



# 2019 #RealCollege Survey Report

## Institution Report

January 2020



[HOPE4COLLEGE.COM](https://hope4college.com)

**EMBARGOED UNTIL FEB. 12, 2020**

## **2019 #REALCOLLEGE SURVEY RESULTS**

### **INSTITUTION REPORT FOR SAN DIEGO CONTINUING EDUCATION**

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

**January 2020**

#### **OVERVIEW**

\* Invitations to complete the questionnaire were sent by email to approximately 20,000 students from San Diego Continuing Education and 943 students participated. Thus, the estimated response rate is 4.7%.

**\* Overall Basic Needs Insecurity Rates:**

- 26% of respondents experienced food insecurity in the prior 30 days
- 40% of respondents experienced housing insecurity in the previous year
- 14% of respondents experienced homelessness in the previous year

\* 46% of students at San Diego Continuing Education 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.

\* 30% of food insecure students utilize SNAP benefits and 12% 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](http://www.hope4college.com)).*

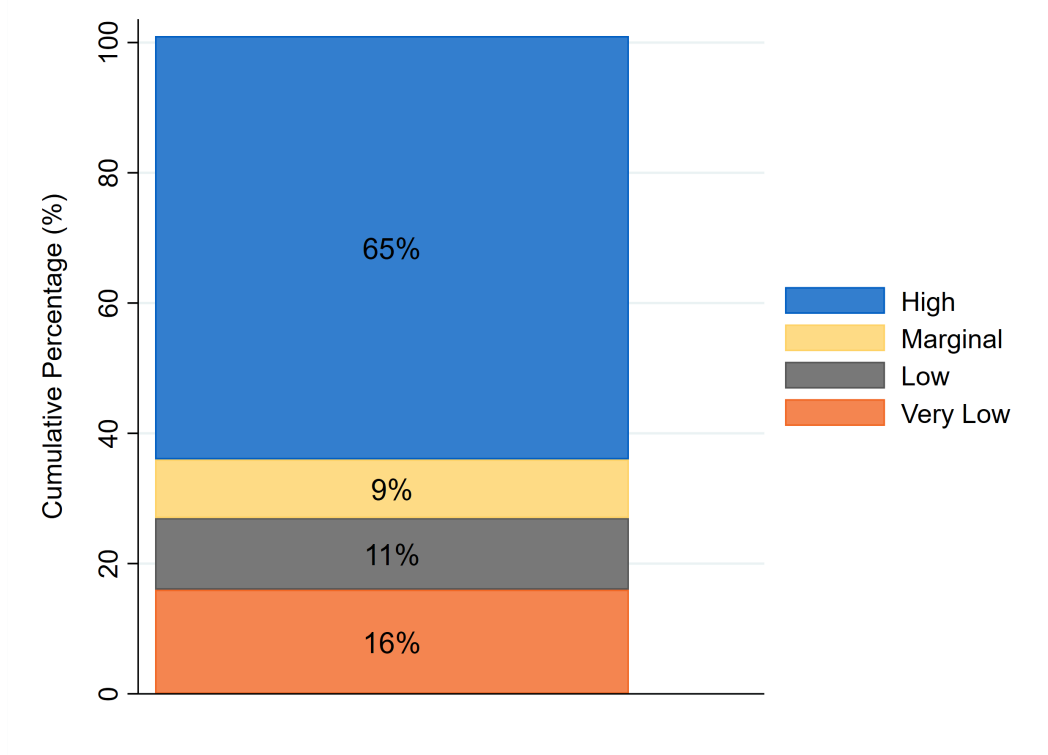
## PREVALENCE OF BASIC NEEDS INSECURITY

### 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 26% of survey respondents at San Diego Continuing Education experienced low or very low levels of food security (Figure 1). Moreover, 28% of survey respondents cannot afford to eat balanced meals and 30% worry about running out of food before they have money to buy more.

