



School Name: Dakota County Technical College MN

Report from Fall 2016 Survey of Student Basic Needs

In fall 2016 the Wisconsin HOPE Lab at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT), with support from the Kresge Foundation, conducted a large-scale survey to better understand food and housing insecurity among community college students. The effort built on a similar survey of ten community colleges during the 2014-2015 academic year. In total, seventy institutions from twenty-four states participated in the 2016 survey.

This report presents a profile of survey participants at your college. In addition, the report compares institution-level results with aggregated results from the other colleges in your institution's region of the country (not including your own) and from the national survey sample. National sample results are similar to those found in the associated survey report *Hungry and Homeless in College: Results from a National Study of Basic Needs Insecurity in Higher Education*.ⁱ (Please note that some values are not listed due to small sample size.)

Food Insecurity

Food insecurity is the limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods, or the ability to acquire such foods in a socially acceptable manner.ⁱⁱ To assess food insecurity among students, the survey instrument included the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) 6-item Food Security Survey Module (FSSM).ⁱⁱⁱ Table 1 displays results from the FSSM.

Table 1: Responses to Specific Items in USDA 6-Item Food Security Scale (Last 30 Days)

	Institution	Region	National
<i>The food that I bought just didn't last and I didn't have enough money to get more</i>	40%	49%	52%
<i>I couldn't afford to eat balanced meals</i>	54%	57%	60%
<i>Did you ever cut the size of your meals or skip meals because there wasn't enough money for food?</i>	37%	43%	46%
<i>3 or more days: Did you ever cut the size of your meals or skip meals because there wasn't enough money for food?</i>	27%	30%	32%
<i>Did you ever eat less than you felt you should because there wasn't enough money for food?</i>	33%	40%	43%
<i>Were you ever hungry but didn't eat because there wasn't enough money for food?</i>	30%	33%	36%



The USDA recommends assigning each respondent a score based on the total number of affirmative answers on the 6-item instrument. That score determines a person's food security status via a four-category scale, where a score of zero corresponds to high food security, one to marginal food security, two to four translate to low food security, and scores of five or six indicate very low food security. Taken together, people who report low and very low food security can be referred to as food insecure.^{iv} Figure 2 shows food security scores and categories across the three samples.

Table 2: Prevalence of Food Insecurity (Last 30 Days)

	Institution	Region	National
<i>Food security (last 30 days)</i>			
High security (score = 0)	42%	35%	33%
Marginal security (score = 1)	12%	12%	12%
Low security (score = 2-4)	20%	23%	23%
Very low security (score = 5-6)	26%	30%	33%

Housing Insecurity

Housing insecurity can involve unaffordable housing, poor housing quality, crowding, and frequent moves.^v The survey instrument included five items to assess whether a student has experienced housing insecurity in the past twelve months. Students are classified as housing insecure if they answered affirmatively to at least one of those items. Table 3 shows institutional, regional, and national housing insecurity statistics. Over half the students in the national sample experienced housing insecurity in the past 12 months, similar to the rates measured in the Wisconsin HOPE Lab's 2014-15 survey.

Table 3: Prevalence of Housing Insecurity (Past 12 Months)

	Institution	Region	National
Any of the below items:	44%	48%	51%
...Didn't pay full amount of rent or mortgage	15%	20%	21%
...Didn't pay full amount of utilities	24%	27%	28%
...Moved 2 or more times per year	13%	13%	14%
...Doubled up	11%	13%	17%
...Moved in with other people due to financial problems	14%	16%	18%



Homelessness

Homelessness indicates that a person is without a place to live, often residing in a shelter, automobile, an abandoned building, or outside. Students are considered homeless if they answered affirmatively to at least one of six items. These items, and an overall measure of homelessness, are displayed in Table 4. National rates of homelessness are similar to those found in the 2014-15 survey, which found that thirteen percent of students had experienced homelessness in the past year.

