

# **New Jersey Community College #RealCollege Survey Supplement: WEB APPENDICES**

## Appendix A. Participating Colleges

Atlantic Cape Community College  
Bergen Community College  
Brookdale Community College  
Camden County College  
County College of Morris  
Essex County College  
Hudson County Community College  
Middlesex County College  
Ocean County College  
Passaic County Community College  
Raritan Valley Community College  
Rowan College at Burlington County  
Rowan College of South Jersey  
Salem Community College  
Sussex County Community College  
Union County College  
Warren County Community College

## Appendix B. Survey Methodology

### SURVEY ELIGIBILITY AND PARTICIPATING COLLEGES

Together with administrators, the Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice fielded this survey to all participating institutions. Each institution agreed to administer an online survey in the fall and offer ten \$100 prizes to their students in order to boost response rates. Institution staff sent a series of invitations and follow-up reminders to all enrolled students encouraging them to participate.

The Hope Center provided the email invitation language as well as hosted the survey as shown below. Upon opening the survey, students were presented with a consent form in compliance with Institutional Review Board standards. To actually take the survey, the student must have clicked continue as a record of consent and completed a minimum of the first page of the survey. Participants were asked to use only the provided invitation language to ensure consistency across institutions.

*Subject: Real talk: We need your help*

*From: email address [someone students “know” at COLLEGE NAME]*

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*[COLLEGE LETTERHEAD FOR EMAIL]*

*Dear [student first name],*

*Let’s get real. You’re the expert when it comes to what’s happening in college. So we need your help to make [COLLEGE NAME] the best it can be for you and your friends.*

*Share your real talk in the #RealCollege survey. We chose you simply because you attend [COLLEGE NAME]. In appreciation, you can win \$100 for completing the survey.*

*Click here to share your story. [SURVEY LINKED HERE]*

*Be honest— everything you say is confidential. If you have questions, send us a note at [hopesrvy@temple.edu](mailto:hopesrvy@temple.edu).*

*Thank you.*

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## COLLEGE SURVEY PARTICIPANTS

In 2019, 17 postsecondary institutions fielded the survey early in fall term, as students enduring basic needs insecurity are at greater risk for dropping out of school later in the year.<sup>1</sup>

**Table B-1. Characteristics of Participating Institutions (weighted)**

	N (colleges)	17
	N(survey respondents)	9,114
		%
<b>Sector</b>		
Public		100
Private, not for profit		0
Private, for profit		0
<b>Region</b>		
West		0
Midwest		0
South		0
Northeast		100
<b>Urbanization</b>		
City		11
Suburb		67
Town		5
Rural		17
<b>Size</b>		
Under 5,000		10
5,000–9,999		60
10,000–19,999		30
20,000 or more		0

Source: Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (2019). Retrieved from <https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/>

Notes: Cumulative percentages may not add up to 100 percent due to rounding error.

## STUDENT SURVEY PARTICIPANTS

### Who Answered the Survey?

Most students who were sent the #RealCollege survey did not answer it. Participating institutions sent survey invitations to an estimated 128,900 students and 9,110 students participated, yielding an estimated response rate of 7.1%.<sup>2</sup>

We surveyed all students rather than drawing a subsample due to legal and financial restrictions. The results may be biased—overstating or understating the problem—depending on who answered and who did not. As readers ponder this issue, consider that the survey was emailed to students, and thus they had to have electronic access to respond. The incentives provided were negligible and did not include help with their challenges. Finally, the survey was framed as being about college life, not about hunger or homelessness.

**Table B-2. Characteristics of Survey Respondents**

	%
<b>Gender Identity</b>	
Female	51
Male	20
Non-binary/third gender	1
Prefers to self-describe	1
Prefers not to answer	1
Missing	28
<b>Transgender Identity</b>	
Transgender	1
Non-transgender	70
Prefers not to answer	1
Missing	28
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>	
Heterosexual or straight	57
Gay or lesbian	3
Bisexual	7
Prefers to self-describe	2
Prefers not to answer	3
Missing	28
<b>Racial or Ethnic Background</b>	

American Indian or Alaskan Native	2
Black	12
Hispanic or Latinx	21
Indigenous	1
Middle Eastern or North African or Arab or Arab American	3
Other Asian or Asian-American	4
Pacific Islander or Native Hawaiian	1
Southeast Asian	3
White	40
Other	2
Prefers not to answer	1
Missing	28
<b>Student is a U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident</b>	
Yes	69
No	3
Prefers not to answer	1
Missing	28
<b>Highest Level of Parental Education</b>	
No high school diploma	7
High school	17
Some college	26
Bachelor's degree or greater	18
Does not know	3
Prefers not to answer	1
Missing	28
<b>Age</b>	
18 to 20	36
21 to 25	18
26 to 30	7
Older than 30	12
Prefers not to answer	0
Missing	28
<b>College Enrollment Status</b>	
Full-time (at least 12 credits)	68
Part-time (fewer than 12 credits)	32
Missing	0
<b>Level of Enrollment</b>	

