



2019 #RealCollege Survey Report

System Report

May 2020



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2019 #REALCOLLEGE SURVEY RESULTS

REPORT FOR SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

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

May 2020

OVERVIEW

* Invitations to complete the questionnaire were sent by email to approximately 70,000 students from San Diego Community College District and 5,251 students participated. Thus, the estimated response rate is 7.5%.

* **Overall Basic Needs Insecurity Rates:**

- 42% of respondents experienced food insecurity in the prior 30 days
- 54% of respondents experienced housing insecurity in the previous year
- 19% of respondents experienced homelessness in the previous year

* 63% of students in the 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.

* 19% of food insecure students utilize SNAP benefits and 9% 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).

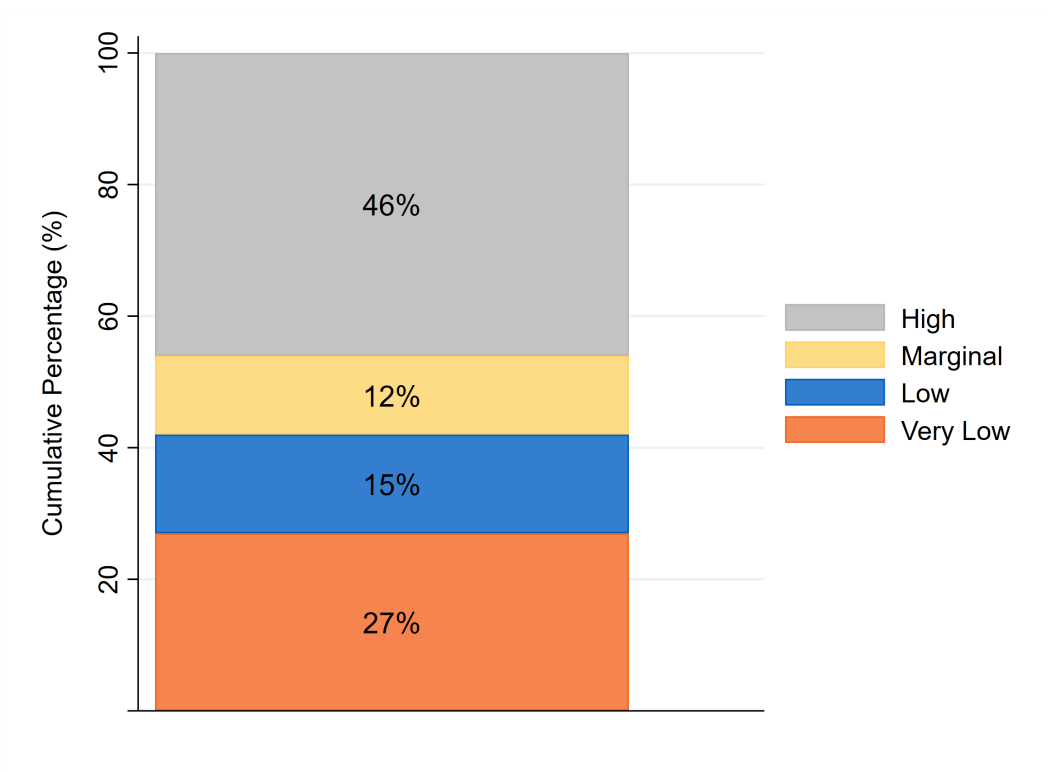
PREVALENCE OF BASIC NEEDS INSECURITY

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 42% of survey respondents in the San Diego Community College District experienced low or very low levels of food security (Figure 1). Moreover, 44% of survey respondents cannot afford to eat balanced meals and 44% worry about running out of food before they have money to buy more (Figure 2).

