

2023 REAL COLLEGE SURVEY

Executive Summary

The Research and Planning Group for California Community College (The RP Group) conducted a Spring 2023 study to gather student data on basic needs, including housing and food insecurities.

The study produced two deliverables: a PowerPoint presentation highlighting survey aspects and a spreadsheet with tabulations for all survey questions, categorized into 12 groups measured across 11 population groups (e.g.: Race/Ethnicity).

The survey involved 1,752 participants out of 15,369 students for the Spring 2023 term (11% participation rate). The results emphasized the historical disparities in housing and food insecurities amongst certain groups.

Over a third of students experienced some form of a financial hardship in the past 12 months, with thirty-five percent of students indicating they have borrowed money to pay for bills, and thirty-three percent underpaying for their rent or mortgage. Thirty-four percent of students are paying for college related expenses with a non-work-study job, and twenty percent of students indicated using credit cards for these expenses. Of those who indicated they take care of a child (or children), thirty-eight percent considered themselves single parents. Finally, over half of the students (fifty-three percent) reported eating less than they felt they should due to food insecurities, with thirty-two reporting they had lost weight due to this.

Based on the data, PRIE offers preliminary recommendations to be solidified through discussions with SDCCE leadership:

- a) Explore developing community-centered internships with local businesses that provide opportunities for students to experience establishing networks and upward financial mobility.
- b) Continue to create additional grants and scholarships that target disproportionately impacted groups, including groups that interrelate in experiences via intersectionality (e.g., BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ students).
- c) Establish PD and institutional conversations centering on intersectionality as it pertains to our student population and opening said conversations to collaborate on potential solutions.

By considering these recommendations and engaging in robust discussions, SDCCE's leadership can continue to make informed decisions that address the institution's and students' needs and goals.