Table 4: Prevalence of Homelessness (Past 12 Months)

	Institution	Region	National
Any of the below items:	11%	12%	14%
... <i>Thrown out of home</i>	3%	5%	6%
... <i>Evicted from home</i>	2%	3%	3%
... <i>Stayed in a shelter</i>	1%	1%	2%
... <i>Stayed in an abandoned building, auto, or other place not meant as housing</i>	3%	3%	4%
... <i>Did not know where you were going to sleep, even for one night</i>	5%	6%	8%
... <i>Didn't have a home</i>	1%	2%	2%

Demographic Disparities in Basic Needs Security

Tables 5, 6, and 7 present measures of food insecurity, housing insecurity, and homelessness, respectively, for various demographic groups. In the national survey sample, students with children and students who had ever been placed in foster care showed higher levels of both food and housing insecurity than their counterparts. One of the most striking results described in the national report is the vast disparity in homelessness for students who have experienced foster care. These statistics imply that institutional outreach efforts targeted toward former foster youth are likely to connect with many students who could benefit from food and housing assistance.



Table 5: Demographic Disparities in Food Insecurity

	Institution	Region	National
<i>Sex</i>			
Female	48%	55%	58%
Male	43%	49%	52%
<i>Race</i>			
White, non-Hispanic or Latino	45%	50%	52%
African American	36%	69%	69%
Hispanic	50%	53%	57%
American Indian		58%	70%
SE Asian		53%	47%
Other Asian		53%	47%
More than one race	50%	61%	61%
<i>Age</i>			
18-20	29%	42%	46%
21-25	47%	58%	59%
26-30	56%	61%	62%
Over 30	55%	59%	61%
<i>Highest level of parental education (either parent)</i>			
High school or less	54%	61%	61%
Some college	61%	58%	59%
Associate's degree	28%	51%	53%
Bachelor's degree	35%	43%	48%
Graduate degree	35%	40%	44%
<i>Immigration status</i>			
Student a citizen or permanent resident	47%	53%	56%
Student NOT a citizen or permanent resident		48%	51%
Either parent a citizen or permanent resident	46%	53%	56%
Neither parent a citizen or permanent resident		45%	53%



Table 5: Demographic Disparities in Food Insecurity (Continued)

	Institution	Region	National
<i>Pell Grant receipt</i>			
No	35%	43%	49%
Yes	67%	64%	65%
<i>Ever served in the armed forces</i>			
No	46%	53%	56%
Yes	47%	56%	54%
<i>Current relationship status</i>			
Single	39%	51%	55%
Divorced or widowed	71%	66%	70%
In a relationship	54%	55%	59%
Married	38%	51%	50%
<i>Parent claims student as a dependent</i>			
No	48%	58%	60%
Yes	41%	43%	48%
<i>Student has children</i>			
No	41%	49%	53%
Yes	55%	63%	63%
<i>Ever placed in foster care</i>			
No	45%	53%	56%
Yes		70%	75%



Table 6: Demographic Disparities in Housing Insecurity

	Institution	Region	National
<i>Sex</i>			
Female	47%	50%	53%
Male	39%	40%	44%
<i>Race</i>			
White, non-Hispanic or Latino	45%	46%	48%
African American	50%	62%	64%
Hispanic	29%	44%	49%
American Indian		58%	68%
SE Asian		39%	42%
Other Asian		41%	40%
More than one race	20%	54%	54%
<i>Age</i>			
18-20	28%	29%	33%
21-25	38%	52%	52%
26-30	56%	59%	62%
Over 30	55%	61%	60%
<i>Highest level of parental education (either parent)</i>			
High school or less	54%	53%	54%
Some college	55%	51%	53%
Associate's degree	32%	44%	48%
Bachelor's degree	24%	40%	43%
Graduate degree	50%	39%	43%
<i>Immigration status</i>			
Student a citizen or permanent resident	44%	48%	50%
Student NOT a citizen or permanent resident		43%	49%
Either parent a citizen or permanent resident	43%	48%	50%
Neither parent a citizen or permanent resident		39%	49%



Table 6: Demographic Disparities in Housing Insecurity (Continued)

	Institution	Region	National
<i>Pell Grant receipt</i>			
No	38%	38%	44%
Yes	56%	59%	60%
<i>Ever served in the armed forces</i>			
No	43%	47%	50%
Yes	47%	59%	54%
<i>Current relationship status</i>			
Single	41%	44%	48%
Divorced or widowed	71%	72%	71%
In a relationship	40%	46%	50%
Married	44%	52%	51%
<i>Parent claims student as a dependent</i>			
No	49%	55%	57%
Yes	29%	31%	35%
<i>Student has children</i>			
No	38%	40%	45%
Yes	53%	63%	63%
<i>Ever placed in foster care</i>			
No	43%	47%	49%
Yes		70%	72%