Undergraduate	82
Graduate	11
Non-degree	7
Missing	0
<b>Years in College</b>	
Less than 1	39
1 to 2	40
3 or more	22
Missing	0
<b>Dependency Status</b>	
Dependent	23
Independent	32
Does not know	17
Prefers not to answer	1
Missing	28
<b>Student Receives the Pell Grant</b>	
Yes	38
No	46
Missing	16
<b>Student Athlete</b>	
Yes	2
No	70
Prefers not to answer	1
Missing	28
<b>Student with Children</b>	
Yes	13
No	68
Missing	19
<b>Relationship Status</b>	
Single	39
In a relationship	23
Married or domestic partnership	7
Divorced or widowed	1
Prefers not to answer	2
Missing	28
<b>Student Has Been in Foster Care</b>	
Yes	1

No	70
Prefers not to answer	1
Missing	28
<b>Student Served in the Military</b>	
Yes	2
No	70
Prefers not to answer	1
Missing	28
<b>Employment Status</b>	
Employed	23
Not employed, looking	6
Not employed, not looking	9
Missing	62
<b>Student is a Returning Citizen</b>	
Yes	2
No	75
Prefers not to answer	1
Missing	22
<b>Disability or Medical Condition</b>	
Learning disability (dyslexia, etc.)	12
Physical disability (speech, sight, mobility, hearing, etc.)	5
Chronic illness (asthma, diabetes, autoimmune disorders, cancer, etc.)	11
Psychological disorder (depression, anxiety, etc.)	23
Other	2
No disability or medical condition	38
Prefers not to answer	2
Missing	27

Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey

Notes: Classifications of gender orientation, racial and ethnic background, and disability or medical condition are not mutually exclusive. Students could self-identify with multiple classifications. Percentages of mutually exclusive groups may not add up to 100 percent due to rounding error. Survey questions about work status were administered to a subset of randomly selected respondents.



## Appendix C. Three Survey Measures of Basic Needs Insecurity

### FOOD SECURITY

To assess food *security* in 2019, we used questions from the 18-item Household Food Security Survey Module (shown below) from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). It is important to note that while we mainly discuss *insecurity*, the standard is to measure the level of *security*, referring to those with low or very low security as “food insecure.”

#### *Food Security Module*

##### Adult Stage 1

1. “In the last 30 days, I worried whether my food would run out before I got money to buy more.” (Often true, Sometimes true, Never true)
2. “In the last 30 days, the food that I bought just didn’t last, and I didn’t have money to get more.” (Often true, Sometimes true, Never true)
3. “In the last 30 days, I couldn’t afford to eat balanced meals.” (Often true, Sometimes true, Never true)

*If the respondent answers “often true” or “sometimes true” to any of the three questions in Adult Stage 1, then proceed to Adult Stage 2.*

##### Adult Stage 2

4. “In the last 30 days, did you ever cut the size of your meals or skip meals because there wasn’t enough money for food?” (Yes/No)
5. [*If yes to question 4, ask*] “In the last 30 days, how many days did this happen?” (Once, Twice, Three times, Four times, Five times, More than five times)
6. “In the last 30 days, did you ever eat less than you felt you should because there wasn’t enough money for food?” (Yes/No)
7. “In the last 30 days, were you ever hungry but didn’t eat because there wasn’t enough money for food?” (Yes/No)
8. “In the last 30 days, did you lose weight because there wasn’t enough money for food?” (Yes/No)

*If the respondent answers “yes” to any of the questions in Adult Stage 2, then proceed to Adult Stage 3.*

##### Adult Stage 3

9. “In the last 30 days, did you ever not eat for a whole day because there wasn’t enough money for food?” (Yes/No)

10. [*If yes to question 9, ask*] “In the last 30 days, how many days did this happen?” (Once, Twice, Three times, Four times, Five times, More than five times)

*If the respondent has indicated that children under 18 are present in the household, then proceed to Child Stage 1.*

#### Child Stage 1

11. “In the last 30 days, I relied on only a few kinds of low-cost food to feed my children because I was running out of money to buy food.” (Often true, Sometimes true, Never true)
12. “In the last 30 days, I couldn’t feed my children a balanced meal, because I couldn’t afford that.” (Often true, Sometimes true, Never true)
13. “In the last 30 days, my child was not eating enough because I just couldn’t afford enough food.” (Often true, Sometimes true, Never true)

*If the respondent answers “often true” or “sometimes true” to any of the three questions in Child Stage 1, then proceed to Child Stage 2.*

#### Child Stage 2

14. “In the last 30 days, did you ever cut the size of your children’s meals because there wasn’t enough money for food?” (Yes/No)
15. “In the last 30 days, did your children ever skip meals because there wasn’t enough money for food?” (Yes/No)
16. [*If yes to question 15, ask*] “In the last 30 days, how often did this happen?” (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 or more times)
17. “In the last 30 days, were your children ever hungry but you just couldn’t afford more food?” (Yes/No)
18. “In the last 30 days, did any of your children ever not eat for a whole day because there wasn’t enough money for food?” (Yes/No)

To calculate a raw score for food security, we counted the number of questions to which a student answered affirmatively.