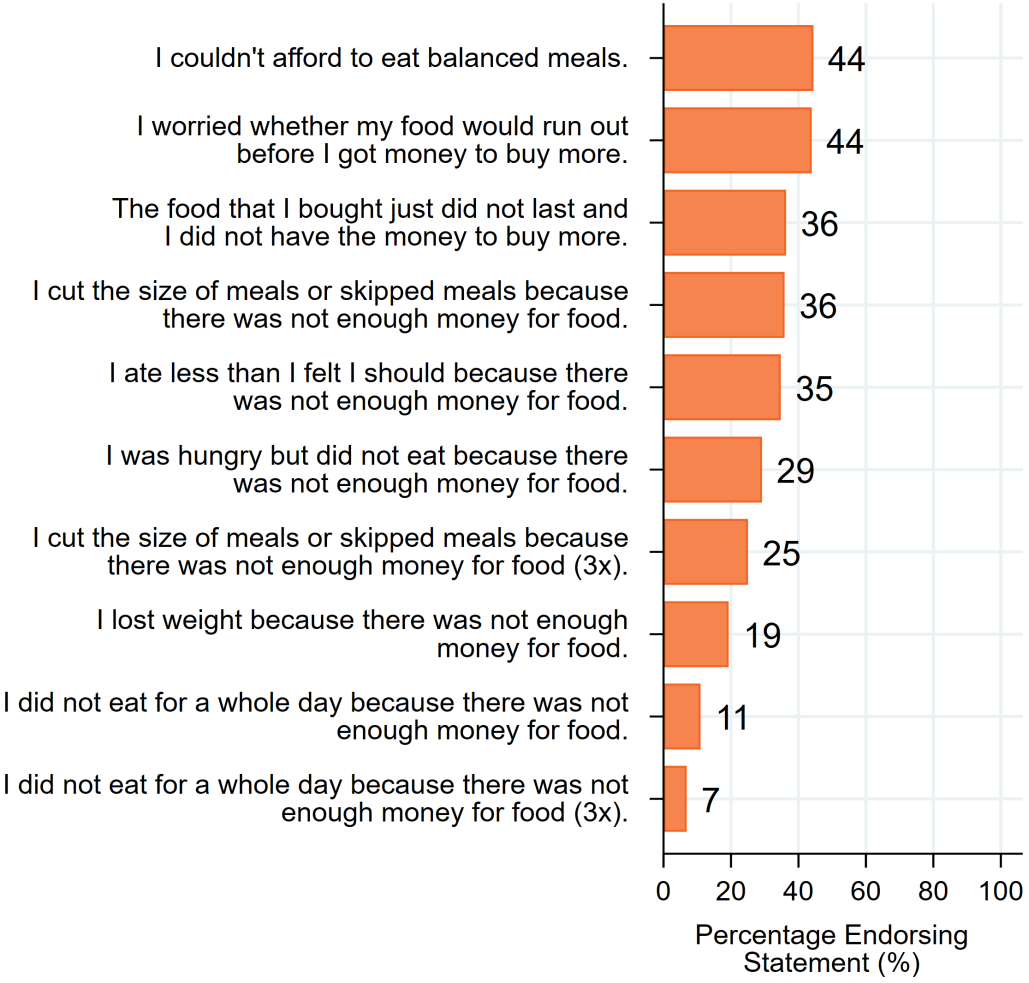
Figure 1. Food Security Among Survey Respondents in the San Diego Community College District



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 the San Diego Community College District



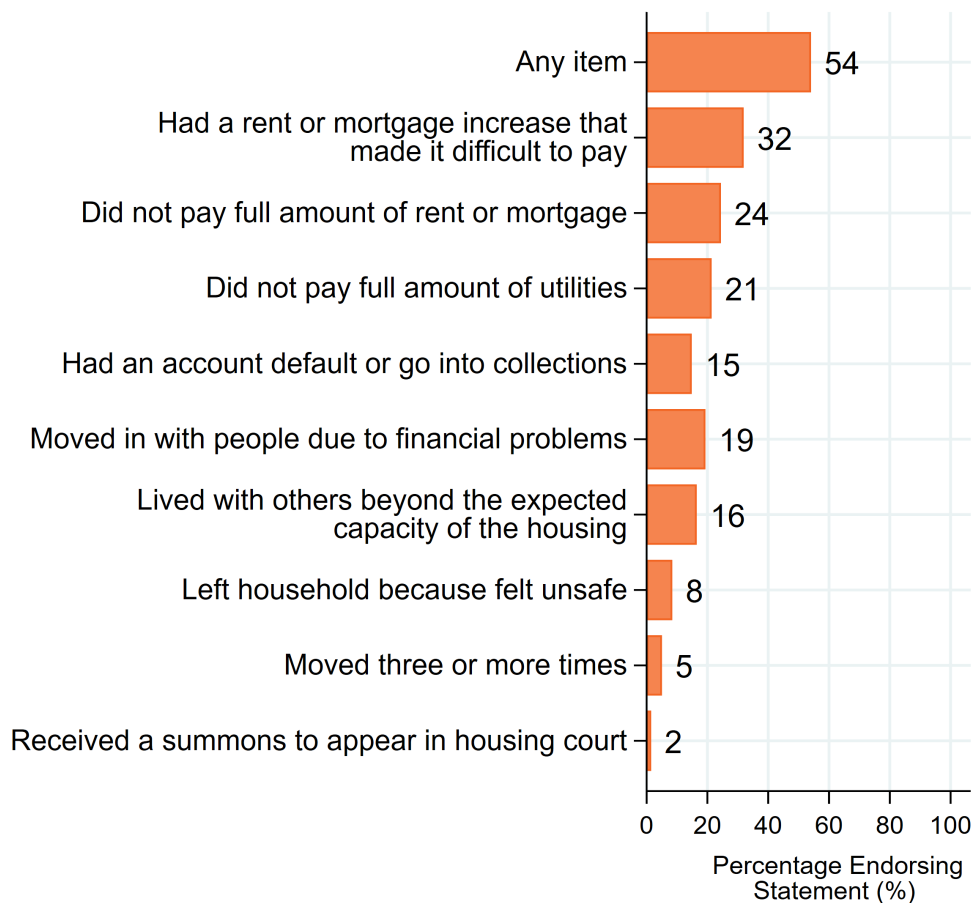
Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey

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 the San Diego Community College District? As displayed below, 54% of survey respondents are housing insecure (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Housing Insecurity Among Survey Respondents in the San Diego Community College District



