



2019 #RealCollege Survey Report

Institution Report

May 2020



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

2019 #REALCOLLEGE SURVEY RESULTS

INSTITUTION REPORT FOR WALLA WALLA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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

May 2020 (Update)

OVERVIEW

* Invitations to complete the questionnaire were sent by email to approximately 3,900 students from Walla Walla Community College and 137 students participated. Thus, the estimated response rate is 3.5%.

* **Overall Basic Needs Insecurity Rates:**

- 44% of respondents experienced food insecurity in the prior 30 days
- 59% of respondents experienced housing insecurity in the previous year
- 19% of respondents experienced homelessness in the previous year

* 67% of students at Walla Walla Community College 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.

* 46% of food insecure students utilize SNAP benefits and 22% 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).

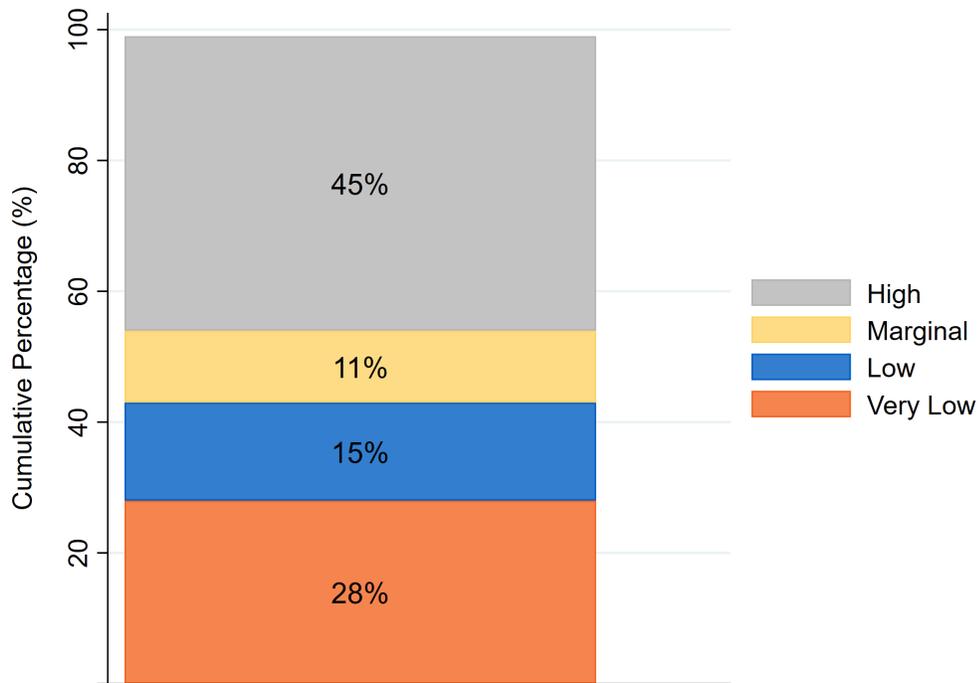
PREVALENCE OF BASIC NEEDS INSECURITY

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 44% of survey respondents at Walla Walla Community College experienced low or very low levels of food security (Figure 1). Moreover, 47% of survey respondents cannot afford to eat balanced meals and 48% worry about running out of food before they have money to buy more (Figure 2).

