

2018 #RealCollege Survey Report

Participating Colleges in the
Greater Seattle Area

July 2019



HOPE4COLLEGE.COM

2018 #REALCOLLEGE SURVEY REPORT FOR GREATER SEATTLE AREA SURVEY PARTICIPANTS

Report prepared by the Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice at Temple University

July 2019

OVERVIEW

* The following institutions that participated in the 2018 #RealCollege Survey are included in this report:

- Bellvue College
- Cascadia College
- South Seattle College

* Invitations to complete the questionnaire were sent by email to approximately 23,500 students from the participating colleges and 710 students participated in the survey. Thus, the estimated response rate is 3.0%.

* Overall Basic Needs Insecurity Rates:

- 42% of respondents experienced food insecurity in the prior 30 days
- 59% of respondents experienced housing insecurity in the previous year
- 19% of respondents experienced homelessness in the previous year

* 67% of survey respondents at participating colleges in the Greater Seattle Area 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.

* 16% of food insecure students utilized SNAP benefits and 8% of homeless students utilized housing benefits.

For more information on the research methodology and survey participants, please refer to the appendices of the National 2018 #RealCollege Survey report available on our website.

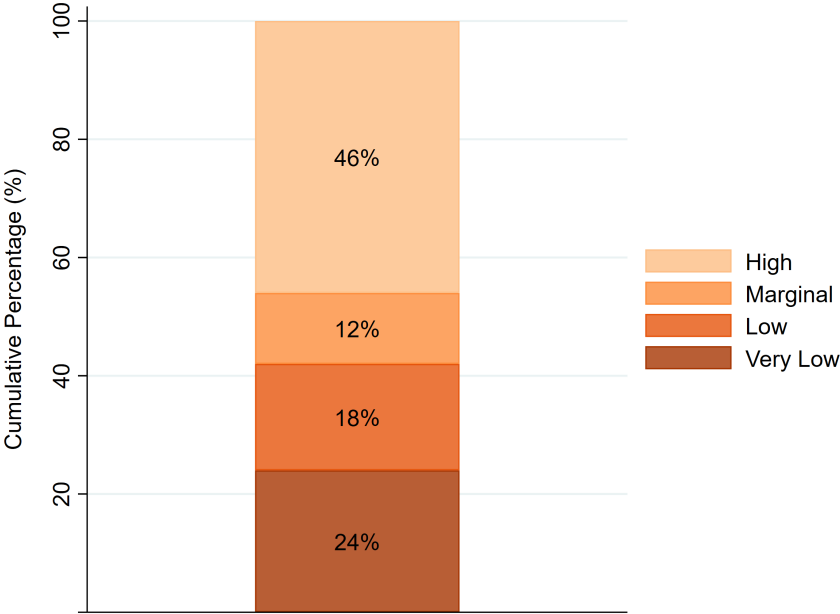
PREVALENCE OF BASIC NEEDS INSECURITY

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.

