

# 2018 #REALCOLLEGE SURVEY

## SCHOOL REPORT

APRIL 2019



For College, Community, and Justice

[HOPE4COLLEGE.COM](http://HOPE4COLLEGE.COM)

# 2018 #REALCOLLEGE SURVEY SCHOOL REPORT FOR FOOTHILL COLLEGE

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

April 2019

## OVERVIEW

\* Invitations to complete the questionnaire were sent by email to approximately 15,700 students from Foothill College and 789 students participated. Thus, the estimated response rate is 5.0%.

\* Overall Basic Needs Insecurity Rates:

- 33% of respondents were food insecure in the prior 30 days
- 49% of respondents were housing insecure in the previous year
- 19% of respondents were homeless in the previous year

\* 58% of students at Foothill 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.

\* 10% of food insecure students utilize SNAP benefits and 9% of homeless students utilize housing benefits.

*For more information on the research methodology and survey participants, please refer to the appendices of the National 2018 #RealCollege Survey report.*

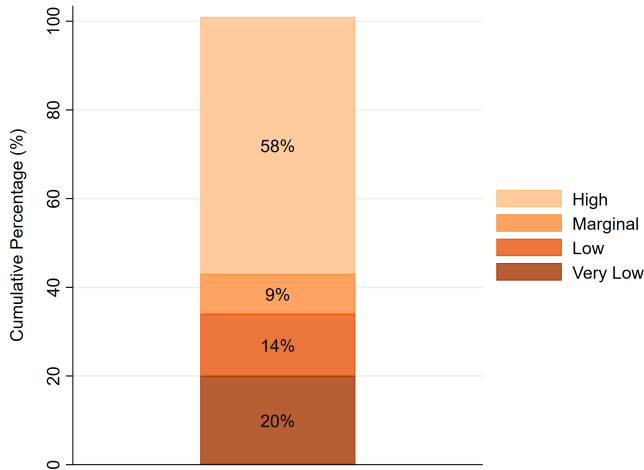
## PREVALENCE OF BASIC NEEDS INSECURITY

### 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 33% of survey respondents at Foothill College experienced low or very low levels of food security (Figure 1). Moreover, 35% of survey respondents at Foothill College worry about running out of food before having money to buy more and 34% cannot afford to eat balanced meals.

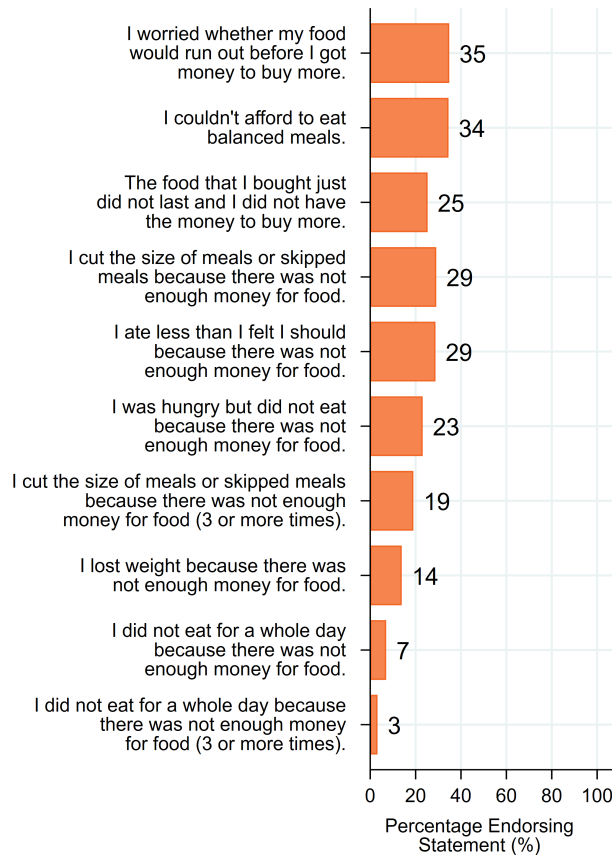
**Figure 1. Food Security Among Survey Respondents at Foothill College**



Source: 2018 #RealCollege Survey

Notes: According to the USDA, students at either low or very low food security are termed food insecure. For the full list of questions used to measure food security, see our full report available at [www.hope4college.com](http://www.hope4college.com). Cumulative percentage may not add up to 100 due to rounding error.

