Affordability, Food, and Housing Access Taskforce Report

REAL COLLEGE CALIFORNIA: BASIC NEEDS AMONG CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS

September 2023

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Executive Summary

The RealCollege survey, the nation's largest annual assessment of basic needs security among college students, was last comprehensively reported for California Community Colleges in a 2019[1] report. In spring 2023, The Research and Planning Group for California Community Colleges (The RP Group) partnered with the CEO Affordability, Food & Housing Access Taskforce of the Community College League of California (CCLC) to assist in survey data collection efforts and provide updated data trends regarding California Community College (CCC) students' food and housing security. Over 66,000 students from 88 California Community Colleges responded to the survey, revealing that **two out of every three CCC students grapple with at least one basic needs insecurity. Nearly half of CCC students are food insecure, almost 3 out of 5 are housing insecure, and about 1 in 4 are homeless.**

On the positive side, food insecurity rates have declined slightly since 2019 (from 50% to 47%), with reductions likely related to the concentrated efforts by colleges to tackle food insecurity (via food pantries, food distribution days, etc.). Further, students with food insecurity in 2023 were nearly twice as likely to receive CalFresh monthly food benefits as in 2019, known federally as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which may be attributed to colleges providing increased awareness of available resources and hands-on application assistance. However, housing issues remain a constant challenge. While housing insecurity rates are slightly lower than pre-pandemic, the increases in homelessness signal that students who were previously labeled as housing insecure may have reached a new level of insecurity.

The rates of basic needs insecurity vary considerably across different student demographic groups, with insecurities highest among African American/Black and American Indian/Alaskan Native students, LGBTQ+ students (notably transgender students), and

students previously convicted of a crime. Further, while not previously assessed, basic needs insecurity rates are much higher among single parents. When compared to the previous survey administration, transgender students, students formerly in foster care, students who have served in the military, and students on the autism spectrum have seen a dramatic rise in basic needs insecurities since 2019, further reinforcing persistent inequities.

The ability for students to meet their most basic needs connects directly to academic success. For instance, the current survey shows that the proportion of students reporting non-passing college grades experiencing basic needs insecurities is 20-25 percentage points higher than students earning As and Bs.

Student success in higher education is crucial to the health of California, its regional economies, and addressing the persistent income and wealth inequality across race and geography. Understanding and finding equity-based solutions to students' housing and food insecurities in the nation's largest higher education system is critical to ensuring a thriving California.
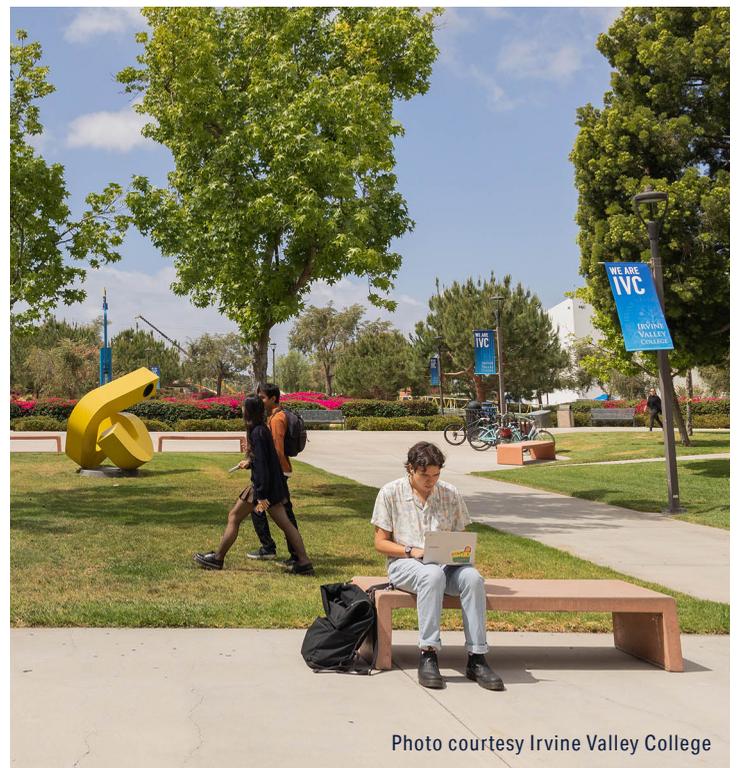
Photo courtesy Irvine Valley College

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[1] The 2019 report includes a combination of data from two survey administrations – one in 2016 and another much larger administration in 2018, though the majority of information in that report comes from the 2018 administration.
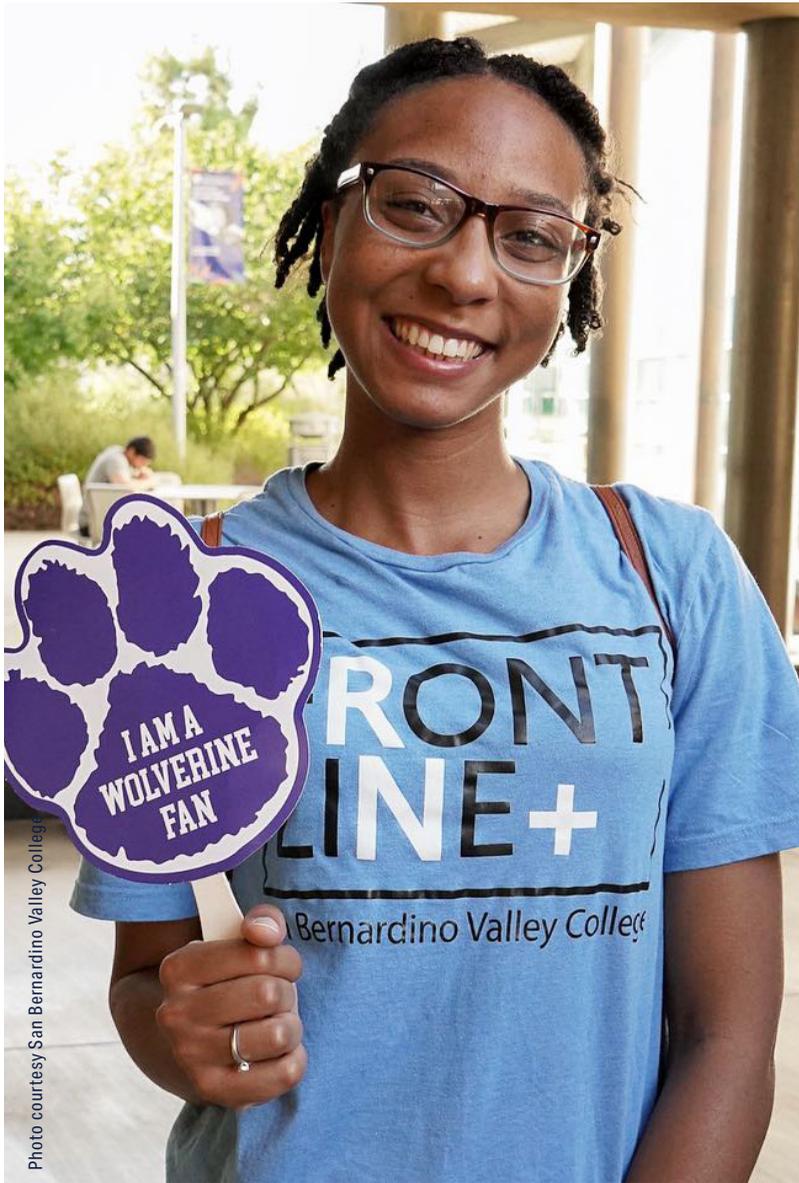
Photo courtesy San Bernardino Valley College

Introduction

Before one can be expected to succeed in an academic setting, it is imperative that one's basic needs are being met. The lack of stability in access to food, housing, and other critical resources presents a serious barrier to the success of college students, while assisting students in meeting their basic needs offers a key lever for promoting their long-term academic success.[2] The RealCollege survey is the nation's largest assessment of basic needs security among college students and specifically evaluates access to affordable food and housing. In 2019, The Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice, in collaboration with the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office reported on survey results from nearly 40,000 students across 57 colleges in the California Community College system collected in the fall of 2016 and the fall of 2018.[3] Findings from that report revealed that half of the respondents reported food insecurity in the 30 days prior to taking the survey, and 60% reporting housing insecurity, with nearly 20% experiencing homelessness in the previous year.

In 2018, the Chief Executive Officers of the California Community Colleges (CEOCCC) established the CEO Affordability, Food & Housing Access Taskforce. The role of the Taskforce is to provide the latest evidence, integrated with hands-on guidance, and inform policy implementation to increase institutional effectiveness and strengthen California's ecosystems to support students' basic needs and promote college completion. As an ongoing effort to continue documenting and addressing California community college students' basic needs, the Taskforce partnered with The Research and Planning Group for California Community Colleges (The RP Group) to re-administer the RealCollege survey in spring 2023. This report presents findings from the most recent survey administration and draws comparisons to the previous survey administration.

[2]Goldrick-Rab, S. (2018). Addressing Community College Completion Rates by Securing Students' Basic Needs. Homeless and Hungry on Campus. New Diirectors for Community Colleges, 184, 7-16.

[3]Goldrick-Rab, S., Baker-Smith, C., Coca, V., & Looker, E. (2019). California Community Colleges #RealCollege Survey. The Hope Center.

Reader's Guide

This report is intended to provide a follow-up to the Hope Center's 2019 report,[4] presenting findings from the CEO Affordability, Food & Housing Access Taskforce's *2023 Real College California Survey on the Real Experience of College Students* at 88 California community colleges and comparing results to the 2019 report. The first section of the report describes the overall rates of basic needs insecurity across all survey respondents, as well as variations in these rates across colleges and regions. The report's second section further describes rates of basic needs insecurity by specific groups of students. The third section details associations between students' work and academic experiences and their basic needs insecurity. Finally, the fourth section reports the utilization of public assistance by students who need support.

Methodology

The majority of survey questions were drawn directly from the RealCollege Survey to assess changes in basic needs securities over time. A subset of additional demographic questions was added to enable an even more comprehensive understanding of the factors associated with basic needs insecurities among California community college students. The survey was sent to contact points at each college that expressed interest in participating in the survey administration.[5] The survey opened on March 17, 2023 and remained open until April 19, 2023. Students who chose to provide their contact information were entered into a drawing to win one of twenty $250 gift cards. Colleges were also able to offer their own incentives for participation.

Survey Sample

Results in this report are presented for 66,741 respondents[6] from 88 California Community Colleges (CCC). The average number of respondents from each college was 758, with response totals ranging from 21 to 4,923. Participation rates by college can be found in Appendix A. Generally speaking, the demographics of the survey sample paralleled those of the CCC system as a whole, with the exception that survey respondents were more likely to identify as female (CCC DataMart, Fall 2022 Sample: Table 1). A complete comparison of the demographics between the current sample and the 2019 sample can be found in Appendix B, with key differences noted here:

- Survey respondents in 2023 were more likely to be older than 30 (32%) than in 2019 (22%).

- Five percent of survey respondents in 2023 identified as transgender compared to 1% in 2019.

- The 2023 sample was not as heavily skewed in females (64%) as in 2019 (70%).

- Students in the 2023 sample were more likely to have received the Pell Grant (49%) compared to the 2019 sample (40%, both of which are higher than the statewide average of 19%).[7]

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[4] The report, which was released in early 2019, includes a combination of data from two administrations – one in fall 2016 and another much larger administration in fall 2018, though the majority of information in that report comes from the fall 2018 administration.

[5] Colleges that did not participate in this survey administration were not necessarily uninterested in assessing the basic needs of their students, but rather many were participating in alternative forms of collecting this information, either via The Hope Center's administration or their own local data collection efforts.

