Somewhat Affordable (%)	Very Affordable (%)	Extremely Affordable (%)
Secure	125	10	54	20	16
Insecure	295	17	58	15	11

Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey

Note: Results with fewer than 10 respondents are not shown in the table above. Survey questions about transit use and affordability were administered to a subset of randomly selected respondents.

High transit costs are a problem for some of these students. About 23% of survey respondents in Participating Colleges in Florida experiencing basic needs insecurity report that they spend at least \$30 per week on transportation to and from college (Figure 10). Conversely, among students whose basic needs are secure, 33% said they spend \$0-9 per week on transportation, but that was true for just 20% of students who are basic needs insecure.

Figure 10. Weekly Amount Spent on Transportation to College By Basic Need Security Among Survey Respondents in Participating Colleges in Florida



Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey

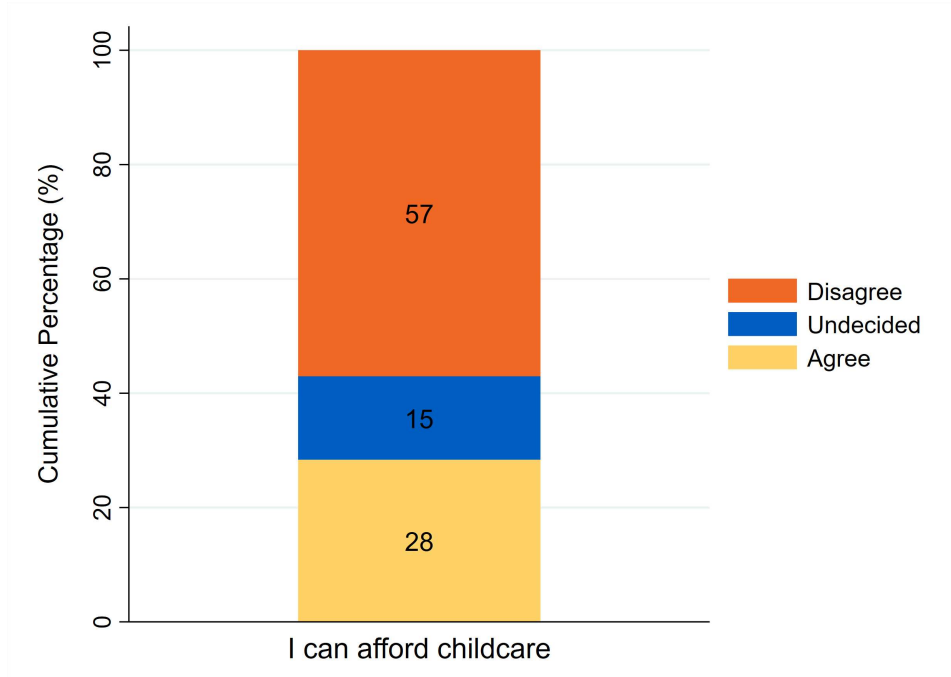
Note: Survey questions on transportation costs were administered to a subset of randomly selected respondents.

CHILDCARE

Supporting the success of #RealCollege students means covering the basic needs of food, housing, and transportation, while also meeting the childcare requirements of parenting students. However, for many parenting students, finding affordable and dependable childcare is challenging.

in Participating Colleges in Florida, 18% of survey respondents were parenting students and among those parenting students, 39% said that they need, use, or plan to use childcare (not shown). However, just 28% of parenting students who need or use childcare say they can afford the associated costs (Figure 11). Among parenting students who are basic needs insecure, only 24% say that they can afford childcare costs, whereas 63% of parenting students who are food or housing secure do (Table 4).

Figure 11. Childcare Affordability Among Respondents in Participating Colleges in Florida Who Need, Use, or Plan to Use Childcare



Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey

Table 4. Childcare Affordability Among Parenting Survey Respondents in Participating Colleges in Florida Who Need, Use, or Plan to Use Childcare, by Basic Needs Security

BASIC NEEDS SECURITY STATUS	Number of Students	Disagree (%)	Undecided (%)	Agree (%)
Secure	43	26	12	63
Insecure	327	61	15	24

Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey

Note: Results with fewer than 10 respondents are not shown in the table above.

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.



APPENDIX A. Participating Colleges

Daytona State College

Florida State College at Jacksonville

Miami Dade College

Tallahassee Community College