



2018 #RealCollege Survey Report

Participating Colleges in Denver

September 2019



HOPE4COLLEGE.COM

2018 #REALCOLLEGE SURVEY REPORT FOR DENVER SURVEY PARTICIPANTS

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

September 2019

OVERVIEW

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

- Community College of Denver
- Metropolitan State University of Denver
- University of Colorado Denver
- University of Denver

* Invitations to complete the questionnaire were sent by email to approximately 65,100 students from the participating colleges and 3,011 students participated in the survey. Thus, the estimated response rate is 4.6%.

* Overall Basic Needs Insecurity Rates:

- 40% of respondents experienced food insecurity in the prior 30 days
- 55% of respondents experienced housing insecurity in the previous year
- 18% of respondents experienced homelessness in the previous year

* 66% of survey respondents at participating colleges in Denver 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.

* 12% of food insecure students utilized SNAP benefits and 7% 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.

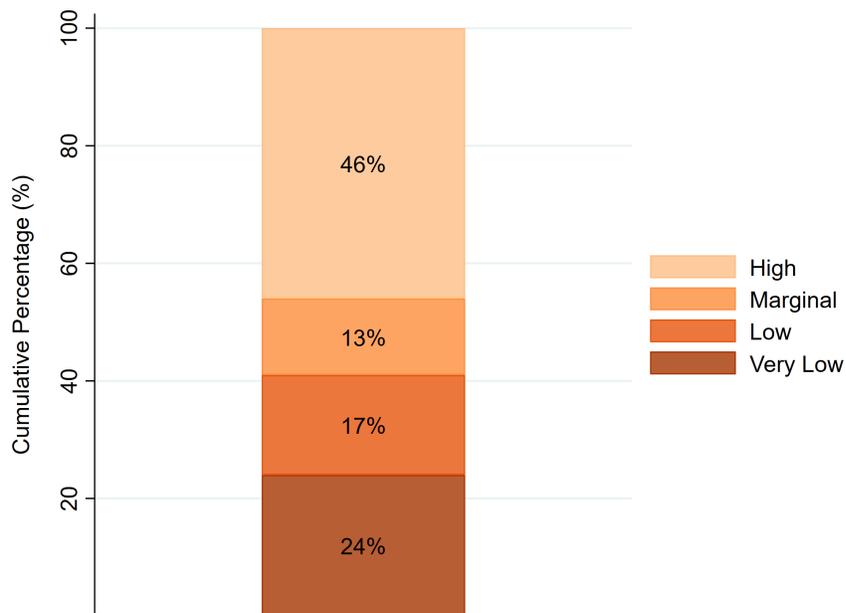
PREVALENCE OF BASIC NEEDS INSECURITY

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 Denver experienced low or very low levels of food security (Figure 1). Moreover, 41% of survey respondents at participating colleges in Denver worry about running out of food before having money to buy more and 46% cannot afford to eat balanced meals (Figure 2).