**Figure 1. Food Security Among Survey Respondents at San Diego Continuing Education**



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](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 Continuing Education**



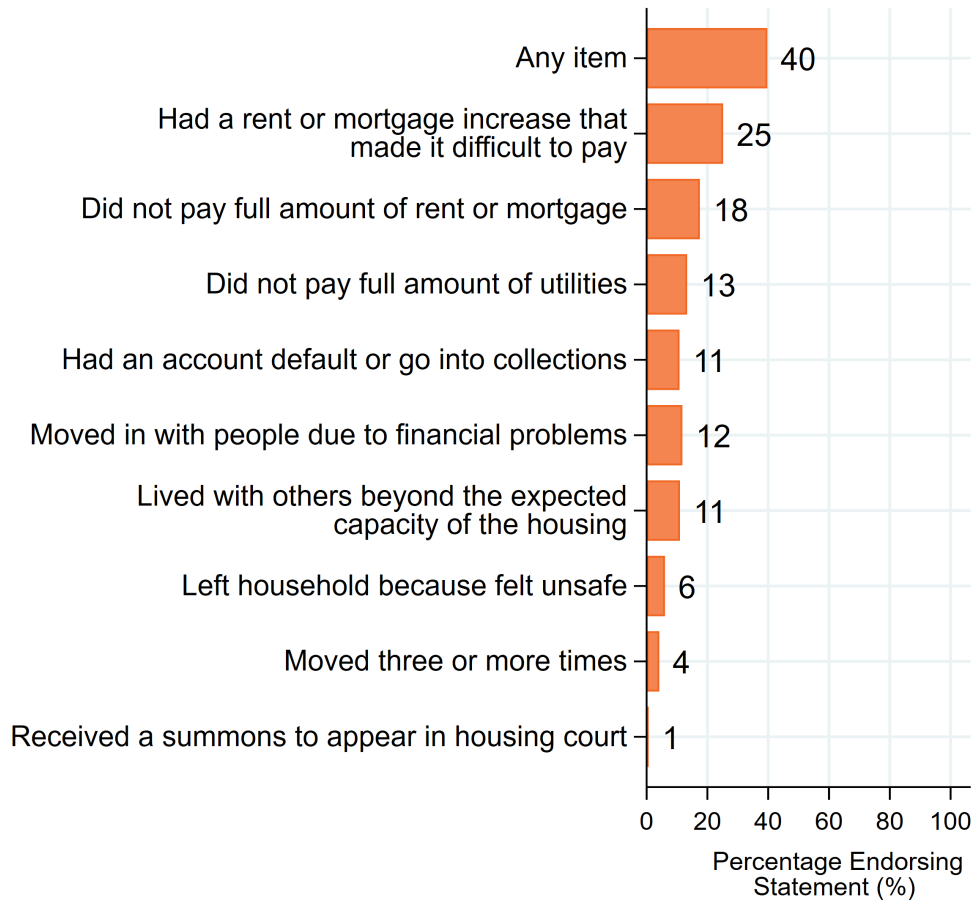
Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey

**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 at San Diego Continuing Education? As displayed below, 40% of survey respondents are housing insecure (Figure 3).

