

EMBARGOED UNTIL FEB. 12, 2020



# 2019 #RealCollege Survey Report

## Institution Report

January 2020



HOPE4COLLEGE.COM

**EMBARGOED UNTIL FEB. 12, 2020**

## **2019 #REALCOLLEGE SURVEY RESULTS**

### **INSTITUTION REPORT FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF PHILADELPHIA**

**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 15,100 students from Community College of Philadelphia and 896 students participated. Thus, the estimated response rate is 5.9%.

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

52% 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

\* 71% of students at Community College of Philadelphia 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.

\* 36% of food insecure students utilize SNAP benefits and 5% 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)).*

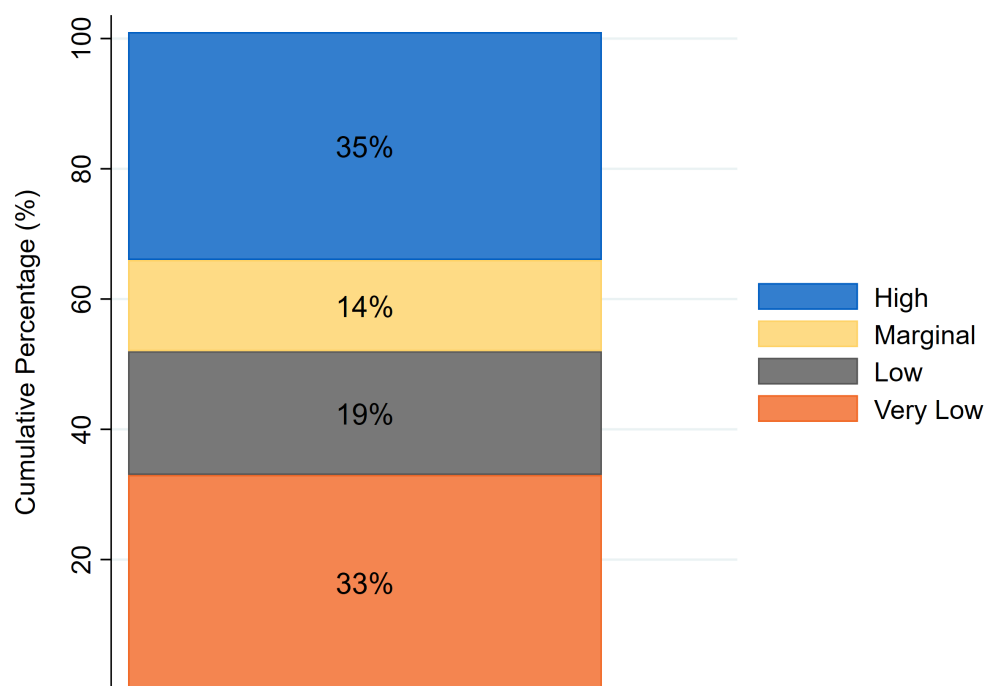
## PREVALENCE OF BASIC NEEDS INSECURITY

### 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 52% of survey respondents at Community College of Philadelphia experienced low or very low levels of food security (Figure 1). Moreover, 53% of survey respondents cannot afford to eat balanced meals and 53% worry about running out of food before they have money to buy more.

