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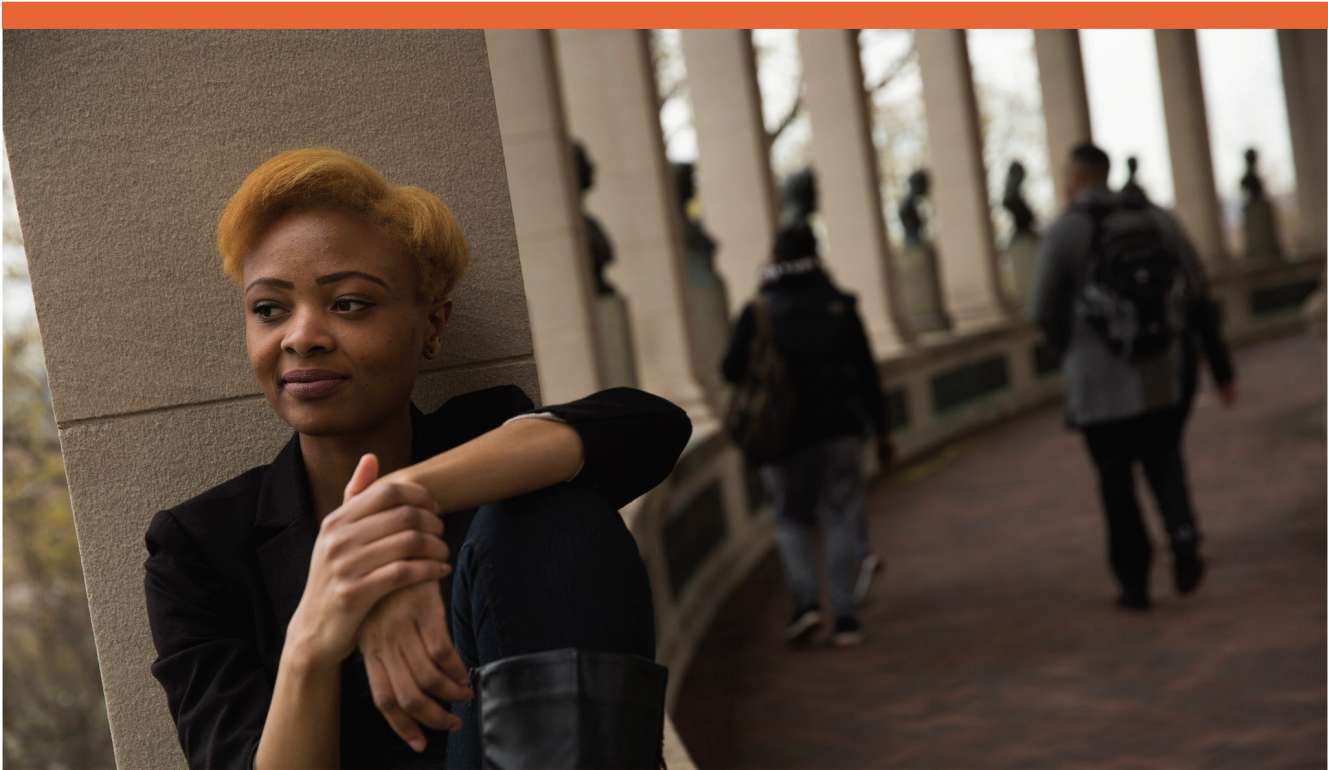
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2018 #REALCOLLEGE SURVEY

SCHOOL REPORT

APRIL 2019



HOPE4COLLEGE.COM

2018 #REALCOLLEGE SURVEY SCHOOL REPORT FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

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 11,900 students from The University of Montana and 902 students participated. Thus, the estimated response rate is 7.6%.

* Overall Basic Needs Insecurity Rates:

- 42% of respondents were food insecure in the prior 30 days
- 55% of respondents were housing insecure in the previous year
- 28% of respondents were homeless in the previous year

* 67% of students at The University of Montana 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.

* 14% of food insecure students utilize SNAP benefits and 4% 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.