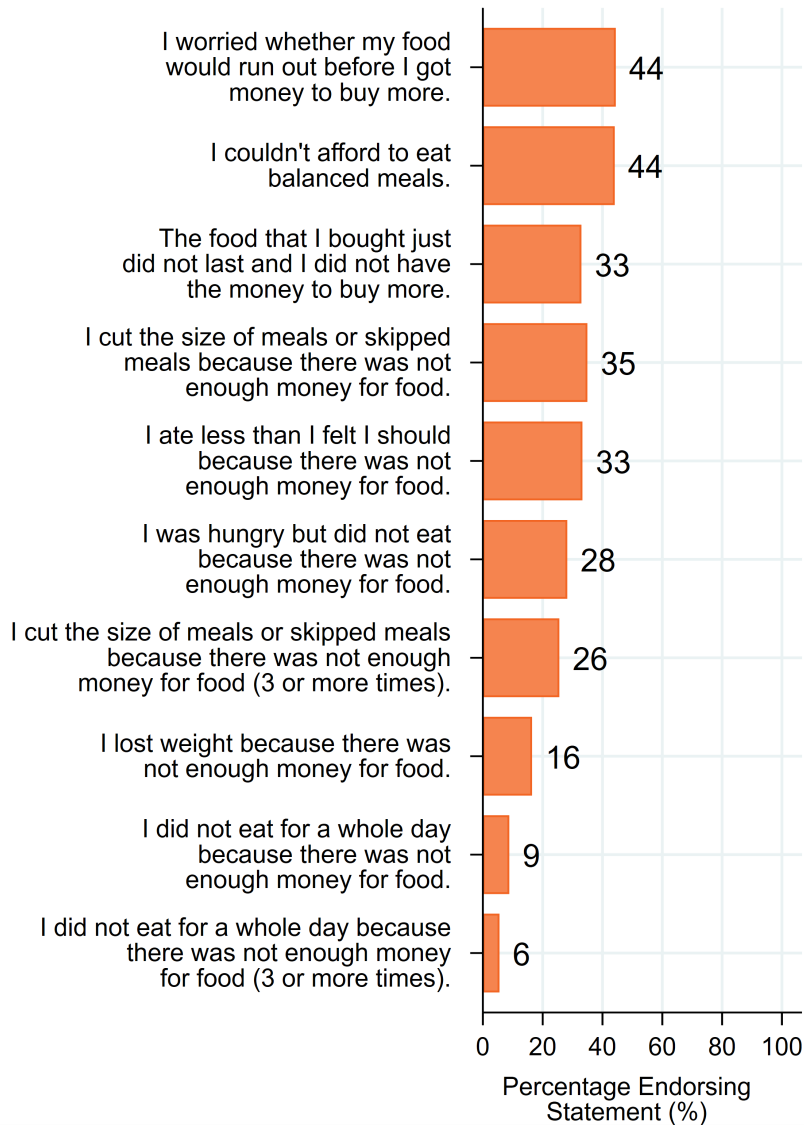
During the 30 days preceding the survey, approximately 42% of survey respondents at participating colleges in the Greater Seattle Area experienced low or very low levels of food security (Figure 1). Moreover, 44% of survey respondents at participating colleges in the Greater Seattle Area worry about running out of food before having money to buy more and 44% cannot afford to eat balanced meals (Figure 2).

Figure 1. Food Security Among Survey Respondents at Participating Greater Seattle Area Colleges



Source: 2018 #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 Participating Greater Seattle Area Colleges