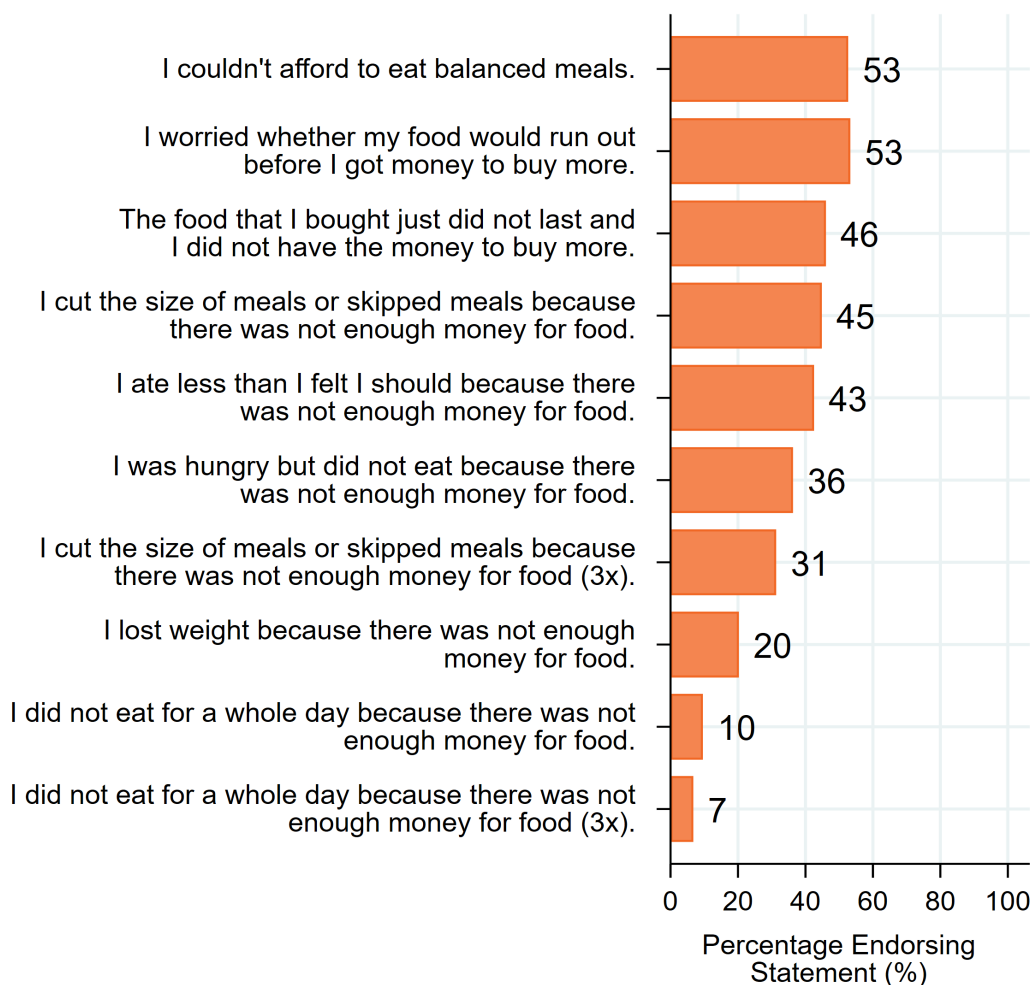
**Figure 1. Food Security Among Survey Respondents at Community College of Philadelphia**



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 Community College of Philadelphia**



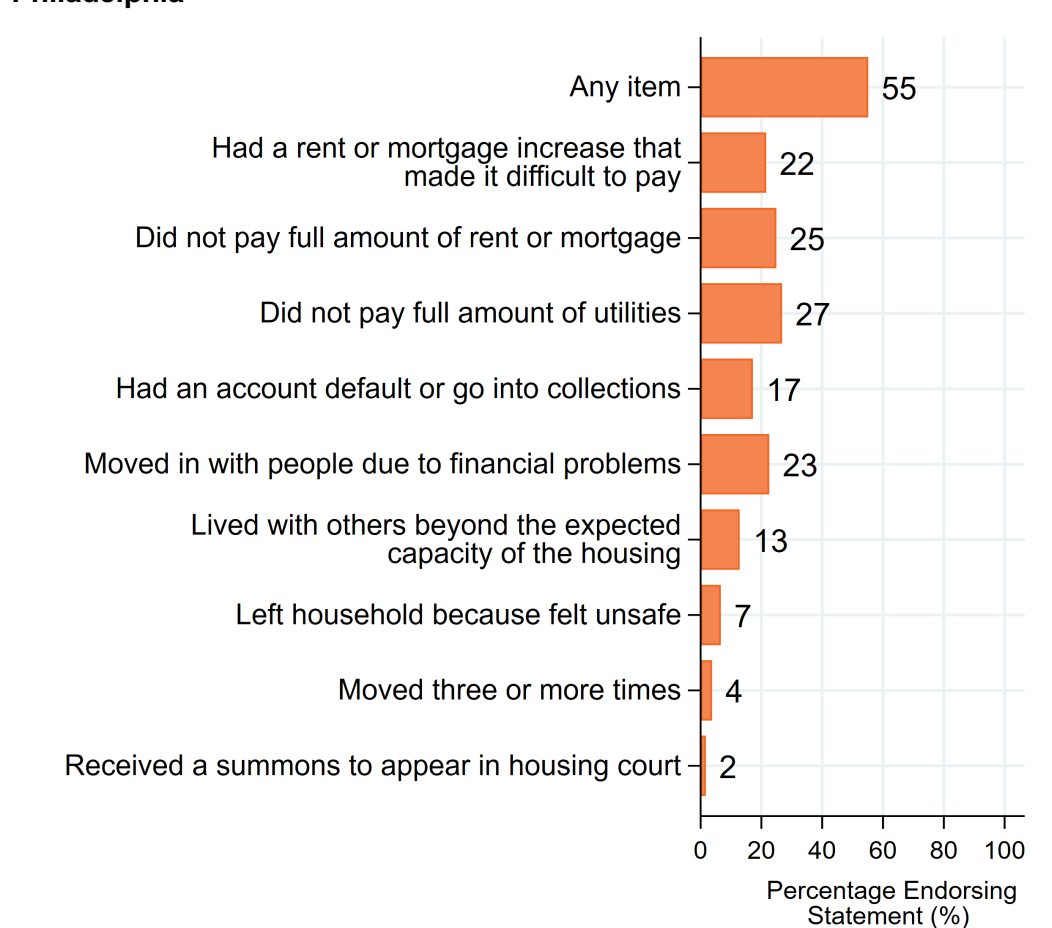
Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey

## 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 Community College of Philadelphia? As displayed below, 55% of survey respondents are housing insecure (Figure 3).

**Figure 3. Housing Insecurity Among Survey Respondents at Community College of Philadelphia**



Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey

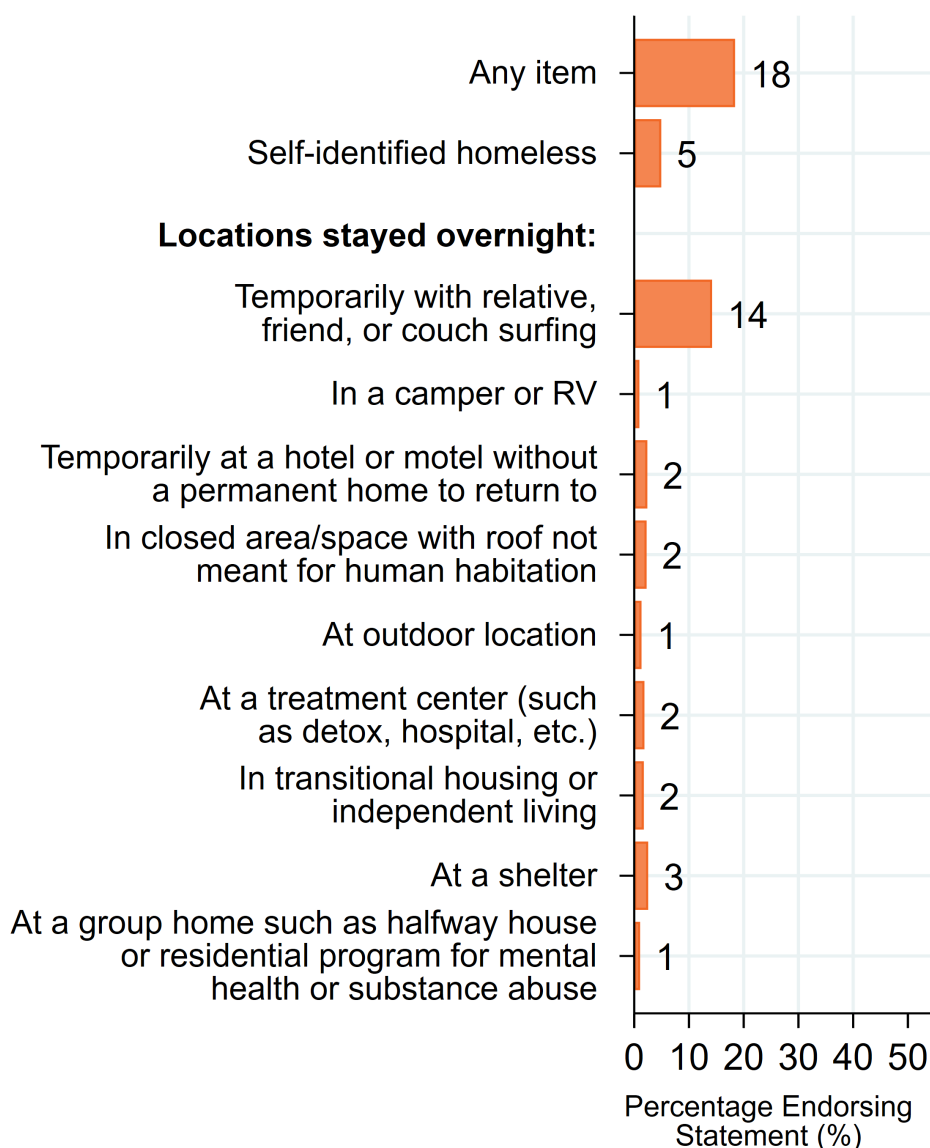
## Homelessness

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

