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# 2019 #RealCollege Survey Report

## Institution Report

January 2020



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

**EMBARGOED UNTIL FEB. 12, 2020**

## **2019 #REALCOLLEGE SURVEY RESULTS**

### **INSTITUTION REPORT FOR MONTGOMERY COLLEGE**

**Prepared by  
The Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice  
at Temple University**

**January 2020**

#### **OVERVIEW**

\* Invitations to complete the questionnaire were sent by email to approximately 22,300 students from Montgomery College and 937 students participated. Thus, the estimated response rate is 4.2%.

**\* Overall Basic Needs Insecurity Rates:**

- 39% of respondents experienced food insecurity in the prior 30 days
- 43% of respondents experienced housing insecurity in the previous year
- 14% of respondents experienced homelessness in the previous year

\* 57% of students at Montgomery 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.

\* 11% of food insecure students utilize SNAP benefits and 8% of homeless students utilize housing benefits.

*For more information on the research methodology and survey participants, please refer to the online appendices for the 2019 National #RealCollege Survey report (available at [www.hope4college.com](http://www.hope4college.com)).*

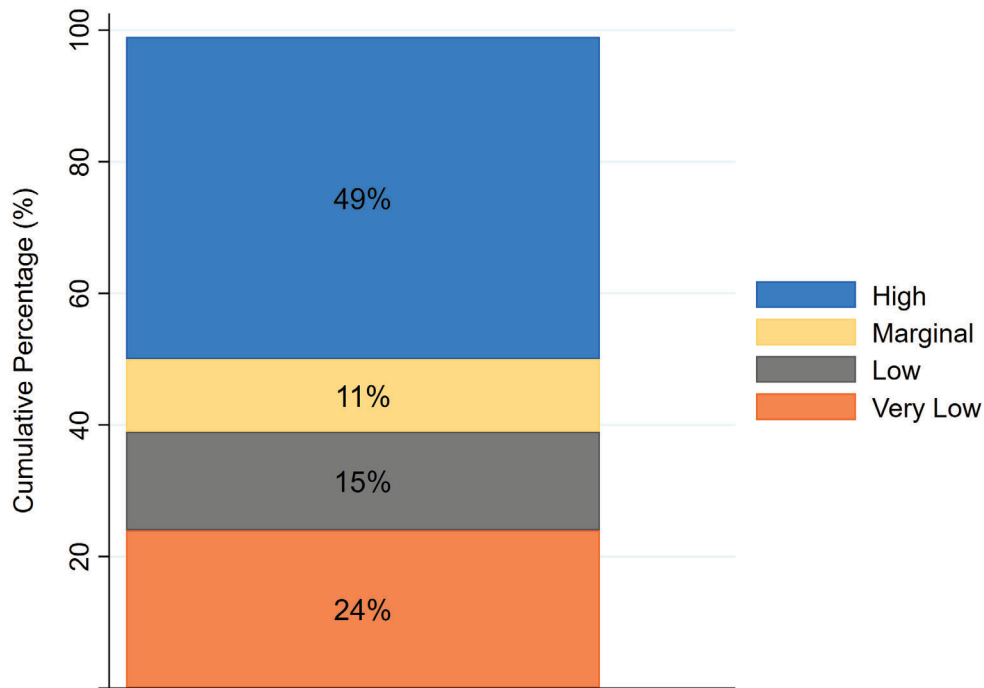
## PREVALENCE OF BASIC NEEDS INSECURITY

### 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 39% of survey respondents at Montgomery College experienced low or very low levels of food security (Figure 1). Moreover, 41% of survey respondents cannot afford to eat balanced meals and 40% worry about running out of food before they have money to buy more.