[6] The final data file consisted of 86,872 rows of data however the following were removed: 2,897 respondents who did not consent to participate and were therefore piped to the end of the survey; 2,725 respondents who were identified as duplicates based on the email address given. In these instances, the first response was kept while the duplicates were removed; 8,499 respondents who did not answer any question beyond the name of the college they were attending; 6,010 respondents who did not answer more than five survey questions.

[7] CCC Data Mart, 2021-2022

Table 1. Demographics of Survey Sample in 2023 vs. Statewide Demographics[8]

Demographics of Survey Sample	2023 Survey Sample	Fall 2022 Statewide
Gender Orientation		
Female	64%	54%
Male	31%	44%
Other Gender Orientation	3%	<1%
Transgender Status		
Transgender	5%	n/r
Sexual Orientation		
Bisexual	10%	n/r
Gay or lesbian	4%	n/r
Heterosexual or straight	77%	n/r
Not sure or neither heterosexual, gay, lesbian, or bisexual	8%	n/r
Racial or Ethnic Background		
African American or Black	6%	5%
American Indian or Alaskan Native	1%	<1%
Asian	12%	10%
Hispanic or Latinx	46%	50%
Middle Eastern or North African or Arab or Arab American	2%	n/a
Multi-Ethnicity	6%	4%
Other/Unknown	2%	4%
Pacific Islander or Native Hawaiian	1%	<1%
White or Caucasian	25%	23%
Age		
18 to 20	33%	35% (age <20)
21 to 25	22%	26% (age 20-24)
26 to 30	13%	11% (age 25-29)
Older than 30	32%	28% (age 30+)

[8] CCC Data Mart, Fall 2022

Results

Prevalence of Basic Needs Insecurity

More than two-thirds of California Community College student survey respondents in 2023 reported facing at least one basic needs insecurity, with 47% reporting food insecurity, 58% reporting housing insecurity, and 24% reporting having been homeless in the past year (See Figure 1).

Figure 1. Basic Needs Insecurities Among California Community College Survey Respondents in 2023

**68%
Any Insecurity**

68% Insecure

32% Secure

More than 2 out of 3
survey respondents reported
at least one basic needs insecurity

**47%
Food Insecurity**

47% Food Insecure

53% Food Secure

*Nearly half of survey
respondents reported
food insecurity*

**58%
Housing Insecurity**

58% Housing Insecure

42% Housing Secure

*3 out of 5 survey
respondents reported
housing insecurity*

**24%
Homelessness**

24% Homeless

76% Not Homeless

*1 in 4 survey
respondents reported
being homeless*

Compared to 2019, food and housing insecurity rates have declined slightly, while homelessness has increased (See Figure 2).

Figure 2. Basic Needs Insecurities Among California Community College Survey Respondents: 2023 vs. 2019
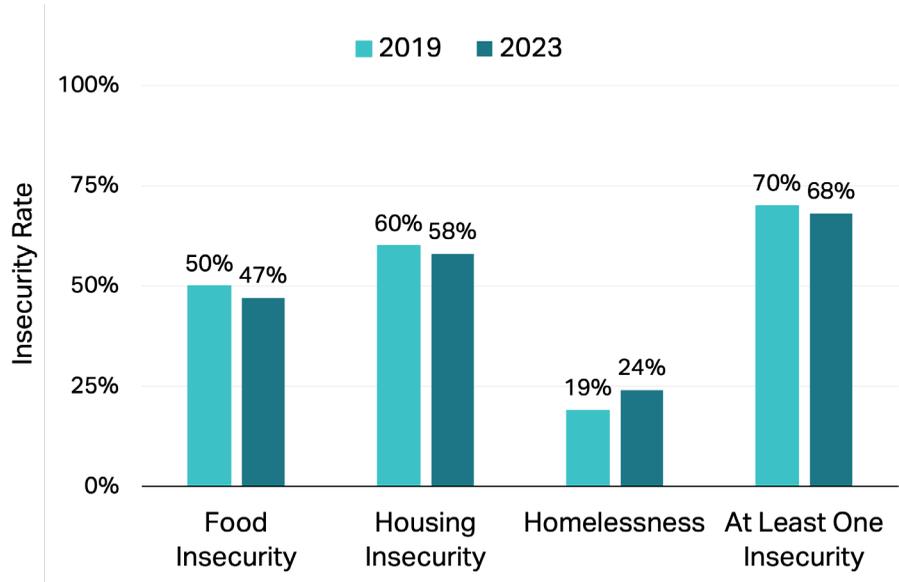
Food Insecurity

Research has documented a clear relationship between hunger and the inability to be a successful student at any age.[9] The financial strain of attending college can lead some students to choose between paying for college and paying for their next healthy meal. Food insecurity was measured using 18 survey items that ask about respondents' access to food in terms of affordability, consistency, and quality. Results revealed that **47% percent of the California community college students who responded to the survey had experienced food insecurity** (either low or very low food security: Figure 3) in the past 30 days compared to 50% in 2019 (See Appendix C).

Figure 3. Food Security Among California Community College Survey Respondents in 2023
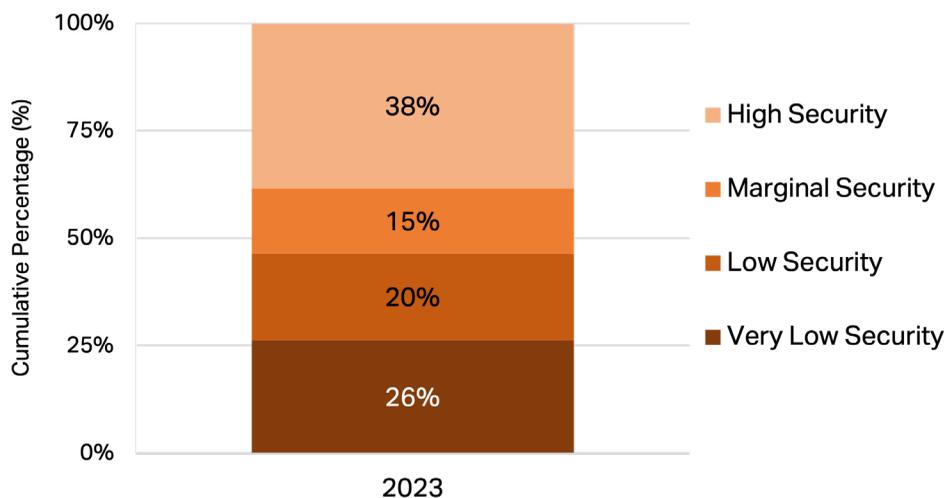
Note: The proportion of 'low' and 'very low' insecurity in this figure adds up to 46% due to rounding, whereas their sum adds up to 47% (20.4% low and 26.4% very low).

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[9]Hagedorn-Hatfield, R. L., Hood, L. B., & Hege, A. (2002). A Decade of College Student Hunger: What We Know and Where We Need to Go. Frontiers in Public Health, 10, 1-8.

Half of survey respondents in 2023 indicated that they worried their food would run out before they got money to buy more and that they could not afford to eat balanced meals. At least a third of survey respondents indicated that the food they bought did not last, they cut the size of or skipped meals because there was not enough money for food, and they ate less than they felt they should because there was not enough money for food (Figure 4).

Figure 4. Food Insecurity Among California Community College Survey Respondents in 2023
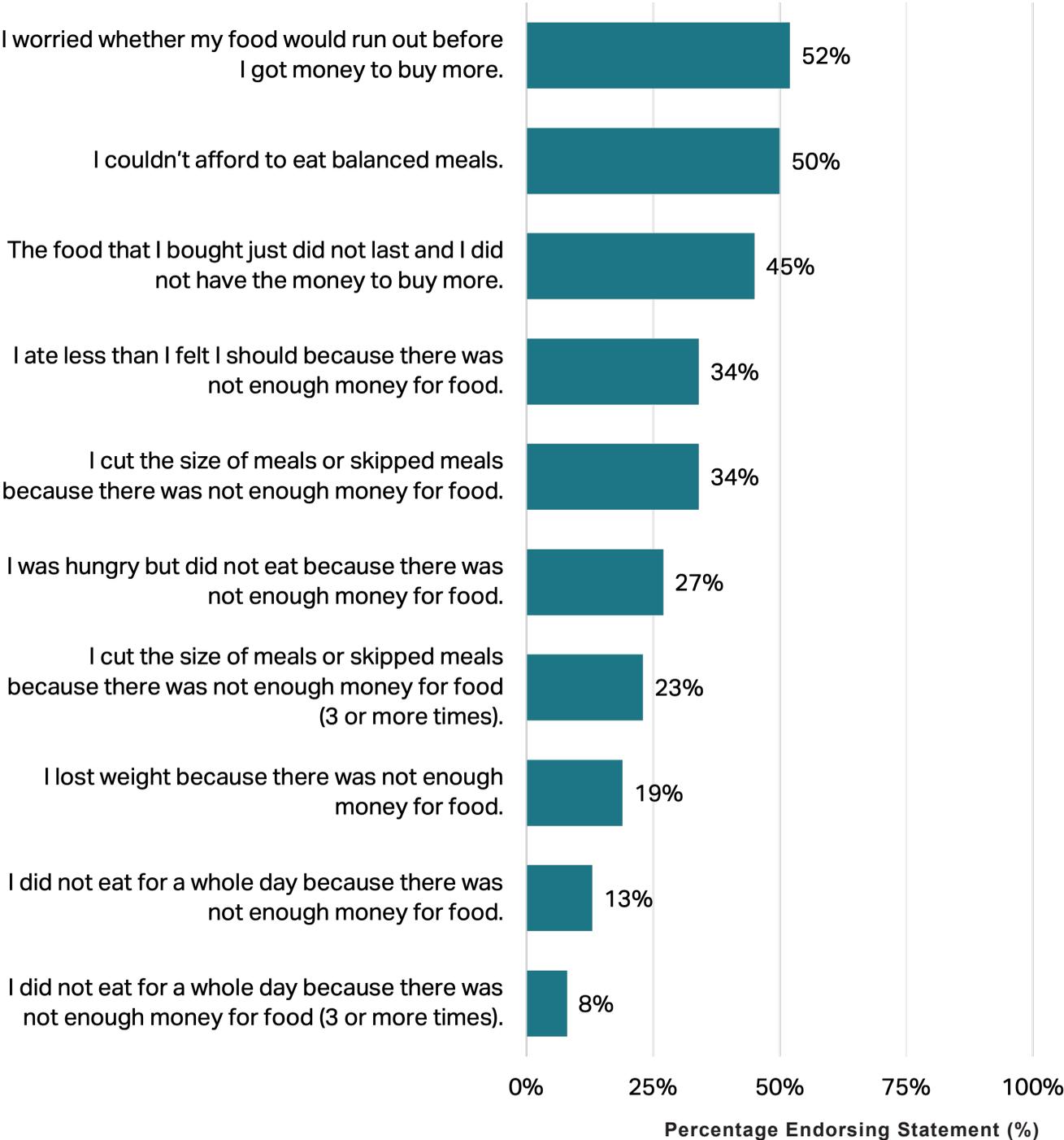
Housing Insecurity

Housing insecurity can take many forms, such as the inability to pay rent or utilities or the need to move frequently. Housing insecurity among students was assessed with a nine-item set of questions. When examining all of the items, **58% of survey respondents experienced some form of housing insecurity in the past year**, a rate comparable to the 2019 sample (60%) (Figure 5 and Appendix C). The most commonly reported challenges were experiencing a rent or mortgage increase that made it difficult to pay, not paying the full cost of utilities, and not paying the full amount of their rent or mortgage.