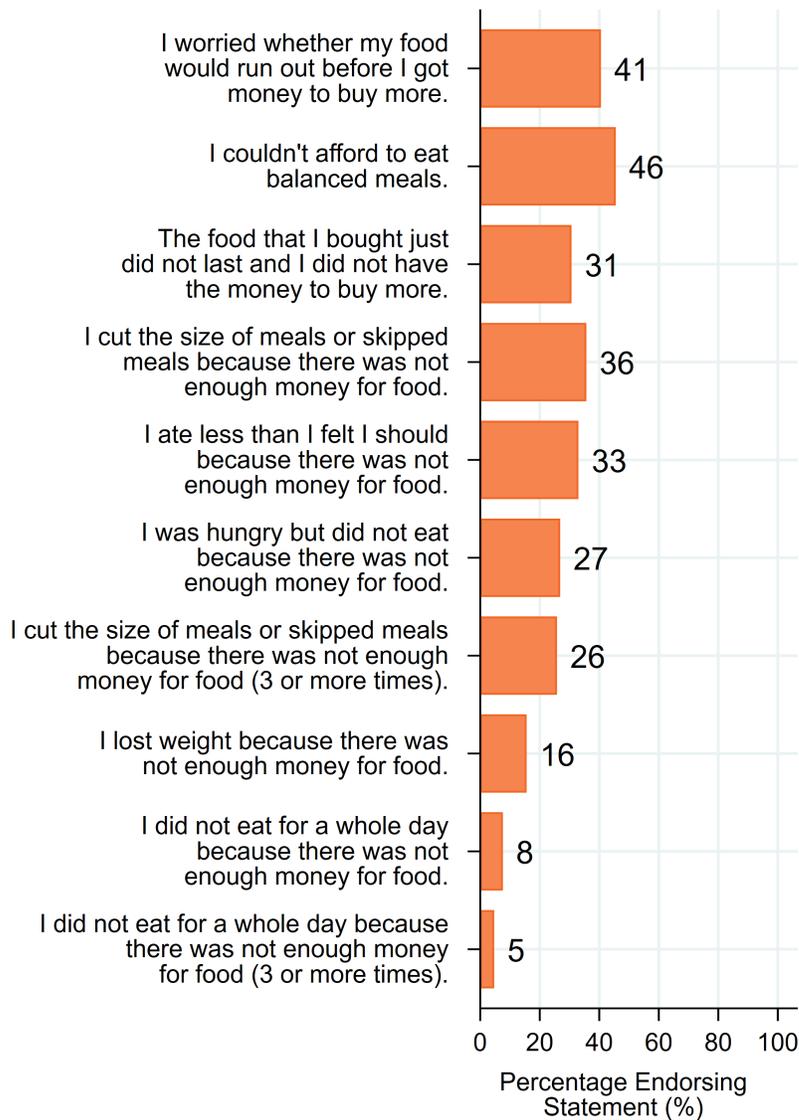
Figure 1. Food Security Among Survey Respondents at Participating Denver Colleges



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 Denver Colleges



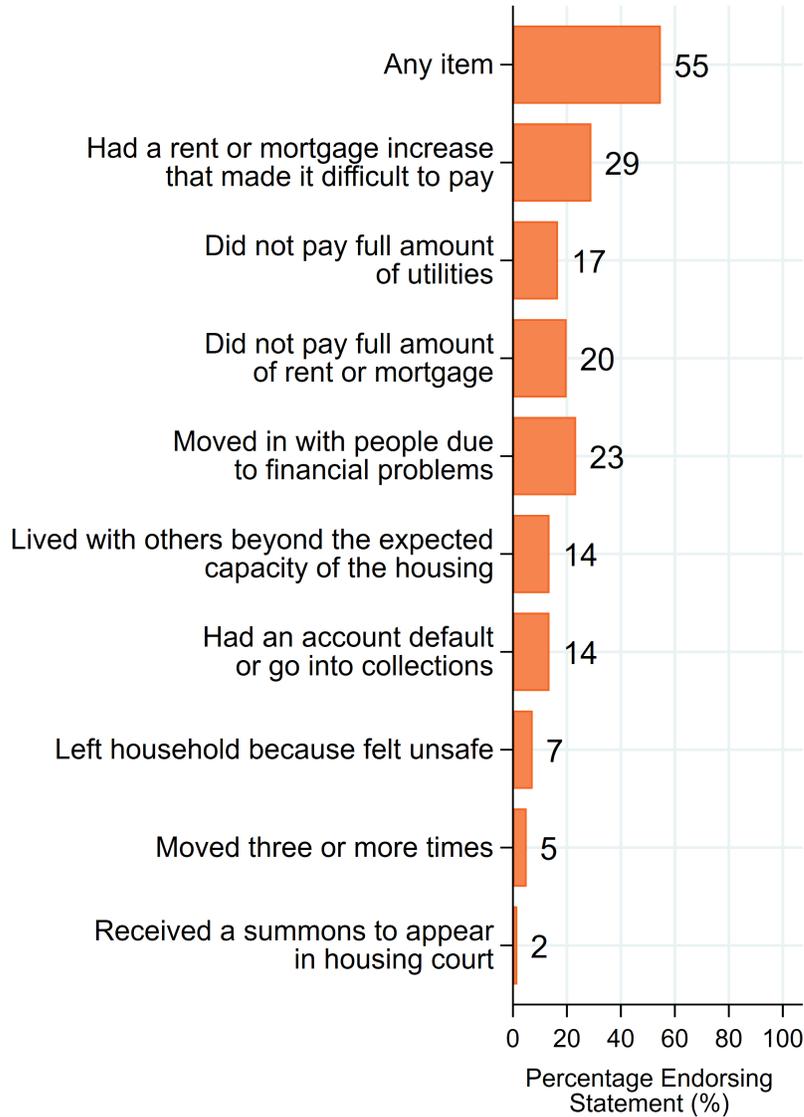
Source: 2018 #RealCollege Survey

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 Denver? As displayed below, 55% of survey respondents are housing insecure (Figure 3).