**Figure 4. Homelessness Among Survey Respondents at Community College of Philadelphia**

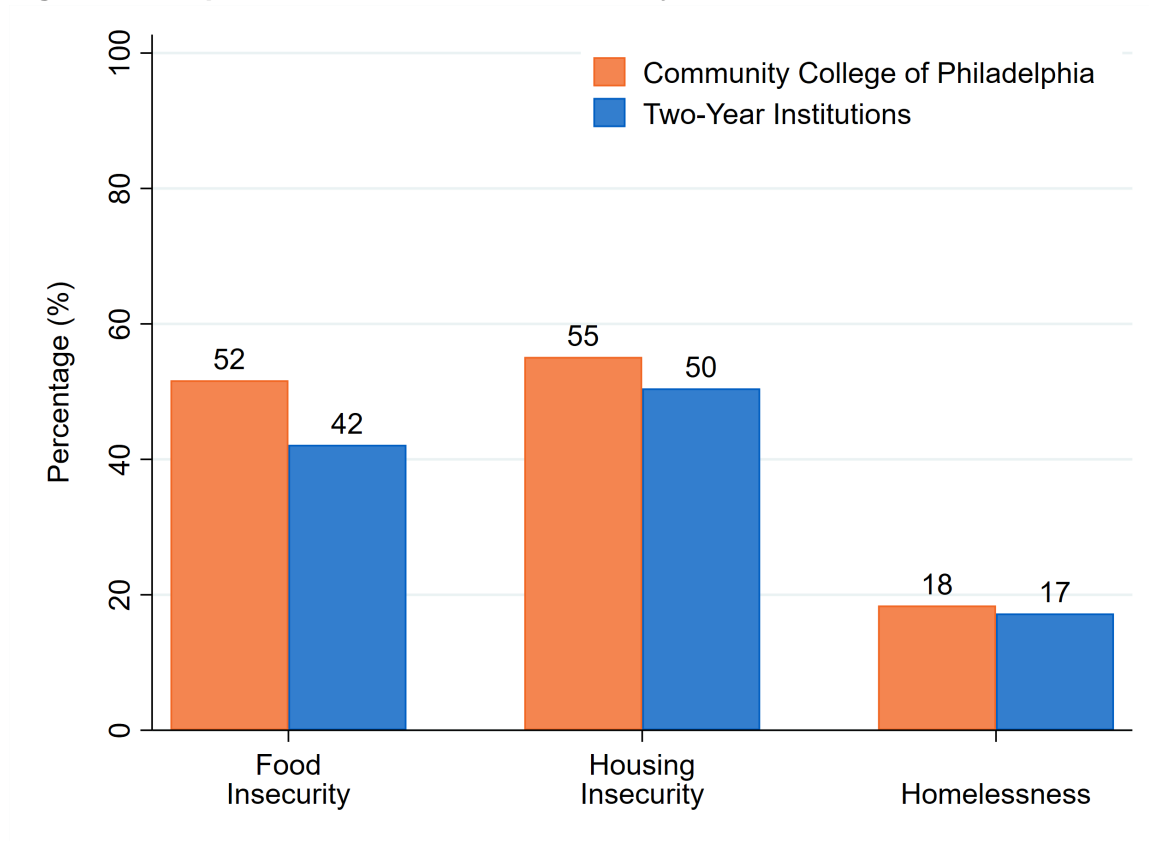


Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey

## **COMPARISON TO SURVEY RESPONDENTS ATTENDING TWO-YEAR INSTITUTIONS**

In comparison to the rates for all survey respondents at two-year institutions nationwide in 2019, Community College of Philadelphia has a higher 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**

