



2018 #RealCollege Survey Report

Participating Colleges in Minnesota

August 2019



HOPE4COLLEGE.COM

2018 #REALCOLLEGE SURVEY REPORT FOR MINNESOTA SURVEY PARTICIPANTS

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

August 2019

OVERVIEW

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

- Dakota County Technical College
- Hennepin Technical College
- Inver Hills Community College
- Metropolitan State University
- Minnesota State Community & Technical College
- Normandale Community College
- North Hennepin Community College
- St. Cloud Technical & Community College

* Invitations to complete the questionnaire were sent by email to approximately 47,200 students from the participating colleges and 3,460 students participated in the survey. Thus, the estimated response rate is 7.3%.

* Overall Basic Needs Insecurity Rates:

- 40% of respondents experienced food insecurity in the prior 30 days
- 52% of respondents experienced housing insecurity in the previous year
- 18% of respondents experienced homelessness in the previous year

* 62% of survey respondents at participating colleges in Minnesota 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.

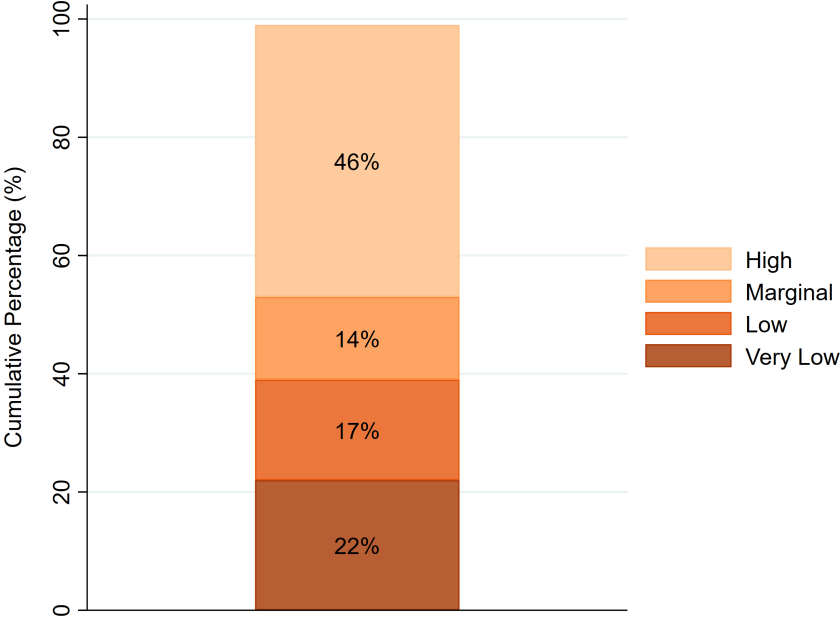
PREVALENCE OF BASIC NEEDS INSECURITY

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 40% of survey respondents at participating colleges in Minnesota experienced low or very low levels of food security (Figure 1). Moreover, 43% of survey respondents at participating colleges in Minnesota worry about running out of food before having money to buy more and 44% cannot afford to eat balanced meals (Figure 2).

