

# 2018 #REALCOLLEGE SURVEY REPORT

SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
DISTRICT

JUNE 2019



For College, Community, and Justice

[HOPE4COLLEGE.COM](http://HOPE4COLLEGE.COM)

# 2018 #REALCOLLEGE SURVEY REPORT FOR SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

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

June 2019

## OVERVIEW

\* Invitations to complete the questionnaire were sent by email to approximately 75,100 students from San Diego Community College District and 2,927 students participated. Thus, the estimated response rate is 3.9%.

\* Overall Basic Needs Insecurity Rates:

- 46% of respondents were food insecure in the prior 30 days
- 62% of respondents were housing insecure in the previous year
- 18% of respondents were homeless in the previous year

\* 69% of students at San Diego Community College District 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.

\* 18% of food insecure students utilize SNAP benefits and 6% of homeless students utilize housing benefits.

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

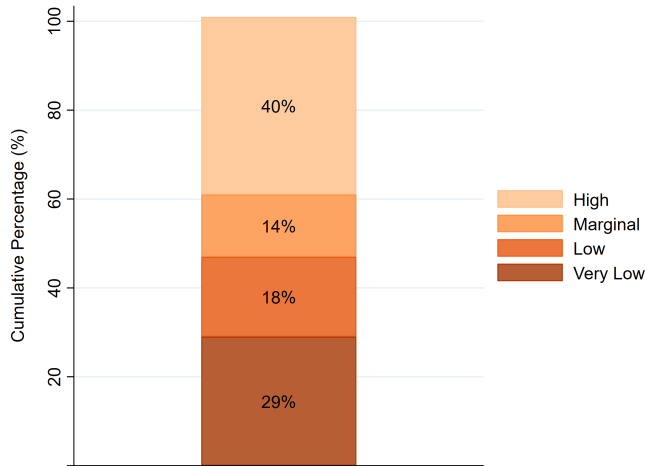
## PREVALENCE OF BASIC NEEDS INSECURITY

### 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 at San Diego Community College District experienced low or very low levels of food security (Figure 1). Moreover, 50% of survey respondents at San Diego Community College District worry about running out of food before having money to buy more and 48% cannot afford to eat balanced meals (Figure 2).

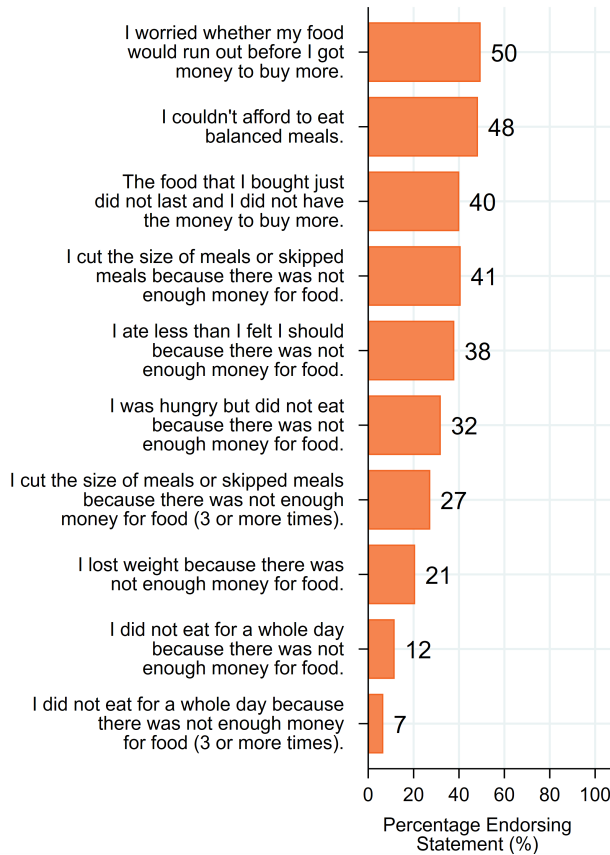
**Figure 1. Food Security Among Survey Respondents at San Diego Community College District**



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](http://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 Community College District**