Figure 5. Housing Insecurity Among California Community College Survey Respondents in 2023
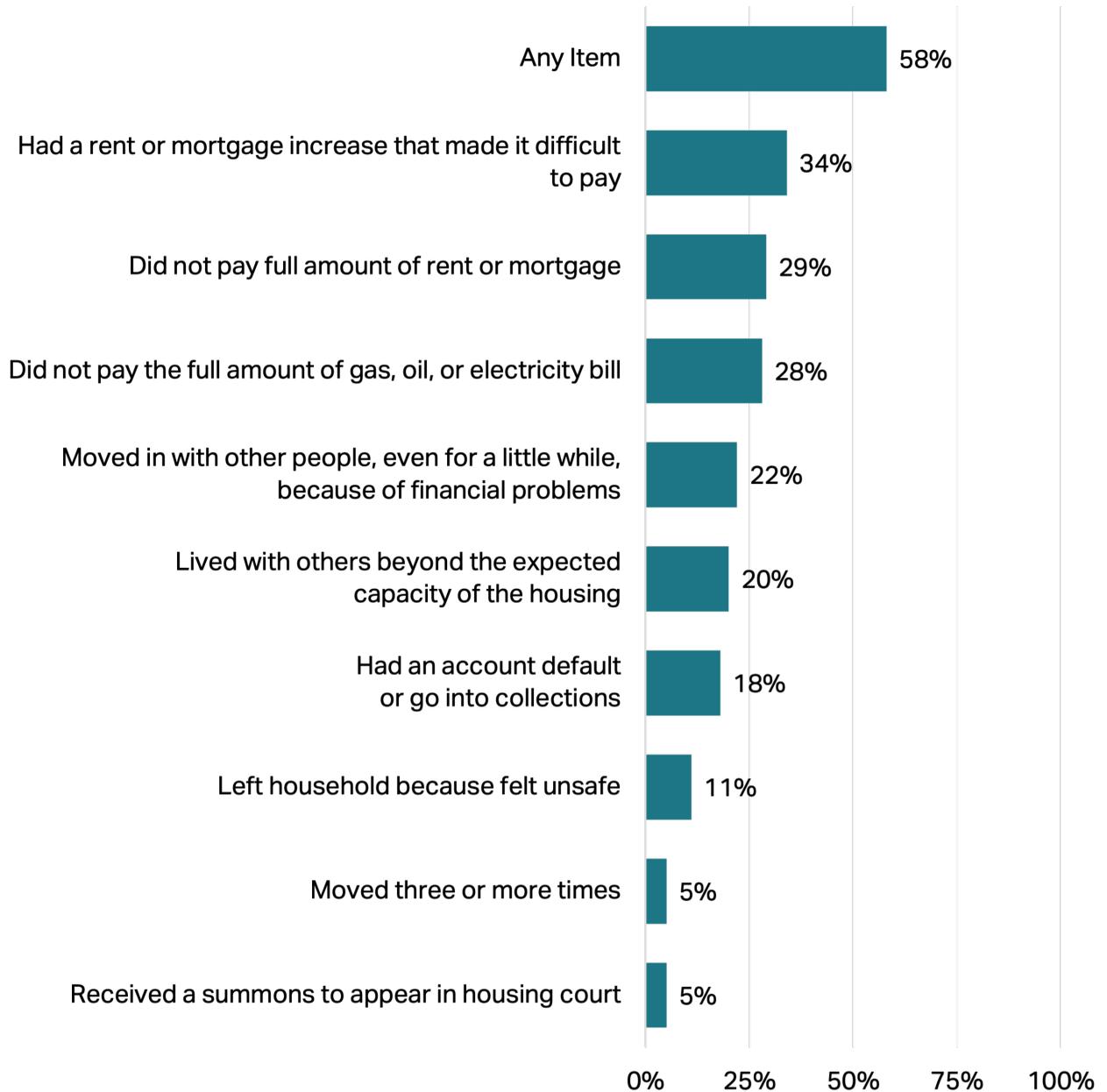
Homelessness

Homelessness refers to not having a stable place to live. Students were identified as homeless if they responded affirmatively to a question asking if they had been homeless or if they identified living conditions that are considered signs of homelessness (Figure 6). Using the same tool developed by California State University researchers[10] in 2019, in 2023, results revealed that **homelessness affected 24% of California community college survey respondents during the previous year, up from 19% in 2019** (Figure 6 and Appendix C). Nine percent of those respondents self-identified as homeless (up from 6% in 2019), while 15% experienced living conditions associated with homelessness they did not self-identify as homeless, up from 13% in 2019. The majority of students who experienced homelessness temporarily stayed with a relative or friend or couch-surfed.

Figure 6: Homelessness among 2023 California Community College Survey Respondents

Category	Percentage
Any item	24%
Self-identified homeless	9%
Locations stayed overnight:	
Temporarily with relative, friend, or couch surfing	16%
Temporarily at a hotel or motel without a permanent home to return to	8%
In closed area/space with roof not meant for human habitation	7%
In transitional housing or independent living	6%
At outdoor location	6%
At a shelter	5%
In a camper	5%
At a group home such as halfway house or residential program for mental health or substance abuse	4%
At a treatment center (such as detox, hospital, etc.)	4%

[10]Crutchfield, R. M., & Maguire, J. (2017). Researching Basic Needs in Higher Education. Qualitative and Quantitative Instruments to Explore a Holistic Understanding of Food and Housing Insecurity. The California State University Office of the Chancellor.

Variation by Region

Basic needs securities were explored as a function of geographic region. Results across the CCC in 2023 (also displayed in Table 2) revealed that:

- Rates of **food insecurity** ranged from a low of 42% in the San Diego/Imperial area to a high of 50% in the Central Valley/Motherlode.

- Rates of **housing insecurity** ranged from a low of 54% in the East Bay, Mid-Peninsula, North Bay, Santa Cruz/Monterey, and Silicon Valley regions to a high of 61% in the Inland Empire.

- Rates of **homelessness** ranged from a low of 21% in the San Diego/Imperial area to a high of 29% in the South Central Coast region.

A list of colleges by region can be found in Appendix D.
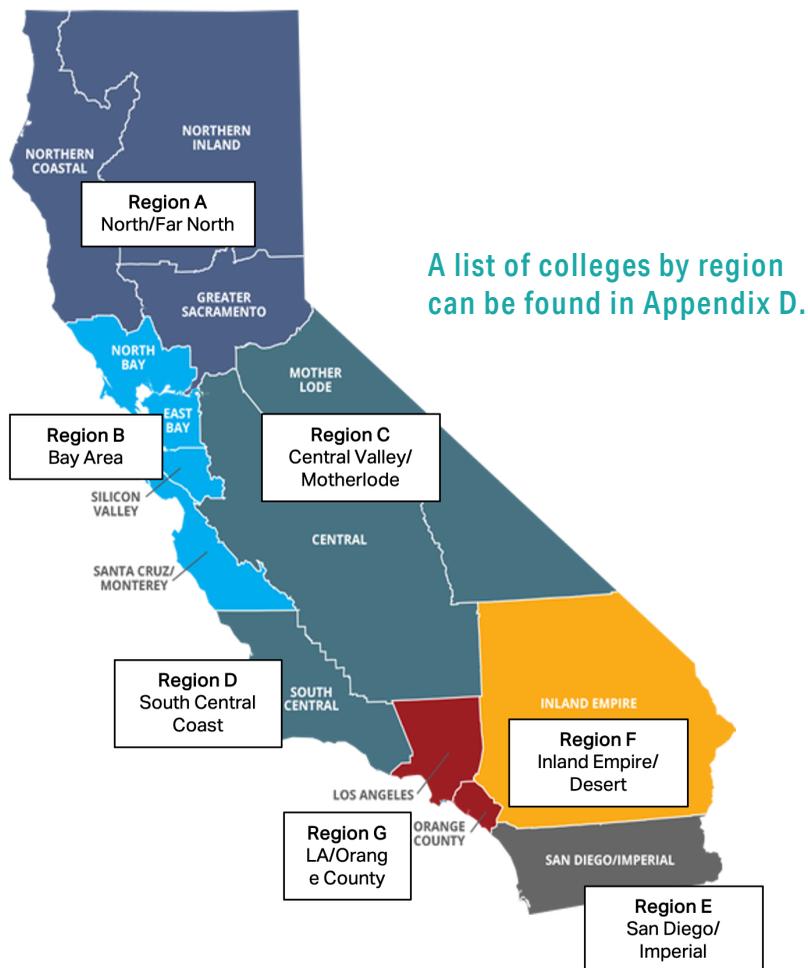
Table 2. Basic Needs Insecurities by Region among California Community College Survey Respondents in 2023

Region	Food Insecurity	Housing Insecurity	Homelessness
All Regions	47%	58%	24%
A-North/Far North (Greater Sacramento and northern coastal and inland)	49%	60%	28%
B-Bay Area (East Bay, Mid-Peninsula, North Bay, Santa Cruz/Monterey, and Silicon Valley)	44%	54%	26%
C-Central Valley/Mother Lode	50%	61%	23%
D-South Central Coast	48%	57%	29%
E-San Diego/Imperial areas	42%	57%	21%
F-Inland Empire and Desert	48%	61%	23%
G-Los Angeles and Orange County	48%	59%	22%

Variation by Institution

When looking across colleges, significant variation in basic needs securities can be seen (Table 3).

- Compared to the statewide average food insecurity rate of 47%, rates at individual colleges ranged from 27% to 77%.
- Compared to the statewide average housing insecurity rate of 58%, rates at individual colleges ranged from 40% to 80%.
- Compared to the statewide average homelessness rate of 24%, rates at individual colleges ranged from 13% to 69%.

Table 3. Variation in Institutional Rates of Basic Needs Insecurities Among California Community College Survey Respondents in 2023

	Lowest Security	Highest Security	Median	SD
Food Insecurity	27%	77%	47%	10%
Housing Insecurity	40%	80%	58%	8%
Homelessness (Any)	13%	69%	21%	10%

Photo courtesy Mt. San Antonio College

Disparities in Basic Needs Insecurity

Demographic Disparities in Basic Needs Insecurity

Disaggregating basic needs insecurities by student demographic to identify groups of students most in need of basic needs support (Table 4) reveals:

- African American/Black and American Indian/Alaskan Native students are more likely to report basic needs insecurities than students of other races/ethnicities.

- LGBTQ+ students are much more likely to report basic needs insecurities than non-LGBTQ+ students.

- Students aged 21-30 experienced the highest rates of basic needs insecurities relative to younger and older students.

Table 4. 2023 Insecurity Rates for California Community College Survey Respondents by Student Demographics

Demographics	Food Insecurity	Housing Insecurity	Homelessness
All Students	47%	58%	58%
Gender Orientation			
Female	48%	61%	22%
Male	46%	55%	29%
Other gender orientation	53%	60%	35%
Transgender Status			
Transgender	74%	78%	64%
Sexual Orientation			
Bisexual	53%	62%	28%
Gay or lesbian	57%	67%	36%
Heterosexual or straight	46%	58%	23%
Not sure, or neither heterosexual, gay, lesbian, or bisexual	50%	60%	29%
Age			
18 to 20	35%	40%	17%
21 to 25	56%	64%	30%
26 to 30	59%	76%	34%
Older than 30	48%	68%	22%
Racial or Ethnic Background			
African American or Black	62%	72%	39%
American Indian or Alaskan Native	67%	70%	46%
Hispanic or Latinx	46%	60%	18%
Middle Eastern or North African or Arab or Arab American	47%	56%	32%
Other	52%	67%	29%
Other Asian or Asian American	41%	49%	25%
Pacific Islander or Native Hawaiian	59%	58%	39%
Southeast Asian	43%	47%	20%
White or Caucasian	47%	55%	29%

Additionally, a comparison of insecurity rates by demographic group from 2019 to 2023 reveals:

- Food insecurity, housing insecurity, and homelessness rates were substantially higher among transgender students in 2023 compared to 2019 (Figure 7).

- Homelessness rates were higher across students of all demographics in 2023 than in 2019.However, the most significant increases were seen among transgender students (+27 % points), gay and lesbian students (+9 % points), American Indian/Alaskan Native students (+14), Middle Eastern/North African students (+11 % points), and Pacific Islander students (+11 % points).