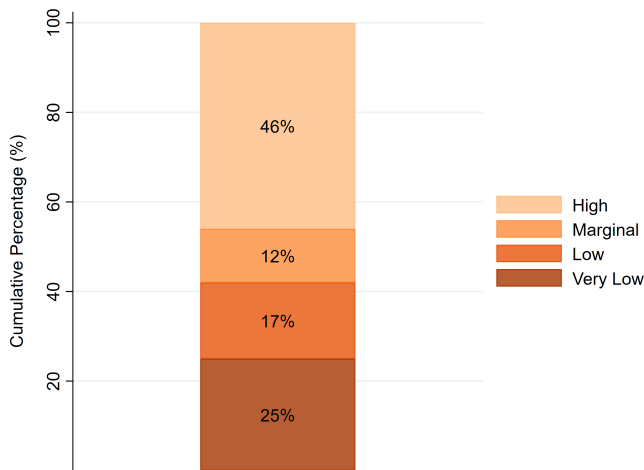
PREVALENCE OF BASIC NEEDS INSECURITY

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 42% of survey respondents at The University of Montana experienced low or very low levels of food security (Figure 1). Moreover, 44% of survey respondents at The University of Montana worry about running out of food before having money to buy more and 45% cannot afford to eat balanced meals.

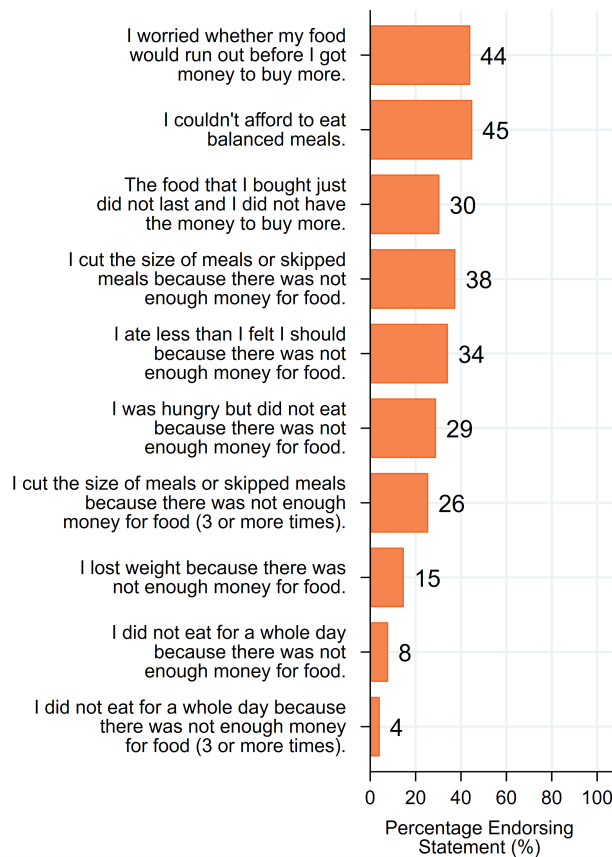
Figure 1. Food Security Among Survey Respondents at The University of Montana