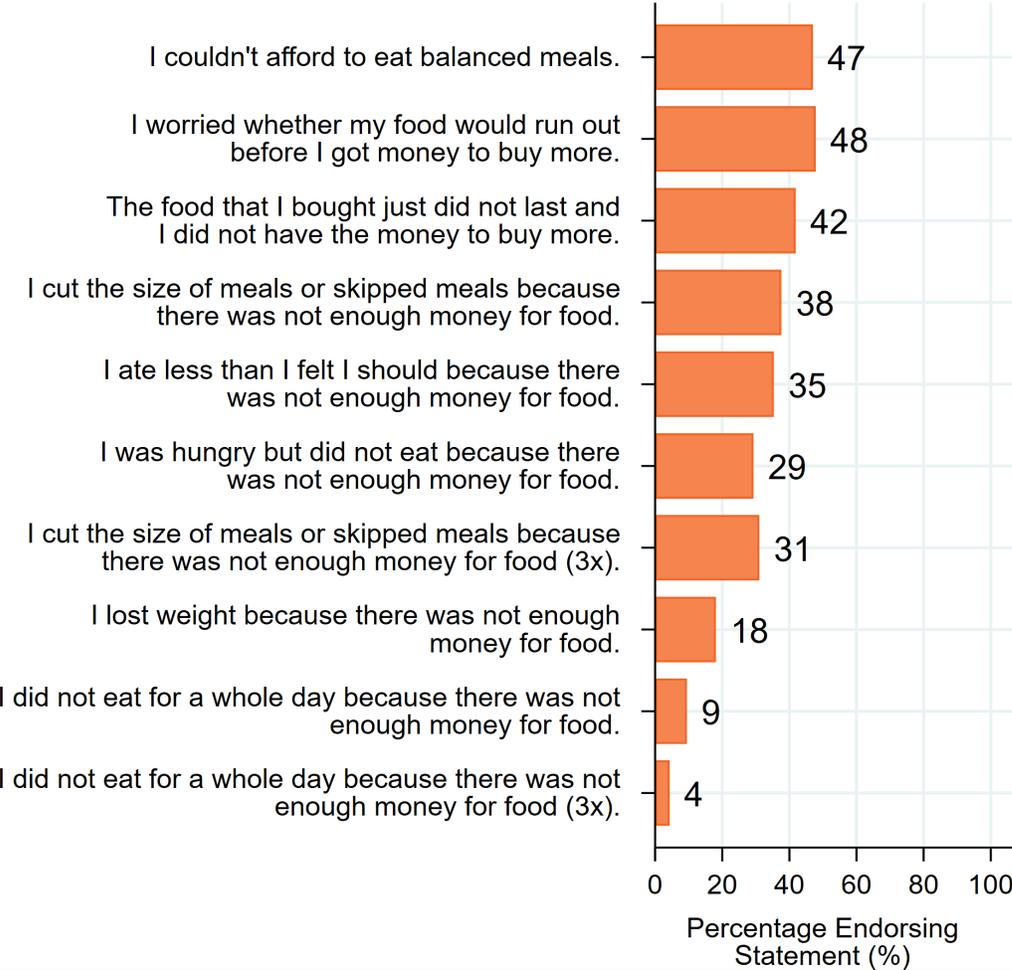
Figure 1. Food Security Among Survey Respondents at Walla Walla Community College



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 at Walla Walla Community College



Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey
 Notes: This figure has been amended from the original release.