**Figure 2. Food Insecurity Among Survey Respondents at Foothill College**



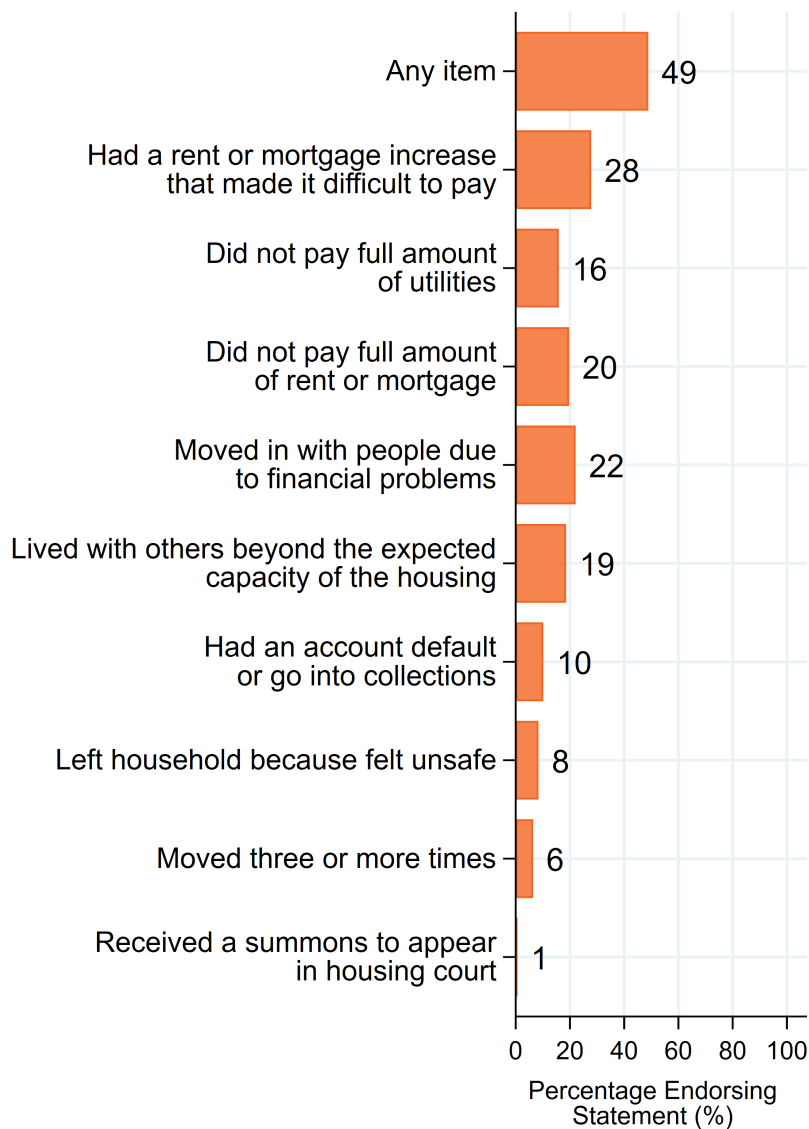
Source: 2018 #RealCollege Survey

## Housing Insecurity

Housing insecurity includes a broad set of challenges such as the inability to pay rent or utilities or the need to move frequently. All of these challenges affect students, and results suggest they are more likely to suffer some form of housing insecurity than to have all their needs met during college. Housing insecurity among students was assessed with a nine-item set of questions developed by the Hope Center. Students are classified as housing insecure if they answered affirmatively to experiencing at least one of those items in the previous year.

How prevalent is housing insecurity at Foothill College? As displayed below, 49% of survey respondents are housing insecure (Figure 3).