**Figure 3. Housing Insecurity Among Survey Respondents at San Diego Continuing Education**



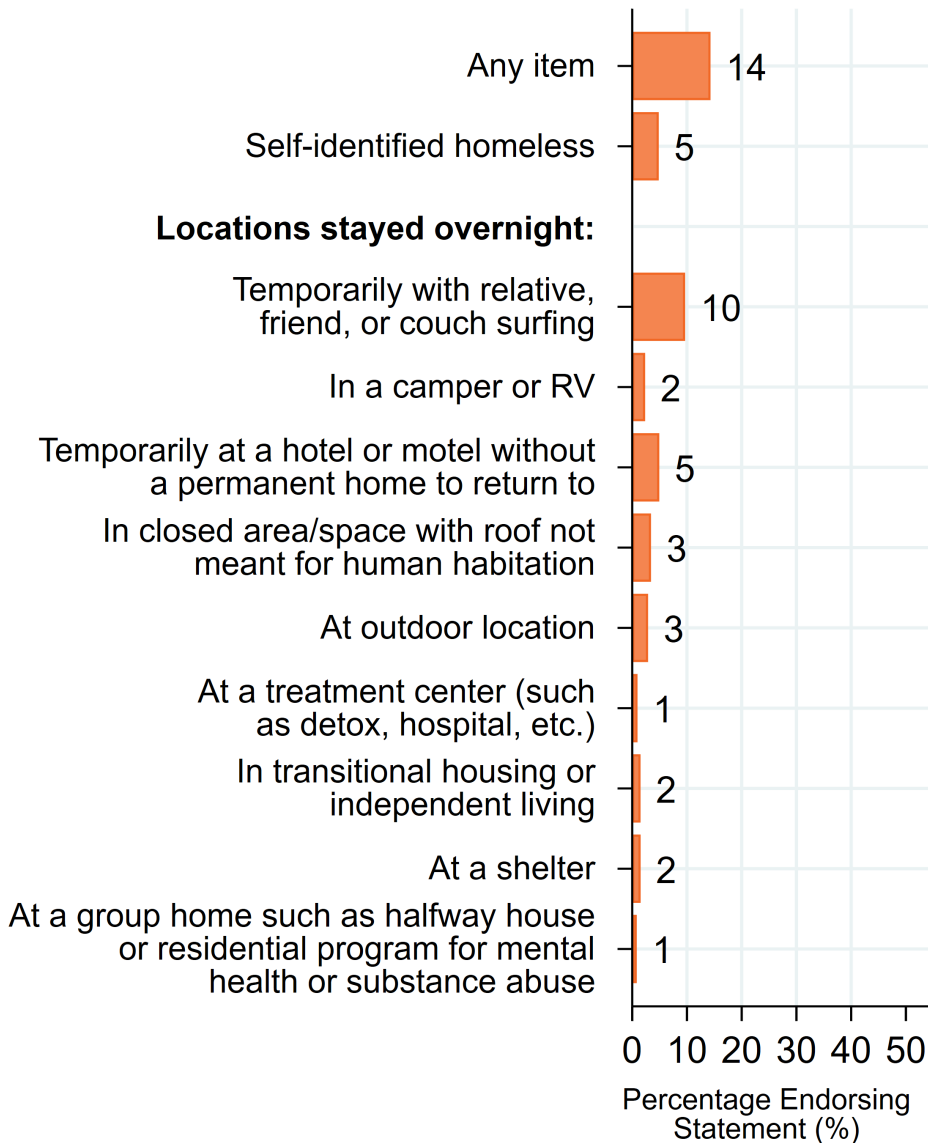
Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey

**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 at San Diego Continuing Education? As displayed below, 14% of survey respondents experience homelessness (Figure 4).