Table 7: Demographic Disparities in Homelessness

	Institution	Region	National
<i>Sex</i>			
Female	10%	12%	14%
Male	12%	13%	16%
<i>Race</i>			
White, non-Hispanic or Latino	8%	10%	12%
African American	20%	20%	22%
Hispanic	23%	12%	12%
American Indian		13%	22%
SE Asian		12%	13%
Other Asian		16%	14%
More than one race		19%	19%
<i>Age</i>			
18-20	15%	12%	13%
21-25	8%	13%	15%
26-30	16%	12%	15%
Over 30	9%	13%	15%
<i>Highest level of parental education (either parent)</i>			
High school or less	16%	13%	15%
Some college	12%	14%	15%
Associate's degree	6%	12%	13%
Bachelor's degree	9%	10%	12%
Graduate degree	8%	9%	12%
<i>Immigration status</i>			
Student a citizen or permanent resident	11%	12%	14%
Student NOT a citizen or permanent resident		14%	14%
Either parent a citizen or permanent resident	11%	12%	14%
Neither parent a citizen or permanent resident		10%	14%



Table 7: Demographic Disparities in Homelessness (Continued)

	Institution	Region	National
<i>Pell Grant receipt</i>			
No	12%	10%	12%
Yes	10%	15%	16%
<i>Ever served in the armed forces</i>			
No	12%	12%	14%
Yes	6%	16%	16%
<i>Current relationship status</i>			
Single	12%	15%	16%
Divorced or widowed	7%	17%	20%
In a relationship	16%	12%	14%
Married	4%	5%	7%
<i>Parent claims student as a dependent</i>			
No	8%	12%	14%
Yes	16%	11%	12%
<i>Student has children</i>			
No	12%	12%	14%
Yes	9%	12%	14%
<i>Ever placed in foster care</i>			
No	10%	12%	13%
Yes		26%	29%

Accessing Public Assistance

In addition to measuring basic needs insecurity, the survey included multiple items to characterize food insecure and housing insecure students' strategies for addressing the shortfalls they experience. Students were asked whether they had received assistance from a variety of social programs during the past year. Undergraduates may be eligible for multiple social programs to assist with food, housing, child care, transportation, health care, and other expenses. However, program restrictions often prevent students from receiving assistance. For example, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) requires undergraduates without children to work at least twenty hours per week. Due to shortages in subsidized housing, eligibility for housing assistance does not guarantee participation.



Students' utilization of public assistance is shown in Tables 8 and 9. In the national sample, SNAP, Medicaid or other public health insurance, and tax refunds were the most common forms of support. Very few needy students, however, received the help they needed.

Table 8: Public Assistance for Food Insecure Students

	Institution	Region	National
<i>Financial aid receipt and employment</i>			
Pell Grant	51%	57%	49%
Other federal or state grants	41%	25%	23%
Institutional grants	6%	7%	8%
Any grant	70%	64%	61%
Employed in last week	63%	65%	56%
Any grant and employed in last week	43%	39%	31%
<i>Food-related public assistance</i>			
SNAP (food stamps)	14%	32%	29%
WIC (nutritional assistance for pregnant women and children)	10%	6%	6%
Receive free food or meals	25%	24%	23%
<i>Housing-related public assistance</i>			
Housing assistance	8%	10%	13%
Utility assistance	4%	7%	5%
<i>Other public assistance</i>			
TANF	2%	2%	4%
SSI	5%	3%	4%
SSDI	6%	4%	4%
Medicaid or public health insurance	32%	32%	26%
Child care assistance	5%	6%	5%
Unemployment compensation/insurance	2%	4%	3%
Transportation assistance	3%	3%	4%
Tax refunds	38%	31%	24%
Veteran's benefits	8%	3%	4%

Table Notes: Housing assistance includes direct housing assistance, living in a housing project, and receiving a housing voucher.



Table 9: Public Assistance for Housing Insecure or Homeless Students

	Institution	Region	National
<i>Financial aid receipt and employment</i>			
Pell Grant	42%	58%	50%
Other federal or state grants	36%	25%	23%
Institutional grants	8%	7%	8%
Any grant	63%	65%	62%
Employed in last week	64%	65%	57%
Any grant and employed in last week	39%	40%	32%
<i>Food-related public assistance</i>			
SNAP (food stamps)	12%	35%	32%
WIC (nutritional assistance for pregnant women and children)	6%	6%	7%
Receive free food or meals	19%	26%	24%
<i>Housing-related public assistance</i>			
Housing assistance	9%	11%	13%
Utility assistance	2%	9%	6%
<i>Other public assistance</i>			
TANF	1%	2%	5%
SSI	4%	3%	4%
SSDI	5%	3%	4%
Medicaid or public health insurance	31%	34%	28%
Child care assistance	3%	7%	5%
Unemployment compensation/insurance	1%	4%	4%
Transportation assistance	2%	3%	4%
Tax refunds	35%	33%	26%
Veteran's benefits	8%	4%	4%

Table Notes: Housing assistance includes direct housing assistance, living in a housing project, and receiving a housing voucher.