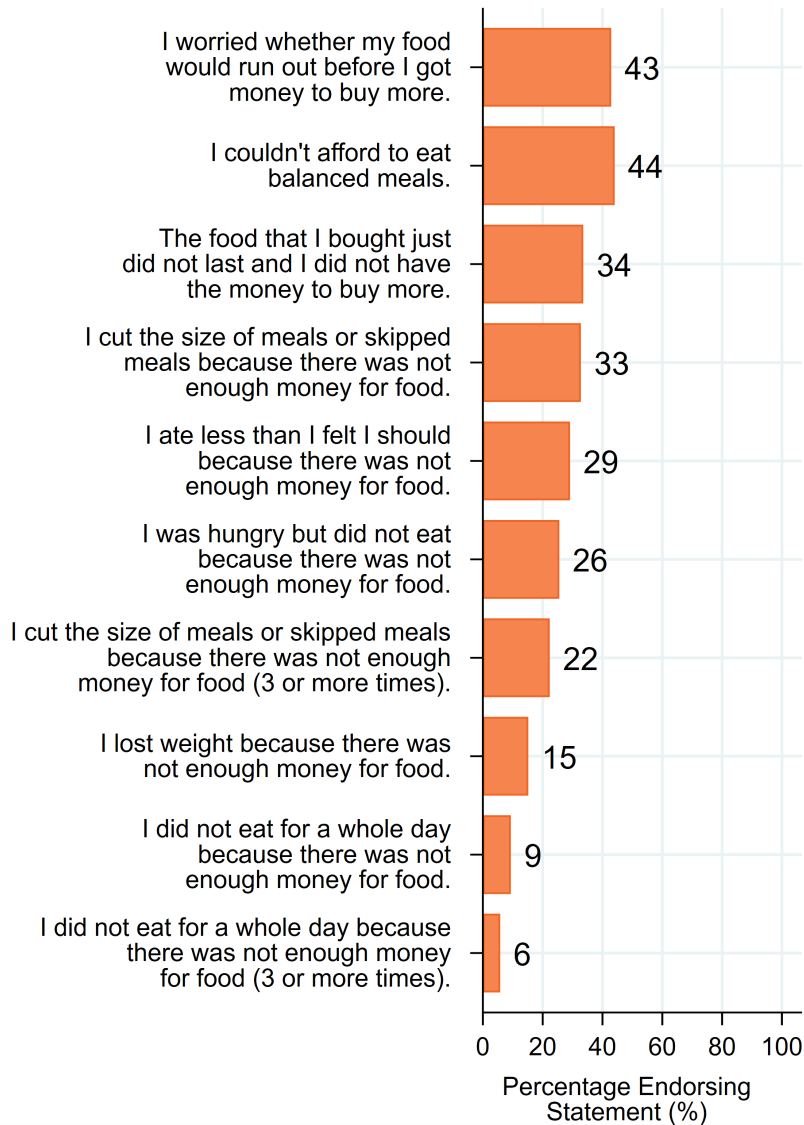
Figure 1. Food Security Among Survey Respondents at Participating Minnesota Colleges



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 Minnesota Colleges



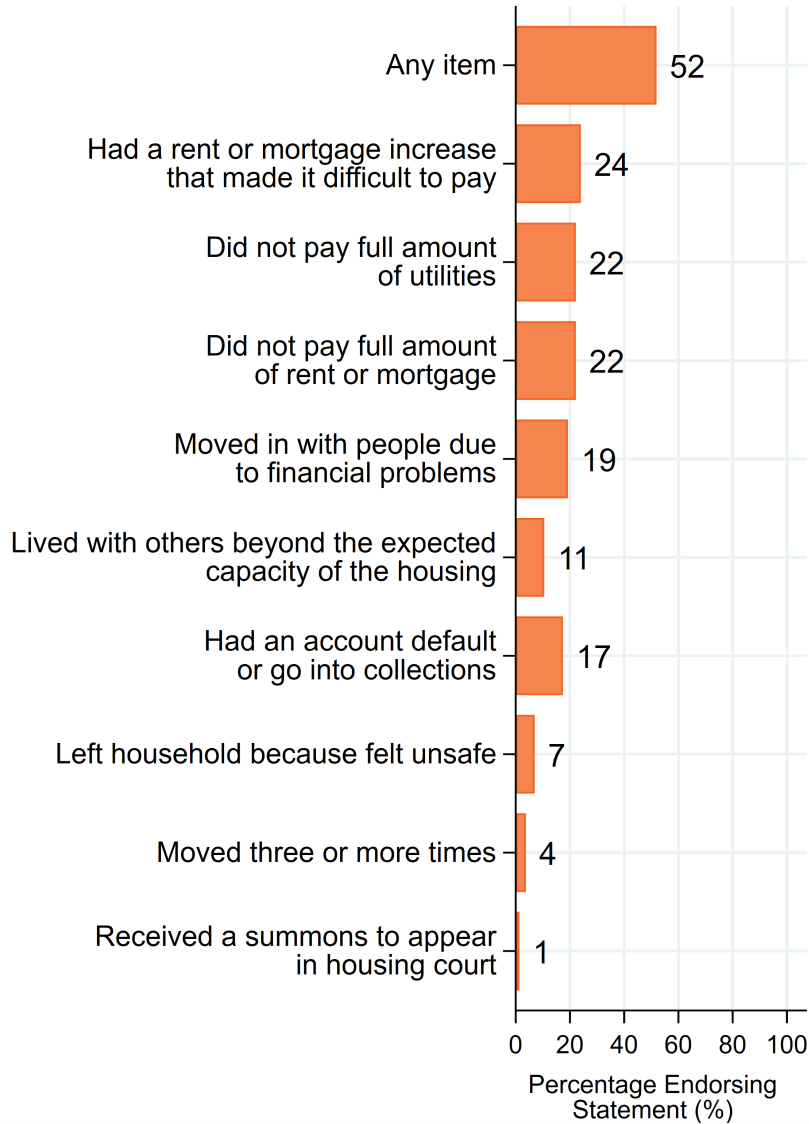
Source: 2018 #RealCollege Survey

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 Minnesota? As displayed below, 52% of survey respondents are housing insecure (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Housing Insecurity Among Survey Respondents at Participating Minnesota Colleges