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



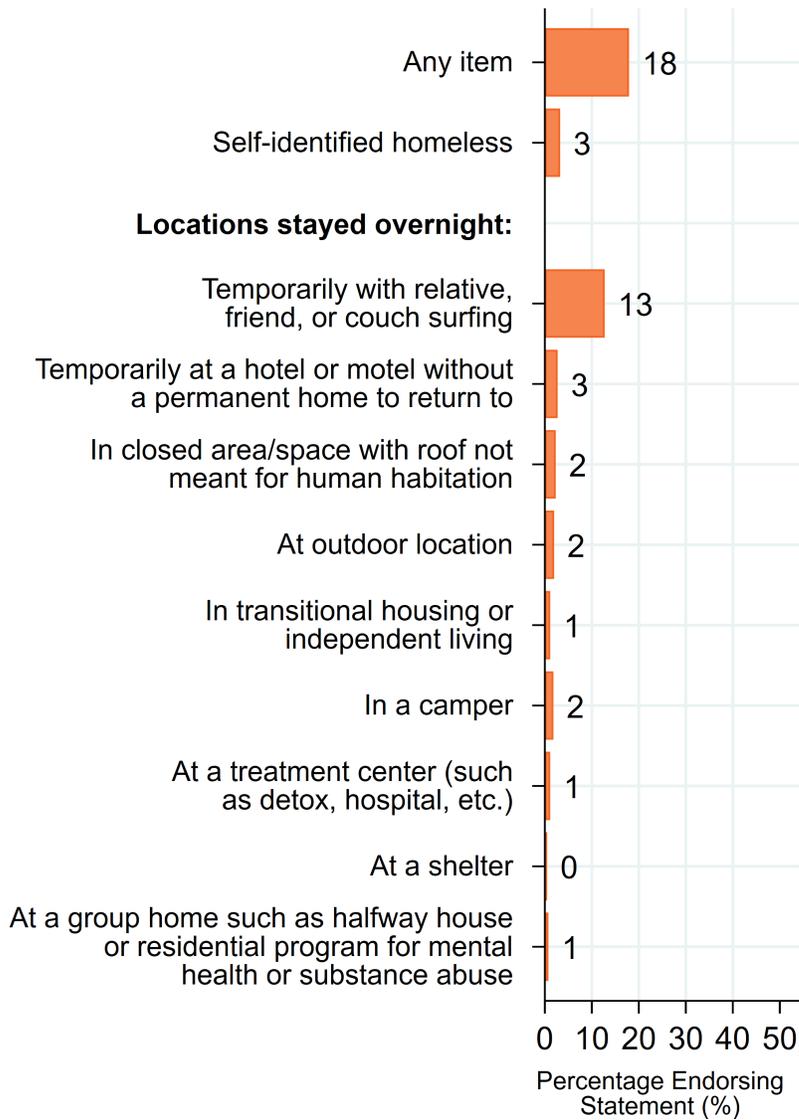
Source: 2018 #RealCollege Survey

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

Figure 4. Homelessness Among Survey Respondents at Participating Denver Colleges

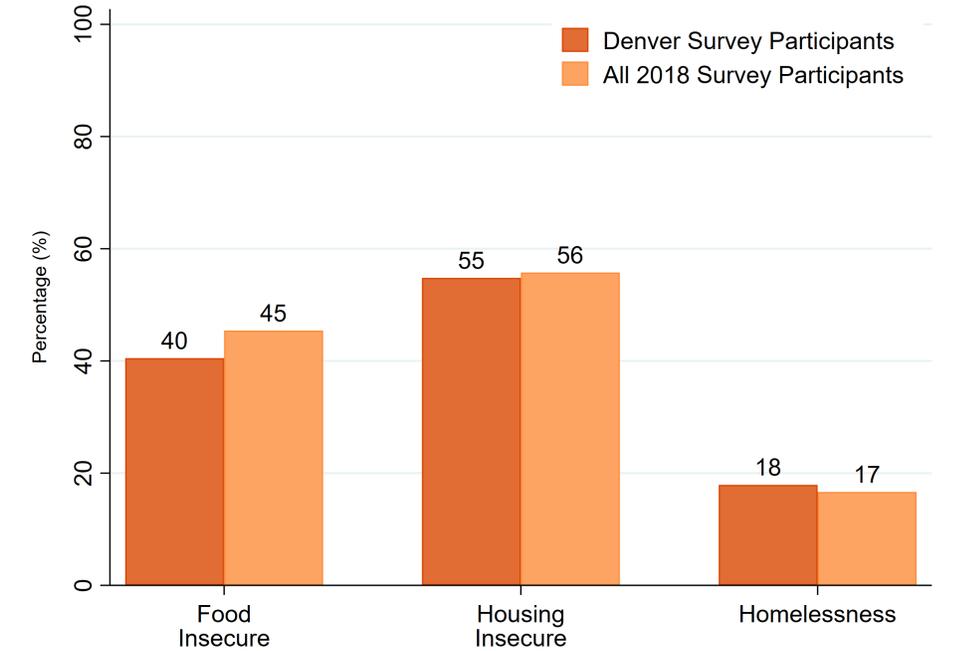


Source: 2018 #RealCollege Survey

COMPARISON

In comparison to the rates for all survey participants across the nation in 2018, respondents at