Summary Statistics

To better facilitate comparisons with regional and national data and to assess which students at your college may have been more or less likely to respond to the survey instrument, Table 10 presents summary statistics for each of the three samples.

Table 10: Summary Statistics

	Institution	Region	National
Female	61%	74%	72%
<i>Race</i>			
White, non-Hispanic or Latino	80%	73%	44%
African American	5%	10%	11%
Hispanic	7%	5%	25%
Native American	0%	1%	1%
SE Asian	0%	1%	2%
Other Asian	3%	2%	5%
More than one race	5%	8%	12%
<i>Age</i>			
18-20	26%	34%	30%
21-25	26%	24%	26%
26-30	12%	14%	15%
Over 30	37%	28%	29%
<i>Highest level of parental education</i>			
High school or less	18%	28%	35%
Some college	33%	29%	29%
Associate's degree	15%	12%	9%
Bachelor's degree	22%	20%	17%
Graduate degree	12%	11%	10%
<i>Immigration status</i>			
Student a citizen or permanent resident	99%	98%	95%
Student NOT a citizen or permanent resident	1%	2%	5%
Either parent a citizen or permanent resident	98%	97%	91%
Neither parent a citizen or permanent resident	2%	3%	9%



Table 10: Summary Statistics (Continued)

	Institution	Region	National
<i>Family characteristics</i>			
Parent or guardian claims student as dependent	26%	32%	30%
Ever placed in foster care	4%	4%	5%
Have children	37%	31%	28%
<i>Relationship status</i>			
Single	35%	43%	49%
Divorced or widowed	6%	4%	4%
In a relationship	33%	34%	29%
Married or domestic partnership	25%	19%	18%
<i>Year in college</i>			
Less than 1	41%	34%	29%
1 to 2	34%	38%	39%
More than 2	25%	28%	32%
<i>Financial aid and employment</i>			
Receives the Pell Grant	35%	46%	42%
Enrolled full-time	64%	60%	59%
Employed in last week	71%	68%	58%
Number of hours worked last week	28	27	27



Questions?

If you have any questions about this report or food and housing resources, please contact Wisconsin HOPE Lab Acting Director Jed Richardson by email at jed.richardson@wisc.edu or by phone at (608) 890-2946.

The Wisconsin HOPE Lab – Food and Housing Resources for Students and Institutions

The Wisconsin HOPE Lab was established in 2013 on the University of Wisconsin–Madison campus to engage in translational research aimed at improving equitable outcomes in postsecondary education. For more information on material need among college students, and for helpful food and housing resources for those seeking to help struggling students, visit the Wisconsin HOPE Lab at <http://www.wihopelab.com/events/realcollege.html>.

About the Association of Community College Trustees

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ⁱ Goldrick-Rab, S., Richardson, J., & Hernandez, A. 2017. Hungry and homeless in college: Results from a national study of basic needs insecurity in higher education. Wisconsin HOPE Lab. Retrieved from <http://www.wihopelab.com/publications/Hungry-and-Homeless-in-College-Report.pdf>

ⁱⁱ Anderson, S.A. 1990. Core indicators of nutritional state for difficult-to-sample populations. *The Journal of Nutrition*, 120(11), 1557-1599.

ⁱⁱⁱ U.S. Department of Agriculture. 2017. Survey tools. Retrieved from <https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-security-in-the-us/survey-tools/>

^{iv} U.S. Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service. 2012. U.S. household security survey Module: Six-item short form. Retrieved from <https://www.ers.usda.gov/media/8282/short2012.pdf>

^v Cutts, D.B., Meyers, A.F., Black, M.M., Casey, P.H., Chilton, M., Cook, J.T., ... & Frank, D.A. 2011. U.S. housing insecurity and the health of very young children. *American Journal of Public Health*, 101(8), 1508-1514.