**Figure 3. Housing Insecurity Among Survey Respondents at Foothill College**



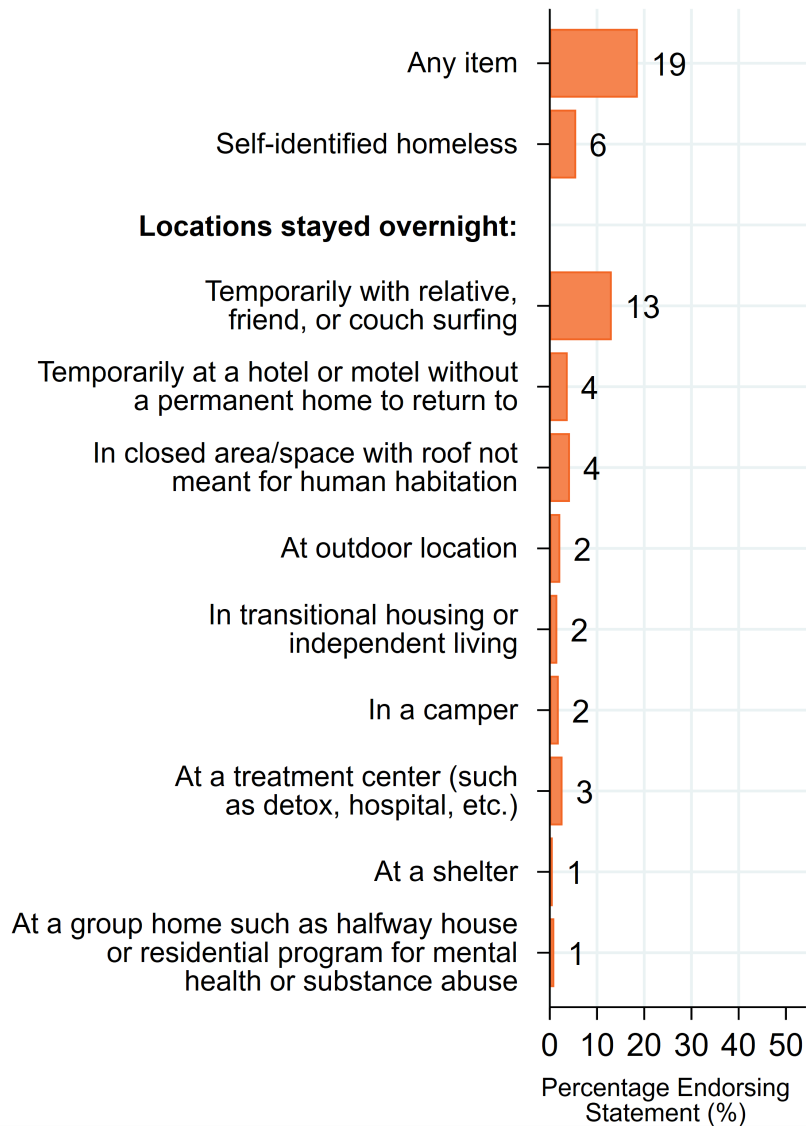
Source: 2018 #RealCollege Survey

## Homelessness

Homelessness means that a person does not have a stable place to live. Students were identified as homeless if they responded affirmatively to a question asking if they had been homeless or they experienced living conditions that are considered signs of homelessness in the previous year. Homelessness among students was assessed with a tool developed by California State University researchers.

How prevalent is homelessness at Foothill College? As displayed below, 19% of survey respondents experience homelessness (Figure 4).