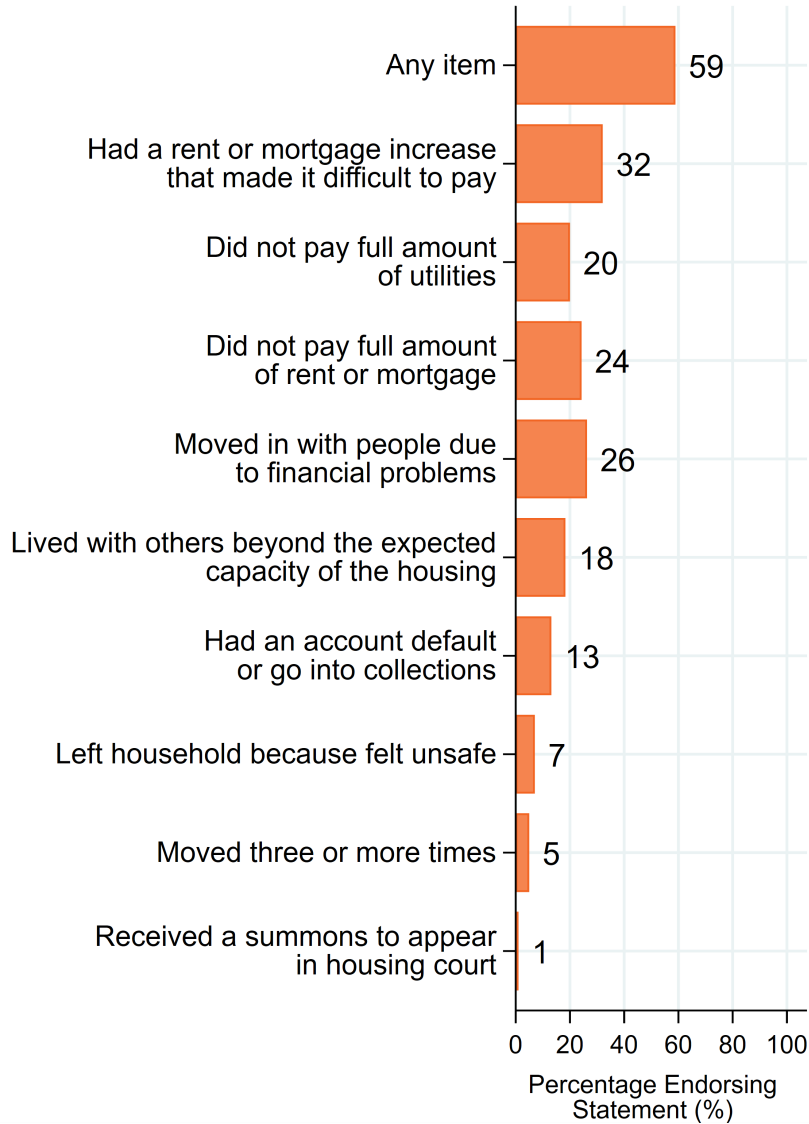
Source: 2018 #RealCollege Survey

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 participating colleges in the Greater Seattle Area? As displayed below, 59% of survey respondents are housing insecure (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Housing Insecurity Among Survey Respondents at Participating Greater Seattle Area Colleges