**Figure 4. Homelessness Among Survey Respondents at San Diego Continuing Education**

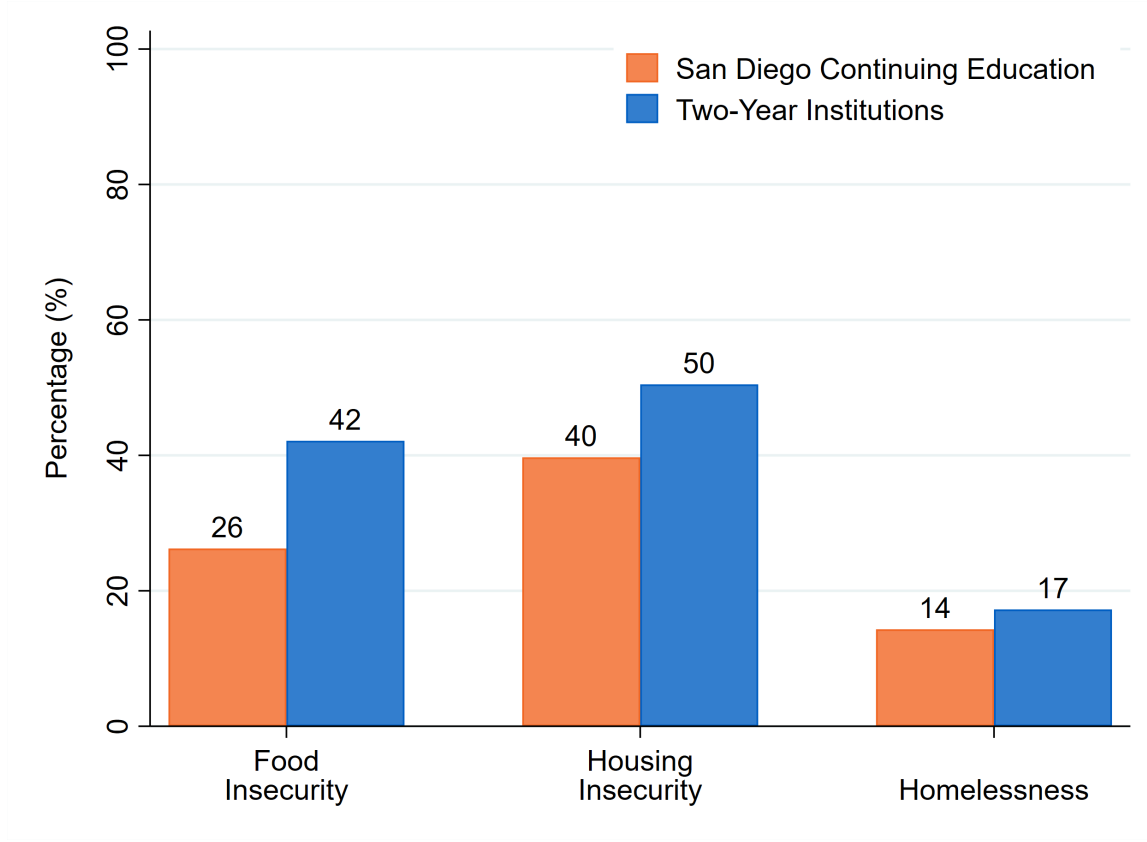


Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey

**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 Continuing Education has a lower rate of food insecurity, a lower rate of housing insecurity, and a lower rate of homelessness (Figure 5).