participating colleges in Denver 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

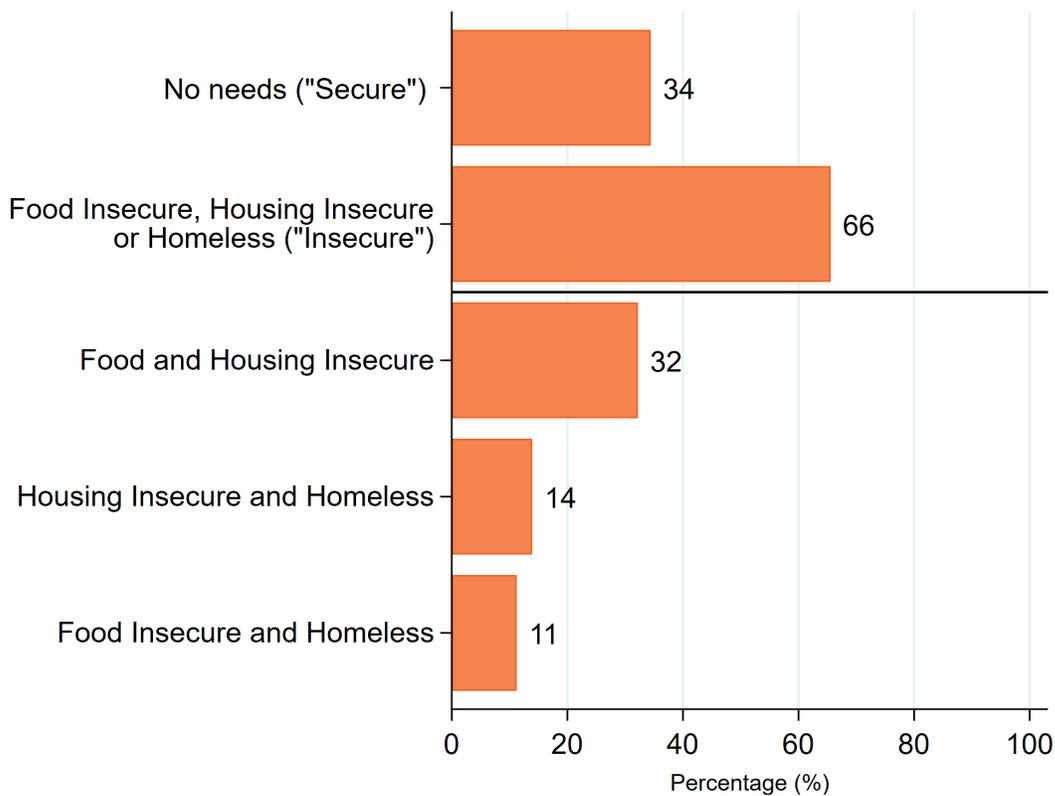


Source: 2018 #RealCollege Survey

OVERLAPPING CHALLENGES

Food insecurity, housing insecurity, and homelessness are overlapping concerns, with 66% of students at participating colleges in Denver 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 Denver 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 Denver Colleges