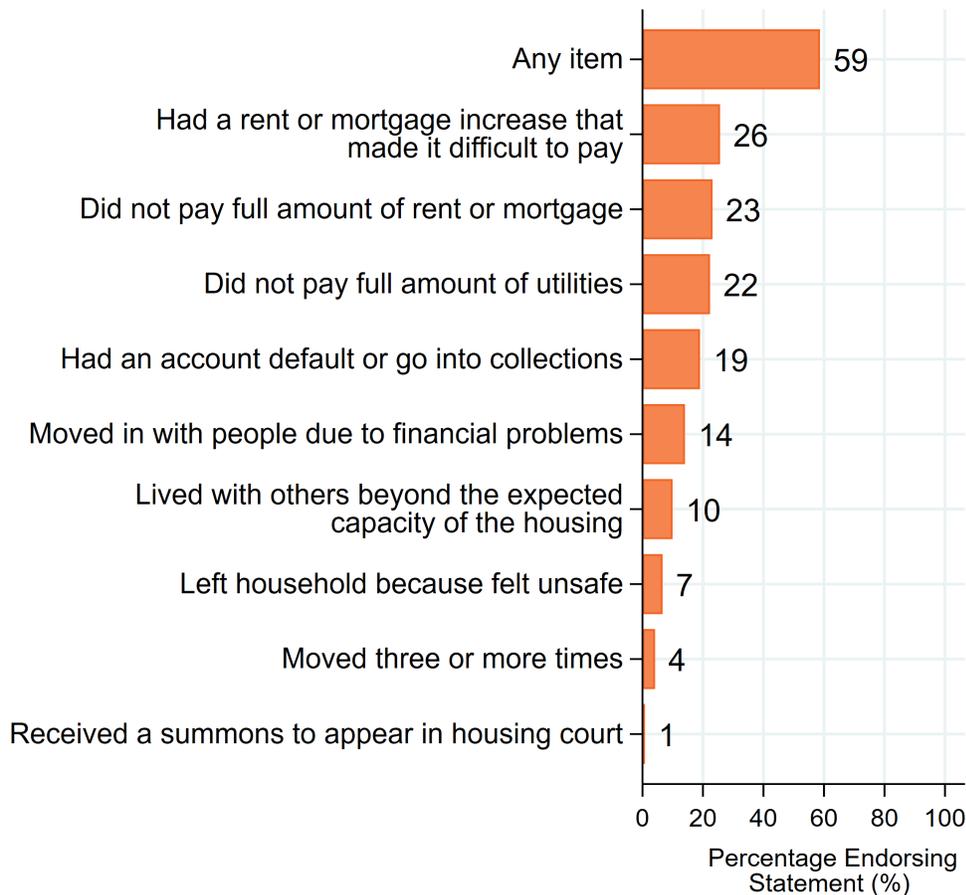
Housing Insecurity

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 Walla Walla Community College? As displayed below, 59% of survey respondents are housing insecure (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Housing Insecurity Among Survey Respondents at Walla Walla Community College



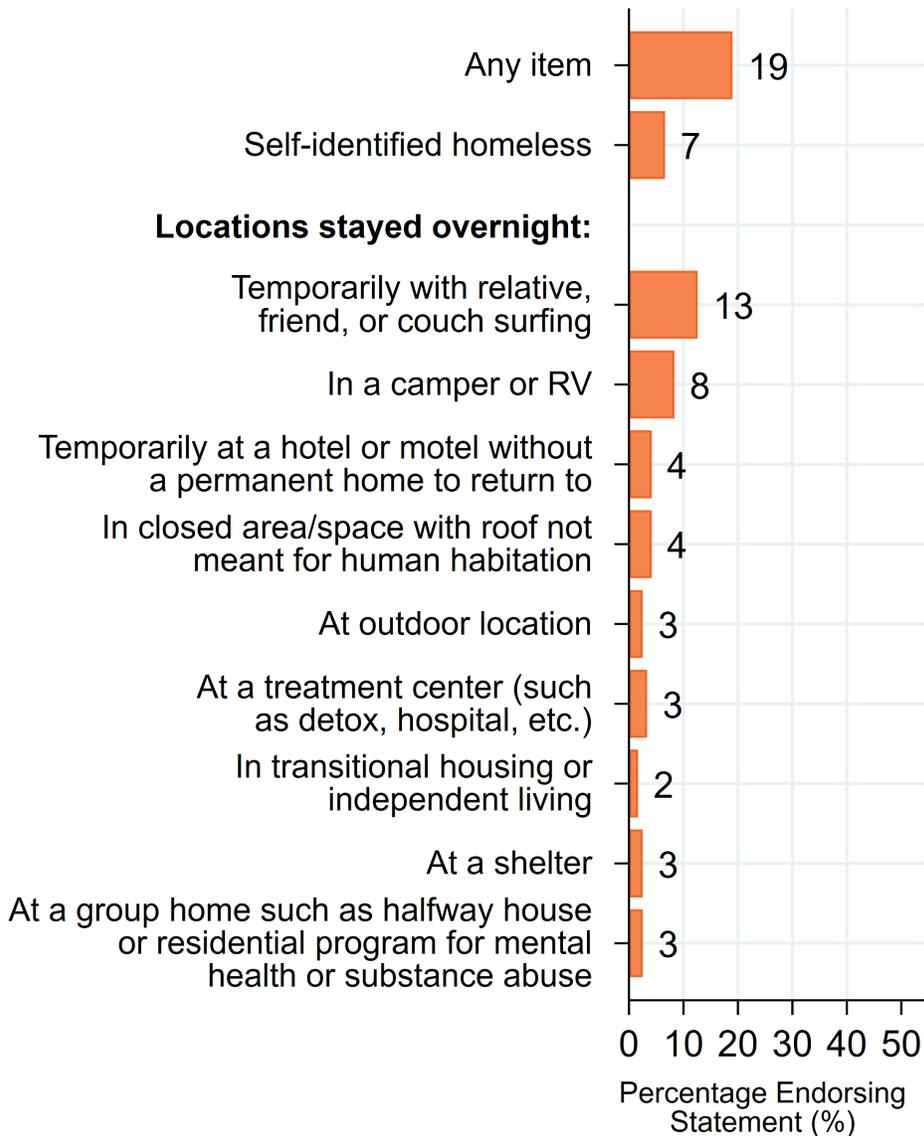
Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey

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 Walla Walla Community College? As displayed below, 19% of survey respondents experience homelessness (Figure 4).