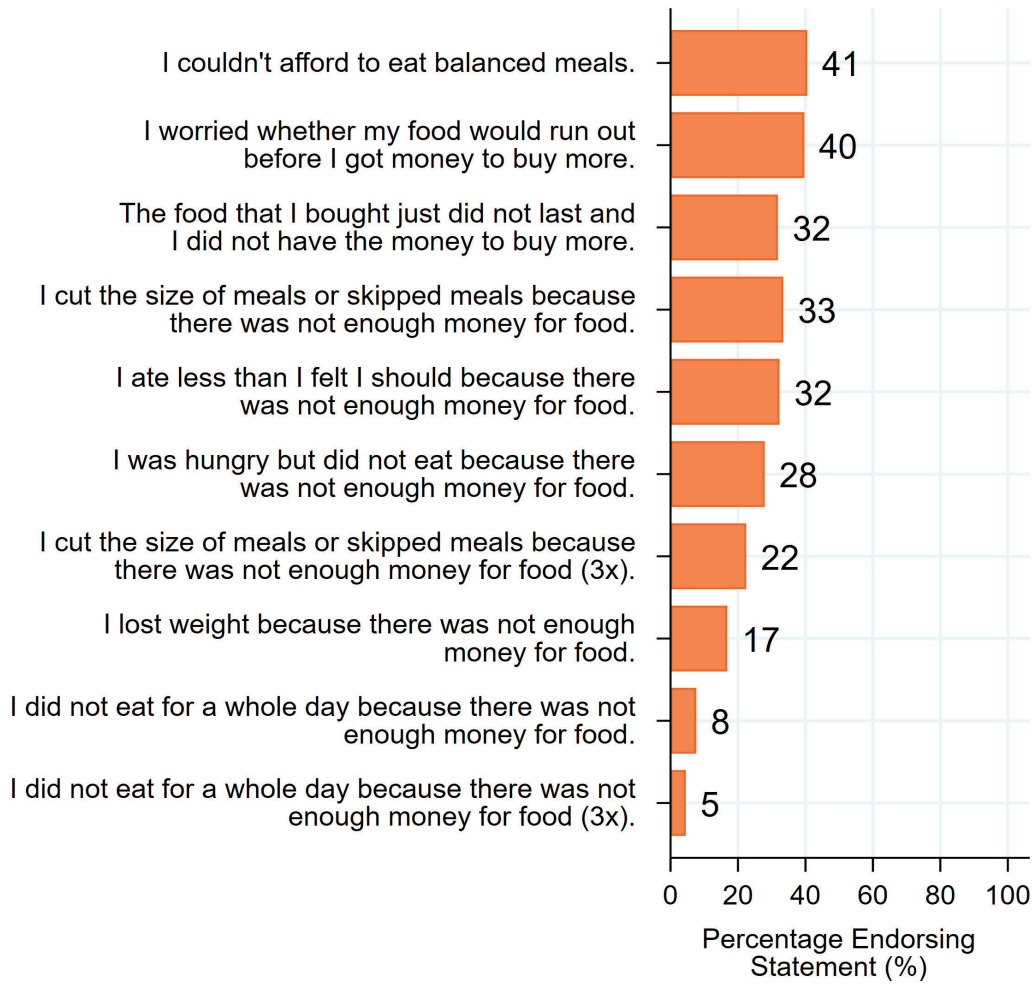
**Figure 1. Food Security Among Survey Respondents at Montgomery College**



Source: 2019 #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 Montgomery College