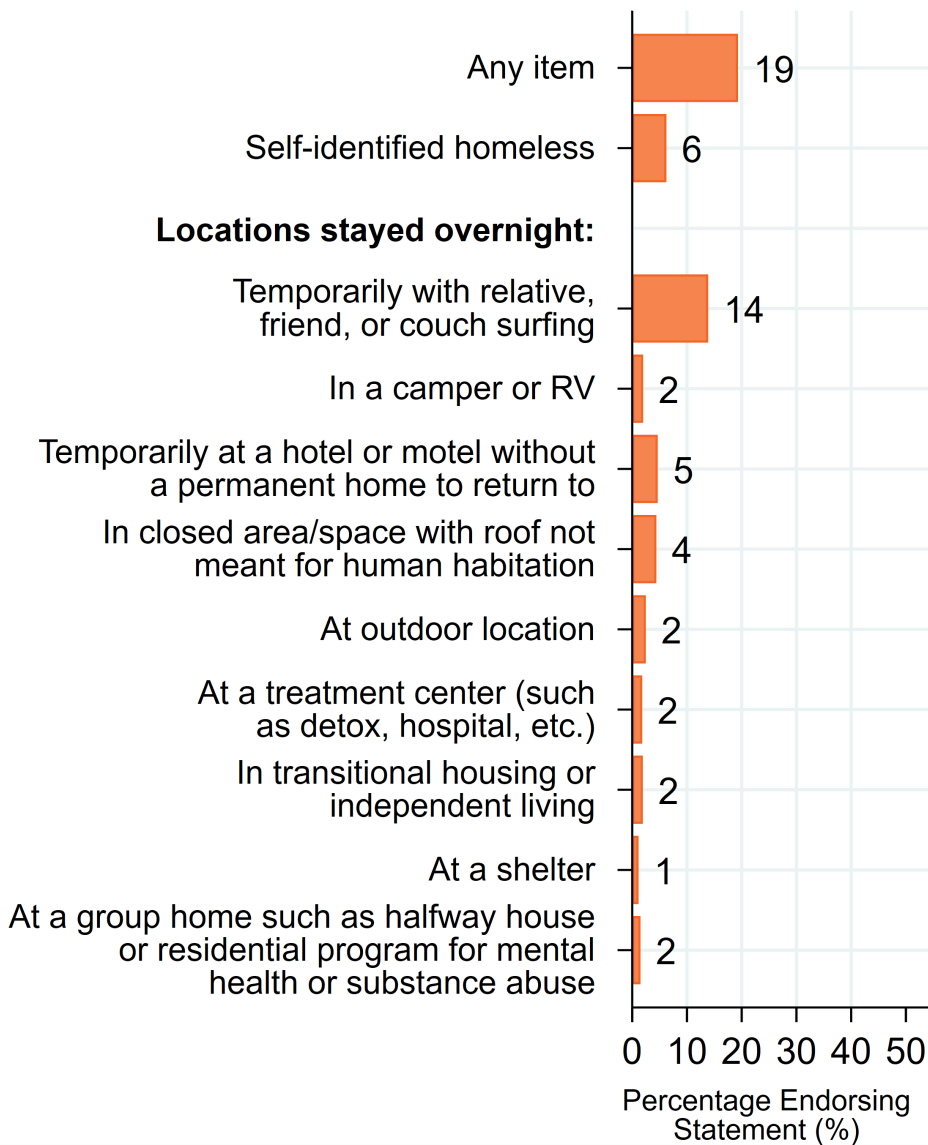
Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey

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 the San Diego Community College District? As displayed below, 19% of survey respondents experience homelessness (Figure 4).

Figure 4. Homelessness Among Survey Respondents in the San Diego Community College District