- a. “Often true” and “sometimes true” were counted as affirmative answers.
- b. Answers of “Three times” or more were counted as a “yes.” We translated the raw score into food security levels as follows:

Food security level	Raw Score	
	18-item (children present)	18-item (no children present)
High	0	0
Marginal	1-2	1-2
Low	3-7	3-5
Very Low	8-18	6-10

## HOUSING INSECURITY

To assess housing insecurity, we used a series of survey questions adapted from the national Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) Adult Well-Being Module to measure students’ access to and ability to pay for safe and reliable housing.<sup>3</sup> In 2019, we asked students the following questions:

### *Housing Insecurity Module*

1. “In the past 12 months, was there a rent or mortgage increase that made it difficult to pay?” (Yes/No)
2. “In the past 12 months, have you been unable to pay or underpaid your rent or mortgage?” (Yes/No)
3. “In the past 12 months, have you received a summons to appear in housing court?” (Yes/No)
4. “In the past 12 months, have you not paid the full amount of a gas, oil, or electricity bill?” (Yes/No)
5. “In the past 12 months, did you have an account default or go into collections?” (Yes/No)
6. “In the past 12 months, have you moved in with other people, even for a little while, because of financial problems?” (Yes/No)
7. “In the past 12 months, have you lived with others beyond the expected capacity of the house or apartment?” (Yes/No)
8. “In the past 12 months, did you leave your household because you felt unsafe?” (Yes/No)
9. “In the past 12 months, how many times have you moved?” (None, Once, Twice, 3 times, 4 times, 5 times, 6 times, 7 times, 8 times, 9 times, 10 or more times)

Students were considered housing insecure if they answered “yes” to any of the first eight questions or said they moved at least *three* times (question #9).

## HOMELESSNESS

To measure homelessness, we asked a series of survey questions that align with the definition of homelessness dictated by the McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Act. Please refer to pp. 31–32 in Crutchfield and Maguire (2017) for further discussion of this measure.<sup>4</sup>

In 2019, students were considered homeless if they answered affirmatively to question #1 OR any part of question #2 (parts e through m) in the Homelessness Module (below).

### *Homelessness Module*

1. “In the past 12 months, have you ever been homeless?”
2. “In the past 12 months, have you slept in any of the following places? Please check all that apply.”
  - a. Campus or university housing
  - b. Sorority/fraternity house
  - c. In a rented or owned house, mobile home, or apartment (alone or with roommates or friends)
  - d. In a rented or owned house, mobile home, or apartment with my family (parent, guardian, or relative)
  - e. At a shelter
  - f. In a camper or RV
  - g. Temporarily staying with a relative, friend, or couch surfing until I find other housing
  - h. Temporarily at a hotel or motel without a permanent home to return to (not on vacation or business travel)
  - i. In transitional housing or independent living program
  - j. At a group home such as halfway house or residential program for mental health or substance abuse
  - k. At a treatment center (such as detox, hospital, etc.)
  - l. Outdoor location (such as street, sidewalk, or alley; bus or train stop; campground or woods, park, beach, or riverbed; under bridge or overpass; or other)
  - m. In a closed area/space with a roof not meant for human habitation (such as abandoned building; car, truck, or van; encampment or tent; unconverted garage, attic, or basement; etc.)

## Appendix D. Tables on Data Used in Figures

**Table D-1. Food Security Among Survey Respondents (Figure 1)**

	N	%
High	3,674	49
Marginal	906	12
Low	1,155	16
Very low	1,691	23

Source: 2019 #RealCollege survey

Notes: According to the USDA, students at either low or very low food security are considered “food insecure.” For more details on the food security module used in this report, see Appendix C. Cumulative percentages may not add up to 100 percent due to rounding error.