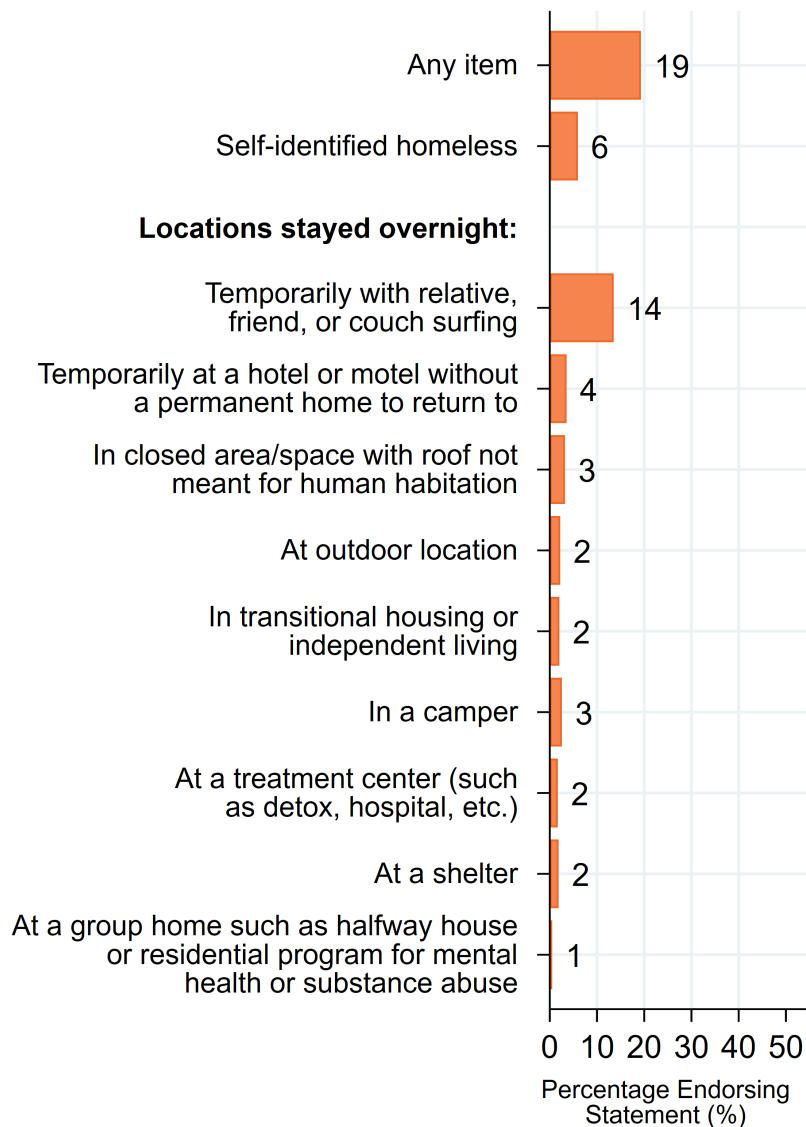
Source: 2018 #RealCollege Survey

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 participating colleges in the Greater Seattle Area? As displayed below, 19% of survey respondents experience homelessness (Figure 4).

Figure 4. Homelessness Among Survey Respondents at Participating Greater Seattle Area Colleges

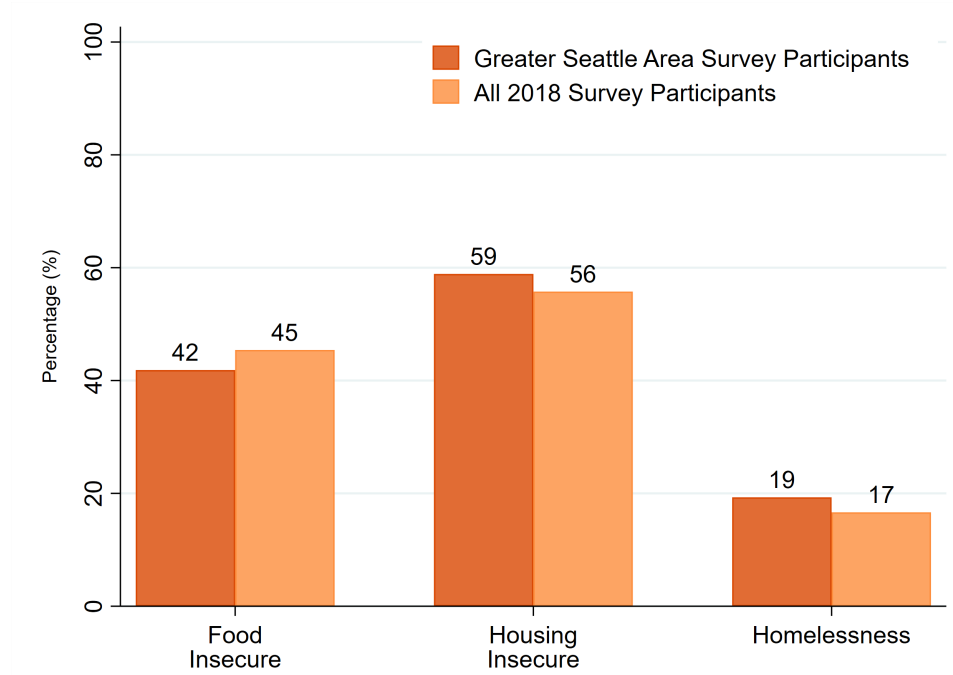


Source: 2018 #RealCollege Survey

COMPARISON

In comparison to the rates for all survey participants across the nation in 2018, respondents at participating colleges in the Greater Seattle Area have a lower 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