Figure 4. Homelessness Among Survey Respondents at Walla Walla Community College

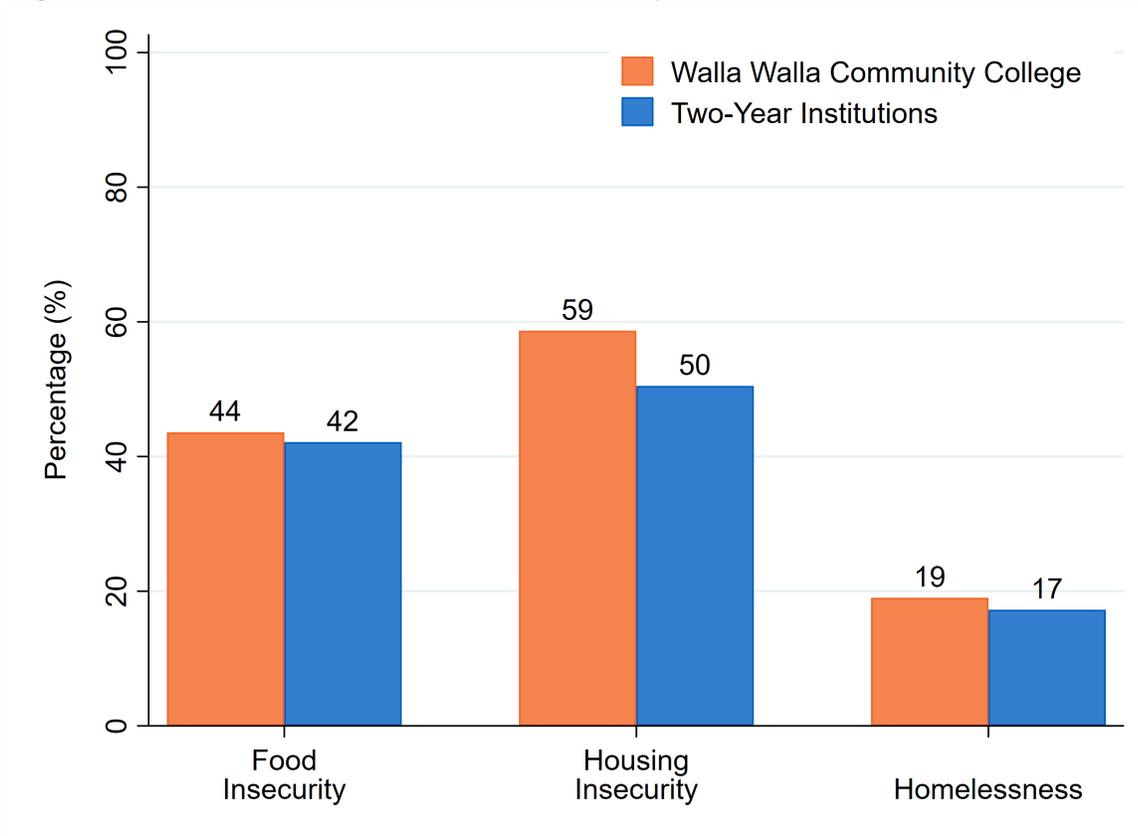


Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey

COMPARISON TO SURVEY RESPONDENTS ATTENDING TWO-YEAR INSTITUTIONS

In comparison to the rates for all survey respondents at two-year institutions nationwide in 2019, Walla Walla Community College 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