See Appendix C for additional demographic group comparisons.

Figure 7. Basic Needs Insecurity Rates among Transgender California Community College Survey Respondents in 2019 and 2023

Photo courtesy Santa Rosa Junior College
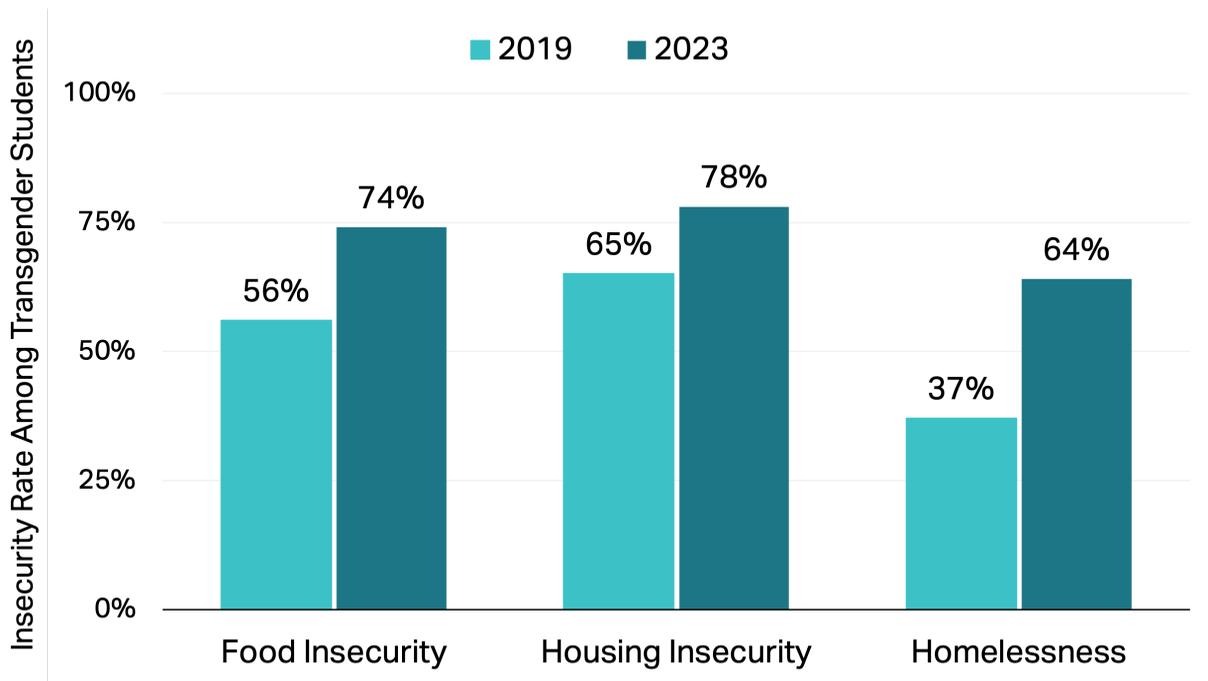
Basic Needs Disparities by Academic, Economic, and Life Experiences

Further disaggregation of basic needs insecurities by student characteristics reveals that **students who have been in foster care, in the military, and have been convicted of a crime are much more likely to report basic needs insecurities, as are students whose parents/guardians do not claim them as dependents** (Table 5). Additionally, while not assessed in prior years, in 2023, students identifying as single parents were much more likely to report basic needs insecurities than non-single parents (and the population as a whole), with **nearly 9 in 10 single parents reporting housing insecurity.**

Table 5. Rates of Basic Needs Insecurities among California Community College Survey Respondents by Student Life Experiences in 2023

	Food Insecurity	Housing Insecurity	Homelessness
All Students	47%	58%	24%
College Enrollment Status			
Full-time (at least 12 credits	49%	58%	27%
Part-time (fewer than 12 credits)	44%	59%	20%
Dependency status			
Dependent	43%	48%	24%
Independent	51%	66%	25%
Student receives the Pell Grant			
Yes	54%	67%	26%
No	42%	52%	23%
Student has children			
Yes	56%	70%	26%
No	44%	55%	23%
Single parent status (only among parents)			
Non-Single Parent	49%	60%	21%
Single Parent	72%	86%	39%
Relationship status			
Divorced	60%	78%	39%
In a relationship	52%	60%	26%
Married or domestic partner	43%	62%	20%
Single	46%	56%	24%
Widowed	38%	72%	42%
Student has been in foster care			
Yes	81%	82%	68%
No	45%	57%	21%
Student served in the military			
Yes	64%	76%	57%
No	46%	58%	22%
Employment status			
Employed	50%	62%	25%
Not employed, looking for work	46%	58%	23%
Not employed, not looking for work	28%	40%	14%
Student has been convinced of a crime			
Yes	71%	84%	57%
No	46%	57%	23%

A comparison of insecurity rates from 2019 to 2023 reveals **substantial increases in both food insecurity and homelessness among former foster youth** (Figures 8a and 8b) **and significant increases in all three basic needs insecurities among students who served in the military** (Figures 9a and 9b).

Figure 8a. Basic Needs Insecurities among Foster Youth
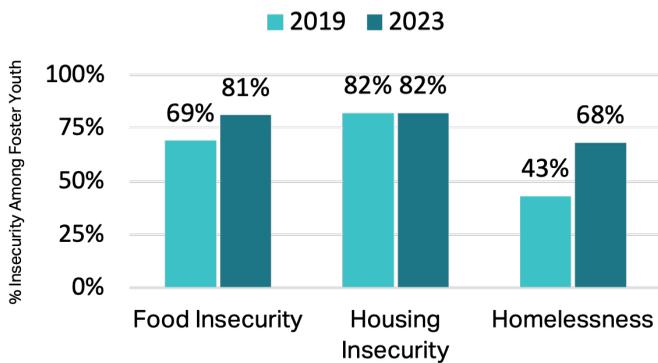
Figure 8b. Basic Needs Insecurities among Non-Foster Youth
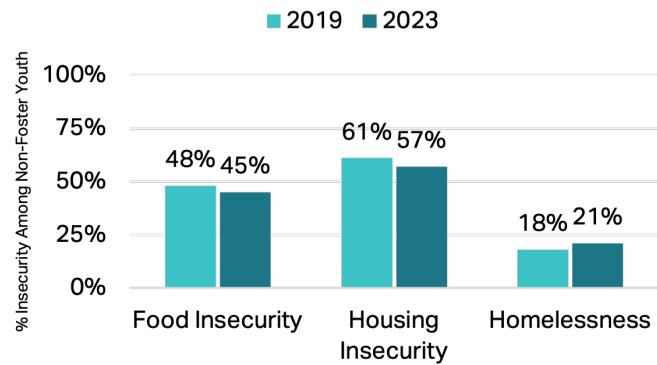
Figure 9a. Basic Needs Insecurities among Military Students
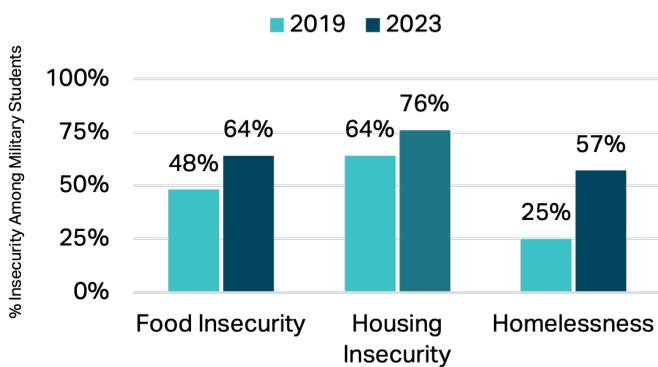
Figure 9b. Basic Needs Insecurities among Non-Military Students
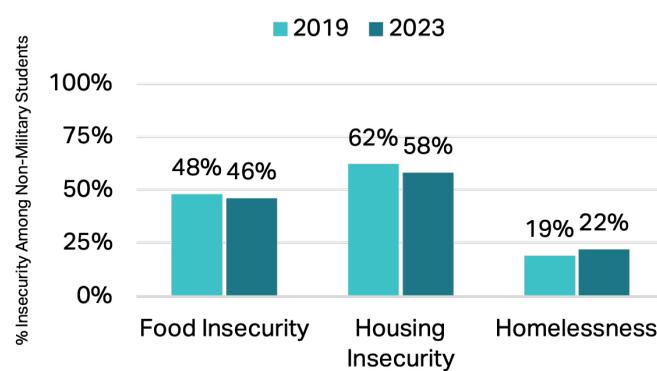
Photo courtesy Cabrillo College

Students with disabilities are much more likely than those without disabilities to experience basic needs insecurities (Table 6). Further, the rates of basic needs insecurities for students on the autism spectrum have increased substantially between 2019 and 2023 (Figure 10 and Appendix C for more details).

Table 6. Rates of Basic Needs Insecurities Among California Community College Survey Respondents by Disability or Medical Condition in 2023

Disability or medical condition	Food Insecurity	Housing Insecurity	Homelessness
All students	47%	58%	24%
No disability or medical condition	39%	51%	17%
Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)	63%	71%	41%
Autism spectrum disorder	69%	69%	58%
Chronic illness	61%	71%	37%
Learning disability	68%	74%	48%
Physical disability	66%	73%	47%
Psychological disorder	58%	69%	31%

Figure 10. Change in Rates of Basic Needs Insecurities Among California Community College Survey Respondents with Autism from 2019 to 2023
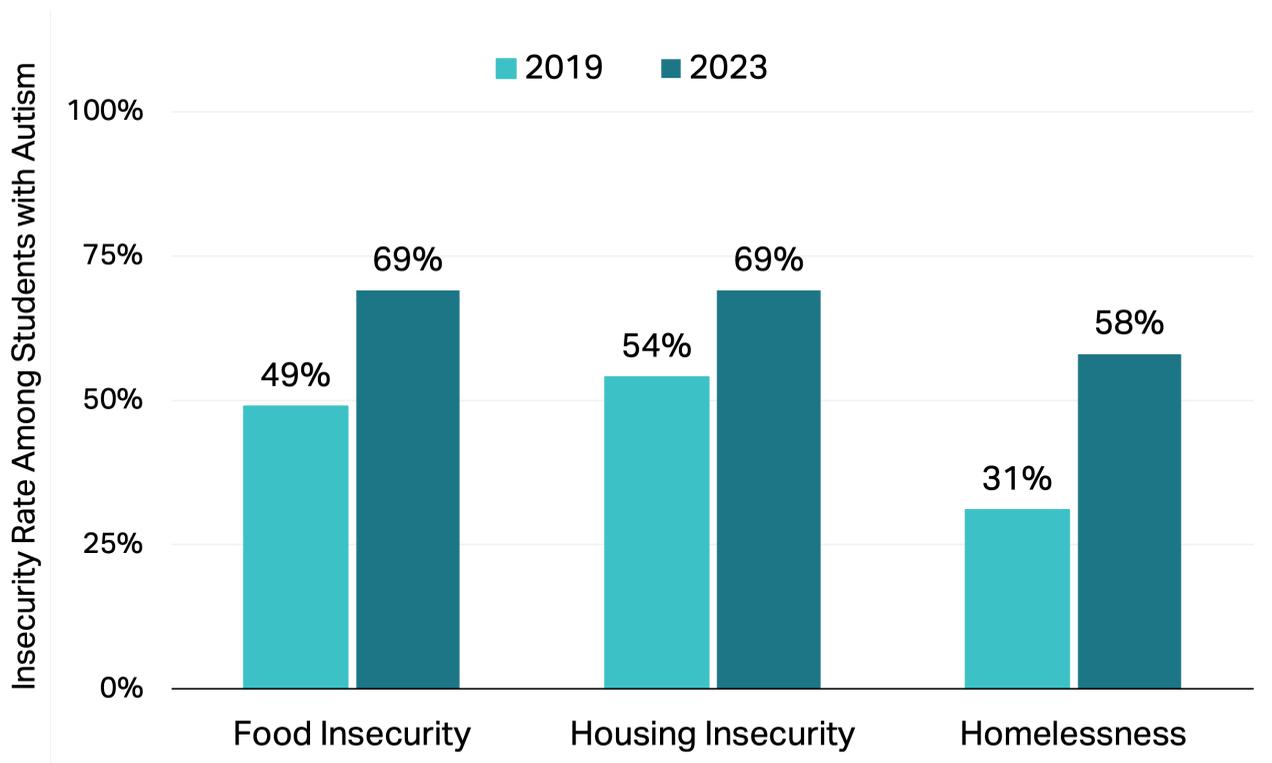
Employment and Academic Experiences

Students fund their community college education in a wide variety of ways. At least half of students indicated paying for school through grants (either from federal or state government or their college), by working (non-work study), and by leveraging savings. As noted previously, half of the students (49%) indicated receiving Pell Grant funds. Of particular concern is that two in five students use credit cards to pay for their community college education (Table 7).