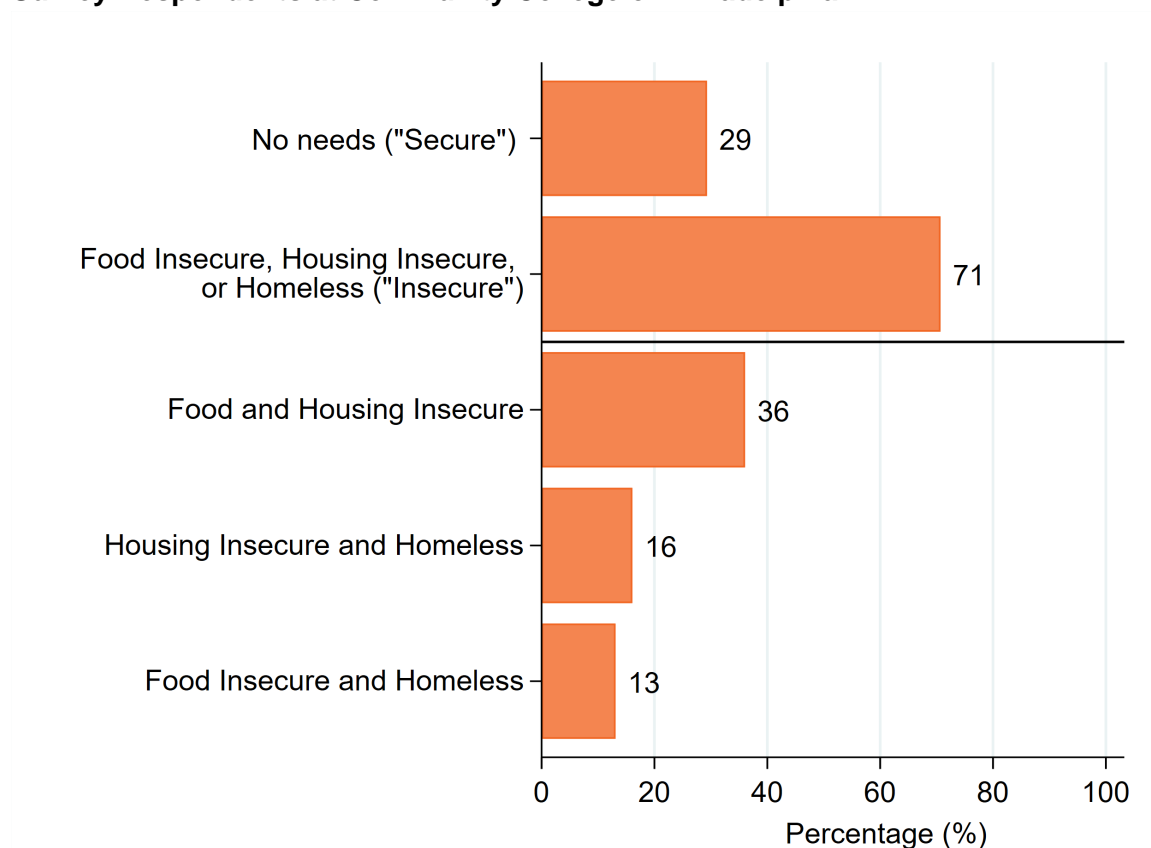


*Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey*

## **OVERLAPPING CHALLENGES**

Food insecurity, housing insecurity, and homelessness are overlapping concerns, with 71% of students at Community College of Philadelphia 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 Community College of Philadelphia**



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 at Community College of Philadelphia**