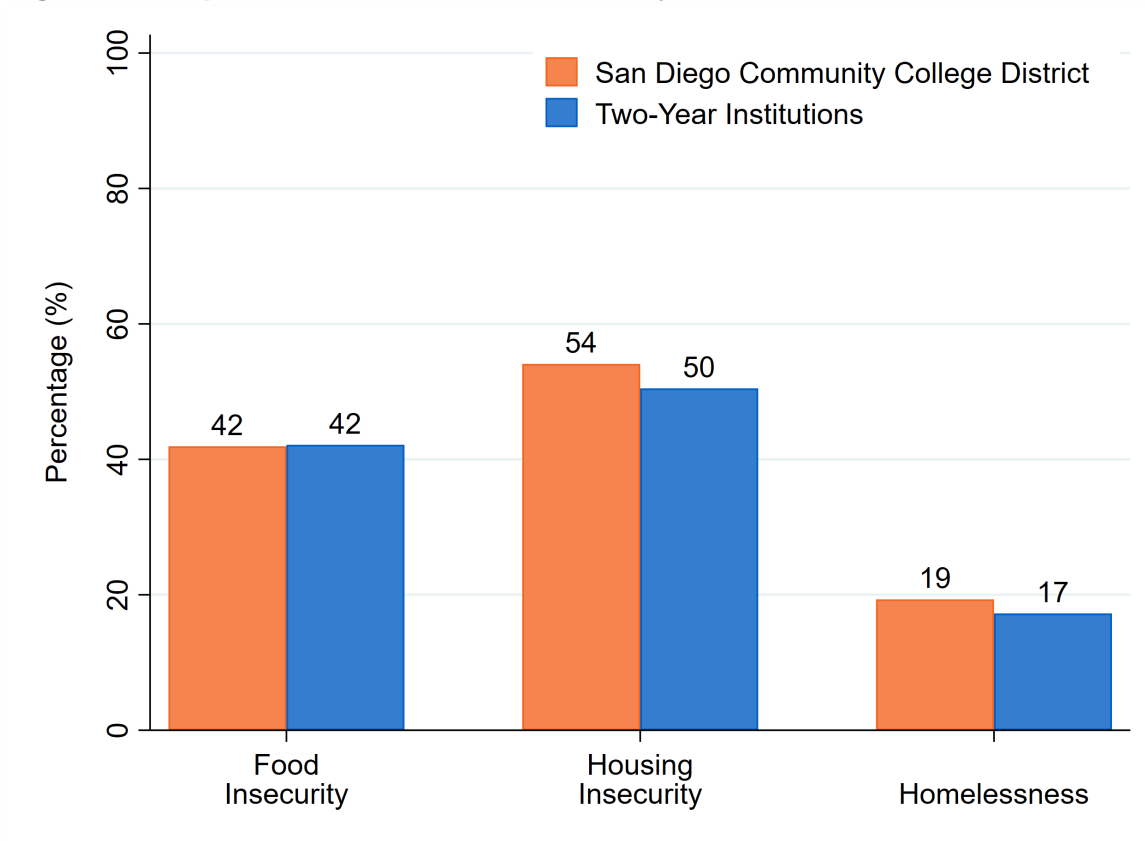


Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey

COMPARISON TO SURVEY RESPONDENTS ATTENDING TWO-YEAR INSTITUTIONS

In comparison to the rates for all survey respondents at two-year institutions nationwide in 2019, San Diego Community College District has a similar 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 Rates

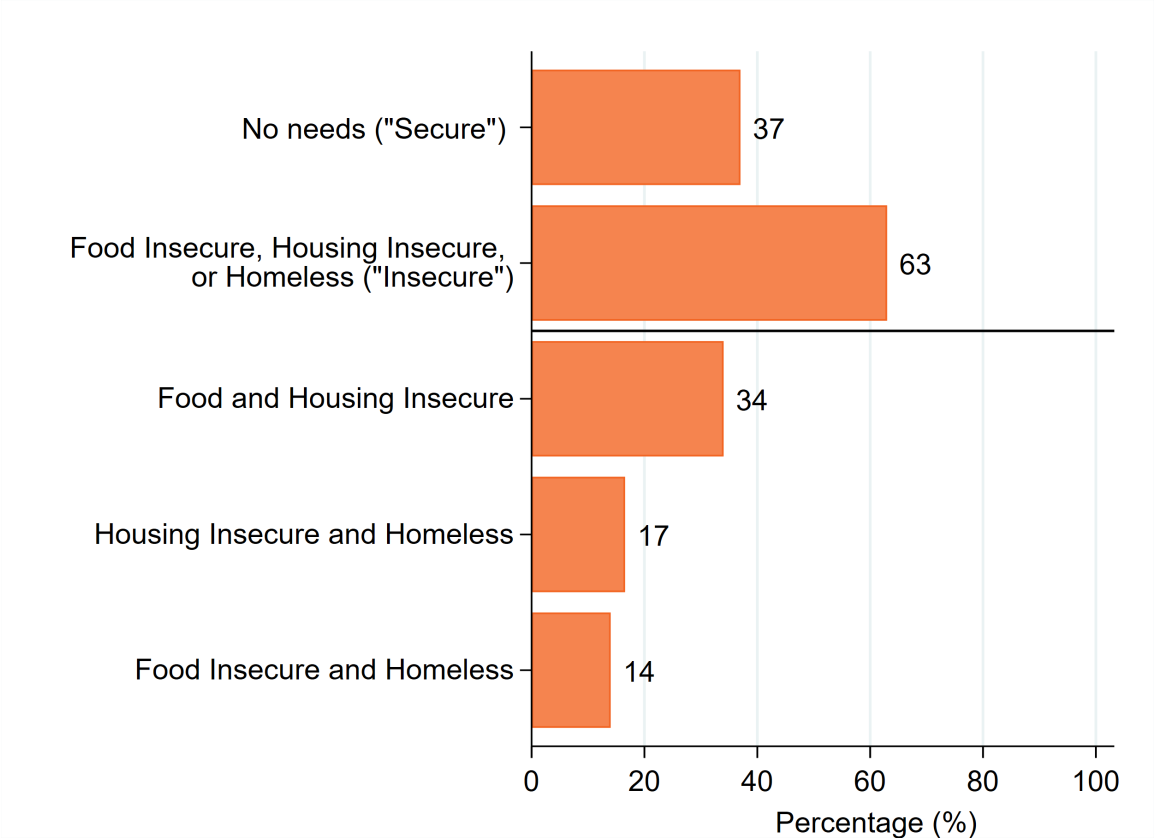


Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey

OVERLAPPING CHALLENGES

Food insecurity, housing insecurity, and homelessness are overlapping concerns, with 63% of students in the 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 in the San Diego Community College District



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 the San Diego Community College District

	Number of Students	Food Insecurity (%)	Housing Insecurity (%)	Homelessness (%)
GENDER IDENTITY				
Male	1,255	38	51	21
Female	2,762	44	56	18
Non-Binary/Third gender	61	64	75	43
Prefers to self-describe	28	57	57	36
TRANSGENDER IDENTITY				
Identifies as transgender	60	46	58	38
Does not identify as transgender	3,990	42	54	19
SEXUAL ORIENTATION				
Heterosexual or straight	3,233	40	53	19
Gay or lesbian	176	44	64	27
Bisexual	332	55	62	26
Prefers to self-describe	99	58	71	25
HIGHEST LEVEL OF PARENTAL EDUCATION				
No high school diploma	710	53	65	20
High school diploma	740	44	54	20
Some college	1,295	49	61	21
Bachelors degree or higher	1,139	27	40	16
Does not know	170	42	53	22

Table continued on next page.