Source: 2018 #RealCollege Survey

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

Figure 2. Food Insecurity Among Survey Respondents at The University of Montana



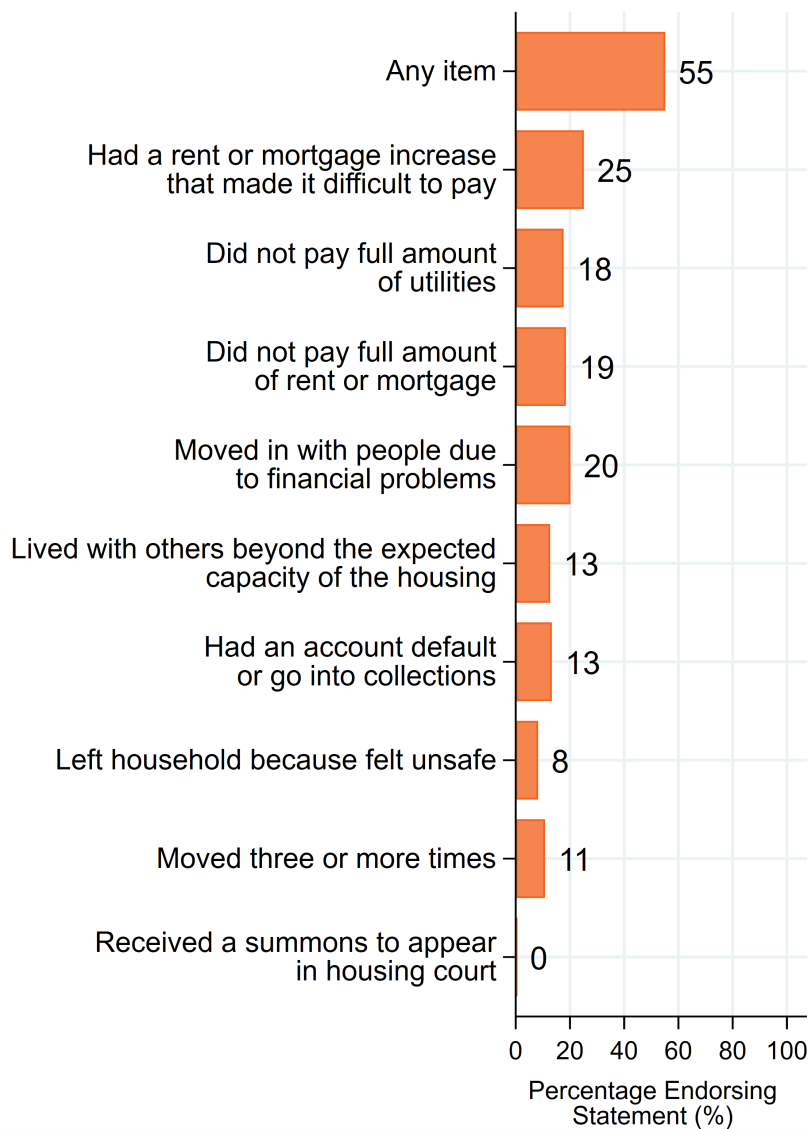
Source: 2018 #RealCollege Survey

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

Figure 3. Housing Insecurity Among Survey Respondents at The University of Montana



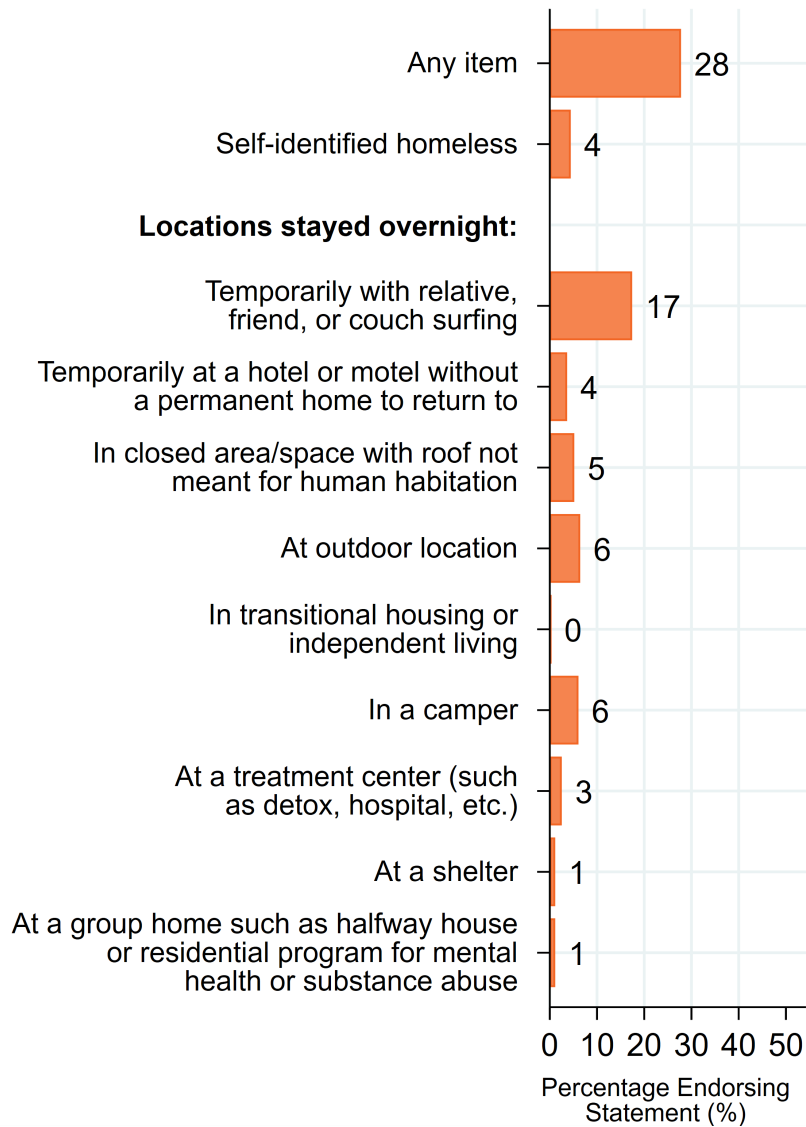
Source: 2018 #RealCollege Survey

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 The University of Montana? As displayed below, 28% of survey respondents experience homelessness (Figure 4).