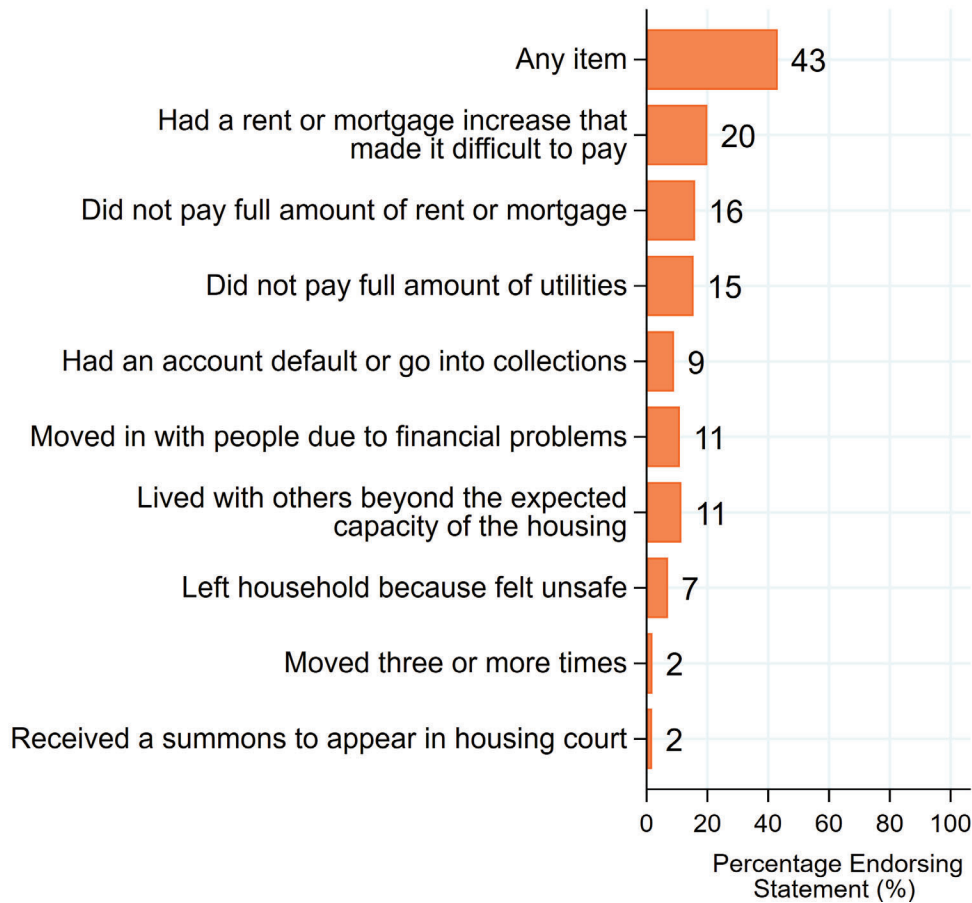
Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey

**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 Montgomery College? As displayed below, 43% of survey respondents are housing insecure (Figure 3).

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



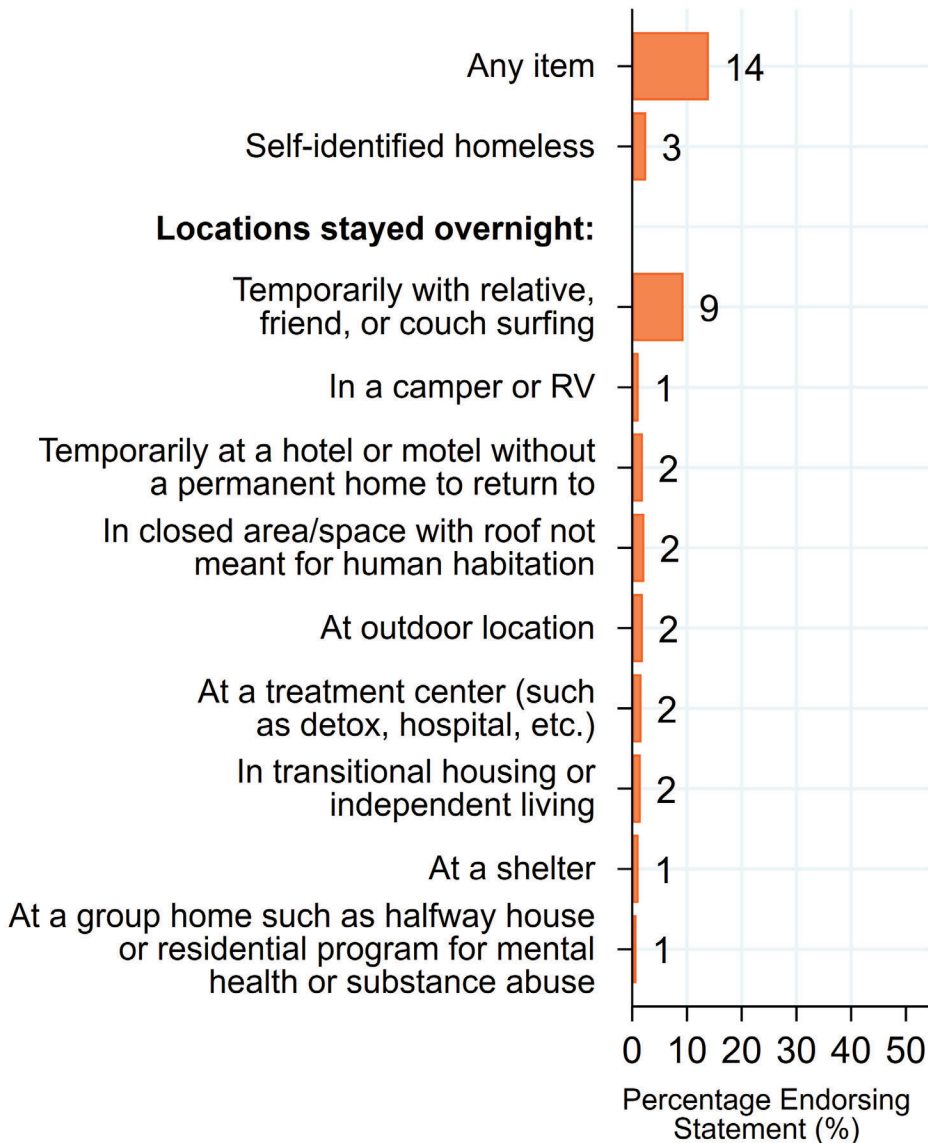
Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey