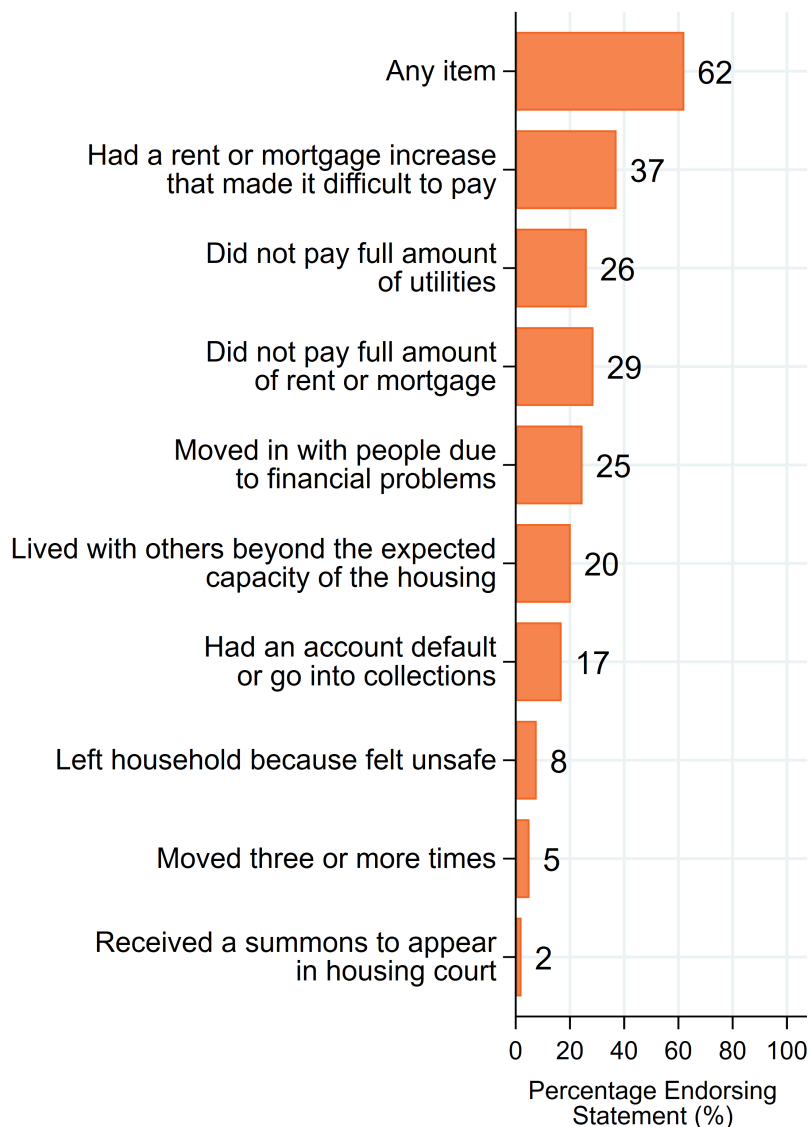
Source: 2018 #RealCollege Survey

## 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 San Diego Community College District? As displayed below, 62% of survey respondents are housing insecure (Figure 3).