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

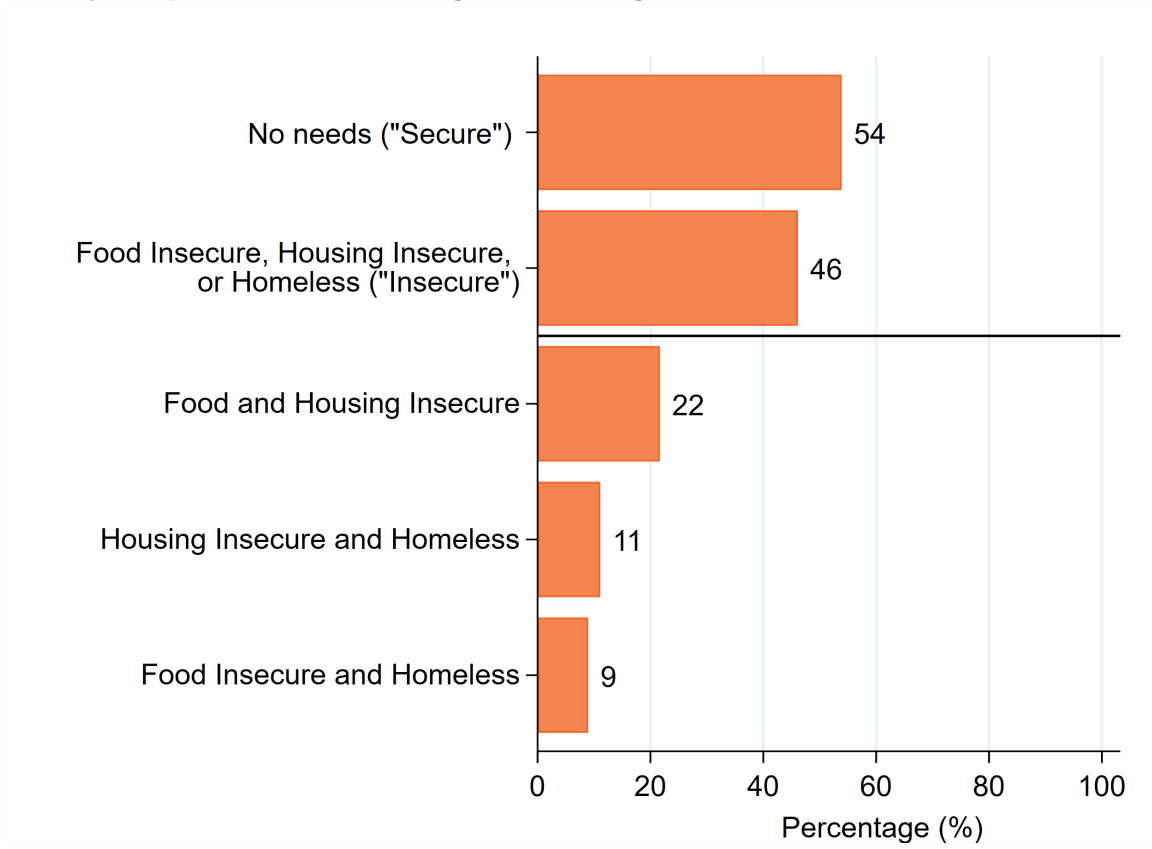


Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey

**OVERLAPPING CHALLENGES**

Food insecurity, housing insecurity, and homelessness are overlapping concerns, with 46% of students at San Diego Continuing Education 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 Continuing Education**



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.



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## By Demographic Background

**Table 1. Demographic Disparities in Rates of Basic Needs Insecurity Among Survey Respondents at San Diego Continuing Education**

	Number of Students	Food Insecurity (%)	Housing Insecurity (%)	Homelessness (%)
<b>GENDER IDENTITY</b>				
Male	197	28	38	15
Female	468	26	40	13
Non-Binary/Third gender	.	.	.	.
Prefers to self-describe	.	.	.	.
<b>TRANSGENDER IDENTITY</b>				
Identifies as transgender	10	40	70	50
Does not identify as transgender	659	27	39	14
<b>SEXUAL ORIENTATION</b>				
Heterosexual or straight	582	26	38	13
Gay or lesbian	25	29	48	16
Bisexual	16	44	63	38
Prefers to self-describe	.	.	.	.
<b>HIGHEST LEVEL OF PARENTAL EDUCATION</b>				
No high school diploma	125	41	54	16
High school diploma	96	26	41	18
Some college	163	31	44	16
Bachelors degree or higher	260	17	29	11
Does not know	23	22	35	17

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**Table 1 (continued). Demographic Disparities in Rates of Basic Needs Insecurity Among Survey Respondents at San Diego Continuing Education**

	Number of Students	Food Insecurity (%)	Housing Insecurity (%)	Homelessness (%)
<b>RACIAL OR ETHNIC BACKGROUND</b>				
White or Caucasian	350	17	29	11
African American or Black	44	45	64	27
Hispanic or Latinx	231	44	59	21
American Indian or Alaskan Native	25	56	68	32
Indigenous	11	64	64	36
Middle Eastern or North African or Arab or Arab American	10	30	60	10
Southeast Asian	49	20	35	8
Pacific Islander or Native Hawaiian	14	43	43	21
Other Asian or Asian American	69	25	36	17
Other	41	32	34	12
<b>STUDENT IS A U.S. CITIZEN OR PERMANENT RESIDENT</b>				
Yes	568	25	38	13
No	83	33	47	20
<b>AGE</b>				
18 to 20	11	36	36	18
21 to 25	47	49	53	40
26 to 30	56	39	59	25
Older than 30	541	24	37	11
<b>STUDENT IS AN ATHLETE</b>				
Yes	10	20	20	10
No	659	27	39	15

Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey

Note: Results from any category with fewer than 10 participants 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.