	<b>Number of Students</b>	<b>Food Insecurity (%)</b>	<b>Housing Insecurity (%)</b>	<b>Homelessness (%)</b>
<b>GENDER IDENTITY</b>				
Male	163	52	53	21
Female	493	52	55	17
Non-Binary/Third gender	10	70	70	30
Prefers to self-describe	.	.	.	.
<b>TRANSGENDER IDENTITY</b>				
Identifies as transgender	.	.	.	.
Does not identify as transgender	651	52	54	18
<b>SEXUAL ORIENTATION</b>				
Heterosexual or straight	500	50	54	17
Gay or lesbian	28	57	54	18
Bisexual	73	54	58	19
Prefers to self-describe	30	73	63	47
<b>HIGHEST LEVEL OF PARENTAL EDUCATION</b>				
No high school diploma	74	58	54	22
High school diploma	187	49	56	18
Some college	242	57	62	20
Bachelors degree or higher	134	44	40	16
Does not know	28	68	54	14

*Table continued on next page.*

**Table 1 (continued). Demographic Disparities in Rates of Basic Needs Insecurity Among Survey Respondents at Community College of Philadelphia**

	Number of Students	Food Insecurity (%)	Housing Insecurity (%)	Homelessness (%)
<b>RACIAL OR ETHNIC BACKGROUND</b>				
White or Caucasian	189	43	53	16
African American or Black	316	56	58	17
Hispanic or Latinx	101	60	56	19
American Indian or Alaskan Native	23	57	61	17
Indigenous	.	.	.	.
Middle Eastern or North African or Arab or Arab American	19	32	42	21
Southeast Asian	42	49	40	21
Pacific Islander or Native Hawaiian	.	.	.	.
Other Asian or Asian American	53	45	38	17
Other	32	44	53	31
<b>STUDENT IS A U.S. CITIZEN OR PERMANENT RESIDENT</b>				
Yes	632	53	56	18
No	29	41	34	24
<b>AGE</b>				
18 to 20	235	49	34	17
21 to 25	169	56	61	23
26 to 30	107	58	70	20
Older than 30	150	51	69	14
<b>STUDENT IS AN ATHLETE</b>				
Yes	.	.	.	.
No	657	52	54	18

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.

**By Student Academic, Economic, and Life Experiences**

**Table 2. Rates of Basic Needs Insecurity by Student Life Experiences Among Survey Respondents at Community College of Philadelphia**

	<b>Number of Students</b>	<b>Food Insecurity (%)</b>	<b>Housing Insecurity (%)</b>	<b>Homelessness (%)</b>
<b>LEVEL OF STUDY</b>				
Undergraduate	635	51	54	18
Graduate	72	58	60	22
Non-degree	62	53	56	19
<b>COLLEGE ENROLLMENT STATUS</b>				
Full-time (at least 12 credits)	445	55	50	19
Part-time (fewer than 12 credits)	324	47	62	17
<b>YEARS IN COLLEGE</b>				
Less than 1	309	49	49	21
1 to 2	288	56	52	16
3 or more	174	50	71	18
<b>DEPENDENCY STATUS</b>				
Dependent	142	56	47	20
Independent	405	53	63	18
Does not know	112	48	33	17
<b>STUDENT RECEIVES THE PELL GRANT</b>				
Yes	470	57	57	17
No	231	42	52	19
<b>RELATIONSHIP STATUS</b>				
Single	378	57	52	21
In a relationship	179	51	60	17
Married or domestic partnership	77	32	58	8
Divorced	11	64	73	27
Widowed	.	.	.	.

*Table continued on next page.*

**Table 2 (continued). Rates of Basic Needs Insecurity by Student Life Experiences Among Survey Respondents at Community College of Philadelphia**

	Number of Students	Food Insecurity (%)	Housing Insecurity (%)	Homelessness (%)
<b>STUDENT HAS CHILDREN</b>				
Yes	157	57	72	14
No	583	50	50	20
<b>STUDENT HAS BEEN IN FOSTER CARE</b>				
Yes	34	76	74	50
No	629	51	53	17
<b>STUDENT HAS BEEN IN MILITARY</b>				
Yes	16	56	63	31
No	647	52	55	18
<b>EMPLOYMENT STATUS</b>				
Employed	198	53	62	19
Not employed, looking for work	57	50	49	26
Not employed, not looking for work	60	33	43	10
<b>STUDENT HAS BEEN CONVICTED OF A CRIME</b>				
Yes	29	55	69	34
No	660	52	54	17
<b>DISABILITY OR MEDICAL CONDITION</b>				
Learning disability	82	62	67	24
Physical disability	52	65	73	17
Chronic illness	124	61	59	19
Psychological disorder	212	62	62	25
Other disability or condition	17	47	65	24
No disability or medical condition	337	47	47	13

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.