Table 1 (continued). Demographic Disparities in Rates of Basic Needs Insecurity Among Survey Respondents in the San Diego Community College District

	Number of Students	Food Insecurity (%)	Housing Insecurity (%)	Homelessness (%)
RACIAL OR ETHNIC BACKGROUND				
White or Caucasian	1,737	37	50	20
African American or Black	367	60	68	28
Hispanic or Latinx	1,661	51	63	22
American Indian or Alaska Native	148	60	70	26
Indigenous	96	68	72	33
Middle Eastern or North African or Arab or Arab American	148	39	53	13
Southeast Asian	391	37	47	13
Pacific Islander or Native Hawaiian	143	45	56	18
Other Asian or Asian American	506	35	45	18
Other	221	38	57	17
STUDENT IS A U.S. CITIZEN OR PERMANENT RESIDENT				
Yes	3,794	43	54	20
No	233	37	50	17
AGE				
18 to 20	1,131	42	44	20
21 to 25	842	52	62	24
26 to 30	543	49	71	23
Older than 30	1,508	36	53	16
STUDENT IS AN ATHLETE				
Yes	70	47	47	34
No	3,993	42	54	19

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 the San Diego Community College District

	Number of Students	Food Insecurity (%)	Housing Insecurity (%)	Homelessness (%)
LEVEL OF STUDY				
Undergraduate	2,907	48	59	21
Graduate	287	47	64	23
Non-degree	1,332	28	41	15
COLLEGE ENROLLMENT STATUS				
Full-time (at least 12 credits)	1,903	48	56	22
Part-time (fewer than 12 credits)	2,608	38	53	17
YEARS IN COLLEGE				
Less than 1	1,455	40	50	22
1 to 2	1,336	45	55	21
3 or more	1,728	41	57	16
DEPENDENCY STATUS				
Dependent	852	46	51	21
Independent	2,606	41	57	19
Does not know	579	41	46	18
STUDENT RECEIVES THE PELL GRANT				
Yes	1,724	56	67	25
No	2,260	34	45	16
RELATIONSHIP STATUS				
Single	1,843	46	55	22
In a relationship	966	50	59	22
Married or domestic partnership	1,015	27	45	10
Divorced	139	55	76	36
Widowed	51	18	31	6

Table continued on next page.

Table 2 (continued). Rates of Basic Needs Insecurity by Student Life Experiences Among Survey Respondents in the San Diego Community College District

	Number of Students	Food Insecurity (%)	Housing Insecurity (%)	Homelessness (%)
STUDENT HAS CHILDREN				
Yes	913	49	65	18
No	3,486	40	51	20
STUDENT HAS BEEN IN FOSTER CARE				
Yes	148	64	72	47
No	3,917	41	54	18
STUDENT HAS BEEN IN MILITARY				
Yes	290	37	51	19
No	3,782	43	55	20
EMPLOYMENT STATUS				
Employed	1,047	49	64	23
Not employed, looking for work	316	45	53	19
Not employed, not looking for work	555	27	35	12
STUDENT HAS BEEN CONVICTED OF A CRIME				
Yes	181	62	73	48
No	4,025	40	53	18
DISABILITY OR MEDICAL CONDITION				
Learning disability	508	52	59	29
Physical disability	350	51	58	28
Chronic illness	584	49	61	23
Psychological disorder	1,199	58	67	29
Other disability or condition	148	41	54	22
No disability or medical condition	2,263	36	49	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. 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.