Figure 4. Homelessness Among Survey Respondents at The University of Montana

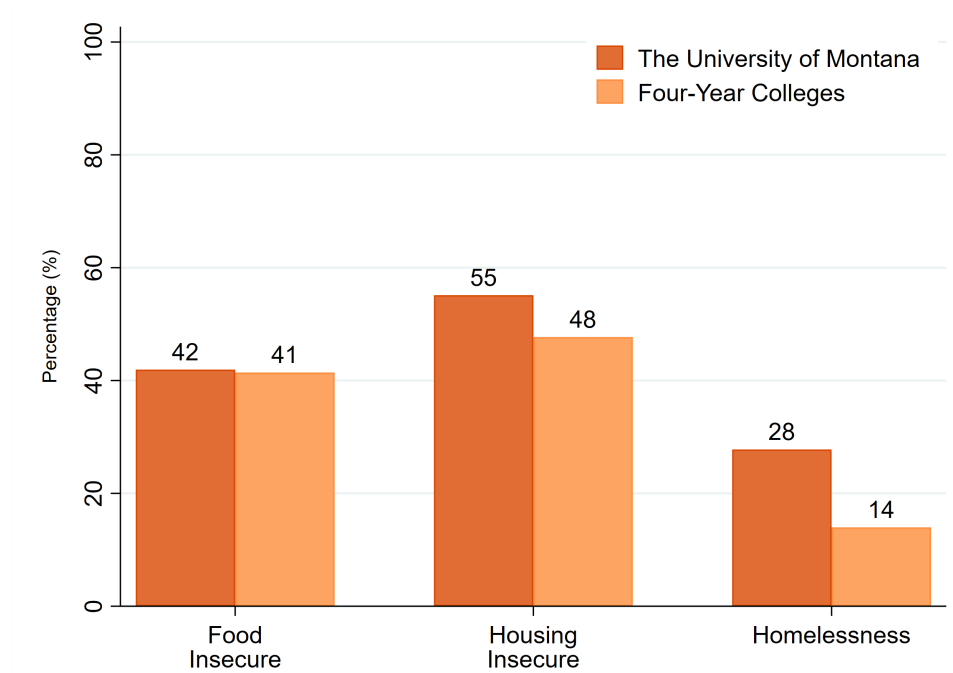


Source: 2018 #RealCollege Survey

COMPARISON TO FOUR-YEAR COLLEGES

In comparison to the overall rates for students attending a four-year college in 2018, The University of Montana 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