Table 7. How California Community College Survey Respondents Pay for School

How Students Pay for School	%
Grants from federal or state government	55%
Non-work-study job	54%
Savings	52%
Grants from college	50%
Pell grant	49%
Credit cards	40%
Work-study job	21%
Student loans	15%
Stipend or fellowship	11%
Employer support	11%

Photo courtesy Evergreen Valley College

Basic Needs Disparities by Employment Status

Three-quarters of all students (regardless of basic needs status) indicated that they were either working (57%) or looking for work (20%; See Appendix B). Among working students, more than half were earning more than California minimum wage (currently $15.50/hour), while a quarter were earning less than minimum wage. Students working more than 30 hours per week were much more likely to earn above the minimum wage than those working less frequently (Table 8).

Table 8. Wages of Employed California Community College Survey Respondents

Thinking about all of your jobs, on average, about how much do you earn an hour?	% among all employed students	% among students working 1-20 hours/week	% among students working 21-30 hours/week	% among students working more than 30 hours/week
Less than $7.25/hour	4%	7%	3%	3%
$7.25/hour	3%	5%	2%	1%
$7.26 to $10.00/hour	6%	8%	5%	3%
$10.01 to $15.49/hour	12%	16%	13%	8%
$15.50/hour	22%	27%	25%	15%
More than $15.50/hour	53%	38%	52%	70%

Note: Wages only included for those who indicated being employed 1-168 hours/week

Food insecurity rates increase with the number of hours worked per week. Housing insecurity rates generally follow the same pattern. However, homelessness rates vary depending on the number of hours worked per week (Figure 11). This finding demonstrates that working does not pull students out of food and housing insecurity.

Figure 11. Rates of Basic Needs Insecurities by Employment Status
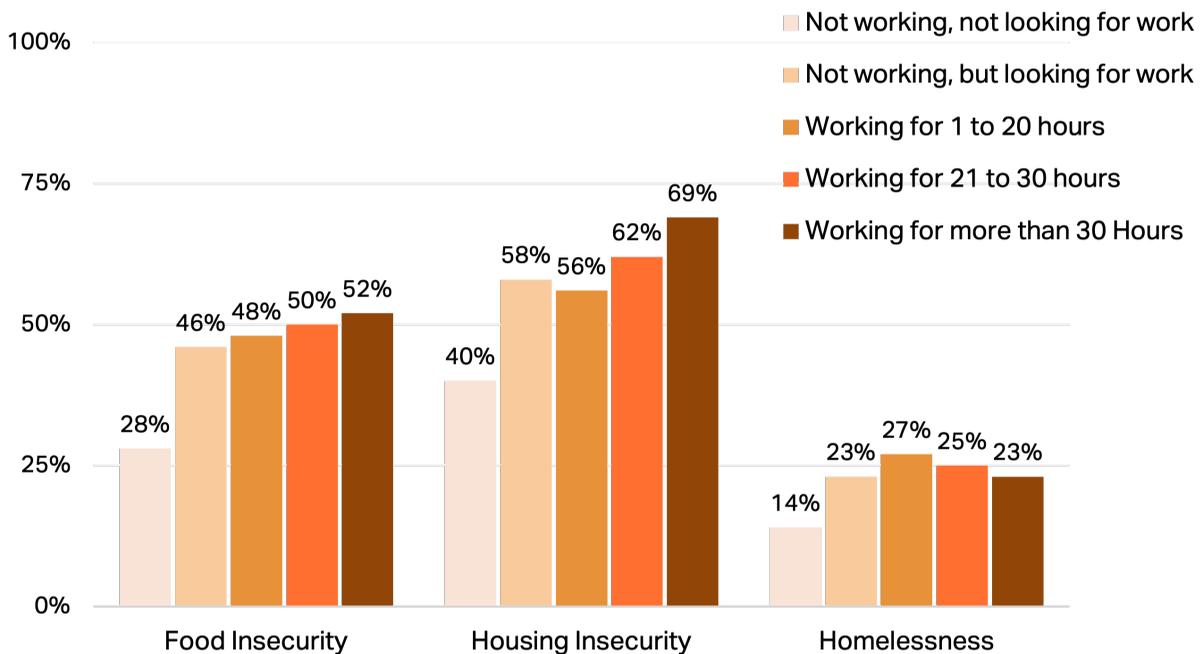
Basic Needs Disparities by Academic Performance

A **clear inverse relationship exists between basic needs and academic performance**, whereby the lower the grades students report receiving,[11] the greater the likelihood of them reporting basic needs insecurities (Figure 12).

Figure 12. Rates of Basic Needs Insecurities by Self-Reported Grades

Grades
- A
- B
- C
- D or F
- W

Food Insecurity: 40%, 50%, 59%, 73%, 64%
Housing Insecurity: 53%, 62%, 66%, 70%, 79%
Homelessness: 18%, 24%, 34%, 50%, 43%
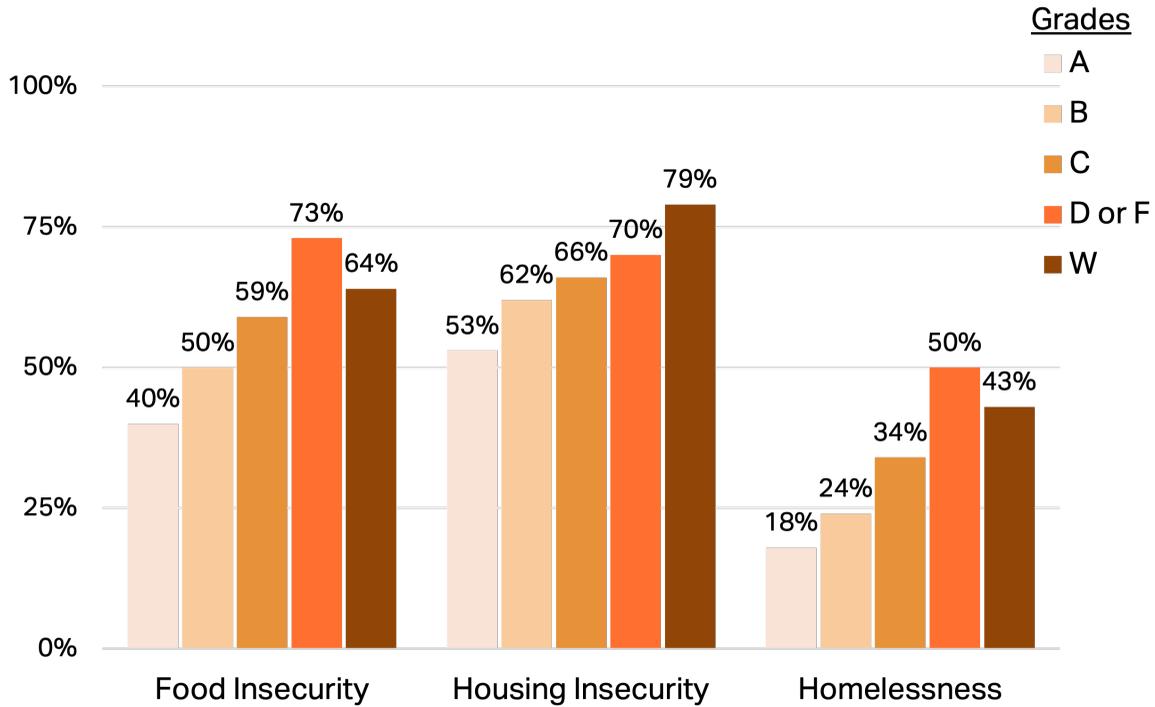
[11] Students were asked "Thinking about the past academic year, which of the following best describes your overall grades?"

Photo courtesy Irvine Valley College
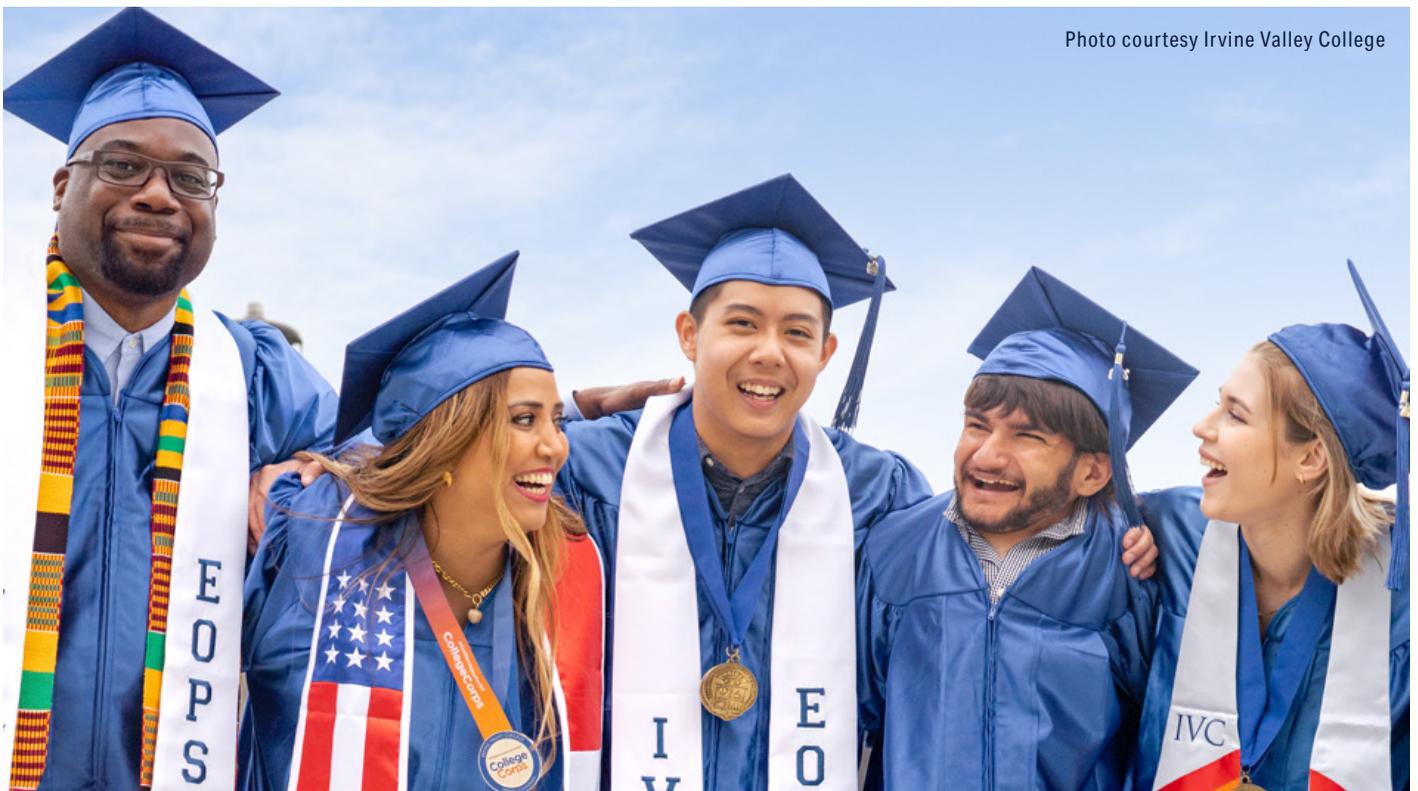
Utilization of Public and Campus Supports

Students were asked to report whether they utilized any of a variety of public support programs. Overall, **two-thirds of students with basic needs insecurities accessed at least one form of public assistance in the past year** (up from 57% in 2019: Table 9, Figure 13, and Appendix E).