**Figure 3. Housing Insecurity Among Survey Respondents at San Diego Community College District**



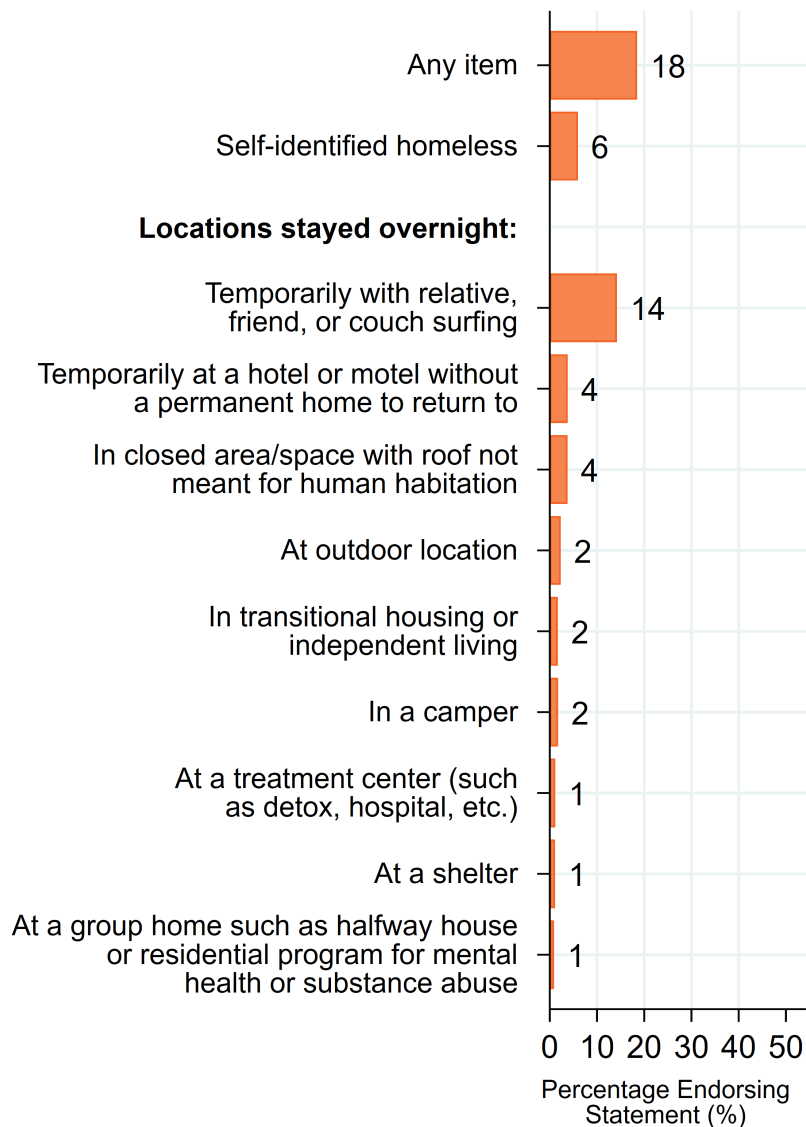
Source: 2018 #RealCollege Survey

## 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 San Diego Community College District? As displayed below, 18% of survey respondents experience homelessness (Figure 4).