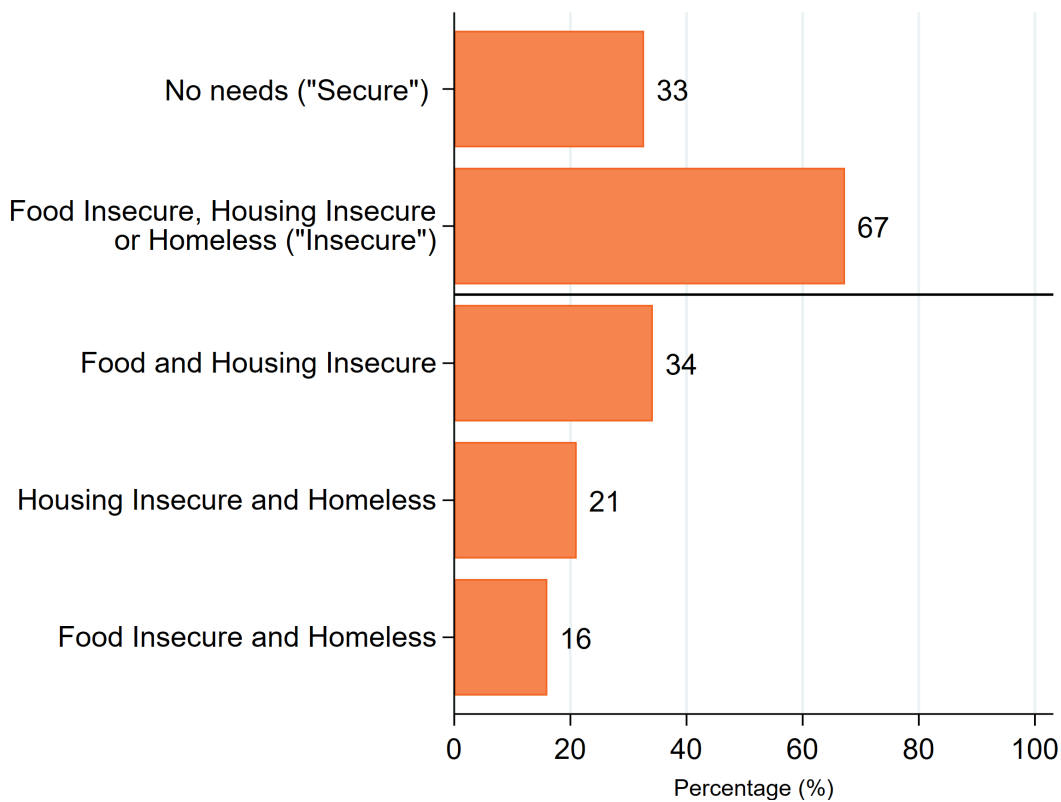


Source: 2018 #RealCollege Survey

OVERLAPPING CHALLENGES

Food insecurity, housing insecurity, and homelessness are overlapping concerns, with 67% of students at The University of Montana 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 The University of Montana



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 The University of Montana

	Number of Students	Food Insecurity (%)	Housing Insecurity (%)	Homelessness (%)
GENDER ORIENTATION				
Male	180	42	51	33
Female	574	42	56	26
Transgender	.	.	.	.
Other	14	57	64	71

SEXUAL ORIENTATION				
Heterosexual or straight	590	38	53	24
Gay or lesbian	39	62	62	38
Bisexual	103	50	62	43
Other	36	61	61	33
RACIAL OR ETHNIC BACKGROUND				
White or Caucasian	705	40	54	27
African American or Black	.	.	.	.
Hispanic or Latinx	37	68	65	35
American Indian or Alaskan Native	33	70	64	24
Middle Eastern or North African or Arab or Arab American	.	.	.	.
Southeast Asian	.	.	.	.
Pacific Islander or Native Hawaiian	.	.	.	.
Other Asian or Asian American	18	50	39	33
Other	11	45	91	36
Prefers not to answer	13	46	77	38
STUDENT IS A U.S. CITIZEN OR PERMANENT RESIDENT				
Yes	759	42	55	28
No	.	.	.	.
Prefers not to answer	.	.	.	.
HIGHEST LEVEL OF PARENTAL EDUCATION				
No high school diploma	24	63	79	33
High school diploma	89	45	52	30
Some college	249	47	60	28

Bachelors degree	392	38	51	27
Does not know	14	36	71	29
AGE				
18 to 20	303	33	42	27
21 to 25	272	47	54	31
26 to 30	107	53	79	26
Older than 30	84	42	75	24

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 The University of Montana

	Number of Students	Food Insecurity (%)	Housing Insecurity (%)	Homelessness (%)
COLLEGE ENROLLMENT STATUS				
Full-time (at least 12 credits)	702	41	53	27
Part-time (fewer than 12 credits)	90	47	68	31
YEARS IN COLLEGE				
Less than 1	174	26	35	24
1 to 2	187	42	57	33
3 or more	298	55	64	24
DEPENDENCY STATUS				
Dependent	398	40	44	26
Independent	368	45	67	30
STUDENT RECEIVES THE PELL GRANT				
Yes	272	56	68	33
No	520	35	48	25
STUDENT HAS CHILDREN				
Yes	105	59	70	26
No	687	39	53	28
RELATIONSHIP STATUS				

Single	365	40	50	28
In a relationship	299	41	55	30
Married or domestic partnership	99	52	71	19
Divorced	.	.	.	.
Widowed	.	.	.	.
STUDENT HAS BEEN IN FOSTER CARE				
Yes	24	79	83	42
No	743	41	54	27
STUDENT HAS BEEN IN MILITARY				
Yes	29	66	76	38
No	740	41	54	27
EMPLOYMENT STATUS				
Employed	562	46	61	29
Not employed, looking for work	76	39	43	26
Not employed, not looking for work	125	27	35	24
STUDENT HAS BEEN CONVICTED OF A CRIME				
Yes	24	67	71	38
No	756	41	55	27
DISABILITY OR MEDICAL CONDITION				
Learning disability (dyslexia, etc.)	58	60	78	43
Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)	80	59	63	38
Autism spectrum disorder	.	.	.	.
Physical disability (speech, sight, mobility, hearing, etc.)	39	59	79	41
Chronic illness (asthma, diabetes,	130	53	62	27

autoimmune disorder, cancer, etc.)				
Psychological disorder (depression, anxiety, etc.)	339	57	68	33
Other	25	56	80	56
No disability or medical condition	329	30	43	23