**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 Montgomery College? As displayed below, 14% of survey respondents experience homelessness (Figure 4).

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

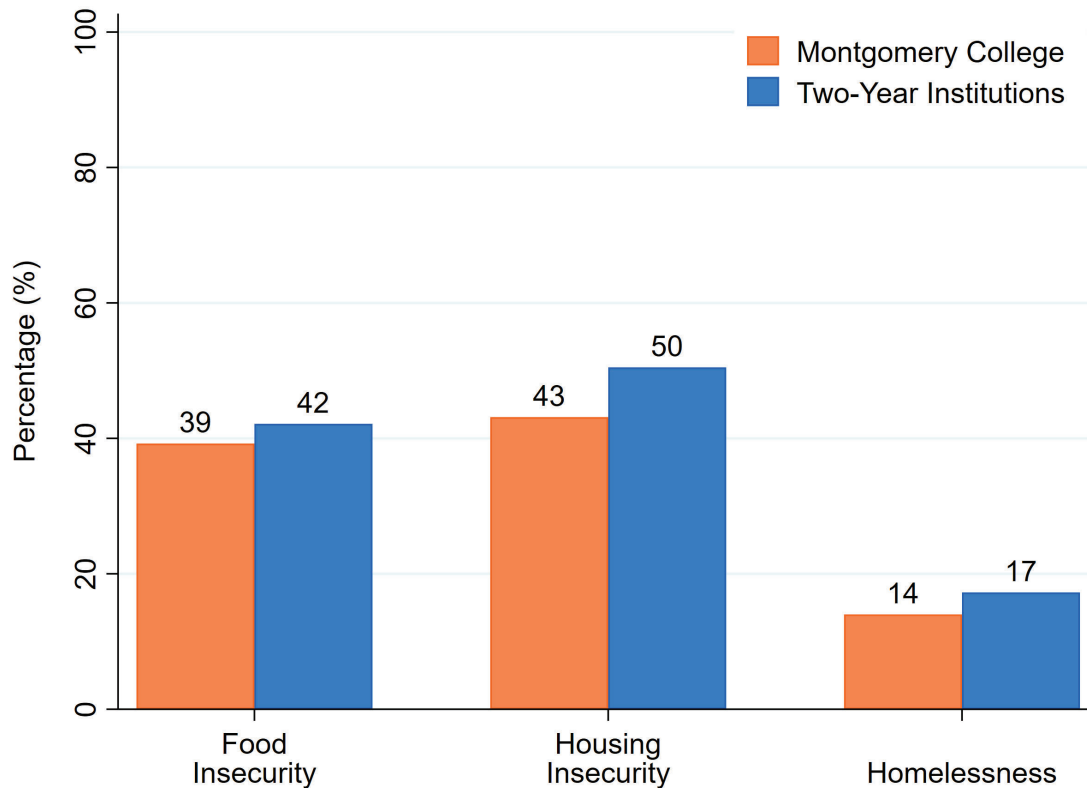


Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey

**COMPARISON TO SURVEY RESPONDENTS ATTENDING TWO-YEAR INSTITUTIONS**

In comparison to the rates for all survey respondents at two-year institutions nationwide in 2019, Montgomery College has a lower rate of food insecurity, a lower rate of housing insecurity, and a lower rate of homelessness (Figure 5).