**Figure 4. Homelessness Among Survey Respondents at San Diego Community College District**

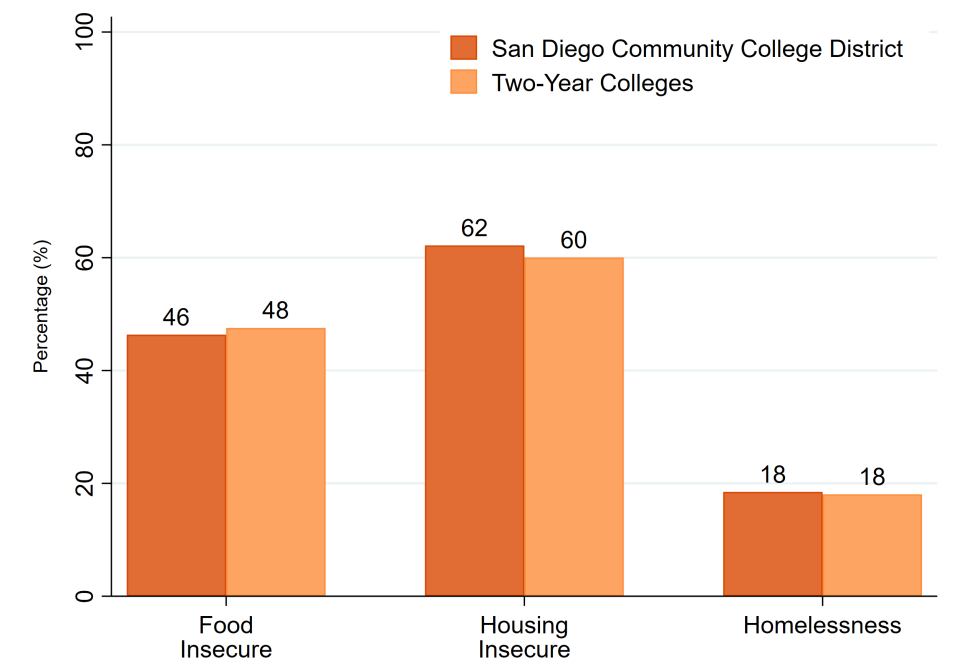


Source: 2018 #RealCollege Survey

### COMPARISON TO TWO-YEAR COLLEGES

In comparison to the overall rates for survey participants attending a two-year college in 2018, San Diego Community College District has a lower rate of food insecurity, a higher rate of housing insecurity, and a similar rate of homelessness (Figure 5).

**Figure 5. Comparison of Basic Needs Insecurity**

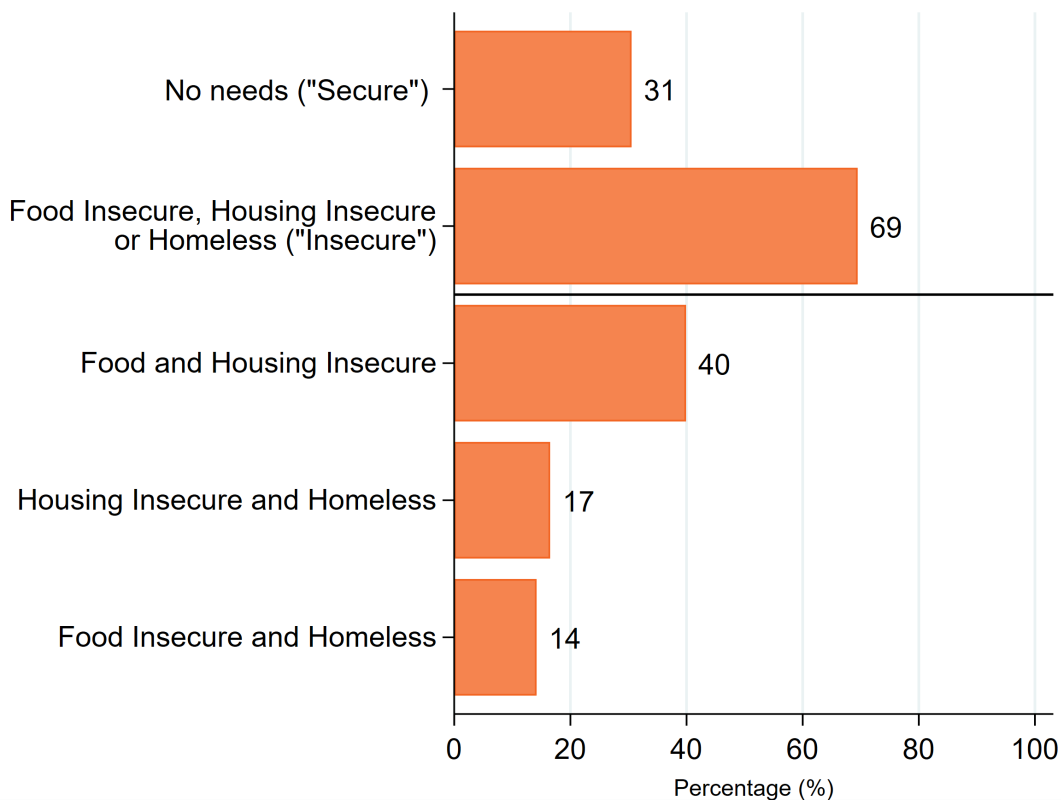


Source: 2018 #RealCollege Survey

### OVERLAPPING CHALLENGES

Food insecurity, housing insecurity, and homelessness are overlapping concerns, with 69% of students at San Diego Community College District 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 Community College District**



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 San Diego Community College District**

	Number of Students	Food Insecurity (%)	Housing Insecurity (%)	Homelessness (%)
<b>GENDER ORIENTATION</b>				
Male	627	44	58	22
Female	1,543	48	65	17
Transgender	18	44	56	50
Other	36	53	69	25