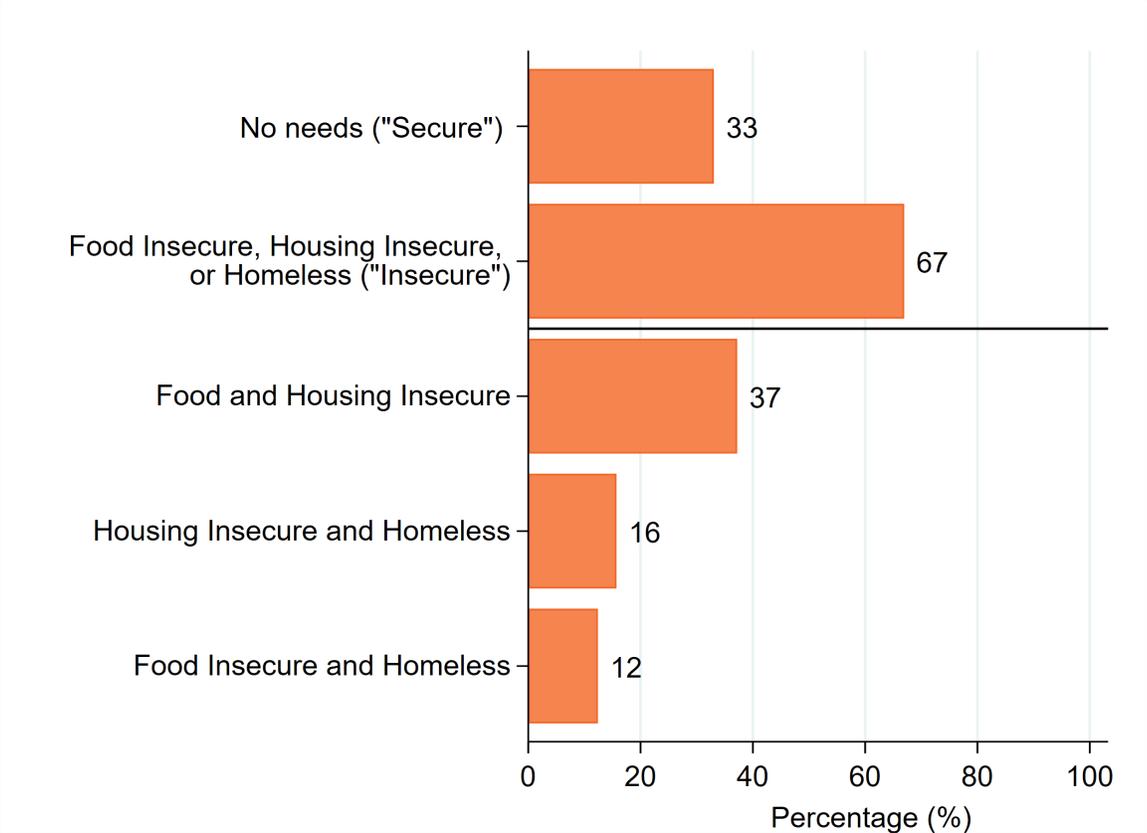


Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey

OVERLAPPING CHALLENGES

Food insecurity, housing insecurity, and homelessness are overlapping concerns, with 67% of students at Walla Walla Community College 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 Walla Walla Community College



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 Walla Walla Community College

	Number of Students	Food Insecurity (%)	Housing Insecurity (%)	Homelessness (%)
GENDER IDENTITY				
Male	28	54	68	32
Female	82	40	55	17
Non-Binary/Third gender	.	.	.	.
Prefers to self-describe	.	.	.	.
TRANSGENDER IDENTITY				
Identifies as transgender	.	.	.	.
Does not identify as transgender	109	44	58	21
SEXUAL ORIENTATION				
Heterosexual or straight	91	43	57	23
Gay or lesbian	.	.	.	.
Bisexual	15	40	60	13
Prefers to self-describe	.	.	.	.
HIGHEST LEVEL OF PARENTAL EDUCATION				
No high school diploma	18	61	72	22
High school diploma	16	44	56	25
Some college	45	53	58	22
Bachelors degree or higher	30	17	50	17
Does not know	.	.	.	.

Table continued on next page.

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

	Number of Students	Food Insecurity (%)	Housing Insecurity (%)	Homelessness (%)
RACIAL OR ETHNIC BACKGROUND				
White or Caucasian	92	42	54	20
African American or Black	.	.	.	.
Hispanic or Latinx	23	57	78	30
American Indian or Alaska Native	.	.	.	.
Indigenous	.	.	.	.
Middle Eastern or North African or Arab or Arab American	.	.	.	.
Southeast Asian	.	.	.	.
Pacific Islander or Native Hawaiian	.	.	.	.
Other Asian or Asian American	.	.	.	.
Other	.	.	.	.
STUDENT IS A U.S. CITIZEN OR PERMANENT RESIDENT				
Yes	108	43	56	19
No	.	.	.	.
AGE				
18 to 20	37	32	46	19
21 to 25	18	50	67	39
26 to 30	15	67	67	33
Older than 30	37	46	68	11
STUDENT IS AN ATHLETE				
Yes	.	.	.	.
No	108	44	59	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 at Walla Walla Community College