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

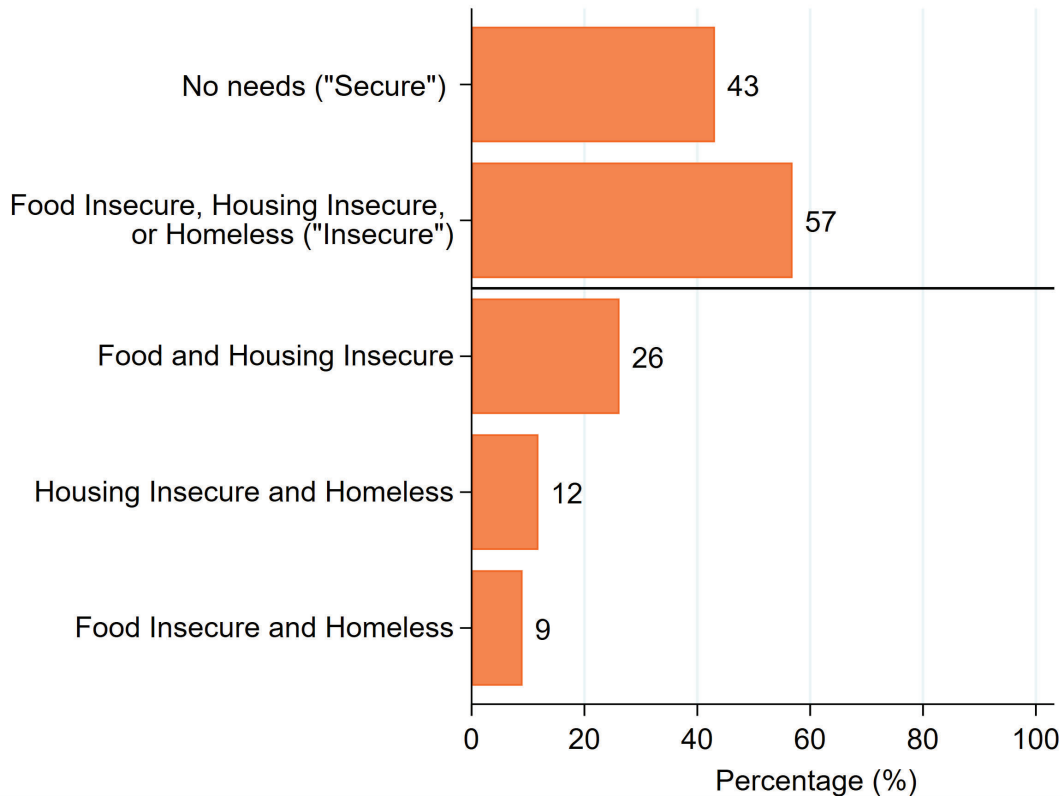


Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey

**OVERLAPPING CHALLENGES**

Food insecurity, housing insecurity, and homelessness are overlapping concerns, with 57% of students at Montgomery 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 Montgomery College**



Source: 2019 #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.



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## By Demographic Background

**Table 1. Demographic Disparities in Rates of Basic Needs Insecurity Among Survey Respondents at Montgomery College**

	Number of Students	Food Insecurity (%)	Housing Insecurity (%)	Homelessness (%)
<b>GENDER IDENTITY</b>				
Male	214	39	41	18
Female	454	39	46	12
Non-Binary/Third gender	16	50	56	31
Prefers to self-describe	.	.	.	.
<b>TRANSGENDER IDENTITY</b>				
Identifies as transgender	12	50	83	42
Does not identify as transgender	674	39	43	14
<b>SEXUAL ORIENTATION</b>				
Heterosexual or straight	533	39	43	13
Gay or lesbian	26	38	54	19
Bisexual	66	50	59	27
Prefers to self-describe	19	16	16	5
<b>HIGHEST LEVEL OF PARENTAL EDUCATION</b>				
No high school diploma	81	56	52	6
High school diploma	130	43	44	12
Some college	192	44	55	17
Bachelors degree or higher	252	29	35	16
Does not know	27	38	33	15

*Table continued on next page.*

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**Table 1 (continued). Demographic Disparities in Rates of Basic Needs Insecurity Among Survey Respondents at Montgomery College**