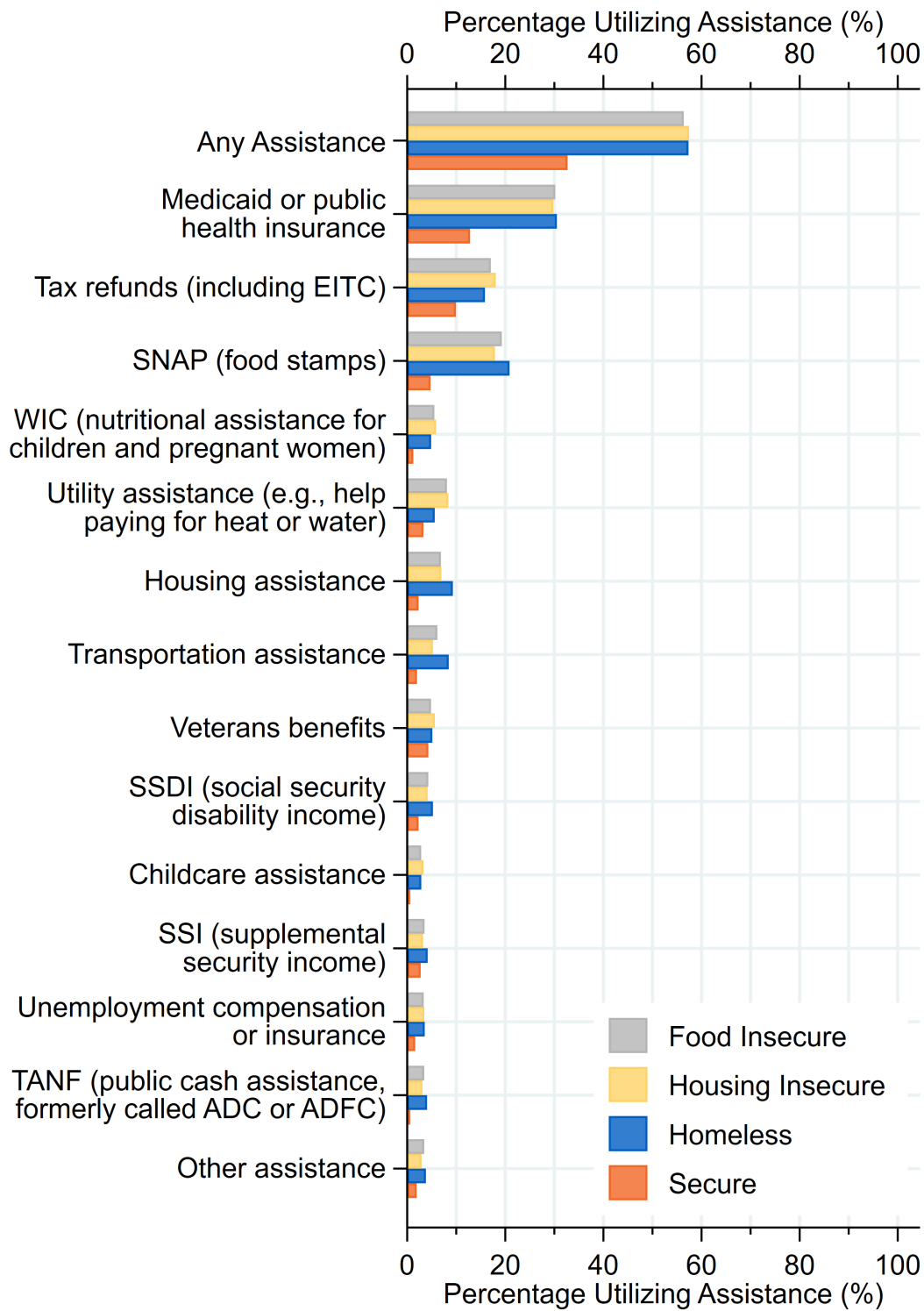
UTILIZATION OF SUPPORTS

Many students in the San Diego Community College District who experience basic needs insecurity do not receive public assistance (Figure 7). Among food insecure students, 19% receive SNAP benefits. In addition, 9% 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 (33%) 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 the San Diego Community College District, only about 42% use on-campus supports.