**Figure 4. Homelessness Among Survey Respondents at Foothill College**

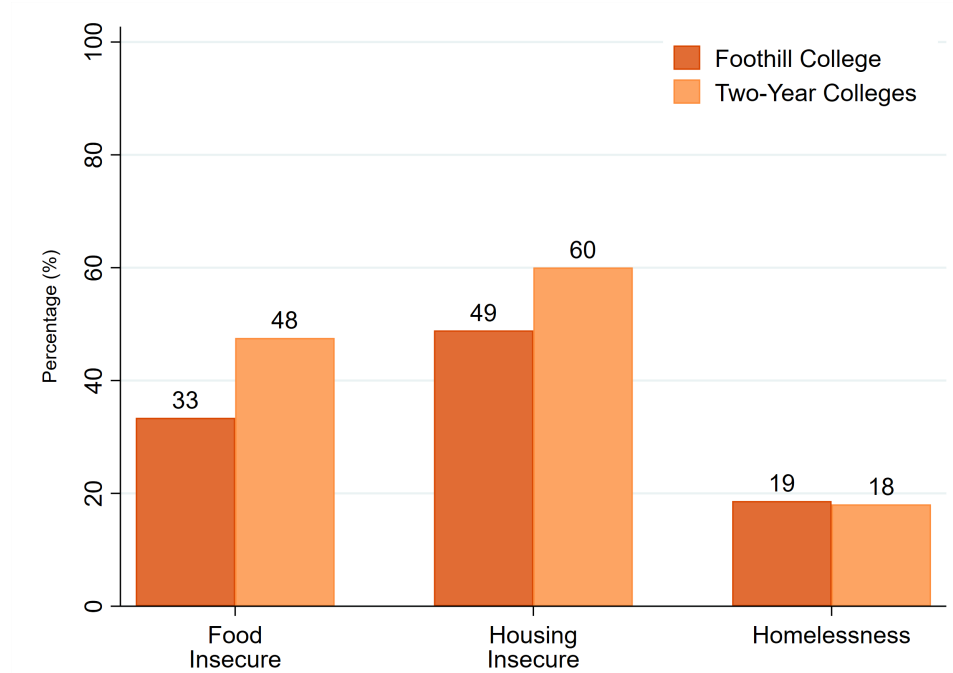


Source: 2018 #RealCollege Survey

## COMPARISON TO TWO-YEAR COLLEGES

In comparison to the overall rates for students attending a two-year college in 2018, Foothill College has a lower rate of food insecurity, a lower rate of housing insecurity, and a higher rate of homelessness (Figure 5).

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

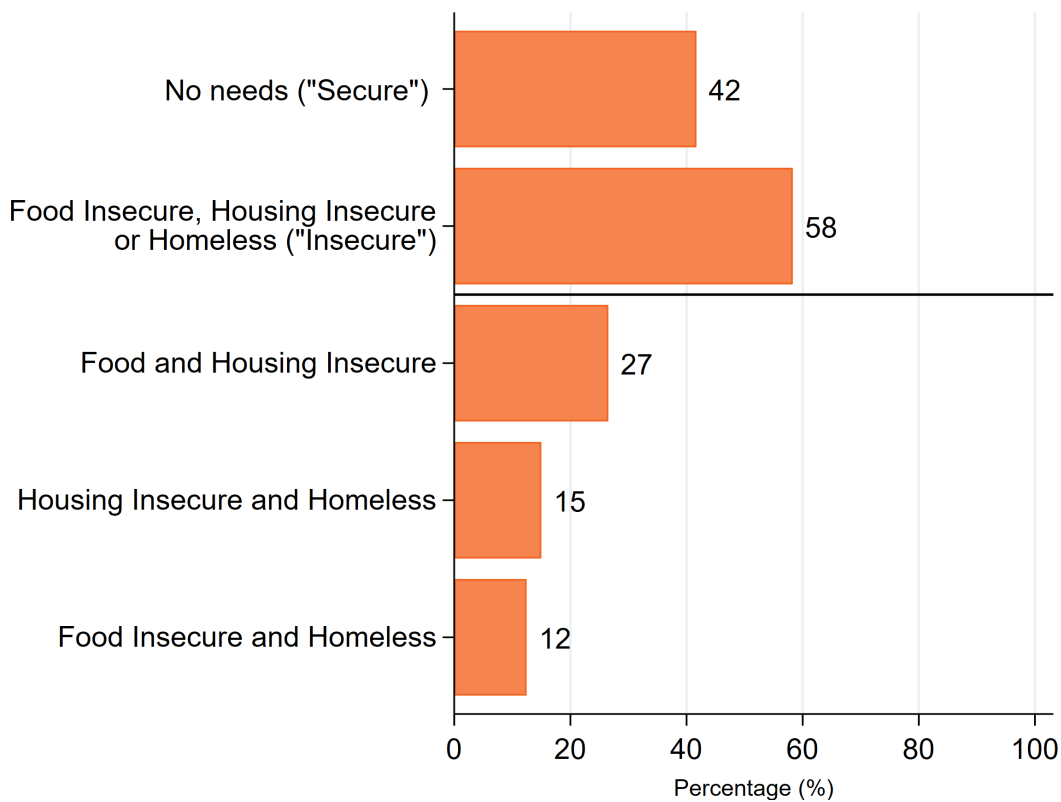


Source: 2018 #RealCollege Survey

## OVERLAPPING CHALLENGES

Food insecurity, housing insecurity, and homelessness are overlapping concerns, with 58% of students at Foothill 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 Foothill College**



Source: 2018 #RealCollege Survey

### DISPARITIES IN BASIC NEEDS INSECURITY

Some students are at higher risk of basic needs insecurity than others. The tables in this section present rates of food insecurity, housing insecurity, and homelessness according to students' demographic, academic, and economic circumstances, as well as their life circumstances.