	Number of Students	Food Insecurity (%)	Housing Insecurity (%)	Homelessness (%)
LEVEL OF STUDY				
Undergraduate	67	45	67	27
Graduate	29	41	55	10
Non-degree	24	39	38	4
COLLEGE ENROLLMENT STATUS				
Full-time (at least 12 credits)	96	47	60	20
Part-time (fewer than 12 credits)	25	29	52	16
YEARS IN COLLEGE				
Less than 1	45	36	42	18
1 to 2	53	56	75	21
3 or more	23	29	52	17
DEPENDENCY STATUS				
Dependent	30	27	43	17
Independent	74	50	65	22
Does not know	.	.	.	.
STUDENT RECEIVES THE PELL GRANT				
Yes	61	49	64	23
No	46	39	54	13
RELATIONSHIP STATUS				
Single	47	34	51	17
In a relationship	39	54	64	31
Married or domestic partnership	15	33	53	13
Divorced	.	.	.	.
Widowed	.	.	.	.

Table continued on next page.

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

	Number of Students	Food Insecurity (%)	Housing Insecurity (%)	Homelessness (%)
STUDENT HAS CHILDREN				
Yes	35	54	71	17
No	81	38	52	21
STUDENT HAS BEEN IN FOSTER CARE				
Yes	.	.	.	.
No	104	42	56	21
STUDENT HAS BEEN IN MILITARY				
Yes	.	.	.	.
No	102	41	56	20
EMPLOYMENT STATUS				
Employed	34	45	68	26
Not employed, looking for work	.	.	.	.
Not employed, not looking for work	.	.	.	.
STUDENT HAS BEEN CONVICTED OF A CRIME				
Yes	13	69	54	23
No	99	39	59	19
DISABILITY OR MEDICAL CONDITION				
Learning disability	10	30	50	10
Physical disability	14	43	64	21
Chronic illness	17	47	65	35
Psychological disorder	52	56	79	23
Other disability or condition	.	.	.	.
No disability or medical condition	45	38	42	20

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.