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## By Student Academic, Economic, and Life Experiences

**Table 2. Rates of Basic Needs Insecurity by Student Life Experiences Among Survey Respondents at San Diego Continuing Education**

	Number of Students	Food Insecurity (%)	Housing Insecurity (%)	Homelessness (%)
<b>LEVEL OF STUDY</b>				
Undergraduate	75	51	64	28
Graduate	37	41	49	27
Non-degree	631	23	36	12
<b>COLLEGE ENROLLMENT STATUS</b>				
Full-time (at least 12 credits)	87	51	63	25
Part-time (fewer than 12 credits)	641	23	37	13
<b>YEARS IN COLLEGE</b>				
Less than 1	273	36	51	23
1 to 2	151	33	47	13
3 or more	309	15	28	8
<b>DEPENDENCY STATUS</b>				
Dependent	36	39	64	25
Independent	591	26	38	14
Does not know	35	31	37	23
<b>STUDENT RECEIVES THE PELL GRANT</b>				
Yes	26	58	65	19
No	544	27	40	14
<b>RELATIONSHIP STATUS</b>				
Single	175	44	50	25
In a relationship	55	47	64	42
Married or domestic partnership	347	15	31	5
Divorced	41	39	54	27
Widowed	39	13	23	3

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**Table 2 (continued). Rates of Basic Needs Insecurity by Student Life Experiences Among Survey Respondents at San Diego Continuing Education**

	Number of Students	Food Insecurity (%)	Housing Insecurity (%)	Homelessness (%)
<b>STUDENT HAS CHILDREN</b>				
Yes	189	37	50	13
No	538	22	36	15
<b>STUDENT HAS BEEN IN FOSTER CARE</b>				
Yes	20	60	70	50
No	649	26	39	13
<b>STUDENT HAS BEEN IN MILITARY</b>				
Yes	65	22	34	8
No	600	27	40	15
<b>EMPLOYMENT STATUS</b>				
Employed	98	37	54	23
Not employed, looking for work	48	40	58	19
Not employed, not looking for work	140	21	27	8
<b>STUDENT HAS BEEN CONVICTED OF A CRIME</b>				
Yes	27	56	67	48
No	671	25	38	13
<b>DISABILITY OR MEDICAL CONDITION</b>				
Learning disability	71	38	46	28
Physical disability	88	32	36	19
Chronic illness	125	37	45	17
Psychological disorder	134	44	56	23
Other disability or condition	39	26	36	21
No disability or medical condition	387	21	35	12

Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey

Note: Results from any category with fewer than 10 participants 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 randomly administered to a subset of respondents. Classifications of Disability or Medical Condition are not mutually exclusive. Students could self-identify with multiple classifications.