<b>SEXUAL ORIENTATION</b>				
Heterosexual or straight	1,719	45	61	18
Gay or lesbian	112	48	66	21
Bisexual	190	59	71	30
Other	137	52	72	19
<b>RACIAL OR ETHNIC BACKGROUND</b>				
White or Caucasian	740	42	59	18
African American or Black	183	63	71	29
Hispanic or Latinx	888	50	68	20
American Indian or Alaskan Native	45	64	73	31
Middle Eastern or North African or Arab or Arab American	55	51	56	15
Southeast Asian	126	42	60	14
Pacific Islander or Native Hawaiian	71	61	70	25
Other Asian or Asian American	222	39	51	14
Other	91	45	66	24
Prefers not to answer	88	52	63	24
<b>STUDENT IS A U.S. CITIZEN OR PERMANENT RESIDENT</b>				
Yes	2,051	47	63	19
No	83	40	67	20
Prefers not to answer	57	46	60	21
<b>HIGHEST LEVEL OF PARENTAL EDUCATION</b>				
No high school diploma	353	52	70	22
High school diploma	425	47	63	20
Some college	814	52	69	20



Bachelors degree	538	32	49	13
Does not know	76	55	62	29
<b>AGE</b>				
18 to 20	599	40	50	18
21 to 25	545	52	67	23
26 to 30	329	57	77	20
Older than 30	715	43	64	17

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 San Diego Community College District**

	Number of Students	Food Insecurity (%)	Housing Insecurity (%)	Homelessness (%)
<b>COLLEGE ENROLLMENT STATUS</b>				
Full-time (at least 12 credits)	1,106	51	62	21
Part-time (fewer than 12 credits)	1,221	43	62	16
<b>YEARS IN COLLEGE</b>				
Less than 1	505	42	52	20
1 to 2	708	48	65	19
3 or more	851	52	69	19
<b>DEPENDENCY STATUS</b>				
Dependent	656	41	52	16
Independent	1,531	49	67	20
<b>STUDENT RECEIVES THE PELL GRANT</b>				
Yes	853	56	70	22
No	1,489	41	58	16
<b>STUDENT HAS CHILDREN</b>				
Yes	432	52	64	16
No	1,910	45	62	19
<b>RELATIONSHIP STATUS</b>				

Single	1,071	49	63	23
In a relationship	597	50	68	19
Married or domestic partnership	462	35	55	11
Divorced	63	60	70	14
Widowed	11	55	64	27
<b>STUDENT HAS BEEN IN FOSTER CARE</b>				
Yes	69	64	72	28
No	2,137	46	63	19
<b>STUDENT HAS BEEN IN MILITARY</b>				
Yes	142	41	54	13
No	2,061	47	64	19
<b>EMPLOYMENT STATUS</b>				
Employed	1,262	52	70	20
Not employed, looking for work	426	46	61	19
Not employed, not looking for work	559	33	43	13
<b>STUDENT HAS BEEN CONVICTED OF A CRIME</b>				
Yes	80	63	83	50
No	2,191	46	62	18
<b>DISABILITY OR MEDICAL CONDITION</b>				
Learning disability (dyslexia, etc.)	171	64	74	26
Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)	189	59	76	24
Autism spectrum disorder	24	54	63	46
Physical disability (speech, sight, mobility, hearing, etc.)	160	64	72	32
Chronic illness (asthma, diabetes, etc.)	256	56	73	25

autoimmune disorder, cancer, etc.)				
Psychological disorder (depression, anxiety, etc.)	693	58	71	26
Other	62	56	71	31
No disability or medical condition	1,220	39	58	15