- Students with food insecurity in 2023 were nearly twice as likely as students in 2019 to receive CalFresh Assistance (monthly food benefits).
- Less than a quarter of housing insecure and homeless students accessed housing supports (i.e., utility assistance, housing assistance).
- Students who are secure in their basic needs are still accessing public support but at much lower rates and more on par with rates seen in 2019.

Table 9. Rates of Public Assistance Use in the Past Year by Basic Needs Insecurity Status in 2023

| Type of Assistance	Food Insecure	Housing Insecure	Homeless	Secure
Any Assistance	67%	64%	75%	31%
Medicaid or public health insurance	39%	38%	43%	18%
SNAP	42%	40%	51%	13%
WIC	15%	14%	20%	3%
Transportation assistance	19%	16%	27%	5%
Utility assistance (e.g., help paying for heat or water)	18%	16%	23%	2%
Housing assistance	16%	14%	25%	2%
TANF (formerly ADC or ADFC)	14%	12%	22%	1%
Childcare assistance	12%	10%	18%	2%
SSI (supplemental security income)	13%	10%	20%	2%
SSDI (social security disability income)	11%	9%	18%	2%
Unemployment compensation or insurance	13%	11%	19%	2%

Figure 13. Rates of Public Assistance Use in the Past Year by Basic Needs Insecurity Status

Additional regional analyses revealed that the Greater Sacramento and Northern Coastal and Inland areas (Region A; 57%) and the Central Valley/Mother Lode area (Region C; 57%) had the highest rates of public assistance utilization, which was generally aligned with these regions' slightly higher rates of basic needs insecurities than other regions. Conversely, the Bay Area (Region B; 49%) and San Diego/Imperial areas (Region E; 48%) had the lowest use of public assistance, paralleling their relatively lower rates of basic needs insecurities. See Appendix E for more details on types of public assistance by region.

Table 10. Use of Federal Assistance by Region

Region	Use of Federal Assistance
All Regions	52%
A-North/Far North (Greater Sacramento and northern coastal and inland)	57%
B-Bay Area (East Bay, Mid-Peninsula, North Bay, Santa Cruz/Monterey, and Silicon Valley)	49%
C-Central Valley / Mother Lode	57%
D-South Central Coast	52%
E-San Diego/Imperial areas	48%
F-Inland Empire and Desert	52%
G-Los Angeles and Orange County	53%

The 2023 survey also asked students to report on their knowledge and use of various campus food services. As can be seen in Figure 14, a third of CCC students indicated using campus cafeterias. While approximately a quarter used campus food pantries and campus stores that sell food. Students were less likely to report using fresh farmers' markets, food distribution days, food trucks, and open fridges, with over 40% unsure if such services were even available on their campus. Further, even though most colleges now have a food pantry on campus, 41% of students were either not aware of one (29%) or did not believe one existed on their campus (12%), pointing to the need to increase awareness of food pantries where they are available.

Figure 14. Use of Campus Food Services

Legend:
- I don't know
- No
- Yes, but I haven't used in the past 12 months
- Yes, and I have used in the past 12 months

| Service	I don't know	No	Yes, but I haven't used in the past 12 months	Yes, and I have used in the past 12 months
A cafeteria	19%	12%	36%	33%
A campus food pantry	29%	12%	34%	25%
A campus store that sells food	25%	14%	33%	28%
A fresh farmers' market	44%	29%	16%	11%
Food distribution days	43%	15%	26%	16%
Food trucks	41%	24%	21%	13%
Open fridges/kiosks with free snacks and drinks	45%	27%	13%	14%

Limitations

This research is limited in that the survey was emailed to students, and thus they needed to have electronic access (i.e., computer, phone with internet access) to respond. As access to the internet is often seen as a basic need in and of itself, there may be some underreporting of need, given the distribution method. Conversely, however, as is the case with most surveys, there is a self-selection bias associated with these types of surveys, with those who volunteer to participate not necessarily representative of the general population. Looking ahead, efforts to institutionalize systemwide data collection and diversify survey administration methods (e.g., in classrooms, offering paper copies in student centers) would be beneficial in obtaining an even more representative sample.

Discussion of Findings and Opportunities

As the state and nation work to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, we are facing the resulting economic fallout. Food prices are increasing at an alarming rate, and housing prices are at an all-time high. However, among the California Community Colleges student population, the impact of this economic strain does not appear to be as readily apparent as one might expect. While still incredibly troubling, food insecurity rates, on the whole, are slightly lower than when they were measured before the pandemic in 2019 and likely speak to the concentrated efforts by colleges to tackle food insecurity (via food pantries, food distribution days, etc.).

Further, students with food insecurity in 2023 were nearly twice as likely as students in 2019 to receive CalFresh benefits (SNAP), providing possible evidence for an increased awareness among students of available resources. Concerningly, though, while housing insecurity rates are also slightly lower than those seen pre-pandemic, the increases in homelessness signal that students who may previously have been labeled as housing insecure have now fallen towards the direst end of that spectrum into homelessness. Despite increases in students' self-reported use of public assistance and allocations from the state for student housing grants,[12] the problem of housing insecurity persists. This issue of high housing insecurity is especially concerning among single parents, who have long been overlooked and whose needs are only recently being captured. With nearly 9 out of 10 single parents reporting housing insecurity, many of whom are grappling with the systemic issue of prohibitively high childcare costs, special attention must be paid to this student population to ensure their needs are met.

The CEO Affordability, Food & Housing Access Taskforce offers the following four opportunities to help address the persistent issues surrounding basic needs insecurities among California Community College students. It is the hope that all who read this report, from statewide policymakers to college and district administrators to faculty and staff, will see a role for themselves in helping ensure students' basic needs are being met. Supporting students this way is a critical step toward setting them up for success in the classroom and beyond.

Opportunity 1: Advocate for and leverage new and additional state investments such as the Higher Education Student Housing Grant Program to address student homelessness and housing insecurity.

California Community Colleges have the will and power to address students' housing needs if given the proper tools and funding to offer direct services and costs for planning and construction. The Legislature and Governor have recognized this fact with appropriations supporting the 2020 California Community College Homeless and Housing Insecurity Pilot Program (CCC HHIP) and the 2022 Budget Act authorizing $4 billion over several years for student housing planning and construction grants and a revolving loan fund for California's tripartite higher education system.

For example, using the pre-existing rapid rehousing model, in 2020, 14 colleges that demonstrated the greatest need to address homeless and housing-insecure students received $9 million to provide housing navigation and placement services, academic support, and case management in partnership with local housing service agencies as part of CCC HHIP. Additionally, as part of the 2022 Budget Act, community colleges received $564 million to support affordable student housing, including $546.6 million in construction grants through the Higher Education Student Housing Grant Program (HESHGP) and $17.9 million in planning grants to support preliminary

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[12] https://www.lao.ca.gov/Publications/Report/4695

activities such as feasibility and financing studies. This funding equated to 12 new student housing projects and 70 colleges undergoing planning for potential development.

Leveraging insights and findings from pilots and current student housing construction projects can help determine the best methods for addressing homeless and housing-insecure students. However, in June 2023, the Legislature passed higher education trailer bill SB 117, modifying the funding mechanism for prior, newly-authorized, and future student housing construction projects from the state General Fund to local revenue bonds issued by community colleges. As the details on implementing this change are in process, it is critical to remember that the original intent of the HESHGP was not only to help solve the state's housing affordability crisis but also to improve the lives of community college students with increased access to affordable rental rates. The state's partnership and preservation of HESHGP are essential for completing the 12 previously funded, the seven (7) newly-authorized, and potential future projects.

Housing issues remain a constant challenge for community college students, and dedicated funding that prioritizes this foundational basic need fosters academic success, addresses the state's homelessness and affordable housing shortage, and maximizes finite public resources benefiting all Californians.

Opportunity 2: Strengthen the communication and coordination from within colleges to better identify the groups of students for whom insecurities are disproportionately high to connect them with relevant resources and services to meet those needs.

While there is a clear call to action given the concerning rates of basic needs insecurities reported by all students in this sample, it is also critical to identify the groups of students for whom such insecurities are disproportionately high. First and foremost, the rates of basic needs insecurities among the transgender student population are alarming and signal a need for concentrated efforts to ensure transgender students in the CCC system get the supports they need. Further, the CCC system would benefit from deeper analysis into why these rates are significantly higher, such that colleges can address the root causes of such high rates as opposed to simply easing the symptoms of a larger systemic problem.

Transgender students are not the only student groups facing disproportionately high rates of basic needs insecurities though. Such rates are significantly higher among African American/ Black and American Indian/Alaskan Native students, LGBTQ+ students, students on the autism spectrum, single parents, and students who have been in foster care, in the military, or previously convicted of a crime. Colleges have various services in place to support students from some but not all of these subgroups (e.g., Umoja for African American/Black students, Pride Centers for LGBTQ+ students, Veterans Resource Centers for students from the military).

It is critical that every college employee knows this discrepancy in basic needs and insecurities for the students they serve and, ideally, is able to connect these students with relevant resources and services. As most CCC now have a basic needs coordinator and center, more integration and coordination between all the different programs on campus designed to support specific student groups is paramount. For demographic groups that do not have defined programs in place, colleges should consider implementing mechanisms that allow them to more closely monitor the needs of such students and ensure students are provided with as much information as possible regarding the support. Wherever possible, bringing such services directly to the colleges will increase their likelihood of use. Research has documented the benefits of establishing 'one-stop shops' for helping meet students' basic needs[13], providing them with the support necessary to ensure they are accessing the services available to them (e.g., benefits screening, legal assistance), which in turn, has been found to increase their educational success.[14]

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[13] https://ccleague.org/sites/default/files/cclc_food-inscurity-report_2022_web_final.pdf

[14] Zhu, J., Harnett, S., & Scuello, M. (2018). Single Stop Final Impact and Implementation Report. Metis Associates.

Opportunity 3: Expand resources and eliminate barriers to students accessing local, state, and community-based resources, including strengthening partnerships and coordination with state, county, and community-based organizations to enhance basic needs resources offered at colleges.

While colleges vary in their ability to offer direct resources to support students' basic needs (e.g., food, campus housing, transportation), community college basic needs centers should coordinate with their respective state and local agencies and community-based organizations for on-campus services and direct referrals. Strengthening the partnerships between these entities can help ensure college employee and student awareness of services and eligibility requirements, increase student access and utilization of benefits, and promote data-sharing to maximize the state's ability to address basic needs and insecurities experienced by Californians.

Examples include:
- Expanding eligibility criteria for housing and food services that do not disadvantage students.

- Adopting statewide data-sharing agreements that streamline information and eligibility coordination between state agencies like the Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency, the Department of Social Services, and the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office.

- Developing food recovery programs and more integrated support for students who are parents, including access to affordable childcare.

- Creating agreements with transportation agencies across regions to develop an aligned network of free or reduced transportation options for students.

- Allowing flexibility for the college's use of unrestricted funds to provide basic needs-related resources to students and not be viewed as a gift of public funds.