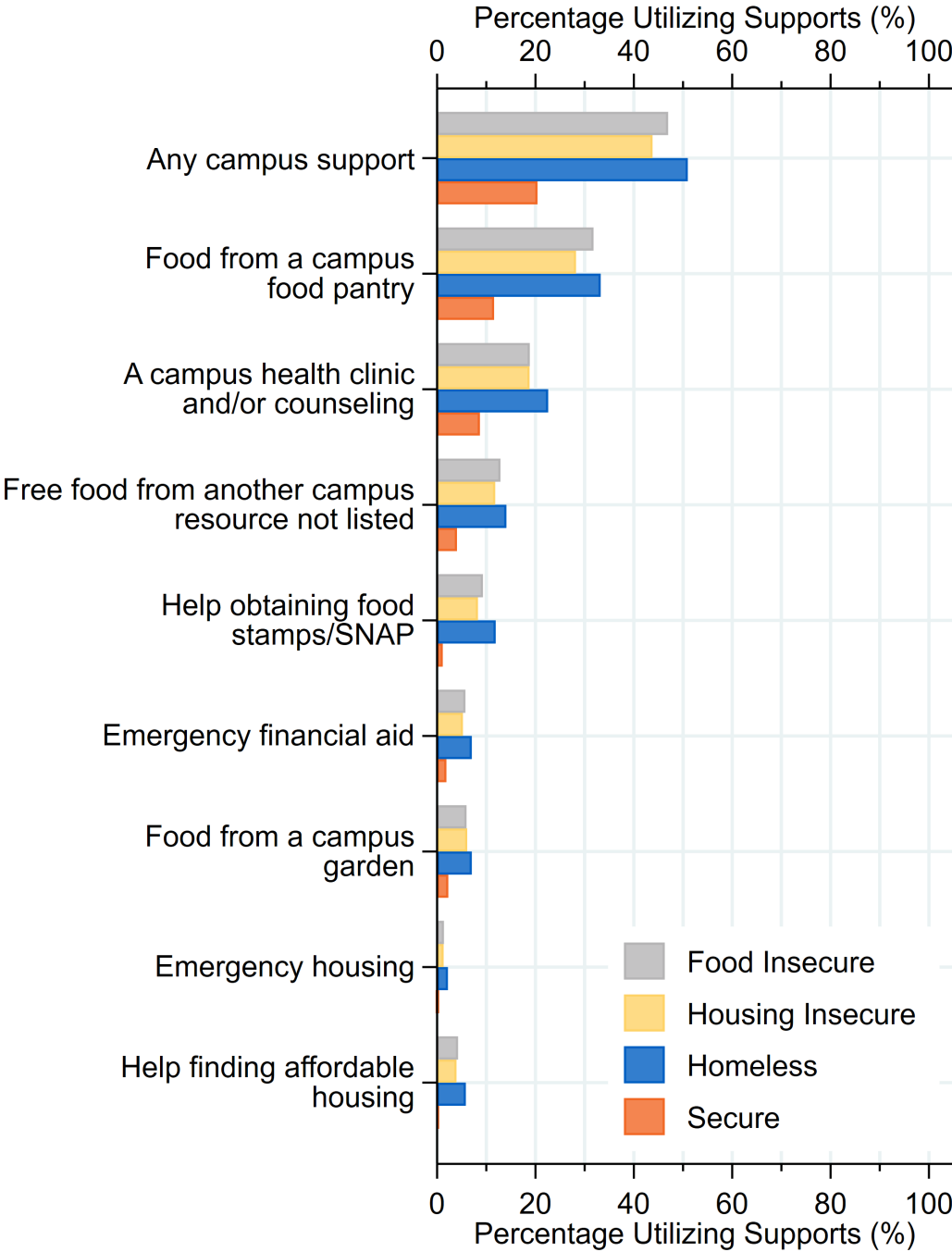


Figure 7. Use of Assistance Among Survey Respondents in the San Diego Community College District According to Basic Needs Security



Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey

Figure 8. Use of Campus Supports Among Survey Respondents in the San Diego Community College District According to Basic Needs Security



Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey

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

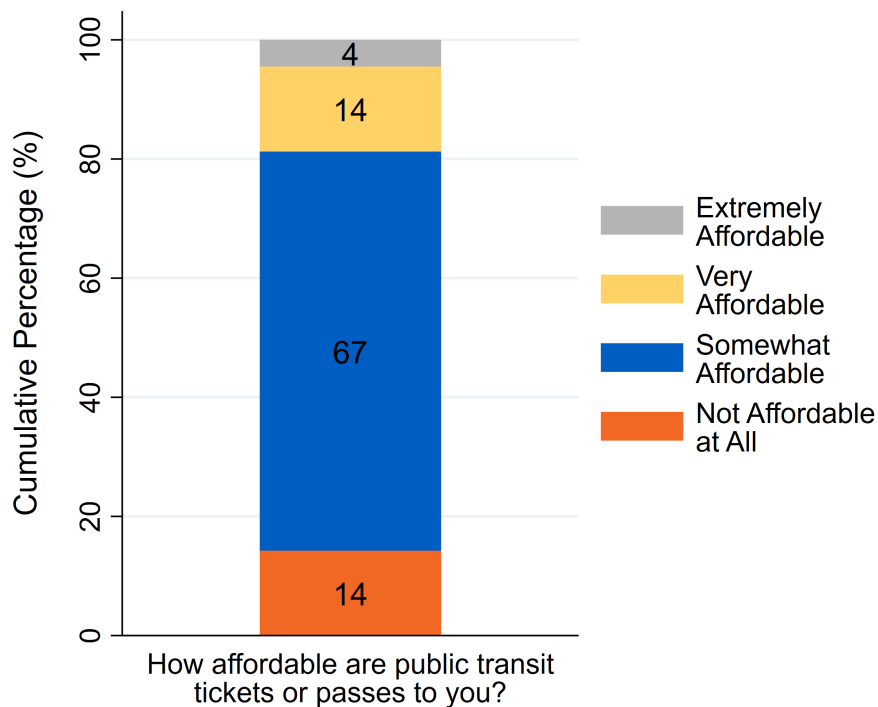
TRANSPORTATION & CHILDCARE

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 22% of survey respondents in the San Diego Community College District 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, 14% said those transit tickets or passes were unaffordable, and another 67% said they were only somewhat affordable (Figure 9).

Figure 9. Affordability of Public Transit Tickets or Passes Among Survey Respondents in the San Diego Community College District



(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 86% of survey respondents in the San Diego Community College District 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 the San Diego Community College District Who Take Public Transit, by Basic Needs Security