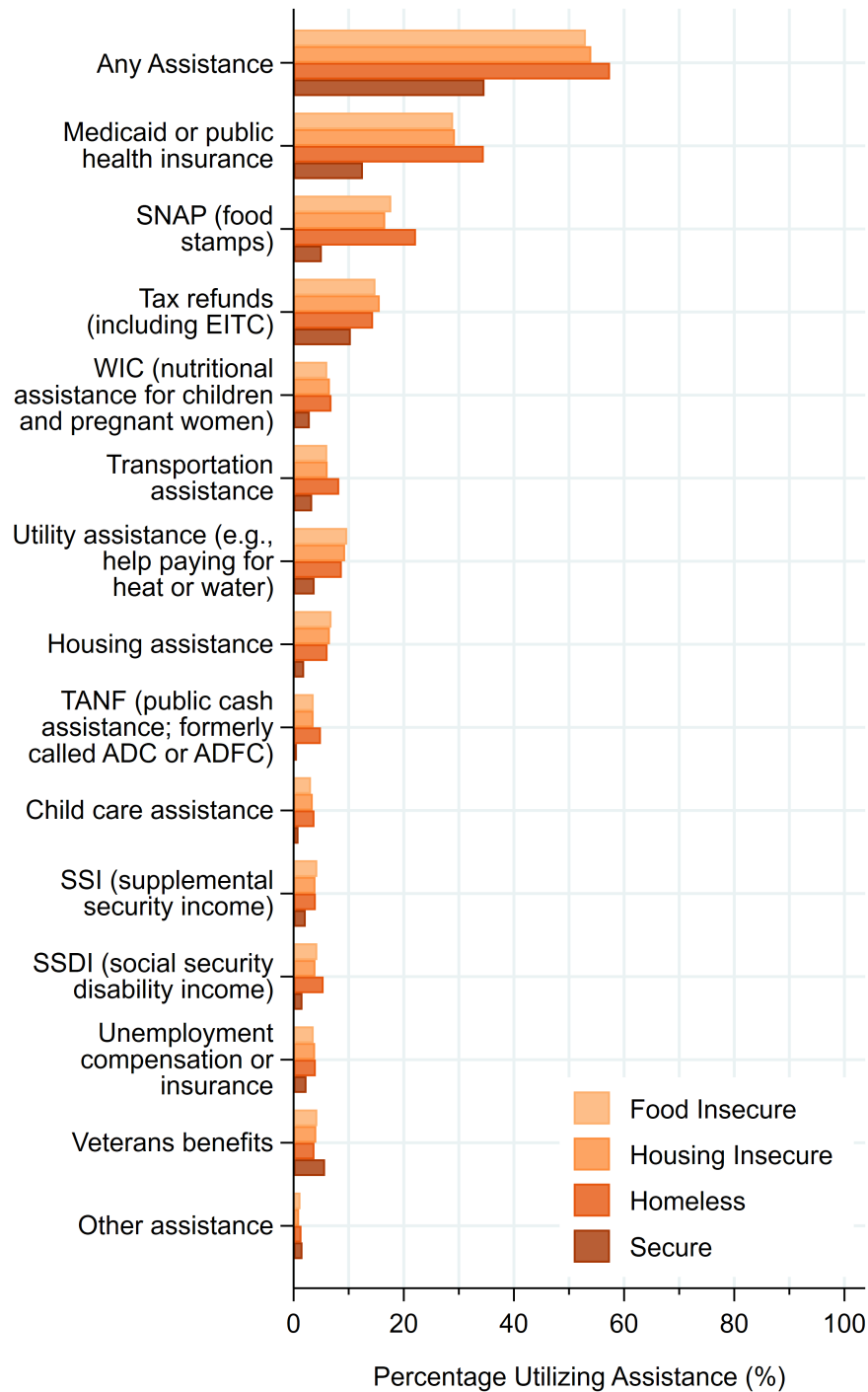
Source: 2018 #RealCollege Survey

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

### UTILIZATION OF SUPPORTS

Many students at San Diego Community College District who experience basic needs insecurity do not receive public assistance (Figure 7). Fully 18% of food insecure students receive SNAP. In addition, 6% 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 (35%) than their peers.

**Figure 7. Use of Assistance Among Survey Respondents at San Diego Community College District 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 <https://www.hope4college.com>.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

If you have questions about this report, please contact the Hope Center Research Team at [hopesrvy@temple.edu](mailto:hopesrvy@temple.edu).