Student success in higher education is critical to the health of the state and regional economies. Given the relationship between basic needs and academic performance, it is in everyone's interest to align in helping students succeed. Moreover, ongoing and consistent data collection is needed to continue to surface and identify where the insecurities are so colleges, and the state can strategically coordinate

their efforts to address the symptoms and root causes intensifying students' basic needs insecurity.

Opportunity 4: Prioritize equitable reform of federal and state financial aid programs centering student needs by covering the cost of college attendance, not just tuition, and the infrastructure for colleges to administer the programs.

The food and housing insecurity data in this report suggest that federal and state financial aid policy has failed students in the CCC system. In some parts of the state, the maximum Pell Grant ($7,395) covers only two or three months of rent for a two-bedroom apartment. Among students receiving Pell Grants, 26% still report being homeless, and two-thirds report some level of housing insecurity. Students' unit loads can also contribute to their status for financial aid, with part-time students consistently at a disadvantage in receiving state and federal assistance, or qualifying for programs that provide financial and other support (e.g., Promise programs, EOPS). Too often, policymakers focus on full-time traditional college-age students with no children and fail to recognize that roughly 30% of CCC students are parents who must work part-time to attend college while supporting their families. Cal Grants also only cover course tuition, leaving housing and other living costs at students' disposal. These figures echo 2018 research by the California Speaker's Office of Research and Floor Analysis on basic needs insecurity in California's public higher education system, finding that the combination of state and federal financial aid programs makes attending California State University (CSU) and University of California (UC) campuses less costly.[15]

Reflecting on the 50th anniversary of the Pell Grant in June 2023, it is clear its purchasing power has not kept up with the cost of college and the challenge of keeping college enrollment affordable, particularly for low-and moderate-income students struggling to pay for school. Current efforts in Congress, such as "Double the Pell," are essential steps needed to address access and affordability. Still, these efforts need to be done in concert with other measures to

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[15] Restmeyer, N. (2018). *College Ready, Hungry, and Homeless.* Sacramento: Speaker's Office of Research and Analysis.

ensure that higher education remains accessible to current and future students. For instance, in 2022, California's policymakers boldly decided to reform the Cal Grant system to build a more equitable financial aid system accounting for student needs and the total cost of college rather than outdated criteria for rationing funds. However, fiscal investments for the reform have not adequately materialized. Additionally, the underfunding of critical infrastructure needed for community colleges to administer financial aid in the face of increased volume and accountability has gone unaddressed.[16]

Pell Grant recipients disproportionately bear the burden of student debt (ibid), which has long-term implications on the ability of higher education to boost economic mobility. Nearly 60% of African American/Black students and roughly half of American Indian/Alaskan Native and Latinx students receive Pell Grants each year (ibid). Additionally, annually, about half of student parents and nearly 40% of student veterans are Pell Grant recipients,[17] further exacerbating basic needs insecurities and systemic inequities that hinder equitable degree completion and participation in the labor force. Concentrated and collaborative efforts that maximize the opportunity to braid state and federal support for students to pursue postsecondary education will pay dividends for the national and regional economies and the ability to support the health and vitality of our communities.

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[16] https://ccleague.org/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/cclc_affordability_food_housing_financial-aid_2023_wrk_v6_fnl.pdf

[17] https://doublepell.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/DoublePell-Advocacy-Handout.pdf

Photo courtesy Santa Barbara City College

Appendix A
Participating Colleges

College	n	College	n	College	n
Allan Hancock College	882	Grossmont College	427	Porterville College	195
American River College	1,136	Hartnell College	451	Reedley College	750
Antelope Valley College	1,250	Imperial Valley College	1,528	Rio Hondo College	1,740
Bakersfield College	4,923	Irvine Valley College	789	Riverside City College	909
Berkeley City College	673	Lake Tahoe Community College	468	Sacramento City College	427
Cabrillo College	867	Laney College	36	San Bernardino Valley College	595
Chaffey College	2,026	Las Positas College	948	San Diego City College	1,158
City College of San Francisco	1,072	Lassen Community College	217	San Diego College of Continuing Education	1,385
Clovis Community College	672	LA City College	1,745	San Diego Mesa College	1,510
Coastline College	459	LA Harbor College	566	San Diego Miramar College	920
College of Marin	695	LA Mission College	556	San Jose City College	280
College of the Canyons	713	LA Pierce College	1,037	Santa Ana College	1,011
College of the Desert	1,027	LA Southwest College	448	Santa Barbara City College	964
College of the Siskiyous	286	LA Trade Tech College	849	Santa Monica College	1,091
Columbia College	346	Los Angeles Valley College	914	Santa Rosa Junior College	1,314
Compton College	508	Mendocino College	205	Santiago Canyon College	235
Cosumnes River College	359	Merced College	153	Shasta College	1,068
Crafton Hills College	356	Merritt College	72	Sierra College	200
Cuesta College	349	Mission College	301	Solano Community College	243
Cuyamaca College	161	Monterey Peninsula College	978	Southwestern College	72
Cypress College	1,259	Moorpark College	573	Ventura College	476
De Anza College	44	Moreno Valley College	366	Victor Valley College	614
Diablo Valley College	21	Mt. San Antonio College	1,877	West Hills College Coalinga	136
East Los Angeles College	2,048	Mt. San Jacinto College	161	West Hills College Lemoore	295
El Camino College	191	Norco College	221	West Los Angeles College	489
Evergreen Valley College	737	Ohlone College	92	West Valley College	813
Foothill College	454	Orange Coast College	1,722	Woodland Community College	402
Fresno City College	2,065	Oxnard College	459	Yuba College	757
Fullerton College	808	Palomar College	494	Did not list college	14
Gavilan College	311	Pasadena City College	1,327		

Appendix B

Respondent Demographics

Table B1. Demographics of Survey Sample in 2019 and 2023

Demographics of Survey Sample	2019	2023	% Point Change
Gender Orientation			
Female	70%	64%	-6
Male	29%	31%	2
Other Gender Orientation	2%	2%	0
Transgender Status			
Transgender	1%	5%	4
Sexual Orientation			
Bisexual	9%	10%	1
Gay or lesbian	4%	4%	0
Heterosexual or straight	81%	77%	-4
Not sure, or neither heterosexual, gay, lesbian, or bisexual	6%	8%	2
Racial or Ethnic Background[18]			
African American or Black	7%	8%	1
American Indian or Alaskan Native	3%	4%	1
Hispanic or Latinx	46%	45%	-1
Middle Eastern or North African or Arab or Arab American	2%	3%	1
Other	4%	3%	-1
Other Asian or Asian American	11%	11%	0
Pacific Islander or Native Hawaiian	3%	2%	-1
Southeast Asian	7%	6%	-1
White or Caucasian	29%	33%	4
Age			
18 to 20	37%	33%	-4
21 to 25	27%	22%	-5
26 to 30	14%	13%	-1
Older than 30	22%	32%	10
US Citizenship/Permanent Residency			
Yes	91%	93%	2
No	5%	7%	3
Prefers not to answer	3%	n/a	n/a

[18]Note: the 2023 race/ethnicity data in this table are different than the data in the main body of the report comparing the 2023 demographics to the statewide averages, as the statewide reporting of race/ethnicity uses the IPEDS definition, which identifies a student as Hispanic/Latinx if they select multiple races of which Hispanic/Latinx is among them, and categorizes students who identify as more than one race as multiracial. In this table, the 2023 race/ethnicity data adopt the same definition used in the 2019 report to be able to draw direct comparisons. In 2019, each race/ethnicity was considered an independent variable, wherein a student identifying as more than one race/ethnicity would be counted in each of those ethnicities (thus the total >100%).

Appendix B

Respondent Demographics

Table B2. Demographics of Survey Sample in 2019 and 2023 (continued)

Demographics of Survey Sample	2019	2023	% Point Change
Highest Level of Parental Education			
No high school diploma	20%	17%	-3
High school diploma	22%	25%	3
Some college but no degree, college certificate or diploma, or associate's degree	35%	35%	0
Bachelor's degree or greater	19%	13%	-6
Does not know	4%	4%	0
Employment Status			
Employed	57%	74%	17
Not employed, looking for work	20%	11%	-9
Not employed, not looking for work	23%	14%	-9
Dependency Status			
Dependent	35%	24%	-11.3
Independent	65%	60%	-5
Don't know	n/a	16%	n/a
Has Biological, Adopted, Step, or Foster Children Who Live in the Household			
Yes	22%	21%	-0.6
No	78%	79%	0.6
Relationship Status			
Single	54%	52%	-2.2
In a relationship	30%	26%	-3.7
Married or domestic partner	14%	19%	4.7
Divorced	2%	2%	0.4
Widowed	0%	1%	0.8
Student Has Been in Foster Care			
Yes	4%	7%	3.1
No	96%	93%	-3.1
Student Served in the Military			
Yes	3%	5%	2.2
No	97%	95%	-2.2
Student Has Been Convinced of a Crime			
Yes	4%	4%	0.2
No	97%	95%	-2.2
Disability or Medical Condition			
Learning disability	8%	12%	4.4
Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)	8%	15%	7.2
Autism spectrum disorder	1%	6%	4.7
Physical disability	6%	10%	3.8
Chronic illness (asthma, diabetes, autoimmune disorder, cancer, etc.)	12%	17%	4.7
Psychological disorder	21%	34%	4.1

Appendix C

Basic Needs Insecurities by Student Demographics

Table C1. Basic Needs Insecurities by Student Demographics in 2019 and 2023

Demographics	Food Insecurity			Housing Insecurity			Homelessness		
Gender Orientation	2019	2023	% Point Change	2019	2023	% Point Change	2019	2023	% Point Change
Female	50%	48%	-2	64%	61%	-3	18%	22%	4
Male	44%	46%	2	56%	55%	-1	21%	29%	8
Other gender orientation	69%	53%	-16	70%	60%	-10	33%	35%	2
Transgender Status									
Transgender	56%	74%	18	65%	78%	13	37%	64%	27
Sexual Orientation									
Bisexual	58%	53%	-5	67%	62%	-5	27%	28%	1
Gay or lesbian	56%	57%	1	68%	67%	-1	27%	36%	9
Heterosexual or straight	47%	46%	-1	61%	58%	-3	18%	23%	5
Not sure or neither heterosexual, gay, lesbian, or bisexual	50%	50%	0	61%	60%	-1	19%	29%	10
Racial or Ethnic Background									
African American or Black	62%	62%	0	73%	72%	-1	31%	39%	8
American Indian or Alaskan Native	63%	67%	4	74%	70%	-4	32%	46%	14
Hispanic or Latinx	51%	46%	-5	65%	60%	-5	17%	18%	1
Middle Eastern or North African or Arab or Arab American	44%	47%	3	62%	56%	-6	21%	32%	11
Other	54%	52%	-2	65%	67%	2	23%	29%	6
Other Asian or Asian American	39%	41%	2	50%	49%	-1	16%	25%	9
Pacific Islander or Native Hawaiian	57%	59%	2	63%	58%	-5	25%	39%	14
Southeast Asian	41%	43%	2	52%	47%	-5	17%	20%	3
White or Caucasian	45%	47%	2	59%	55%	-4	21%	29%	8
Student is a US Citizen or Permanent Resident									
Yes	49%	47%	-2	62%	58%	-4	19%	23%	4
No	44%	52%	8	62%	68%	6	24%	32%	8
Prefers not to answer	49%	n/a	n/a	64%	n/a	n/a	17%	n/a	n/a
Highest Level of Parental Education									
No high school diploma	53%	51%	-2	69%	66%	-3	18%	22%	4
High school diploma	51%	52%	1	62%	63%	1	21%	26%	5
Some college	52%	51%	-1	66%	62%	-4	20%	26%	6
Bachelor's degree or greater	33%	32%	-1	46%	43%	-3	16%	20%	4
Does not know	49%	45%	-4	61%	57%	-4	22%	20%	-2
Age									
18 to 20	40%	35%	-5	46%	40%	-6	15%	17%	2
21 to 25	53%	56%	3	68%	64%	-4	23%	30%	7
26 to 30	58%	59%	1	78%	76%	-2	24%	34%	10
Older than 30	52%	48%	-4	71%	68%	-3	20%	22%	2