#### By Demographic Background

**Table 1. Demographic Disparities in Rates of Food Insecurity, Housing Insecurity, and Homelessness Among Survey Respondents at Foothill College**

	Number of Students	Food Insecurity (%)	Housing Insecurity (%)	Homelessness (%)
<b>GENDER ORIENTATION</b>				
Male	191	33	42	20
Female	387	34	53	17
Transgender	12	67	42	50
Other	17	65	59	53

<b>SEXUAL ORIENTATION</b>				
Heterosexual or straight	460	31	49	17
Gay or lesbian	23	43	65	26
Bisexual	53	53	60	26
Other	49	37	33	20
<b>RACIAL OR ETHNIC BACKGROUND</b>				
White or Caucasian	216	29	47	17
African American or Black	20	60	65	25
Hispanic or Latinx	128	41	64	18
American Indian or Alaskan Native	11	73	73	27
Middle Eastern or North African or Arab or Arab American	18	33	50	17
Southeast Asian	78	35	38	23
Pacific Islander or Native Hawaiian	19	37	58	11
Other Asian or Asian American	137	30	47	23
Other	30	43	57	20
Prefers not to answer	22	41	55	23
<b>STUDENT IS A U.S. CITIZEN OR PERMANENT RESIDENT</b>				
Yes	480	35	49	16
No	85	29	51	27
Prefers not to answer	23	35	48	39
<b>HIGHEST LEVEL OF PARENTAL EDUCATION</b>				
No high school diploma	74	35	57	20
High school diploma	112	36	51	16
Some college	167	46	64	25



Bachelors degree	218	23	35	16
Does not know	19	26	47	5
<b>AGE</b>				
18 to 20	209	26	36	18
21 to 25	179	43	56	25
26 to 30	85	40	66	15
Older than 30	116	28	51	14

Source: 2018 #RealCollege Survey

Note: Results from any category with fewer than 10 participants are not shown in the table.

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

**Table 2. Rates of Food Insecurity, Housing Insecurity, and Homelessness by Student Life Experiences Among Survey Respondents at Foothill College**

	Number of Students	Food Insecurity (%)	Housing Insecurity (%)	Homelessness (%)
<b>COLLEGE ENROLLMENT STATUS</b>				
Full-time (at least 12 credits)	367	37	49	22
Part-time (fewer than 12 credits)	265	29	48	14
<b>YEARS IN COLLEGE</b>				
Less than 1	162	28	43	17
1 to 2	177	38	49	23
3 or more	231	39	57	19
<b>DEPENDENCY STATUS</b>				
Dependent	194	31	42	20
Independent	393	35	53	18
<b>STUDENT RECEIVES THE PELL GRANT</b>				
Yes	141	49	64	20
No	492	29	45	18
<b>STUDENT HAS CHILDREN</b>				
Yes	78	35	55	18
No	555	33	48	19
<b>RELATIONSHIP STATUS</b>				

Single	329	34	46	22
In a relationship	169	38	56	18
Married or domestic partnership	83	22	46	8
Divorced	.	.	.	.
Widowed	.	.	.	.
<b>STUDENT HAS BEEN IN FOSTER CARE</b>				
Yes	.	.	.	.
No	578	33	49	18
<b>STUDENT HAS BEEN IN MILITARY</b>				
Yes	.	.	.	.
No	579	34	49	19
<b>EMPLOYMENT STATUS</b>				
Employed	358	38	54	21
Not employed, looking for work	76	37	49	22
Not employed, not looking for work	168	23	32	12
<b>STUDENT HAS BEEN CONVICTED OF A CRIME</b>				
Yes	21	62	81	33
No	591	33	48	19
<b>DISABILITY OR MEDICAL CONDITION</b>				
Learning disability (dyslexia, etc.)	68	54	59	32
Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)	67	61	60	30
Autism spectrum disorder	13	31	23	23
Physical disability (speech, sight, mobility, hearing, etc.)	21	76	67	33
Chronic illness (asthma, diabetes, etc.)	67	51	64	31

autoimmune disorder, cancer, etc.)				
Psychological disorder (depression, anxiety, etc.)	164	51	63	32
Other	16	44	50	19
No disability or medical condition	338	23	41	13