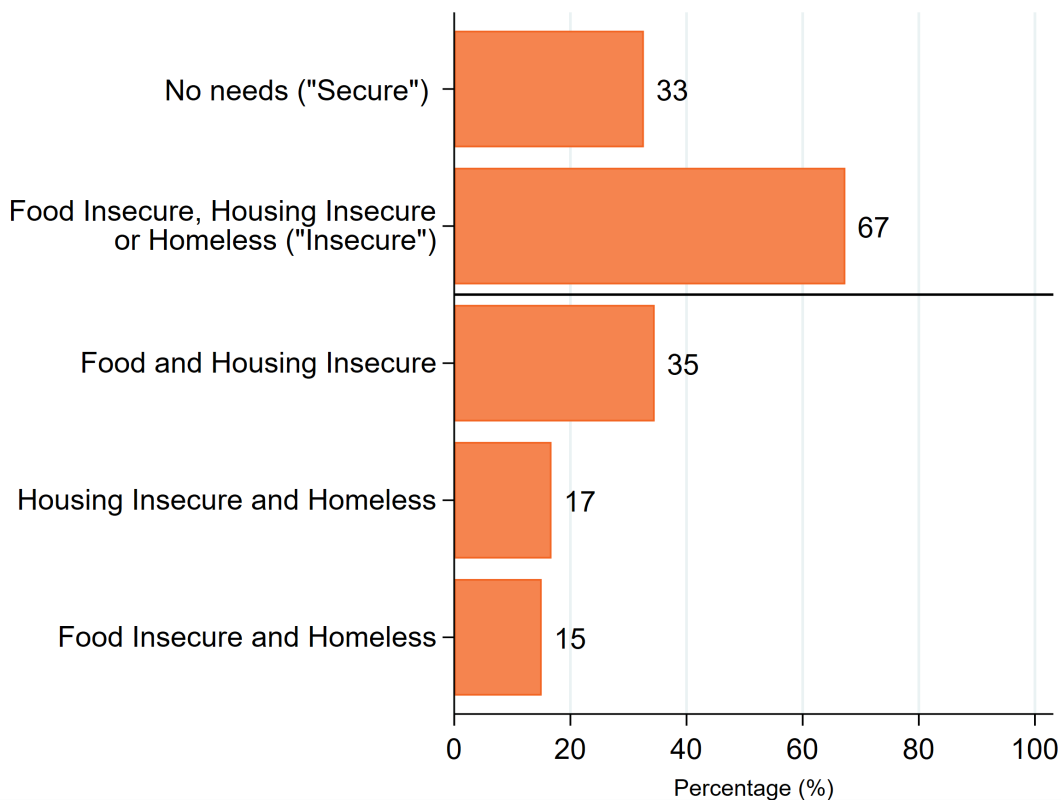


Source: 2018 #RealCollege Survey

OVERLAPPING CHALLENGES

Food insecurity, housing insecurity, and homelessness are overlapping concerns, with 67% of students at participating colleges in the Greater Seattle Area 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 Participating Greater Seattle Area Colleges



Source: 2018 #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 Food Insecurity, Housing Insecurity, and Homelessness Among Survey Respondents at Participating Greater Seattle Area Colleges

	Number of Students	Food Insecurity (%)	Housing Insecurity (%)	Homelessness (%)
GENDER ORIENTATION				
Male	179	34	50	17
Female	354	45	63	20
Transgender	.	.	.	.

Other	20	45	85	20
SEXUAL ORIENTATION				
Heterosexual or straight	413	37	59	19
Gay or lesbian	16	63	69	31
Bisexual	72	53	61	17
Other	40	48	55	23
RACIAL OR ETHNIC BACKGROUND				
White or Caucasian	302	41	58	19
African American or Black	39	44	67	23
Hispanic or Latinx	62	52	73	16
American Indian or Alaskan Native	16	75	75	38
Middle Eastern or North African or Arab or Arab American	10	40	80	10
Southeast Asian	60	28	50	15
Pacific Islander or Native Hawaiian	12	67	58	42
Other Asian or Asian American	83	35	46	14
Other	22	64	73	45
Prefers not to answer	22	59	77	32
STUDENT IS A U.S. CITIZEN OR PERMANENT RESIDENT				
Yes	495	41	58	19
No	33	45	79	18
Prefers not to answer	17	53	71	35
HIGHEST LEVEL OF PARENTAL EDUCATION				
No high school diploma	52	62	65	21
High school diploma	96	38	59	18

Some college	207	46	67	21
Bachelors degree	176	31	50	18
Does not know	15	47	53	20
AGE				
18 to 20	253	38	47	15
21 to 25	133	49	70	26
26 to 30	63	41	70	19
Older than 30	92	39	71	22

Source: 2018 #RealCollege Survey

Note: Results from any category with fewer than 10 participants are not shown in the table.