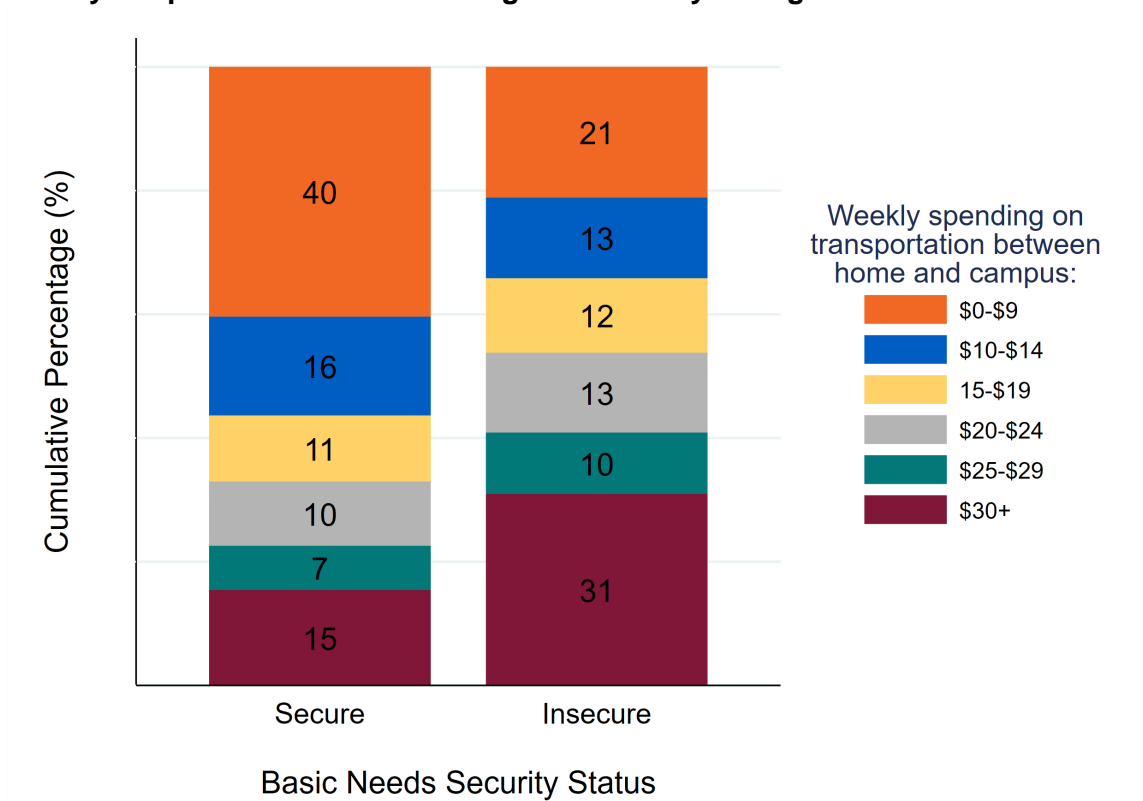
BASIC NEEDS SECURITY STATUS	Number of Students	Not Affordable at All (%)	Somewhat Affordable (%)	Very Affordable (%)	Extremely Affordable (%)
Secure	125	6	62	22	10
Insecure	344	17	69	12	3

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 31% of survey respondents in the San Diego Community College District 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, 40% said they spend \$0-9 per week on transportation, but that was true for just 21% of students who are basic needs insecure.

Figure 10. Weekly Amount Spent on Transportation to College By Basic Need Security Among Survey Respondents in the San Diego Community College District



Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey

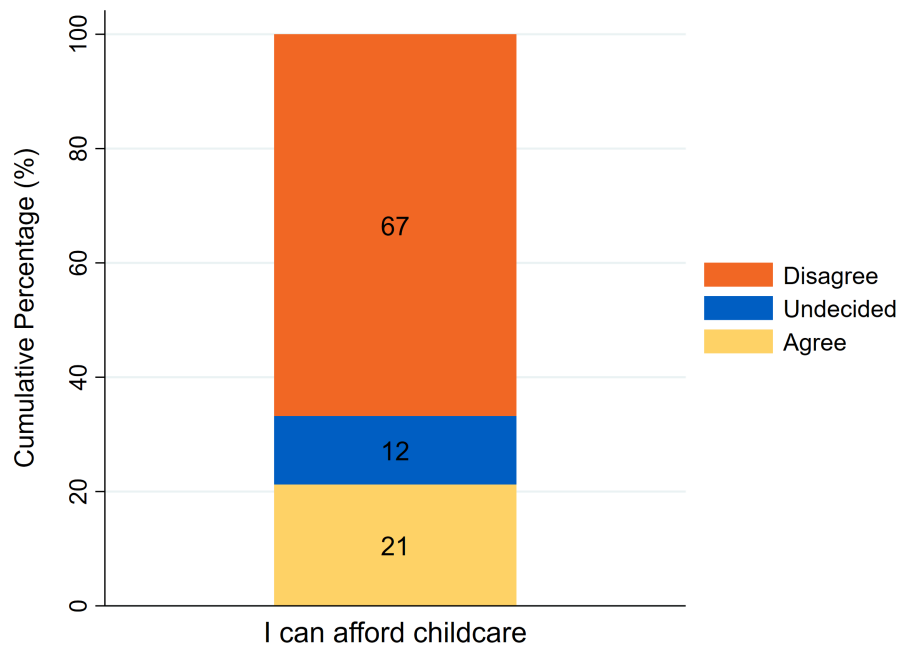
Note: Survey questions on transportation costs were administered to a subset of randomly selected respondents.

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 the San Diego Community College District, 21% of survey respondents were parenting students and among those parenting students, 34% said that they need, use, or plan to use childcare (not shown). However, just 21% 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 16% say that they can afford childcare costs, whereas 39% of parenting students who are food or housing secure do (Table 4).

Figure 11. Childcare Affordability Among Respondents in the San Diego Community College District Who Need, Use, or Plan to Use Childcare



Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey

Table 4. Childcare Affordability Among Parenting Survey Respondents in the San Diego Community College District Who Need, Use, or Plan to Use Childcare, by Basic Needs Security

BASIC NEEDS SECURITY STATUS	Number of Students	Disagree (%)	Undecided (%)	Agree (%)
Secure	61	44	16	39
Insecure	231	73	11	16

Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey

Note: Results with fewer than 10 respondents are not shown in the table above. Note: The survey question on childcare affordability was only administered to parenting students who need, use, or plan to use childcare.

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

San Diego City College

San Diego Continuing Education

San Diego Mesa College

San Diego Miramar College