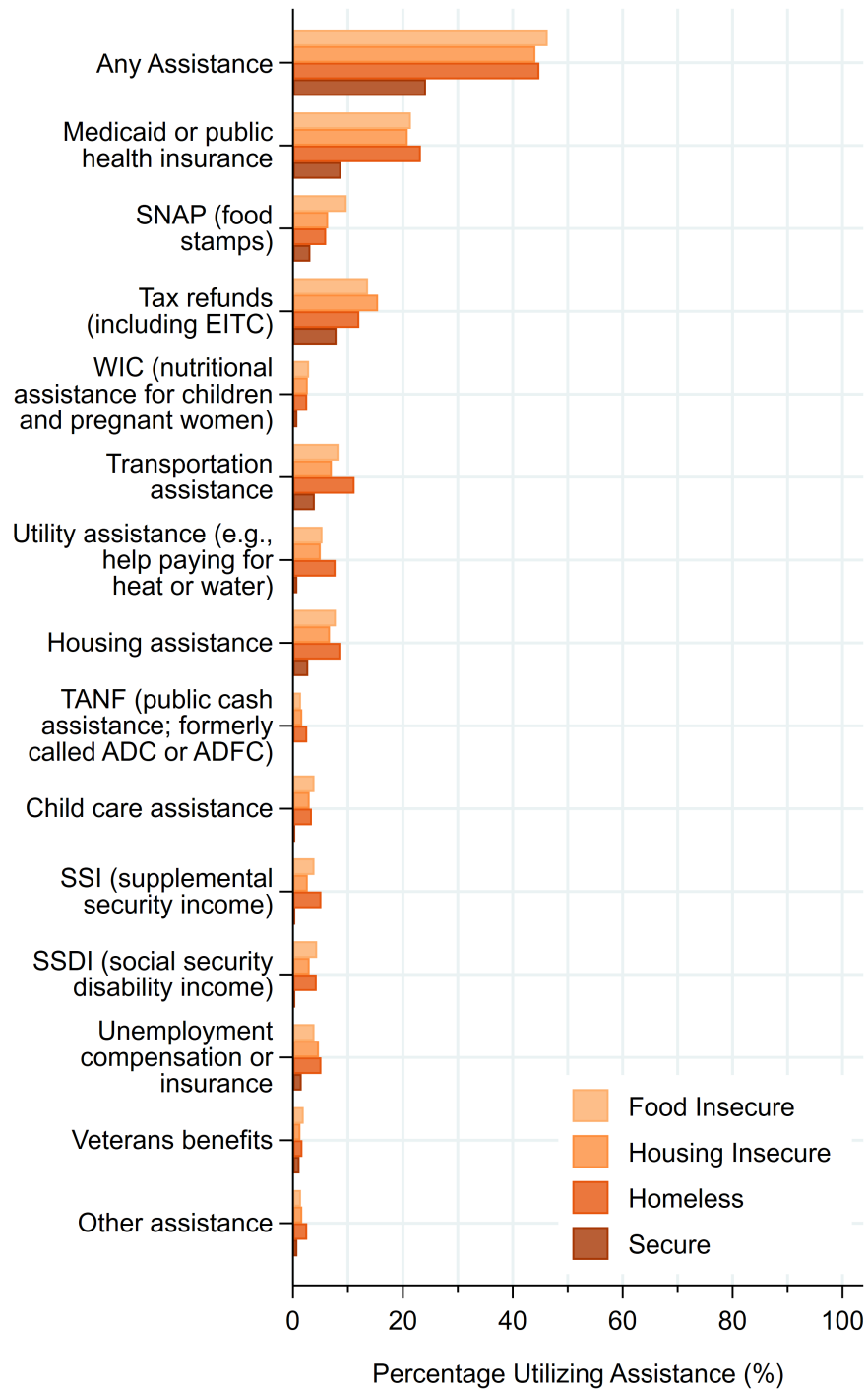
Source: 2018 #RealCollege Survey

Note: Results from any category with fewer than 10 participants are not shown in the table.

### UTILIZATION OF SUPPORTS

Many students at Foothill College who experience basic needs insecurity do not receive public assistance (Figure 7). Fully 10% of food insecure students receive SNAP. In addition, 9% 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 (24%) than their peers.

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



Source: 2018 #RealCollege Survey

## **CONCLUSION**

The #RealCollege survey affirms what has been evident to many college administrators, faculty, staff, and students for years: basic needs insecurity is a condition challenging many undergraduates pursuing credentials. The scope of the problem described here is substantial and should be cause for a systemic response.

## **ABOUT US**

The Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice at Temple University is home to an action research team using rigorous research to drive innovative practice, evidence-based policymaking, and effective communications to support #RealCollege students. For more information, visit <https://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).