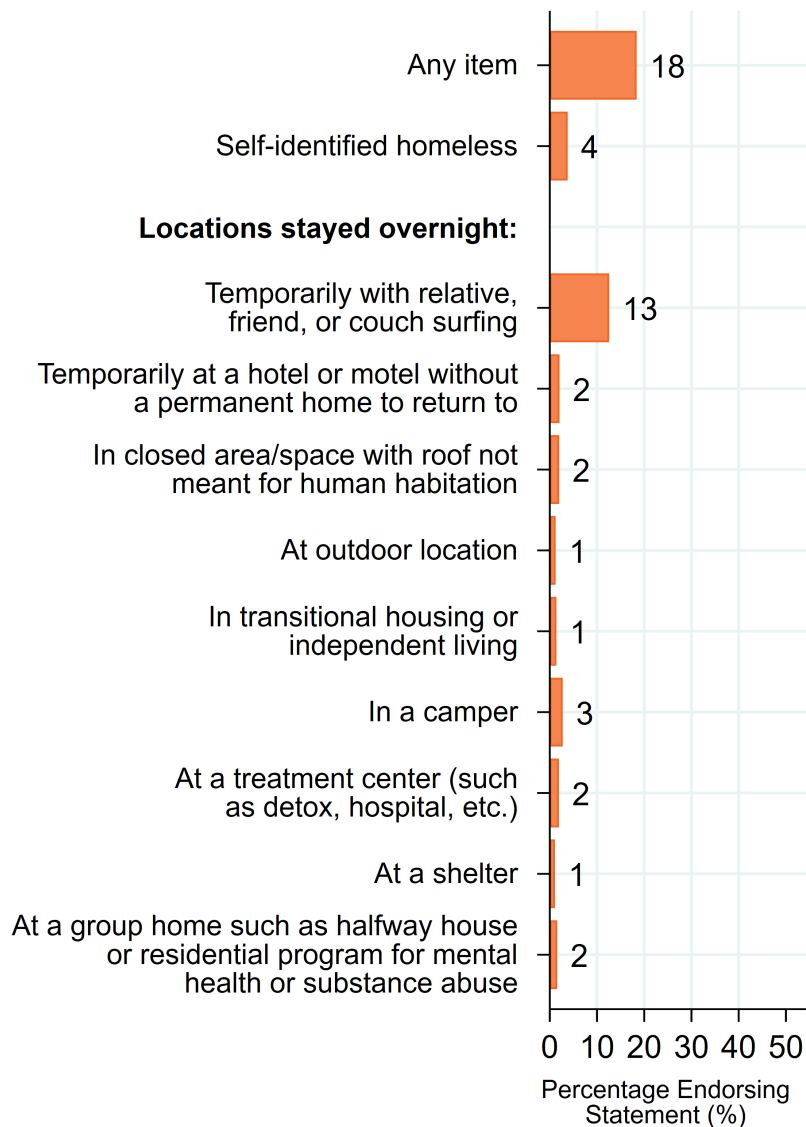
Source: 2018 #RealCollege Survey

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 Minnesota? As displayed below, 18% of survey respondents experience homelessness (Figure 4).