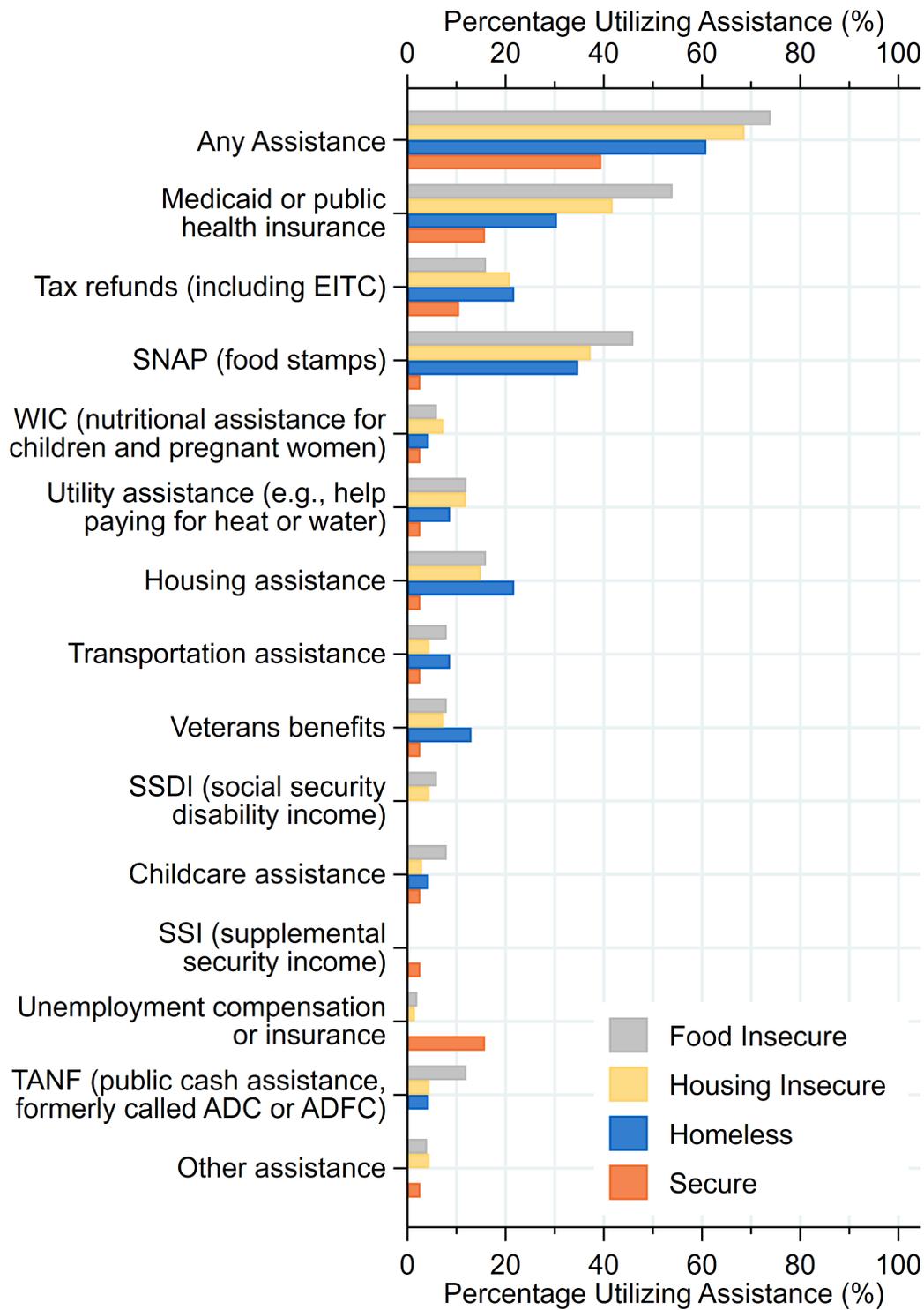
UTILIZATION OF SUPPORTS

Many students at Walla Walla Community College who experience basic needs insecurity do not receive public assistance (Figure 7). Among food insecure students, 46% receive SNAP benefits. In addition, 22% 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 (39%) 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 at Walla Walla Community College, only about 50% use on-campus supports.