	Number of Students	Food Insecurity (%)	Housing Insecurity (%)	Homelessness (%)
GENDER ORIENTATION				
Male	670	37	48	19
Female	1,815	41	57	17
Transgender	17	53	71	35
Other	47	64	72	36

SEXUAL ORIENTATION				
Heterosexual or straight	1,947	38	52	17
Gay or lesbian	132	44	62	23
Bisexual	306	52	66	20
Other	121	47	66	27
RACIAL OR ETHNIC BACKGROUND				
White or Caucasian	1,599	37	53	18
African American or Black	173	52	64	23
Hispanic or Latinx	556	46	58	14
American Indian or Alaskan Native	69	54	67	26
Middle Eastern or North African or Arab or Arab American	48	52	50	21
Southeast Asian	98	33	40	14
Pacific Islander or Native Hawaiian	29	52	59	28
Other Asian or Asian American	153	37	50	18
Other	75	55	71	28
Prefers not to answer	58	64	79	38
STUDENT IS A U.S. CITIZEN OR PERMANENT RESIDENT				
Yes	2,369	41	55	18
No	110	33	50	25
Prefers not to answer	33	52	58	27
HIGHEST LEVEL OF PARENTAL EDUCATION				
No high school diploma	241	45	59	15
High school diploma	356	48	58	21
Some college	706	50	65	20

Bachelors degree	1,188	31	47	16
Does not know	31	35	55	29
AGE				
18 to 20	753	35	37	16
21 to 25	859	44	61	21
26 to 30	428	44	70	18
Older than 30	466	39	59	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 Participating Denver Colleges

	Number of Students	Food Insecurity (%)	Housing Insecurity (%)	Homelessness (%)
COLLEGE ENROLLMENT STATUS				
Full-time (at least 12 credits)	1,981	40	53	18
Part-time (fewer than 12 credits)	659	42	62	17
YEARS IN COLLEGE				
Less than 1	518	36	43	15
1 to 2	543	42	52	20
3 or more	947	46	62	18
DEPENDENCY STATUS				
Dependent	1,032	36	45	17
Independent	1,470	43	62	19
STUDENT RECEIVES THE PELL GRANT				
Yes	944	53	65	22
No	1,698	34	49	16
STUDENT HAS CHILDREN				
Yes	439	48	62	18
No	2,203	39	53	18
RELATIONSHIP STATUS				

Single	1,190	40	51	19
In a relationship	855	46	61	20
Married or domestic partnership	431	30	51	10
Divorced	36	50	86	33
Widowed
STUDENT HAS BEEN IN FOSTER CARE				
Yes	44	68	82	32
No	2,476	40	54	18
STUDENT HAS BEEN IN MILITARY				
Yes	116	39	59	30
No	2,398	40	55	17
EMPLOYMENT STATUS				
Employed	1,910	43	59	18
Not employed, looking for work	250	36	46	20
Not employed, not looking for work	367	27	39	13
STUDENT HAS BEEN CONVICTED OF A CRIME				
Yes	88	61	82	40
No	2,485	40	54	17
DISABILITY OR MEDICAL CONDITION				
Learning disability (dyslexia, etc.)	184	55	65	26
Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)	264	55	67	28
Autism spectrum disorder	37	65	70	35
Physical disability (speech, sight, mobility, hearing, etc.)	118	48	67	30
Chronic illness (asthma, diabetes, etc.)	345	50	65	21

autoimmune disorder, cancer, etc.)				
Psychological disorder (depression, anxiety, etc.)	968	51	66	22
Other	89	44	64	27
No disability or medical condition	1,255	33	46	15