By Student Academic, Economic, and Life Experiences

Table 2. Rates of Food Insecurity, Housing Insecurity, and Homelessness by Student Life Experiences Among Survey Respondents at Participating Greater Seattle Area Colleges

	Number of Students	Food Insecurity (%)	Housing Insecurity (%)	Homelessness (%)
COLLEGE ENROLLMENT STATUS				
Full-time (at least 12 credits)	377	43	59	17
Part-time (fewer than 12 credits)	213	41	58	23
YEARS IN COLLEGE				
Less than 1	165	41	53	19
1 to 2	247	42	59	18
3 or more	147	45	67	22
DEPENDENCY STATUS				
Dependent	226	35	46	16
Independent	314	46	69	22
STUDENT RECEIVES THE PELL GRANT				
Yes	128	55	73	24
No	463	38	55	18
STUDENT HAS CHILDREN				
Yes	106	42	64	7
No	485	42	58	22

RELATIONSHIP STATUS				
Single	296	42	53	21
In a relationship	176	47	66	19
Married or domestic partnership	67	24	66	15
Divorced	.	.	.	.
Widowed	.	.	.	.
STUDENT HAS BEEN IN FOSTER CARE				
Yes	.	.	.	.
No	537	41	59	19
STUDENT HAS BEEN IN MILITARY				
Yes	17	29	47	6
No	528	42	60	20
EMPLOYMENT STATUS				
Employed	357	45	62	19
Not employed, looking for work	85	45	54	22
Not employed, not looking for work	114	26	46	14
STUDENT HAS BEEN CONVICTED OF A CRIME				
Yes	17	59	71	47
No	551	41	59	19
DISABILITY OR MEDICAL CONDITION				
Learning disability (dyslexia, etc.)	53	57	72	30
Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)	81	57	72	36
Autism spectrum disorder	29	38	45	21
Physical disability (speech, sight, mobility, hearing, etc.)	32	53	66	34
Chronic illness	69	55	72	35

(asthma, diabetes, autoimmune disorder, cancer, etc.)				
Psychological disorder (depression, anxiety, etc.)	213	52	68	26
Other	23	65	74	39
No disability or medical condition	264	32	52	13