	Number of Students	Food Insecurity (%)	Housing Insecurity (%)	Homelessness (%)
<b>RACIAL OR ETHNIC BACKGROUND</b>				
White or Caucasian	210	27	42	16
African American or Black	204	51	48	16
Hispanic or Latinx	204	46	50	11
American Indian or Alaskan Native	15	47	27	20
Indigenous	.	.	.	.
Middle Eastern or North African or Arab or Arab American	43	42	42	14
Southeast Asian	65	40	38	15
Pacific Islander or Native Hawaiian	16	44	31	19
Other Asian or Asian American	65	28	35	14
Other	31	42	48	23
<b>STUDENT IS A U.S. CITIZEN OR PERMANENT RESIDENT</b>				
Yes	592	39	43	15
No	83	48	52	16
<b>AGE</b>				
18 to 20	369	32	35	12
21 to 25	149	51	47	16
26 to 30	70	59	69	30
Older than 30	96	40	55	8
<b>STUDENT IS AN ATHLETE</b>				
Yes	10	50	50	30
No	680	39	44	14

Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey

Note: Results from any category with fewer than 10 participants are not shown in the table. The Number of Students column indicates the number of survey respondents to our measure of homelessness. The number respondents to our measures of food and housing insecurity may vary slightly. Classifications of gender and race/ethnicity are not mutually exclusive. Students could self-identify with multiple classifications.

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## By Student Academic, Economic, and Life Experiences

**Table 2. Rates of Basic Needs Insecurity by Student Life Experiences Among Survey Respondents at Montgomery College**

	Number of Students	Food Insecurity (%)	Housing Insecurity (%)	Homelessness (%)
<b>LEVEL OF STUDY</b>				
Undergraduate	666	39	44	14
Graduate	57	52	53	18
Non-degree	61	28	23	11
<b>COLLEGE ENROLLMENT STATUS</b>				
Full-time (at least 12 credits)	471	38	42	16
Part-time (fewer than 12 credits)	314	41	45	12
<b>YEARS IN COLLEGE</b>				
Less than 1	289	34	39	12
1 to 2	327	42	44	15
3 or more	169	44	49	15
<b>DEPENDENCY STATUS</b>				
Dependent	254	34	41	12
Independent	276	49	55	16
Does not know	149	32	32	15
<b>STUDENT RECEIVES THE PELL GRANT</b>				
Yes	295	46	48	15
No	392	33	39	14
<b>RELATIONSHIP STATUS</b>				
Single	461	39	41	14
In a relationship	143	43	51	17
Married or domestic partnership	72	35	44	14
Divorced	10	60	80	10
Widowed	.	.	.	.

Table continued on next page.

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**Table 2 (continued). Rates of Basic Needs Insecurity by Student Life Experiences Among Survey Respondents at Montgomery College**

	Number of Students	Food Insecurity (%)	Housing Insecurity (%)	Homelessness (%)
<b>STUDENT HAS CHILDREN</b>				
Yes	104	57	63	14
No	667	36	40	14
<b>STUDENT HAS BEEN IN FOSTER CARE</b>				
Yes	14	50	71	29
No	674	39	43	14
<b>STUDENT HAS BEEN IN MILITARY</b>				
Yes	22	50	59	23
No	663	39	43	14
<b>EMPLOYMENT STATUS</b>				
Employed	169	42	50	16
Not employed, looking for work	70	32	37	14
Not employed, not looking for work	99	22	23	9
<b>STUDENT HAS BEEN CONVICTED OF A CRIME</b>				
Yes	10	.	50	30
No	726	39	43	14
<b>DISABILITY OR MEDICAL CONDITION</b>				
Learning disability	102	38	43	14
Physical disability	56	51	38	30
Chronic illness	91	45	56	21
Psychological disorder	196	50	53	22
Other disability or condition	17	71	53	24
No disability or medical condition	386	35	39	11

Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey

Note: Results from any category with fewer than 10 participants are not shown in the table. The Number of Students column indicates the number of survey respondents to our measure of homelessness. The number respondents to our measures of food and housing insecurity may vary slightly. Survey questions about employment status were randomly administered to a subset of respondents. Classifications of Disability or Medical Condition are not mutually exclusive. Students could self-identify with multiple classifications.