**Table D-2. Food Insecurity Among Survey Respondents (Figure 2)**

	N	%
I couldn't afford to eat balanced meals.	3,067	41
I worried whether my food would run out before I got money to buy more.	2,854	38
I cut the size of meals or skipped meals because there wasn't enough money for food.	2,495	34
The food that I bought just didn't last and I didn't have the money to buy more.	2,399	32
I ate less than I felt I should because there wasn't enough money for food.	2,247	31
I was hungry but didn't eat because there wasn't enough money for food.	1,964	27
I cut the size of meals or skipped because there wasn't enough money for food. (3 or more times)	1,704	23
I lost weight because there wasn't enough money for food.	1,142	16
I did not eat for a whole day because there wasn't enough money for food.	761	10
I did not eat for a whole day because there wasn't enough money for food. (3 or more times)	433	6

Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey

Notes: This table has been amended from the original release. For more details on the food security module used in this report, see Appendix C.

**Table D-3. Housing Insecurity Among Survey Respondents (Figure 3)**

	N	%
Any item	3,351	44
Did not pay full utilities (gas, oil, or electricity bill)	1,456	19
Had a rent or mortgage increase that made it difficult to pay	1,410	19
Did not pay full amount of rent or mortgage	1,381	18
Had an account default or go into collections	1,189	16
Moved in with other people, even for a little while, due to financial problems	965	13
Lived with others beyond the expected capacity of the house or apartment	729	10
Left household because felt unsafe	458	6
Received a summons to appear in housing court	160	2
Moved three or more times	140	2

Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey

Notes: For more details on the housing insecurity module used in this report, see Appendix C.

**Table D-4. Homelessness Among Survey Respondents (Figure 4)**

	N	%
Any item	1,081	14
Self-identified homeless	233	3
<b>Locations stayed overnight:</b>		
Temporarily staying with relative, friend or couch surfing until I find other housing	690	9
In closed area/space with roof not meant for human habitation (such as abandoned building; car, truck, or van; encampment or tent; unconverted garage, attic, or basement; etc.)	196	3
Temporarily at a hotel or motel without a permanent home to return to (not vacation or business travel)	166	2
At a treatment center (such as detox, hospital, etc.)	115	2
At outdoor location (such as street, sidewalk or alley; bus or train stop; campground or woods, park, beach, or riverbed; under bridge or overpass)	107	1
In a camper or RV	111	1
In transitional housing or independent living program	60	1
At a shelter	54	1

At a group home such as halfway house or residential program for mental health or substance abuse	58	1
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Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey

Notes: For more details on the homelessness module used in this report, see Appendix C.

**Table D-5. Intersections of Food Insecurity, Housing Insecurity, and Homelessness Among Survey Respondents (Figure 5)**

	N	%
No needs ("Secure")	3,325	44
Food insecure, housing insecure, or homeless ("Insecure")	4,308	56
Food and housing insecure	2,048	27
Housing insecure and homeless	838	11
Food insecure and homeless	702	9

Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey

Notes: For more details on how each measure of basic needs insecurity was constructed, see Appendix C.

**Table D-6. Variation in Institutional Rates of Food Insecurity, Housing Insecurity, and Homelessness Among Survey Respondents by Sector (Figure 6)**

	Number of					
	Institutions	Mean	SD	P25	P50	P75
Food insecurity rate	17	40	8	33	38	45
Housing insecurity rate	17	46	9	38	43	50
Homelessness rate	17	14	3	13	14	16

Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey

Notes: For more details on how each measure of insecurity was constructed, see Appendix C.

**Table D-7. Demographic Disparities in Rates Basic Need Insecurities (Tables 1 & 3)**

	N	FI (%)	HI (%)	HM (%)
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All survey respondents	7,621	38	44	14
<b>Gender Identity</b>				
Female	4,634	41	47	14
Male	1,848	33	38	16
Non-binary/third gender	72	53	46	31
Prefer to self-describe	46	39	50	26
Prefers not to answer	61	48	58	31
Missing	1,050	35	39	11
<b>Transgender Identity</b>				
Transgender	94	43	51	27
Non-transgender	6,408	39	45	14
Prefers not to answer	72	40	38	18
Missing	1,047	35	40	11
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>				
Heterosexual or straight	5,181	37	43	13
Gay or lesbian	233	48	50	18
Bisexual	673	47	52	24
Self-describe	193	46	47	27
Prefers not to answer	301	37	43	18
Missing	1,040	35	40	11
<b>Racial or Ethnic Background</b>				
American Indian or Alaskan Native	168	50	61	30
Black	1,104	51	58	18
Hispanic or Latinx	1,905	46	52	15
Indigenous	81	52	63	32
Middle Eastern or North African or Arab or Arab American	238	39	50	16
Other Asian or Asian American	390	31	39	15
Pacific Islander or Native Hawaiian	68	37	40	19
Southeast Asian	259	39	39	14
White	3,660	33	39	15
Other	205	42	52	17
Prefers not to answer	128	52	54	22
Missing	1,073	36	40	11
<b>Student is a U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident</b>				
Yes	6,247	39	44	15
No	266	38	51	18
Prefers not to answer	71	39	56	15