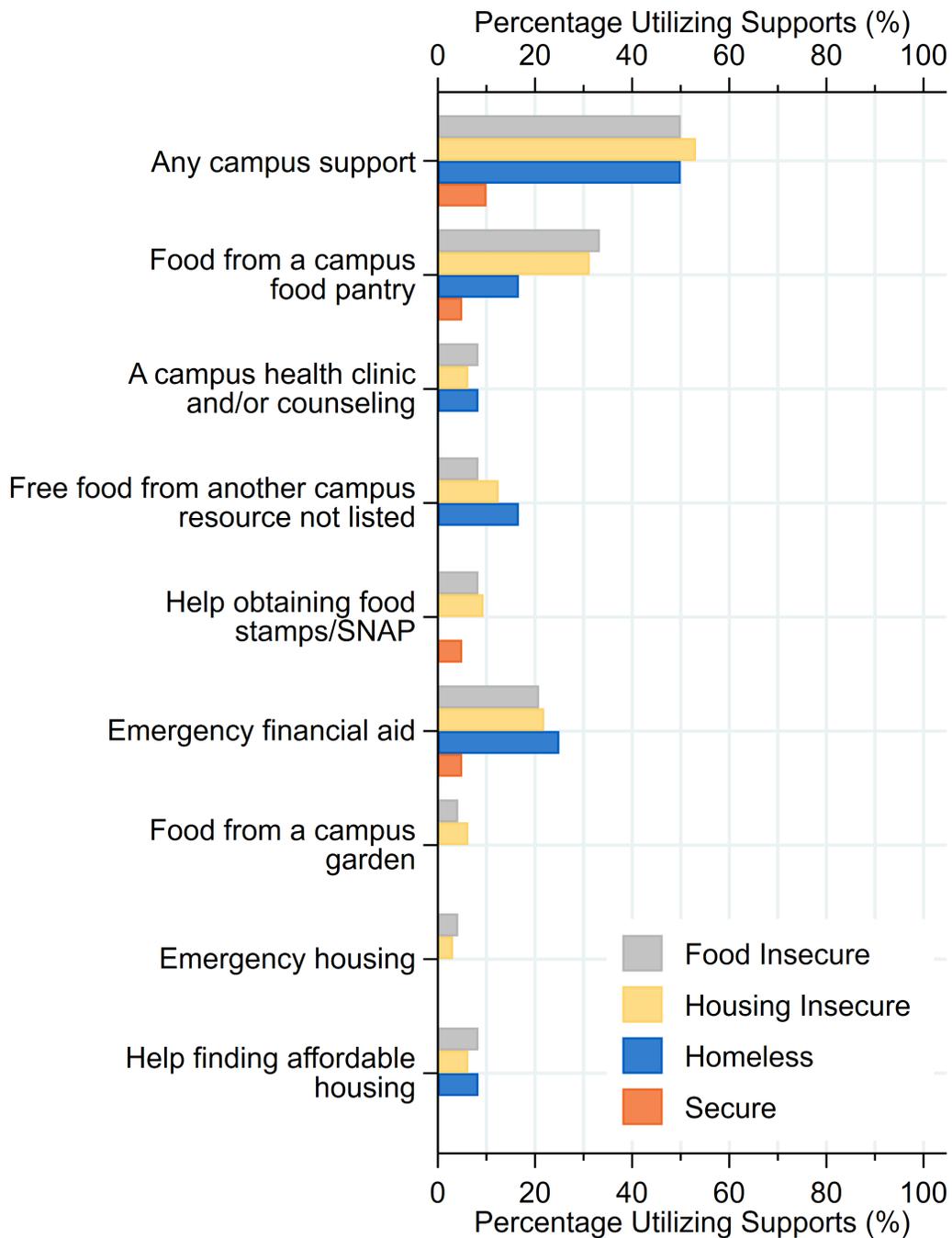


Figure 7. Use of Assistance Among Survey Respondents at Walla Walla Community College According to Basic Needs Security



Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey

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



Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey

Note: This figure has been amended from the original release. Survey questions about campus supports were administered to a subset of randomly selected respondents. Results for subgroups with fewer than 10 respondents are not shown in the figure above.

TRANSPORTATION & CHILDCARE

TRANSPORTATION

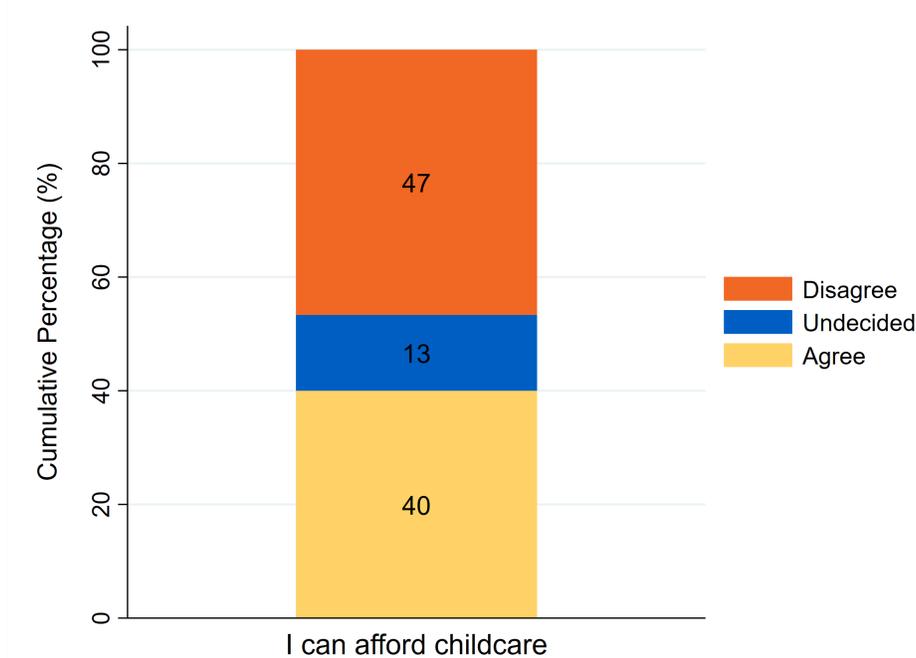
Survey questions on transportation issues were administered to a subset of randomly selected respondents. Results were omitted from this section if fewer than 10 respondents reported using public transit.

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.

At Walla Walla Community College, 30% of survey respondents were parenting students and among those parenting students, 43% said that they need, use, or plan to use childcare (not shown). However, just 40% of parenting students who need or use childcare say they can afford the associated costs (Figure 9).

Figure 9. Childcare Affordability Among Respondents at Walla Walla Community College Who Need, Use, or Plan to Use Childcare



Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey

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.