## UTILIZATION OF SUPPORTS

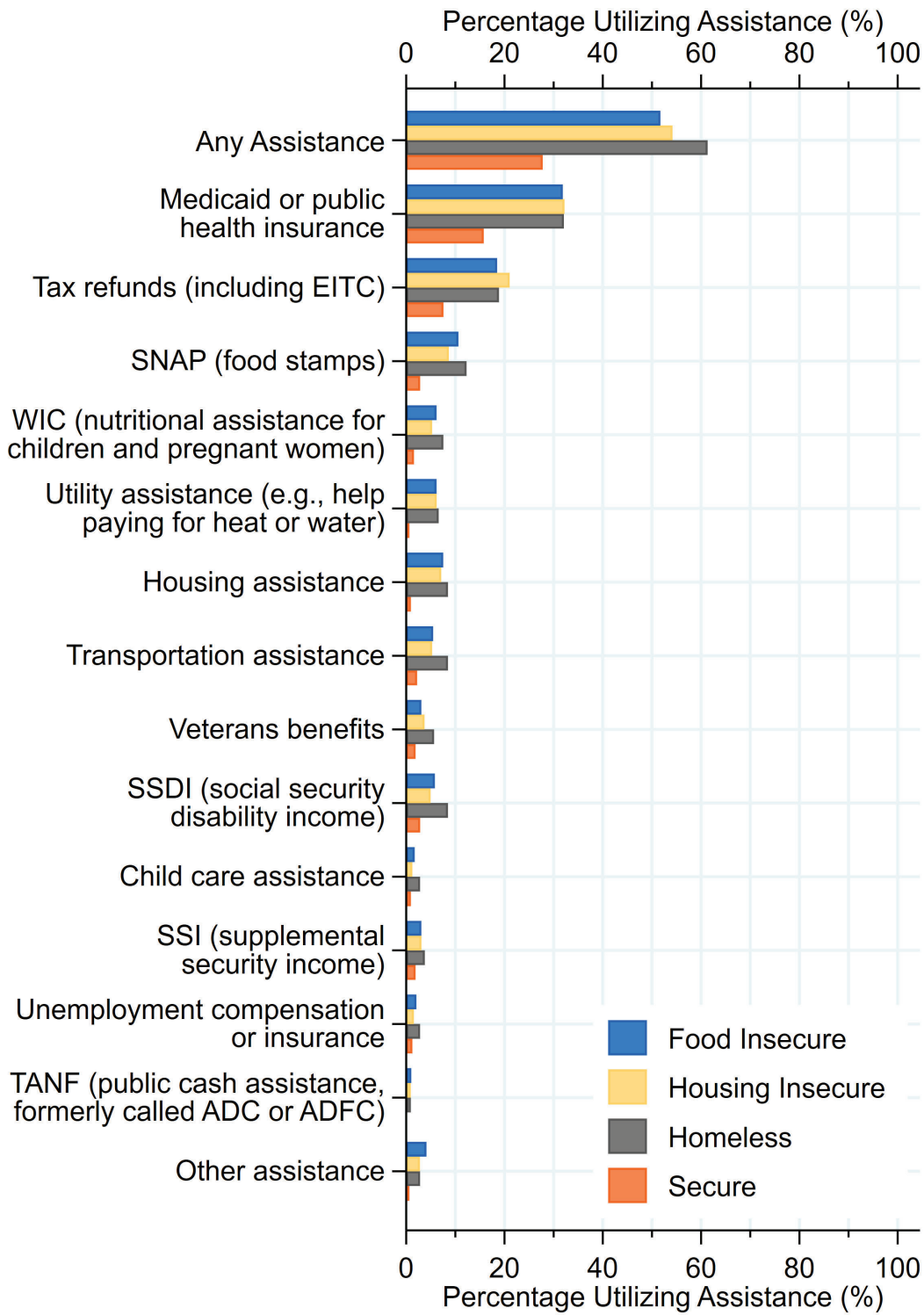
Many students at Montgomery College who experience basic needs insecurity do not receive public assistance (Figure 7). Among food insecure students, 11% receive SNAP benefits. In addition, 8% of students who experience homelessness receive housing assistance. It is also worth noting that students who are secure in their basic needs are still accessing public benefits, albeit at lower rates (28%) than their peers.

A growing number of on-campus supports are being offered but again, few students are accessing them (Figure 8). Of the students experiencing basic needs insecurity at Montgomery College, only about 24% use on-campus supports.