Missing	1,037	35	39	11
<b>Highest Level of Parental Education</b>				
No high school diploma	646	47	55	16
High school	1,569	40	46	14
Some college	2,370	44	50	16
Bachelor's degree or greater	1,661	28	33	13
Does not know	274	34	38	15
Prefers not to answer	76	28	38	17
Missing	1,025	35	40	11
<b>Age</b>				
18 to 20	3,259	31	30	13
21 to 25	1,594	45	52	19
26 to 30	617	49	67	16
Over 30	1,069	47	66	13
Prefers not to answer	8	38	38	13
Missing	1,074	35	40	11

Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey

Notes: The Number of Students column indicates the number of survey respondents to our measure of homelessness. The number of survey respondents for our measures of food insecurity and housing insecurity may vary slightly. Classifications of racial or ethnic background and gender orientation are not mutually exclusive. Students could self-identify with multiple classifications. For more details on how each measure of basic needs insecurity was constructed, see Appendix C.

**Table D-8. Disparities in Basic Needs by Student Life Experiences (Tables 2 & 4)**

	N	FI (%)	HI (%)	HM (%)
All survey respondents	7,621	38	44	14
<b>College Enrollment Status</b>				
Full-time (at least 12 credits)	5,153	38	41	15
Part-time (fewer than 12 credits)	2,464	39	51	13
Missing	4	75	75	25
<b>Level of Enrollment</b>				
Undergraduate	6,341	39	45	14
Non-degree	484	33	39	12
Missing	12	40	42	17
<b>Years in College</b>				

Less than 1	2,848	35	39	15
1 to 2	3,051	39	44	13
Three or more	1,713	42	52	14
Missing	9	44	67	22
<b>Dependency Status</b>				
Dependent	2,056	37	35	13
Independent	2,888	44	58	16
Does not know	1,523	32	32	15
Prefers not to answer	112	27	42	11
Missing	1,042	35	39	11
<b>Student Receives the Pell Grant</b>				
Yes	3,095	51	57	17
No	3,713	29	34	12
Missing	813	31	41	13
<b>Student Athlete</b>				
Yes	144	43	30	16
No	6,365	39	45	15
Prefers not to answer	76	30	37	28
Missing	1,036	35	39	11
<b>Student with Children</b>				
Yes	1,182	54	69	14
No	6,151	35	39	14
Missing	288	53	42	15
<b>Relationship Status</b>				
Single	3,580	37	42	15
In a relationship	2,064	41	44	15
Married or domestic partnership	680	35	55	8
Divorced or Widowed	111	54	80	20
Prefers not to answer	155	41	49	18
Missing	1,031	35	40	11
<b>Student Has Been in Foster Care</b>				
Yes	129	54	65	36
No	6,384	39	44	14
Prefers not to answer	63	30	32	19
Missing	1,045	35	40	11
<b>Student Served in the Military</b>				
Yes	148	45	59	19

No	6,393	39	44	15
Prefers not to answer	47	30	53	21
Missing	1,033	36	40	11
<b>Employment Status</b>				
Employed	1,974	42	47	16
Not employed, looking	545	37	40	12
Not employed, not looking	749	26	32	10
Missing	4,353	39	45	19
<b>Student is a Returning Citizen</b>				
Yes	156	60	76	41
No	6,799	38	43	14
Prefers not to answer	126	48	56	28
Missing	540	38	41	11
<b>Disability or Medical Condition</b>				
Learning disability (dyslexia, etc.)	1,066	41	46	21
Physical disability (speech, sight, mobility, hearing, etc.)	416	40	47	21
Chronic illness (asthma, diabetes, autoimmune disorders, cancer, etc.)	995	46	53	19
Psychological disorder (depression, anxiety, etc.)	2,085	47	52	23
Other	201	36	51	16
No disability or medical condition	3,501	35	41	11
Prefers not to answer	215	25	35	9
Missing	929	37	40	11

Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey

Notes: The Number of Students column indicates the number of survey respondents to our measure of homelessness. The number of survey respondents for our measures of food insecurity and housing insecurity may vary slightly. Classifications of disability or medical condition are not mutually exclusive. Students could self-identify with multiple classifications. Survey questions about work status were administered to a subset of randomly selected respondents. For more details on how each measure of basic needs insecurity was constructed, see Appendix C.