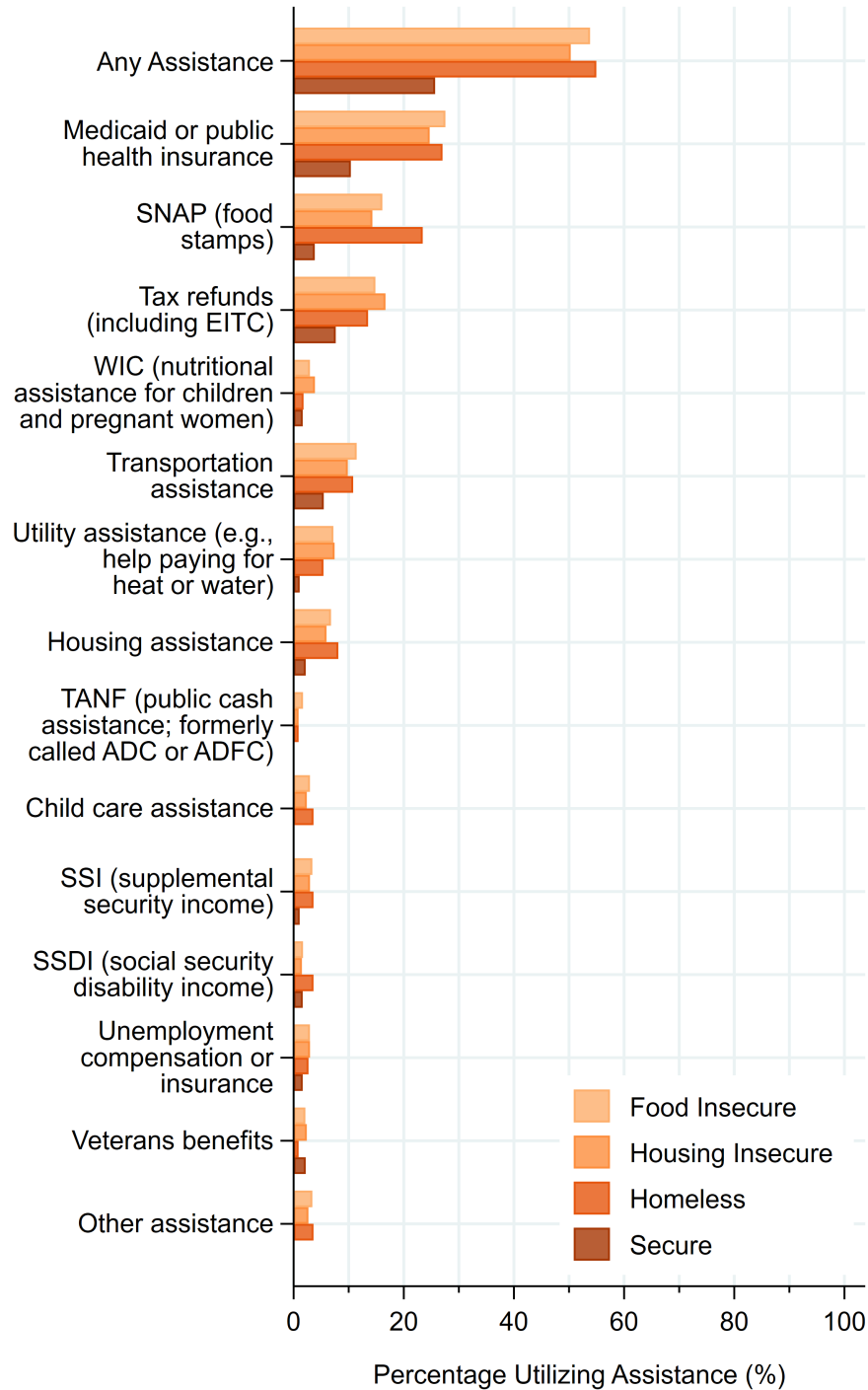
Source: 2018 #RealCollege Survey

Note: Results from any category with fewer than 10 participants are not shown in the table.

UTILIZATION OF SUPPORTS

Many students at participating colleges in the Greater Seattle Area who experience basic needs insecurity do not receive public assistance (Figure 7). Among food insecure students, 16% receive SNAP benefits. In addition, 8% of students who experience homelessness receive housing assistance. It is also worth noting that students who are secure in their basic needs are also accessing public benefits, albeit at lower rates (26%) than their peers.

Figure 7. Use of Assistance Among Survey Respondents at Participating Greater Seattle Area Colleges According to Basic Needs Security



Source: 2018 #RealCollege Survey

CONCLUSION

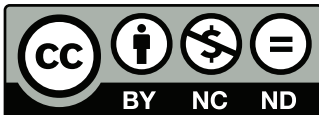
The #RealCollege survey affirms what has been evident to many college administrators, faculty, staff, and students for years: basic needs insecurity is a condition challenging many undergraduates pursuing credentials. The scope of the problem described here is substantial and should be cause for a systemic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

ABOUT US

The Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice at Temple University is home to an action research team using rigorous research to drive innovative practice, evidence-based policymaking, and effective communications to support #RealCollege students. For more information, visit our website.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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



This report carries a Creative Commons Attributions 4.0 International License, which permits re-use of Hope Center materials providing that re-use abides by the conditions below.

You are free to:

Share. Copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format

Under the following terms:

Attribution. You must give appropriate credit, provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made. You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use.

NonCommercial. You may not use the material for commercial purposes.

NoDerivatives. If you remix, transform, or build upon the material, you may not distribute the modified material.

For the full legal code of this Creative Commons license, please visit <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/legalcode>