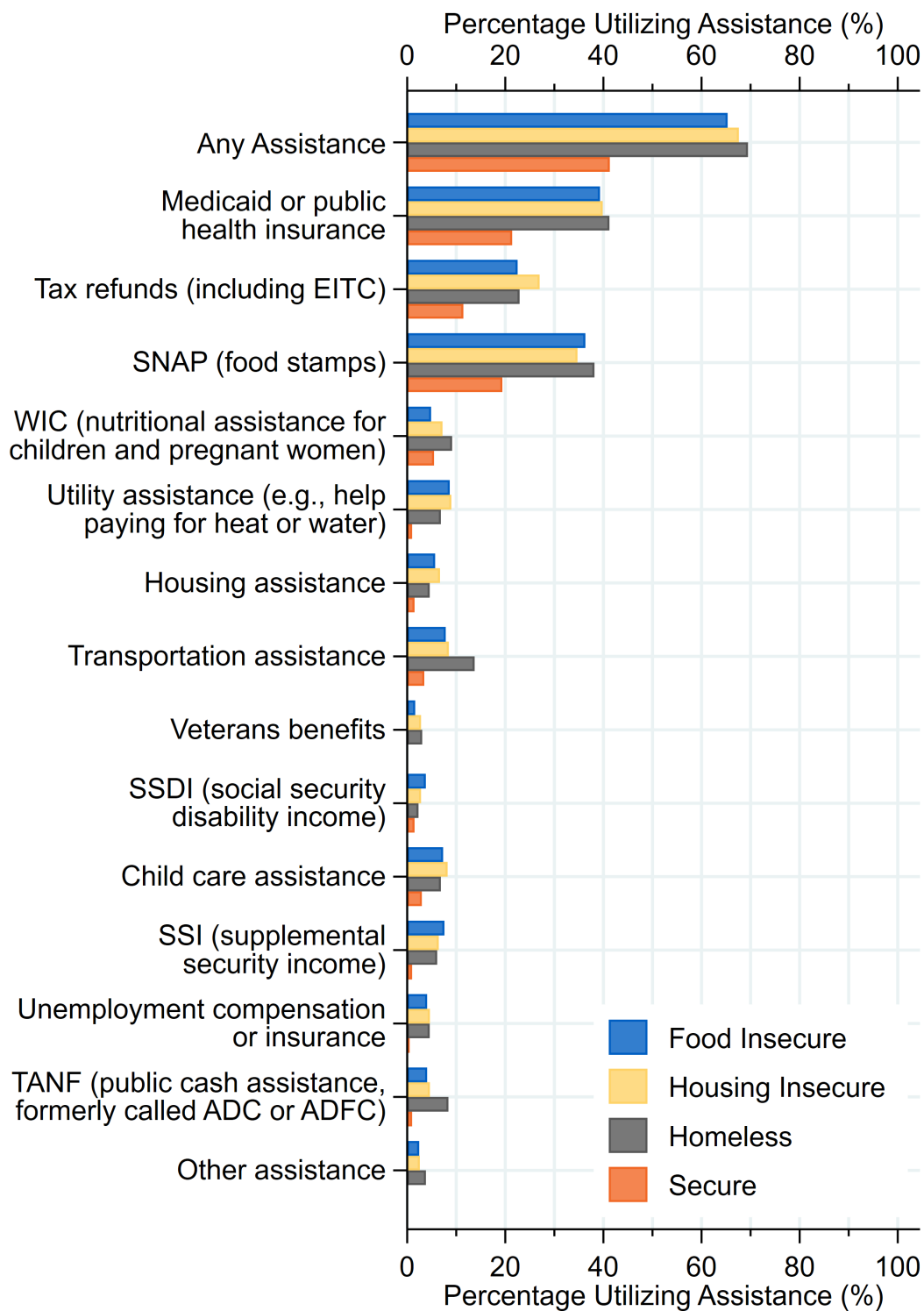
## **UTILIZATION OF SUPPORTS**

Many students at Community College of Philadelphia who experience basic needs insecurity do not receive public assistance (Figure 7). Among food insecure students, 36% receive SNAP benefits. In addition, 5% 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 (41%) 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 Community College of Philadelphia, only about 15% use on-campus supports.