**Table D-9. Employment Behavior by Basic Need Insecurity Status (Figure 7)**

	N	%
<b>Experienced Food Insecurity—No</b>		
Not employed, not looking for work	544	27
Not employed, looking for work	332	17
Working 1 to 20 hours	471	24

Working 21 to 30 hours	315	16
Working more than 30 hours	326	16
<b>Experienced Food Insecurity—Yes</b>		
Not employed, not looking for work	188	16
Not employed, looking for work	194	16
Working 1 to 20 hours	298	25
Working 21 to 30 hours	213	18
Working more than 30 hours	308	26
<b>Experienced Housing Insecurity—No</b>		
Not employed, not looking for work	507	27
Not employed, looking for work	328	17
Working 1 to 20 hours	479	25
Working 21 to 30 hours	304	16
Working more than 30 hours	261	14
<b>Experienced Housing Insecurity—Yes</b>		
Not employed, not looking for work	242	17
Not employed, looking for work	217	16
Working 1 to 20 hours	310	22
Working 21 to 30 hours	238	17
Working more than 30 hours	383	28
<b>Experienced Homelessness—No</b>		
Not employed, not looking for work	676	24
Not employed, looking for work	477	17
Working 1 to 20 hours	683	24
Working 21 to 30 hours	455	16
Working more than 30 hours	529	19
<b>Experienced Homelessness—Yes</b>		
Not employed, not looking for work	73	16
Not employed, looking for work	68	15
Working 1 to 20 hours	106	24
Working 21 to 30 hours	87	19
Working more than 30 hours	114	25

Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey

Notes: This table has been amended from the original release. Cumulative percentages may not add up to 100 percent due to rounding. Survey questions about work status and number of hours worked were administered to a subset of randomly selected respondents. For more details on how each measure of insecurity was constructed, see Appendix C.

Table D-10. Self-Reported Grades by Basic Need Insecurity Status (Figure 8)

	N	%
<b>Experienced Food Insecurity—No</b>		
A	1,901	45
B	1,885	44
C	413	10
D or F	40	1
<b>Experienced Food Insecurity—Yes</b>		
A	1,015	39
B	1,223	47
C	333	13
D or F	45	2
<b>Experienced Housing Insecurity—No</b>		
A	1,762	44
B	1,795	45
C	383	10
D or F	34	1
<b>Experienced Housing Insecurity—Yes</b>		
A	1,221	40
B	1,404	46
C	381	12
D or F	54	2
<b>Experienced Homelessness—No</b>		
A	2,598	43
B	2,730	45
C	643	11
D or F	64	1
<b>Experienced homelessness—Yes</b>		
A	382	38
B	466	47
C	123	12
D or F	23	2

Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey

Notes: Cumulative percentages may not add up to 100 percent due to rounding. For more details on how each measure of insecurity was constructed, see Appendix C.

**Table D-11. Use of Public Assistance Among Survey Respondents According to Basic Need Security (Figure 9)**

	N	%
<b>Food Insecure</b>		
Any assistance	1,330	49
Medicaid or public health insurance	714	26
Tax refunds (including EITC)	542	20
SNAP (food stamps)	362	13
WIC (nutritional assistance for children and pregnant women)	140	5
Utility assistance (e.g., help paying for heat or water)	177	7
Housing assistance (e.g., housing choice voucher, subsidized site-based housing, public or non-profit-owned housing, income-based housing or rent, rental or homeowner assistance)	152	6
Transportation assistance	71	3
Veterans benefits (Veteran’s Administration benefits for a servicemen’s, widow’s, or survivor’s pension, service disability or the GI bill)	40	1
SSDI (social security disability income)	93	3
Child care assistance	132	5
SSI (supplemental security income)	107	4
Unemployment compensation or insurance	125	5
TANF (public cash assistance; formerly called ADC or ADFC)	46	2
Other assistance	39	1
<b>Housing Insecure</b>		
Any assistance	1,591	51
Medicaid or public health insurance	850	27
Tax refunds (including EITC)	672	22
SNAP (food stamps)	413	13
WIC (nutritional assistance for children and pregnant women)	171	5
Utility assistance (e.g., help paying for heat or water)	208	7
Housing assistance (e.g., housing choice voucher, subsidized site-based housing, public or non-profit-owned housing, income-based housing or rent, rental or homeowner assistance)	168	5
Transportation assistance	84	3