Appendix C

Basic Needs Insecurities by Student Demographics

Table C2. Rates of Basic Needs Insecurities by Student Life Experiences in 2019 and 2023 (continued)

	Food Insecurity			Housing Insecurity			Homelessness		
College Enrollment Status	**2019**	**2023**	**% Point Change**	**2019**	**2023**	**% Point Change**	**2019**	**2023**	**% Point Change**
Full-time (at least 12 credits	48%	49%	1	59%	58%	-1	20%	27%	7
Part-time (fewer than 12 credits)	48%	44%	-4	64%	59%	-5	18%	20%	2
Dependency Status									
Dependent	41%	43%	2	50%	48%	-2	15%	24%	9
Independent	53%	51%	-2	69%	47%	-22	22%	25%	3
Student Receives the Pell Grant									
Yes	57%	54%	-3	69%	67%	-2	22%	26%	4
No	42%	42%	0	56%	52%	-4	17%	23%	6
Student Has Children									
Yes	55%	56%	1	69%	70%	1	19%	26%	7
No	46%	44%	-2	59%	55%	-4	19%	23%	4
Single Parent Status (only among parents)									
Non-Single Parent (n~7,800)	n/a	49%	n/a	n/a	60%	n/a	n/a	21%	n/a
Single Parent (n~5,100)	n/a	72%	n/a	n/a	86%	n/a	n/a	39%	n/a
Relationship Status									
Divorced	65%	60%	-5	84%	78%	-6	27%	39%	12
In a relationship	52%	52%	0	66%	60%	-6	20%	26%	6
Married or domestic partner	42%	43%	1	65%	62%	-3	13%	20%	7
Single	47%	46%	-1	58%	56%	-2	20%	24%	4
Widowed	54%	38%	-16	67%	72%	5	25%	42%	17
Student Has Been in Foster Care									
Yes	69%	81%	12	82%	82%	0	43%	68%	25
No	48%	45%	-4	61%	57%	-4	18%	21%	3
Student Served in the Military									
Yes	48%	64%	16	64%	76%	12	25%	57%	32
No	48%	46%	-2	62%	58%	-4	19%	22%	3
Employment Status									
Employed	52%	50%	-2	68%	62%	-6	20%	25%	5
Not employed, looking for work	51%	46%	-5	58%	58%	0	21%	23%	2
Not employed, not looking for work	34%	28%	-6	46%	40%	-6	13%	14%	1
Student Has Been Convicted of a Crime									
Yes	66%	71%	5	83%	84%	1	44%	57%	13
No	47%	46%	-1	61%	57%	-4	18%	23%	5

Appendix D
Colleges by Region

Table D1. Colleges in Each Region

Note: This table includes all California Community Colleges, not only those who participated in the survey in 2023.

A - North/Far North
American River College
Butte College
College of the Redwoods
College of the Siskiyous
Cosumnes River College
Feather River College
Folsom Lake College
Lake Tahoe College
Lassen College
Mendocino College
Sacramento City College
Shasta College
Sierra College
Woodland College
Yuba College

B-San Francisco Bay Area
Berkeley City College
Cabrillo College
Canada College
Chabot College
City College of San Francisco
College of Alameda
College of Marin
College of San Mateo
Contra Costa College
De Anza College
Diablo Valley College
Evergreen Valley College
Foothill College
Gavilan College
Hartnell College
Laney College
Las Positas College
Los Medanos College
Merritt College
Mission College
Monterey Peninsula College
Napa Valley College
Ohlone College
San Jose City College
Santa Rosa Junior College
Skyline College
Solano College
West Valley College

C-Central Valley and Mother Lode
Bakersfield College
Cerro Coso College
Clovis Community College
College of the Sequoias
Columbia College
Fresno City College
Madera Community College
Merced College
Modesto Junior College
Porterville College
Reedley College
San Joaquin Delta College
Taft College
West Hills Coalinga College
West Hills Lemoore College

D-South Central Coast
Allan Hancock College
Antelope Valley College
College of the Canyons
Cuesta College
Moorpark College
Oxnard College
Santa Barbara City College
Ventura College

E- San Diego/Imperial
Cuyamaca College
Grossmont College
Imperial Valley College
Mira Costa College
Palomar College
San Diego Continuing Education
San Diego City College
San Diego Mesa College
San Diego Miramar College
Southwestern College

F-Inland Empire/Desert
Barstow College
Chaffey College
College of the Desert
Copper Mountain College
Crafton Hills College
Moreno Valley College
Mt. San Jacinto College
Norco College
Palo Verde College
Riverside City College
San Bernardino Valley College
Victor Valley College
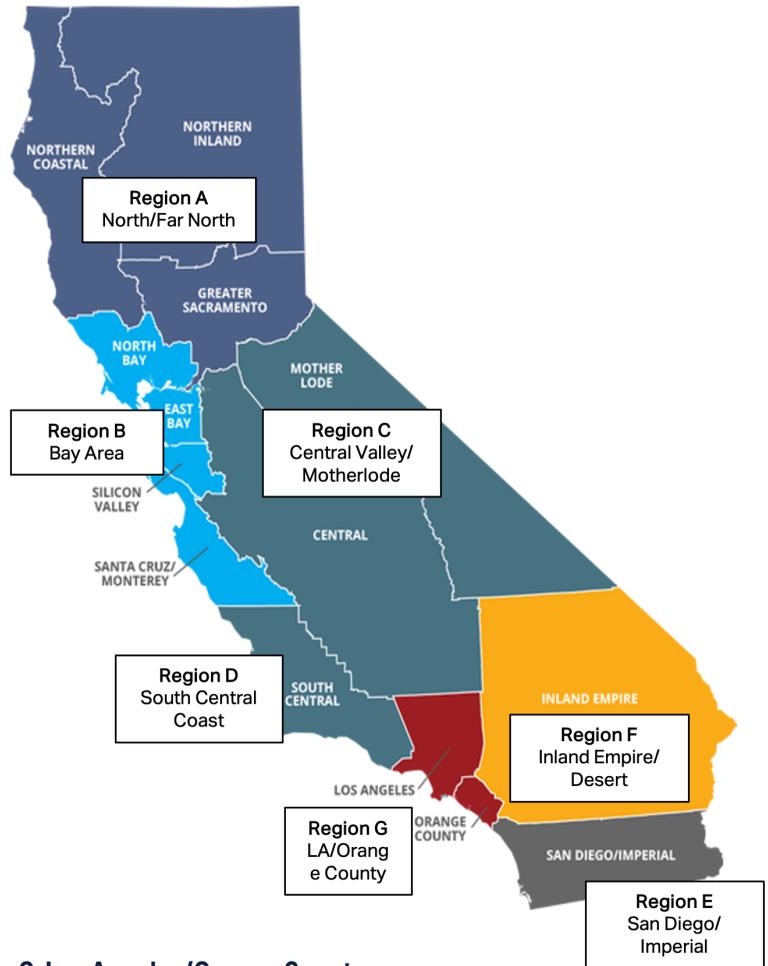
G-Los Angeles/Orange County
Cerritos College
Citrus College
Coastline College
Compton College
Cypress College
East Los Angeles College
El Camino College
Fullerton College
Glendale College
Golden West College
Irvine Valley College
LA City College
LA Harbor College
LA Mission College
LA Pierce College
LA Southwest College
LA Trade-Tech College
LA Valley College
Long Beach City College
Mt. San Antonio College
Orange Coast College
Pasadena City College
Rio Hondo College
Saddleback College
Santa Ana College
Santa Monica College
Santiago Canyon College
West Los Angeles College

Region A
North/Far North

Region B
Bay Area

Region C
Central Valley/
Motherlode

Region D
South Central
Coast

Region F
Inland Empire/
Desert

Region G
LA/Orange County

Region E
San Diego/
Imperial

Appendix E

Rates of Public Assistance

Table E1. Rates of Public Assistance Use Among Students with Basic Needs Insecurities in 2019 and 2023

Type of Assistance	% of Students Leveraging Assistance among Those Who Are Food Insecure			% of Students Leveraging Assistance among Those Who Are Housing Insecure			% of Students Leveraging Assistance among Those Who Are Homeless			% of Students Leveraging Assistance among Those Who Are Secure		
	2019	2023	% Point Change	2019	2023	% Point Change	2019	2023	% Point Change	2019	2023	% Point Change
Any assistance	57%	67%	10	57%	64%	7	60%	75%	15	35%	31%	-4
Medicaid or public health insurance	32%	39%	7	32%	38%	6	34%	43%	9	19%	18%	-1
SNAP (food stamps)	22%	42%	20	20%	40%	20	26%	51%	25	7%	13%	6
WIC (nutritional assistance for children and pregnant women)	8%	15%	7	9%	14%	5	8%	20%	12	3%	3%	0
Transportation assistance	7%	19%	12	6%	16%	10	10%	27%	17	4%	5%	1
Utility assistance (e.g., help paying for heat or water)	7%	18%	11	7%	16%	9	6%	23%	17	1%	2%	1
Housing assistance	6%	16%	10	5%	14%	9	7%	25%	18	2%	2%	0
TANF (public cash assistance; formerly called ADC or ADFC)	5%	14%	9	5%	12%	7	7%	22%	15	1%	1%	0
Child care assistance	5%	12%	7	5%	10%	5	5%	18%	13	1%	2%	1
SSI (supplemental security income)	3%	13%	10	3%	10%	7	4%	20%	16	2%	2%	0
SSDI (social security disability income)	3%	11%	8	3%	9%	6	4%	18%	14	2%	2%	0
Unemployment compensation or insurance	3%	13%	10	3%	11%	8	4%	19%	15	1%	2%	1

Table E2. Rates of Public Assistance by Region 2023

	Region						
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Any Assistance	57%	49%	57%	52%	48%	52%	53%
Medicaid or public health insurance	35%	27%	34%	30%	30%	32%	31%
SNAP (food stamps)	36%	27%	36%	32%	27%	30%	29%
WIC	13%	9%	13%	11%	9%	11%	9%
Transportation assistance	12%	15%	10%	15%	8%	10%	14%
Utility assistance (e.g., help paying for heat or water)	15%	12%	12%	14%	8%	12%	9%
Housing assistance	12%	12%	9%	14%	7%	8%	9%
TANF (formerly ADC or ADFC)	11%	9%	9%	12%	5%	9%	7%
Child care assistance	9%	8%	8%	9%	6%	8%	6%
SSI (supplemental security income)	11%	9%	7%	12%	5%	8%	7%
SSDI (social security disability income)	10%	8%	6%	9%	5%	7%	6%
Unemployment compensation or insurance	10%	9%	8%	10%	5%	8%	7%

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CEO AFFORDABILITY, FOOD & HOUSING ACCESS TASKFORCE

Established in spring 2018 by the Chief Executive Officers of the California Community Colleges (CEOCCC), the Affordability, Food & Housing Access Taskforce provides system-wide recommendations to address the prevalence of food and housing and the lack of affordable access experienced by our students. The Taskforce aims to proactively engage in discussions and recommend interventions and solutions based on research and input from leading scholars, practitioners, and students regarding housing and hunger challenges.

As part of this work, the Taskforce created the Real College California Coalition in 2019 to provide the latest evidence, integrated with hands-on guidance to inform implementation and help members develop a cutting-edge mindset to increase their institutional effectiveness and strengthen California's ecosystems to support students' basic needs and promote college completion.

Taskforce Members

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Matt Wetstein, Superintendent/President, Cabrillo College (Co-Chair)

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Real College California