Figure 4. Homelessness Among Survey Respondents at Participating Minnesota Colleges

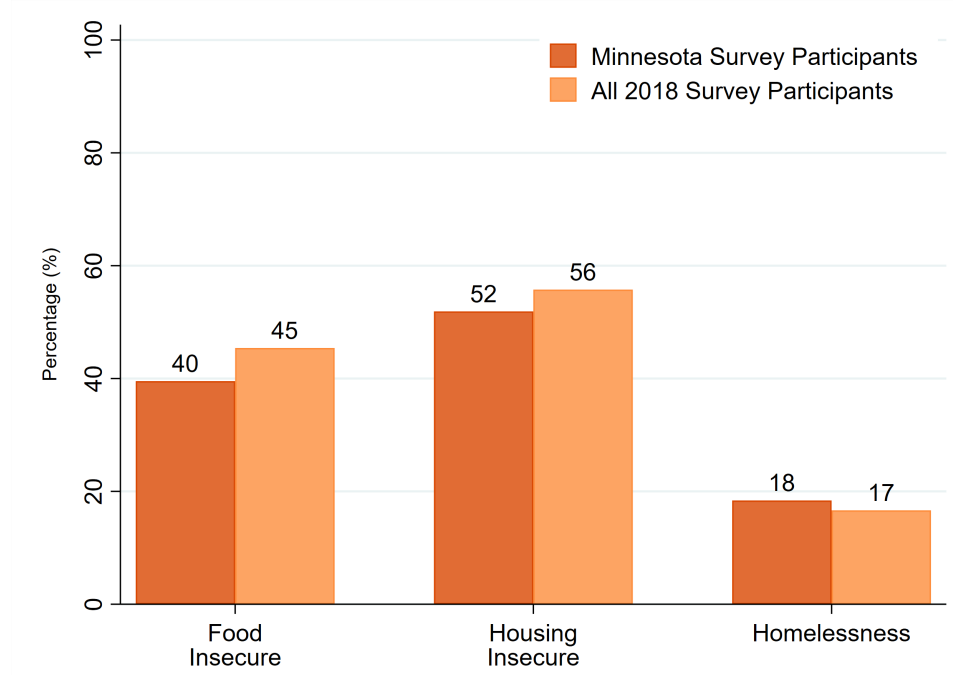


Source: 2018 #RealCollege Survey

COMPARISON

In comparison to the rates for all survey participants across the nation in 2018, respondents at participating colleges in Minnesota have a lower rate of food insecurity, a lower rate of housing insecurity, and a higher rate of homelessness (Figure 5).