### **UTILIZATION OF SUPPORTS**

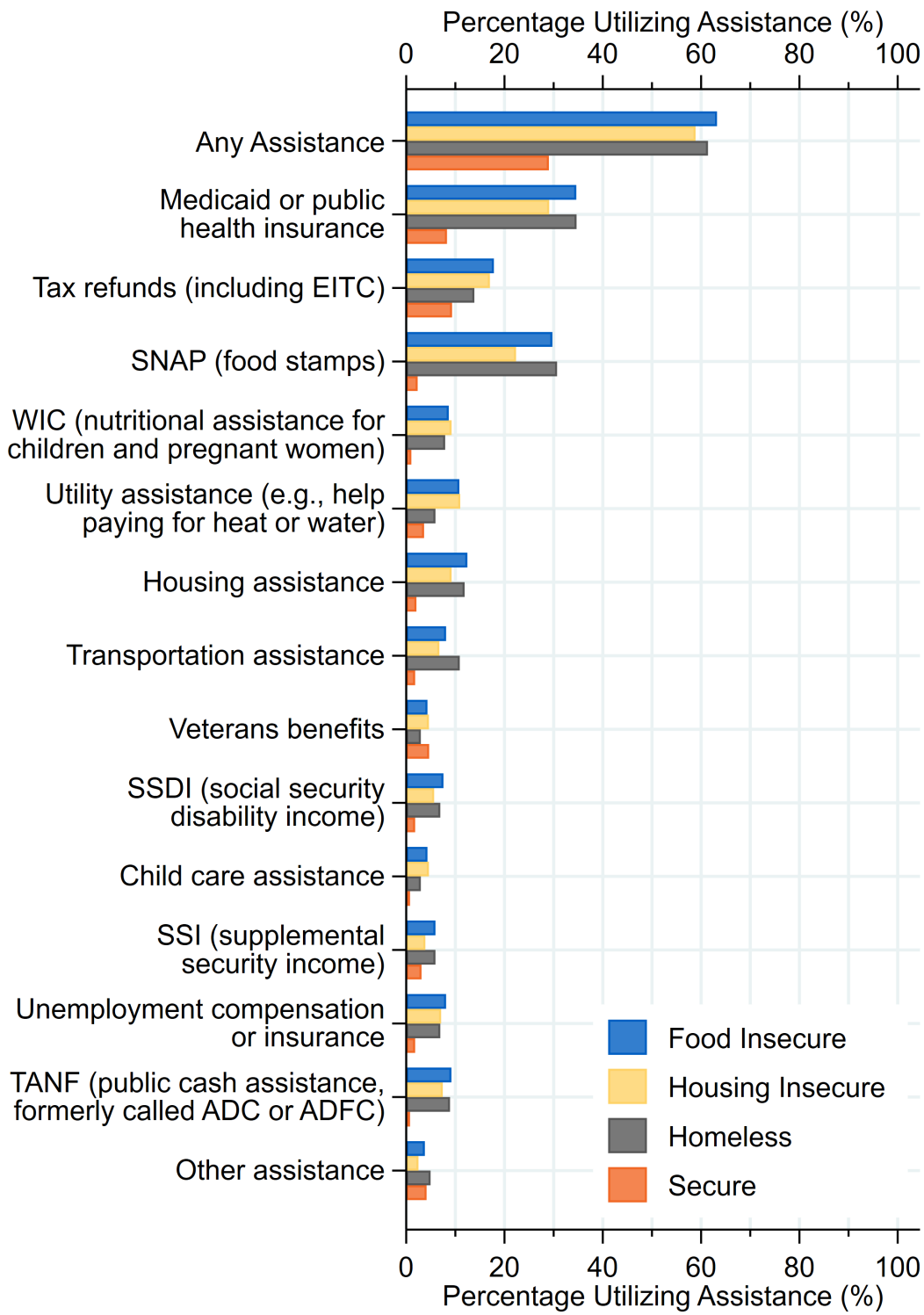
Many students at San Diego Continuing Education who experience basic needs insecurity do not receive public assistance (Figure 7). Among food insecure students, 30% receive SNAP benefits. In addition, 12% of students who experience homelessness receive housing assistance. It is also worth noting that students who are secure in their basic needs are still accessing public benefits, albeit at lower rates (29%) than their peers.

A growing number of on-campus supports are being offered but again, few students are accessing them (Figure 8). Of the students experiencing basic needs insecurity at San Diego Continuing Education, only about 13% use on-campus supports.