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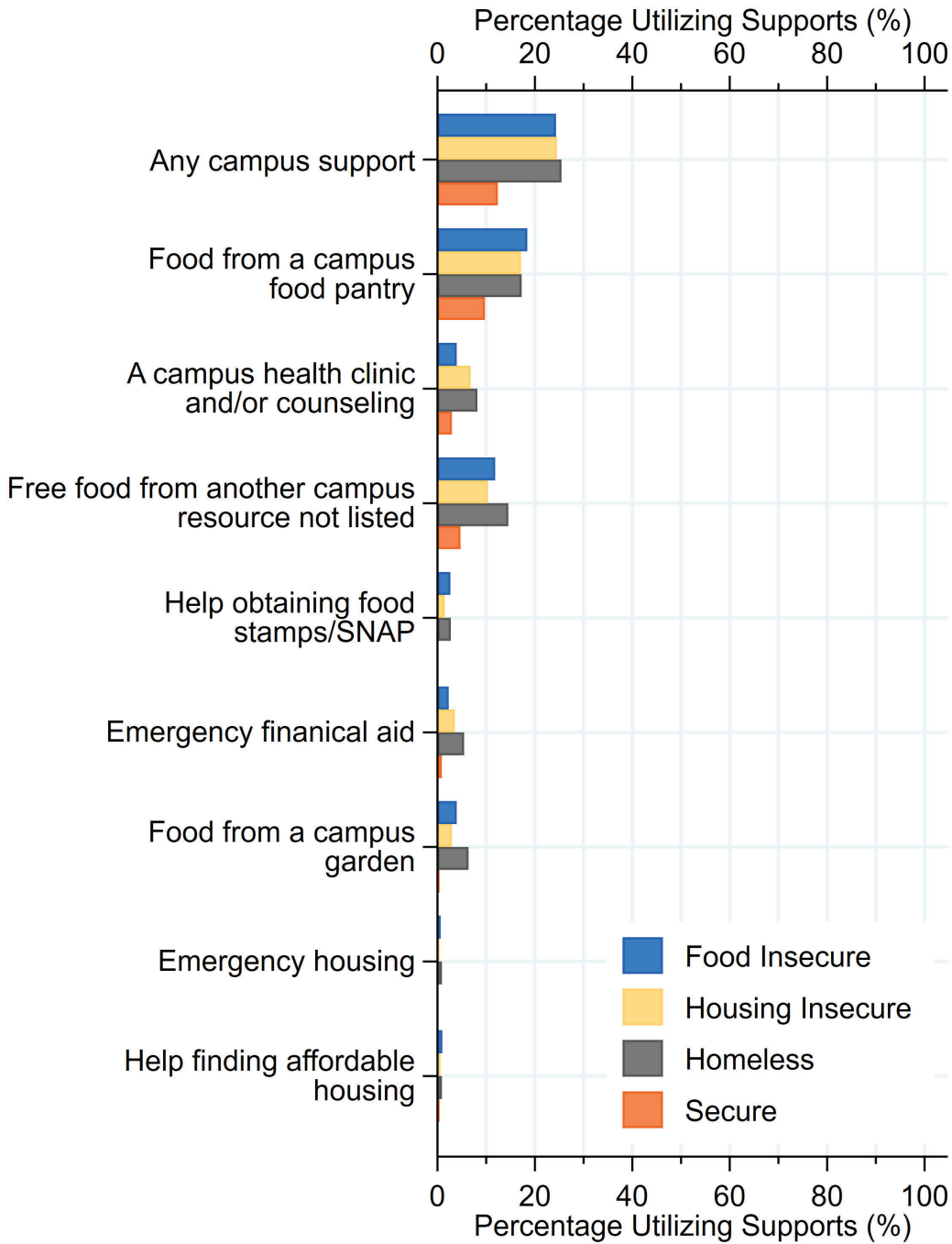
Figure 7. Use of Assistance Among Survey Respondents at Montgomery College According to Basic Needs Security



Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey

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Figure 8. Use of Campus Supports Among Survey Respondents at Montgomery College According to Basic Needs Security



Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey



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## CONCLUSION

The #RealCollege survey affirms what has been evident to 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 is redefining what it means to be a student-ready college with a national movement centering #realcollege students' basic needs. In order to advance the necessary systemic changes to support those needs, our work includes four pillars: action research, engagement and communication, advocacy, and sustainability. For more information, visit [www.hope4college.com](http://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).