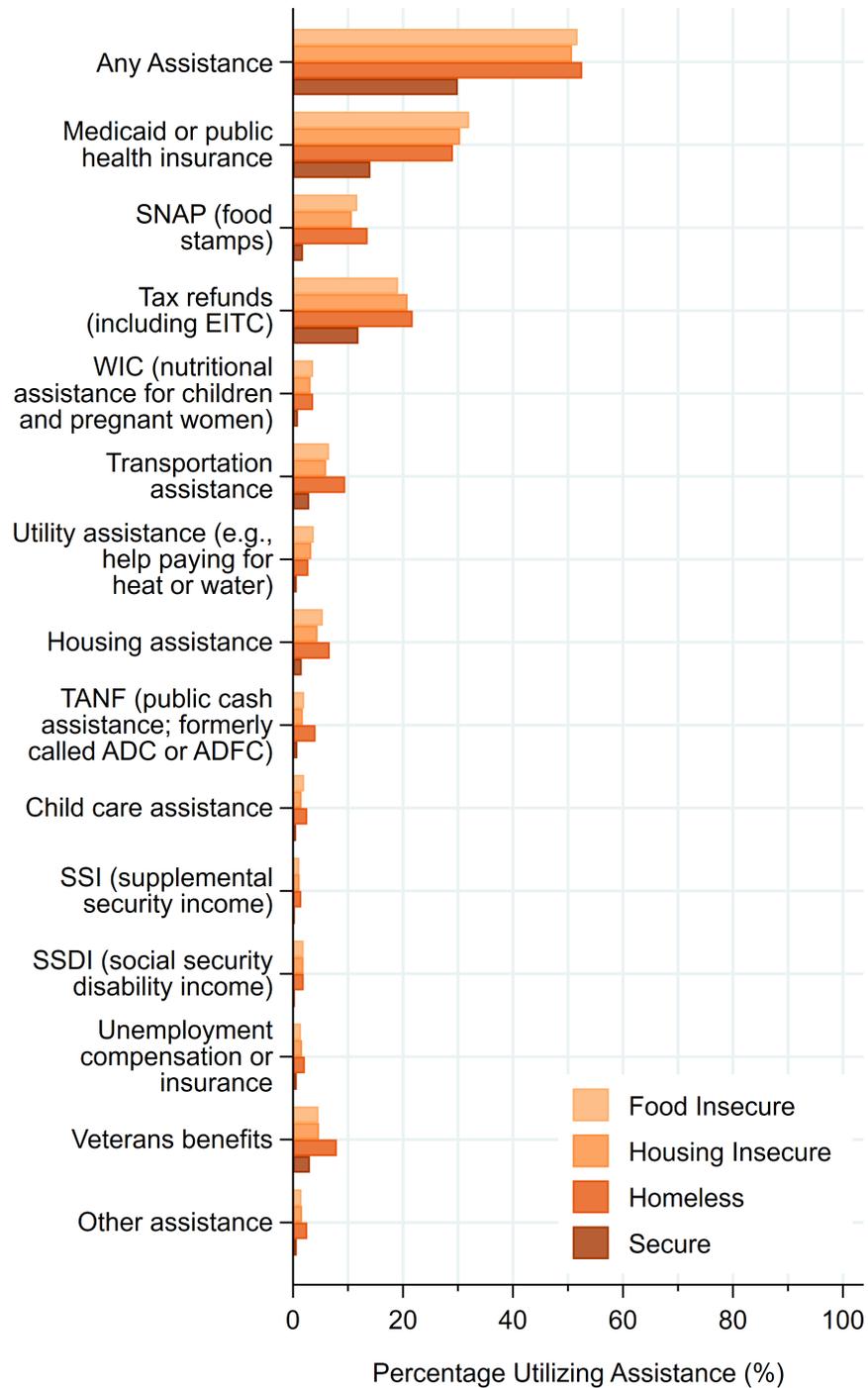
Source: 2018 #RealCollege Survey

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 Denver who experience basic needs insecurity do not receive public assistance (Figure 7). Among food insecure students, 12% receive SNAP benefits. In addition, 7% 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 (30%) than their peers.

Figure 7. Use of Assistance Among Survey Respondents at Participating Denver 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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