Veterans benefits (Veteran’s Administration benefits for a servicemen’s, widow’s, or survivor’s pension, service disability or the GI bill)	57	2
SSDI (social security disability income)	107	3
Child care assistance	166	5
SSI (supplemental security income)	108	3
Unemployment compensation or insurance	154	5
TANF (public cash assistance; formerly called ADC or ADFC)	55	2
Other assistance	52	2
<b>Homeless</b>		
Any assistance	530	52
Medicaid or public health insurance	268	26
Tax refunds (including EITC)	221	22
SNAP (food stamps)	140	14
WIC (nutritional assistance for children and pregnant women)	50	5
Utility assistance (e.g., help paying for heat or water)	50	5
Housing assistance (e.g., housing choice voucher, subsidized site-based housing, public or non-profit-owned housing, income-based housing or rent, rental or homeowner assistance)	55	5
Transportation assistance	52	5
Veterans benefits (Veteran’s Administration benefits for a servicemen’s, widow’s, or survivor’s pension, service disability or the GI bill)	23	2
SSDI (social security disability income)	39	4
Child care assistance	53	5
SSI (supplemental security income)	43	4
Unemployment compensation or insurance	60	6
TANF (public cash assistance; formerly called ADC or ADFC)	30	3
Other assistance	26	3
<b>Secure</b>		
Any assistance	796	26
Medicaid or public health insurance	366	12
Tax refunds (including EITC)	338	11
SNAP (food stamps)	89	3
WIC (nutritional assistance for children and pregnant women)	30	1
Utility assistance (e.g., help paying for heat or water)	31	1

Housing assistance (e.g., housing choice voucher, subsidized site-based housing, public or non-profit-owned housing, income-based housing or rent, rental or homeowner assistance)	32	1
Transportation assistance	37	1
Veterans benefits (Veteran’s Administration benefits for a servicemen’s, widow’s, or survivor’s pension, service disability or the GI bill)	36	1
SSDI (social security disability income)	53	2
Child care assistance	25	1
SSI (supplemental security income)	45	1
Unemployment compensation or insurance	41	1
TANF (public cash assistance; formerly called ADC or ADFC)	15	0
Other assistance	24	1

Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey

Notes: For more details on how each measure of insecurity was constructed, see Appendix C.

**Table D-12. Use of Campus Supports Among Survey Respondents According to Basic Need Security (Figure 10)**

	N	%
<b>Food Insecure</b>		
Any campus support	335	26
Food from a campus food pantry	196	15
A campus health clinic and/or counseling	73	6
Free food from another campus resource not listed	99	8
Help obtaining food stamps/SNAP	56	4
Emergency financial aid	68	5
Food from a campus garden	28	2
Emergency housing	18	1
Help finding affordable housing	35	3
<b>Housing Insecure</b>		
Any campus support	340	22
Food from a campus food pantry	179	12
A campus health clinic and/or counseling	80	5
Free food from another campus resource not listed	104	7
Help obtaining food stamps/SNAP	54	4
Emergency financial aid	76	5



Food from a campus garden	27	2
Emergency housing	21	1
Help finding affordable housing	37	2
<b>Homeless</b>		
Any campus support	150	30
Food from a campus food pantry	91	18
A campus health clinic and/or counseling	40	8
Free food from another campus resource not listed	50	10
Help obtaining food stamps/SNAP	25	5
Emergency financial aid	35	7
Food from a campus garden	18	4
Emergency housing	14	3
Help finding affordable housing	21	4
<b>Secure</b>		
Any campus support	154	10
Food from a campus food pantry	90	6
A campus health clinic and/or counseling	40	3
Free food from another campus resource not listed	30	2
Help obtaining food stamps/SNAP	14	1
Emergency financial aid	17	1
Food from a campus garden	10	1
Emergency housing	0	0
Help finding affordable housing	4	0

Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey

Notes: Survey questions about campus supports were administered to a subset of randomly selected respondents. This table has been amended from the original release. For more details on how each measure of insecurity was constructed, see Appendix C.

**Table D-13. Transit Affordability Among Students Who Take Public Transit, by Basic Needs Security (Figure 11 & Table 5)**

How Affordable Are Public Transit Tickets Or Passes? (Among Those Who Took Public Transit)					
	N	Not Affordable At All (%)	Somewhat Affordable (%)	Very Affordable (%)	Extremely Affordable (%)
All survey respondents	686	18	59	17	6
<b>Basic Needs Security Status</b>					
Secure	220	9	54	27	10
Insecure	435	23	62	11	3

Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey

Notes: Survey questions about transit use and affordability were administered to a subset of randomly selected respondents. For more details on how each measure of basic needs security was constructed, see Appendix C.

**Table D-14. Weekly Amount Paid for Transportation to College, By Basic Need Security (Figure 12)**

How Much Do You Pay In Total Per Week For Transportation Between Home And Your College Campus?							
	N	\$0-\$9 (%)	\$10-14 (%)	\$15-\$19 (%)	\$20- \$24 (%)	\$25- \$29 (%)	\$30 or more (%)
All survey respondents	3,841	23	15	12	19	11	20
<b>Uses Public Transit</b>							
Yes	681	20	20	17	16	9	19
No	3,158	24	14	11	20	12	20
<b>Basic Needs Security Status</b>							
Secure	1,537	31	16	11	18	9	15
Insecure	2,091	18	14	13	20	12	24

Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey

Notes: Survey questions about transit use and transportation costs were administered to a subset of randomly selected respondents. For more details on how each measure of basic needs security was constructed, see Appendix C.