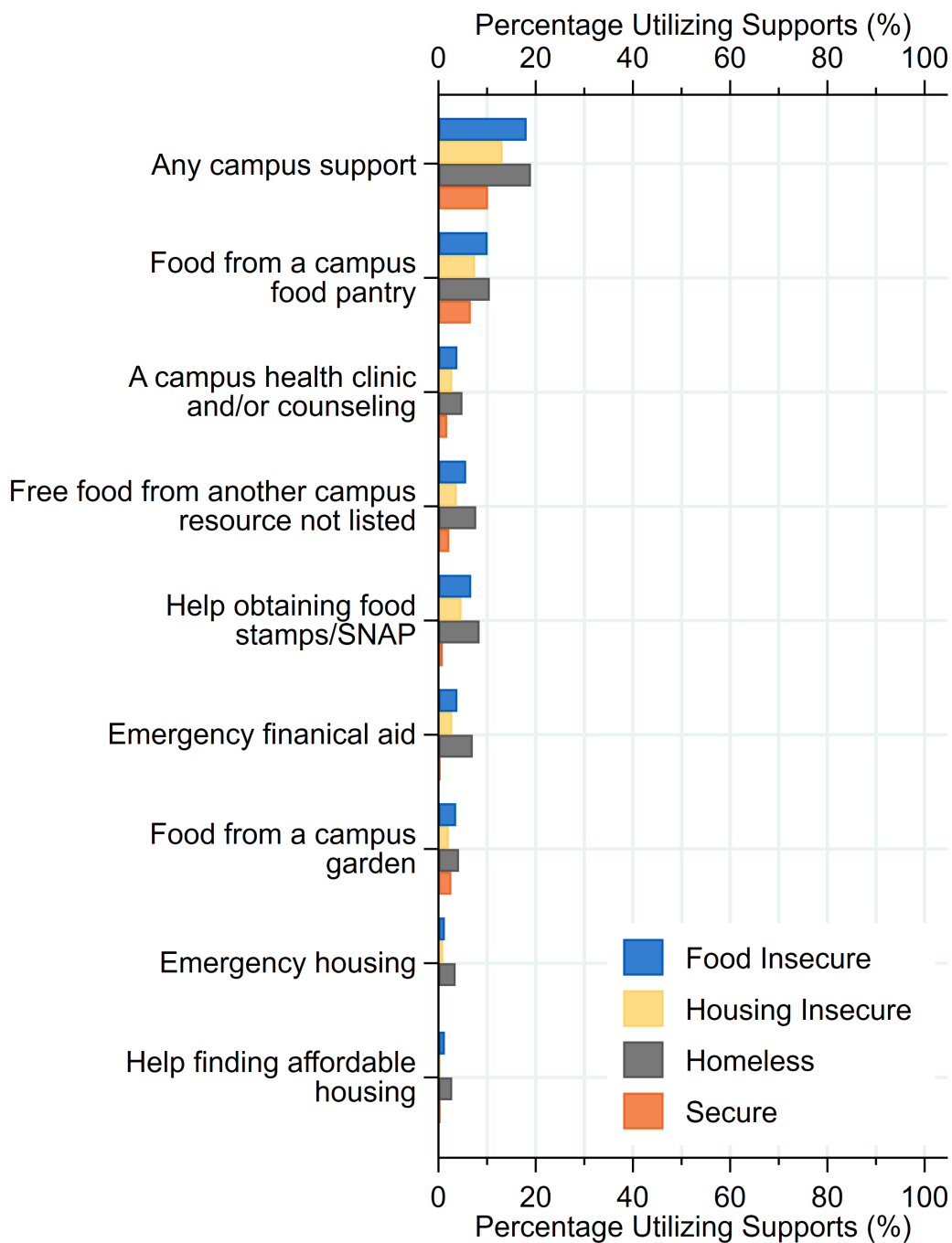


**Figure 7. Use of Assistance Among Survey Respondents at Community College of Philadelphia According to Basic Needs Security**



Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey

**Figure 8. Use of Campus Supports Among Survey Respondents at Community College of Philadelphia According to Basic Needs Security**



Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey



## 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).