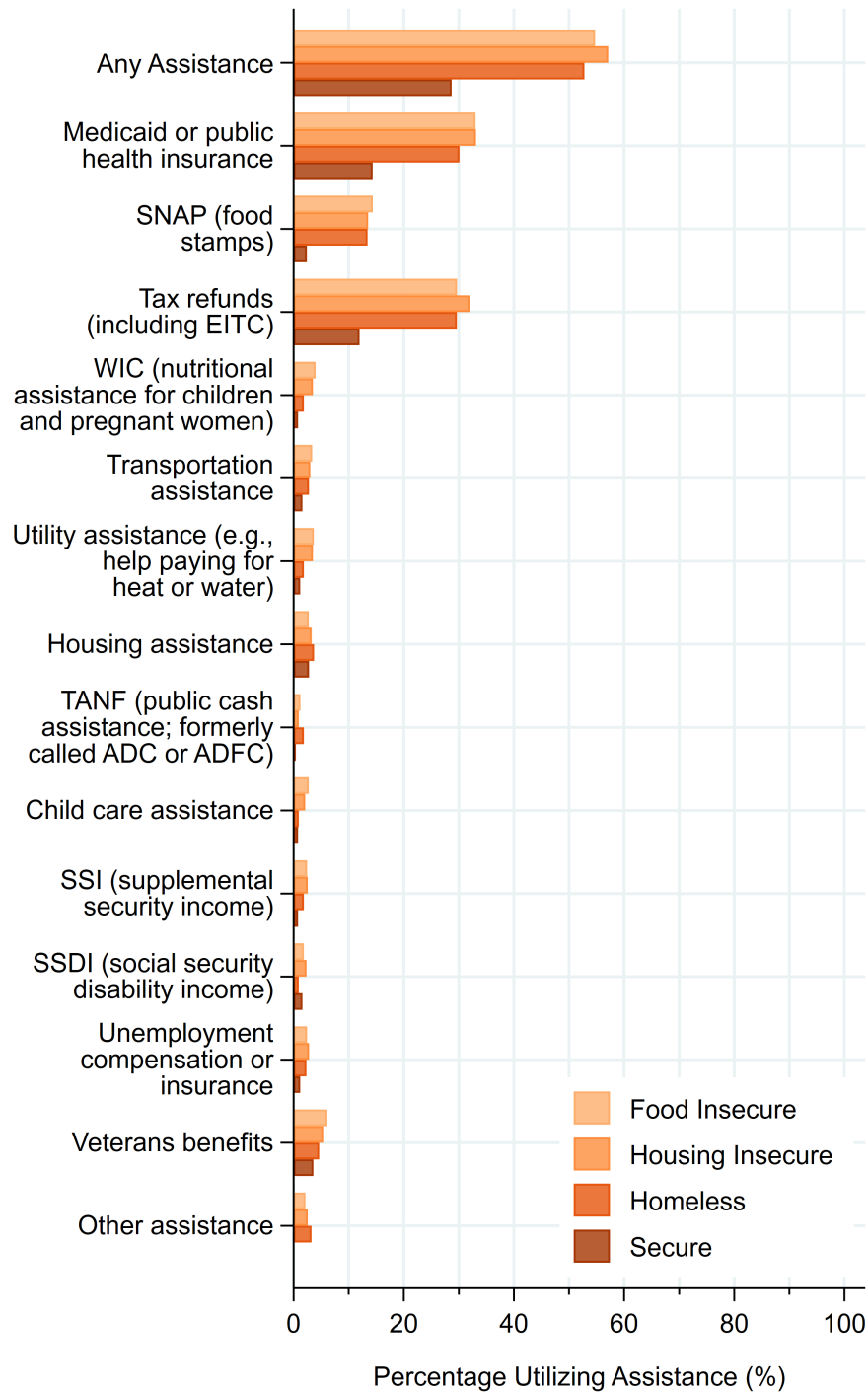
Source: 2018 #RealCollege Survey

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

UTILIZATION OF SUPPORTS

Many students at The University of Montana who experience basic needs insecurity do not receive public assistance (Figure 7). Fully 14% of food insecure students receive SNAP. In addition, 4% 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 (29%) than their peers.

Figure 7. Use of Assistance Among Survey Respondents at The University of Montana 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.