Figure 5. Comparison of Basic Needs Insecurity

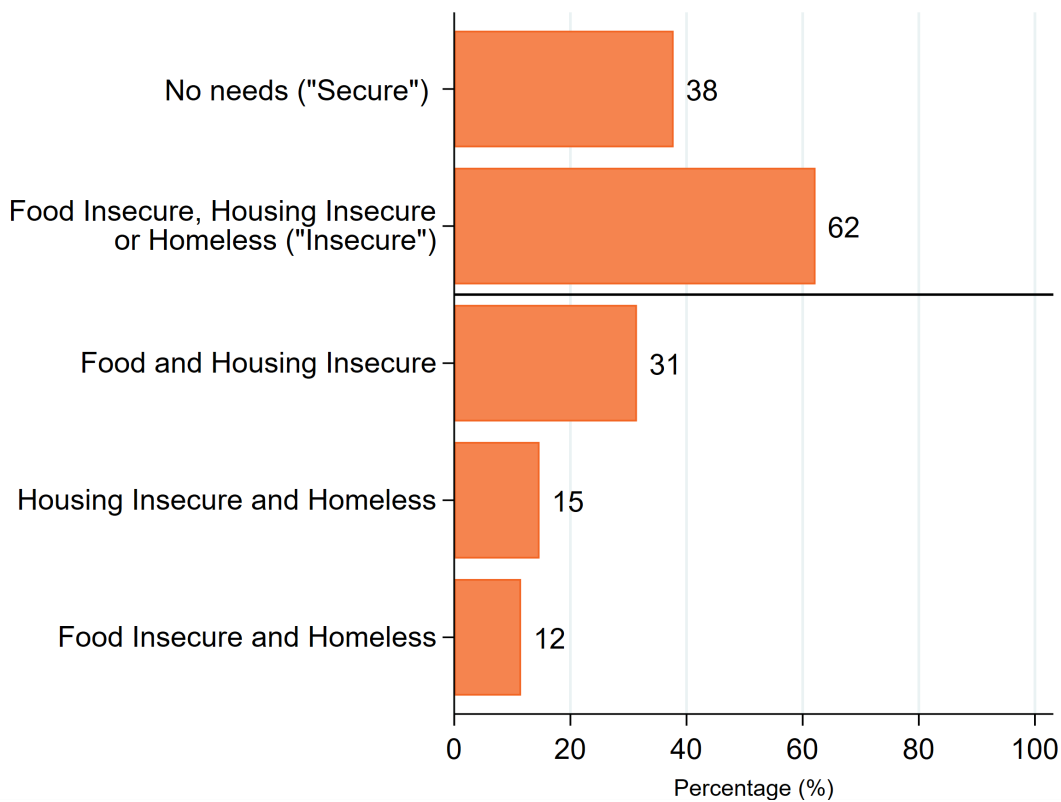


Source: 2018 #RealCollege Survey

OVERLAPPING CHALLENGES

Food insecurity, housing insecurity, and homelessness are overlapping concerns, with 62% of students at participating colleges in Minnesota 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 Minnesota 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 Minnesota Colleges

	Number of Students	Food Insecurity (%)	Housing Insecurity (%)	Homelessness (%)
GENDER ORIENTATION				
Male	851	34	45	20
Female	1,866	42	56	18
Transgender	22	50	55	23
Other	42	62	61	40

SEXUAL ORIENTATION				
Heterosexual or straight	2,269	38	51	17
Gay or lesbian	72	39	52	17
Bisexual	238	55	68	31
Other	149	44	48	26
RACIAL OR ETHNIC BACKGROUND				
White or Caucasian	1,859	36	49	18
African American or Black	385	55	68	25
Hispanic or Latinx	255	46	60	19
American Indian or Alaskan Native	68	60	69	29
Middle Eastern or North African or Arab or Arab American	41	61	68	24
Southeast Asian	104	40	47	17
Pacific Islander or Native Hawaiian	21	48	52	10
Other Asian or Asian American	149	43	45	8
Other	75	43	59	25
Prefers not to answer	68	38	54	31
STUDENT IS A U.S. CITIZEN OR PERMANENT RESIDENT				
Yes	2,628	39	52	18
No	87	51	62	24
Prefers not to answer	40	48	63	30
HIGHEST LEVEL OF PARENTAL EDUCATION				
No high school diploma	236	51	62	22
High school diploma	553	38	52	20
Some college	1,143	44	58	19

Bachelors degree	708	29	41	17
Does not know	121	48	54	17
AGE				
18 to 20	1,030	32	35	18
21 to 25	734	46	61	22
26 to 30	384	47	73	22
Older than 30	591	40	59	13

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 Minnesota Colleges

	Number of Students	Food Insecurity (%)	Housing Insecurity (%)	Homelessness (%)
COLLEGE ENROLLMENT STATUS				
Full-time (at least 12 credits)	1,818	39	50	19
Part-time (fewer than 12 credits)	1,107	40	55	17
YEARS IN COLLEGE				
Less than 1	983	34	43	20
1 to 2	983	43	52	16
3 or more	799	43	62	19
DEPENDENCY STATUS				
Dependent	875	35	41	19
Independent	1,851	42	58	19
STUDENT RECEIVES THE PELL GRANT				
Yes	1,092	53	66	22
No	1,835	31	44	16
STUDENT HAS CHILDREN				
Yes	748	46	61	15
No	2,179	37	49	20
RELATIONSHIP STATUS				

Single	1,258	40	49	22
In a relationship	965	42	56	18
Married or domestic partnership	482	29	54	12
Divorced	45	69	71	20
Widowed	11	64	45	36
STUDENT HAS BEEN IN FOSTER CARE				
Yes	86	49	77	31
No	2,669	39	51	18
STUDENT HAS BEEN IN MILITARY				
Yes	115	37	55	20
No	2,645	40	52	19
EMPLOYMENT STATUS				
Employed	2,009	41	55	19
Not employed, looking for work	266	40	49	24
Not employed, not looking for work	496	28	40	13
STUDENT HAS BEEN CONVICTED OF A CRIME				
Yes	133	50	74	38
No	2,702	39	51	18
DISABILITY OR MEDICAL CONDITION				
Learning disability (dyslexia, etc.)	226	52	60	27
Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)	405	49	62	28
Autism spectrum disorder	80	43	54	28
Physical disability (speech, sight, mobility, hearing, etc.)	134	48	57	22
Chronic illness (asthma, diabetes, etc.)	401	47	61	22

autoimmune disorder, cancer, etc.)				
Psychological disorder (depression, anxiety, etc.)	1,055	48	61	24
Other	115	50	63	31
No disability or medical condition	1,363	34	47	15