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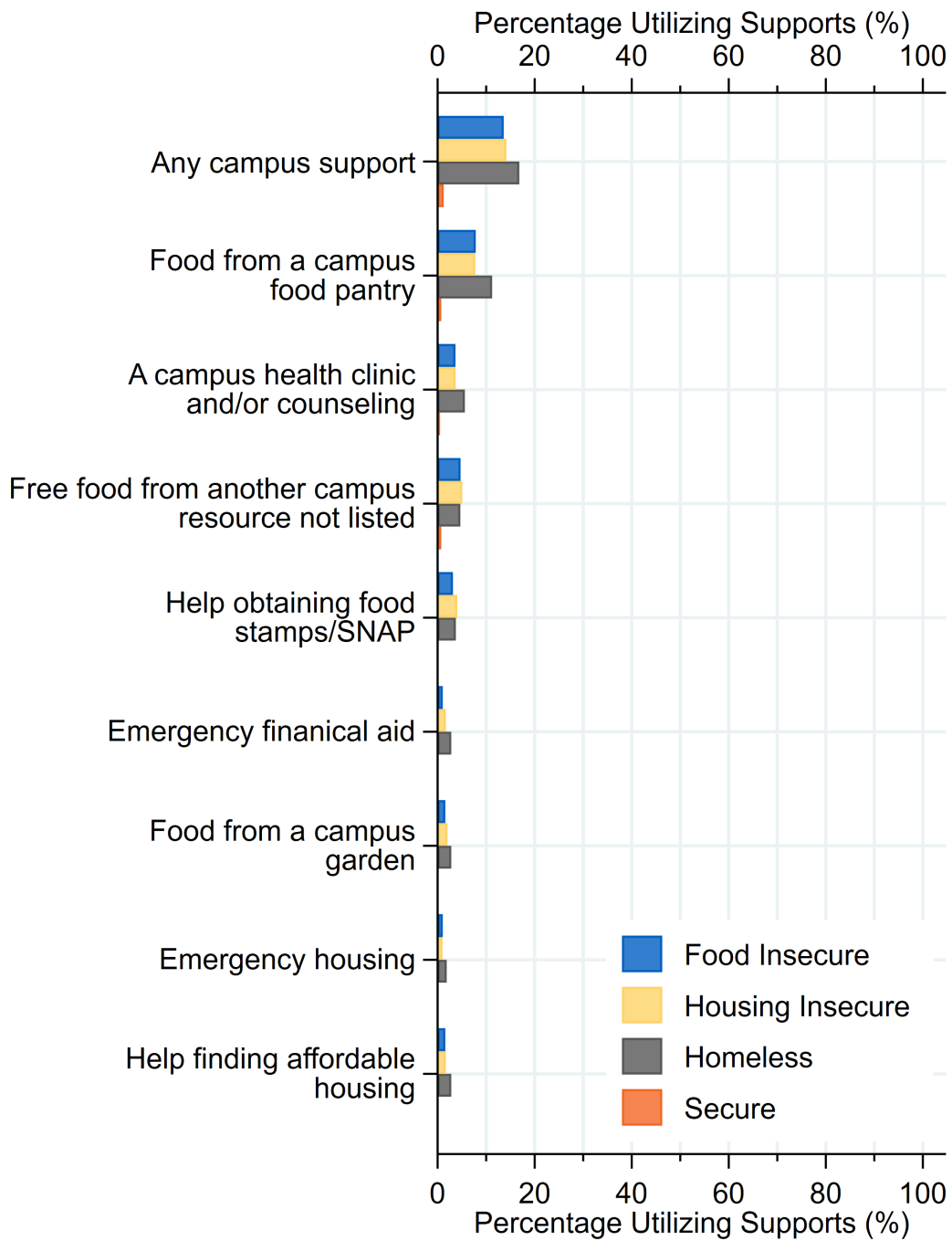
**Figure 7. Use of Assistance Among Survey Respondents at San Diego Continuing Education According to Basic Needs Security**



Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey

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Figure 8. Use of Campus Supports Among Survey Respondents at San Diego Continuing Education According to Basic Needs Security



Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey

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## 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](http://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).