**Table D-15. Childcare Affordability Among Parenting Students Who Need, Use, or Plan to Use Childcare, by Basic Needs Security (Figure 13 & Table 6)**

I can afford to pay for childcare (Among parenting students who need/use childcare)				
	N	Disagree (%)	Undecided (%)	Agree (%)
All survey respondents	437	64	16	20
<b>Basic Needs Security Status</b>				
Secure	77	36	19	44
Insecure	360	70	16	15

Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey

Notes: The survey questions about childcare affordability was only administered parenting students who reported that they need, use, or plan to use childcare. For more details on how each measure of basic needs security was constructed, see Appendix C.

## Appendix E. Other Survey Questions Used in the Hope Center's #RealCollege Survey

1. What is your gender? (Mark Yes or No for each item)
  - a. Female
  - b. Male
  - c. Non-binary/third gender
  - d. Prefer to self-describe
  - e. Prefer not to answer
2. Do you identify as transgender?
  - a. Yes
  - b. No
  - c. Prefer not to answer
3. What is your sexual orientation?
  - a. Heterosexual or straight
  - b. Gay or lesbian
  - c. Bisexual
  - d. Prefer to self-describe
  - e. Prefer not to answer
4. In what year were you born? (answers dropdown menu)
5. Are you a U.S. citizen or permanent resident?
  - a. Yes
  - b. No
  - c. Prefer not to answer
6. Have you ever served in the U.S. Armed Forces, Military Reserves, or National Guard?
  - a. Yes
  - b. No
  - c. I prefer not to answer
7. How do you usually describe your race and/or ethnicity? (Select “Yes” to all that apply if you identify with multiple groups)
  - a. White or Caucasian
  - b. African American or Black
  - c. Hispanic or Latinx/Latina/Latino or Chicanx/Chicana/Chicano
  - d. American Indian or Alaskan Native
  - e. Middle Eastern or North African or Arab or Arab American
  - f. Southeast Asian
  - g. Pacific Islander or Native Hawaiian
  - h. Other Asian or Asian-American

- i. Other (please specify)
  - j. Prefer not to answer
8. What is the highest level of education completed by either of your parents/guardians?
- a. Eighth grade or lower
  - b. Between 9th and 12th grade (but no high school diploma)
  - c. High school diploma
  - d. GED
  - e. Some college (but no college degree)
  - f. College certificate or diploma
  - g. Associate's degree
  - h. Bachelor's degree
  - i. Graduate degree
  - j. I don't know
  - k. Prefer not to answer
9. In the last year, did a parent or guardian claim you as a "dependent" for tax purposes?
- a. Yes
  - b. No
  - c. I don't know
  - d. Prefer not to answer
10. How would you describe your current relationship status?
- a. Single
  - b. In a relationship
  - c. Married or domestic partnership
  - d. Divorced
  - e. Widowed
  - f. Prefer not to answer
11. Have you ever been in foster care?
- a. Yes
  - b. No
  - c. Prefer not to answer
12. Are you the parent or guardian to any biological, adopted, step, or foster children who live in your household?
- a. Yes
  - b. No
13. Have you ever been convicted of a crime? (Felony and misdemeanor convictions only. Don't include violations or traffic infractions)
- a. Yes
  - b. No

- c. Prefer not to answer
14. Do you have any of the following disabilities or medical conditions?
- a. Cognitive, learning, or neurological disorders/disabilities (dyslexia, ADHD, autism spectrum disorder, epilepsy, etc.)
  - b. Physical disability (speech, sight, mobility, hearing, etc.)
  - c. Chronic illness (asthma, diabetes, autoimmune disorders, cancer, etc.)
  - d. Psychological disorder (depression, anxiety, PTSD, etc.)
  - e. Other: (fill in)
15. Are you a student-athlete on a team sponsored by your institution's athletics department?
- a. Yes
  - b. No
  - c. Prefer not to answer

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<sup>1</sup> Although assessments of basic needs insecurity made early in the fall semester are likely to capture more students, these assessments may also understate students' basic needs. In fact, [Bruening et al. \(2018\)](#) surveyed the same population at the beginning and at the end of a semester and found that rates of food insecurity were higher at the end of the semester (35%) than at the beginning (28%).

<sup>2</sup> The estimated number of survey invitations is based on the total number of students at institutions, age 18 or above, in the fall of 2017, as reported by the National Center for Education Statistics's Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System.

<sup>3</sup> See [https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sipp/about/sipp-content-information.html#par\\_textimage\\_5](https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sipp/about/sipp-content-information.html#par_textimage_5)

<sup>4</sup> 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*. Long Beach, California: Basic Needs Initiative, Office of the Chancellor, California State University.