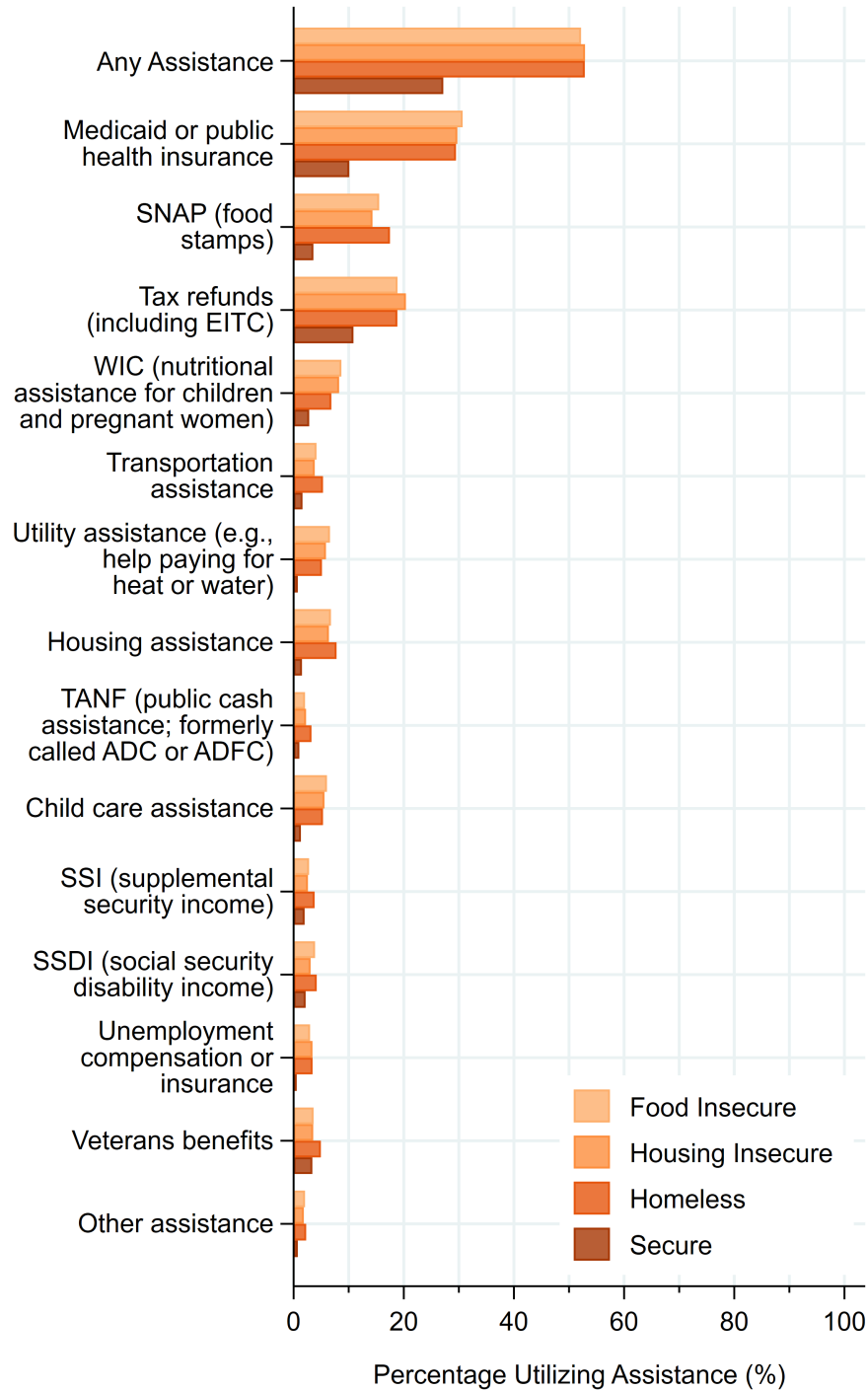
Source: 2018 #RealCollege Survey

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 Minnesota 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 (27%) than their peers.

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



Source: 2018 #RealCollege Survey

CONCLUSION

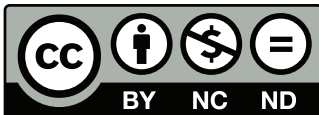
The #RealCollege survey affirms what has been evident to many college administrators, faculty, staff, and students for years: basic needs insecurity is a condition challenging many undergraduates pursuing credentials. The scope of the problem described here is substantial and should be cause for a systemic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



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