

# 2018 #REALCOLLEGE SURVEY

## SCHOOL REPORT

APRIL 2019



For College, Community, and Justice

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

# 2018 #REALCOLLEGE SURVEY SCHOOL REPORT FOR RIO HONDO 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 19,900 students from Rio Hondo College and 1,025 students participated. Thus, the estimated response rate is 5.1%.

\* Overall Basic Needs Insecurity Rates:

- 53% of respondents were food insecure in the prior 30 days
- 66% of respondents were housing insecure in the previous year
- 16% of respondents were homeless in the previous year

\* 75% of students at Rio Hondo 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.

\* 18% of food insecure students utilize SNAP benefits and 1% 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.*

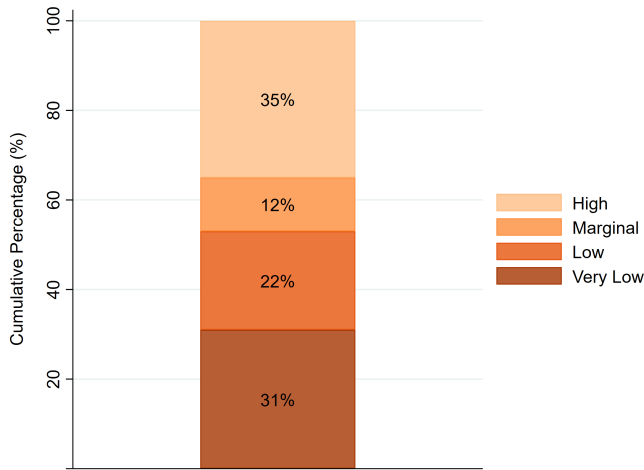
## PREVALENCE OF BASIC NEEDS INSECURITY

### 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 53% of survey respondents at Rio Hondo College experienced low or very low levels of food security (Figure 1). Moreover, 55% of survey respondents at Rio Hondo College worry about running out of food before having money to buy more and 52% cannot afford to eat balanced meals.

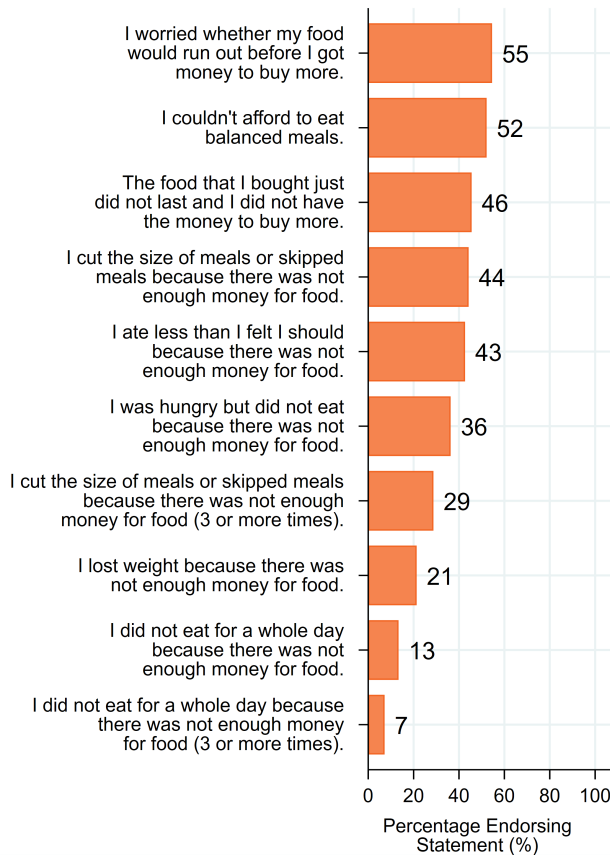
**Figure 1. Food Security Among Survey Respondents at Rio Hondo College**



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 Rio Hondo College**



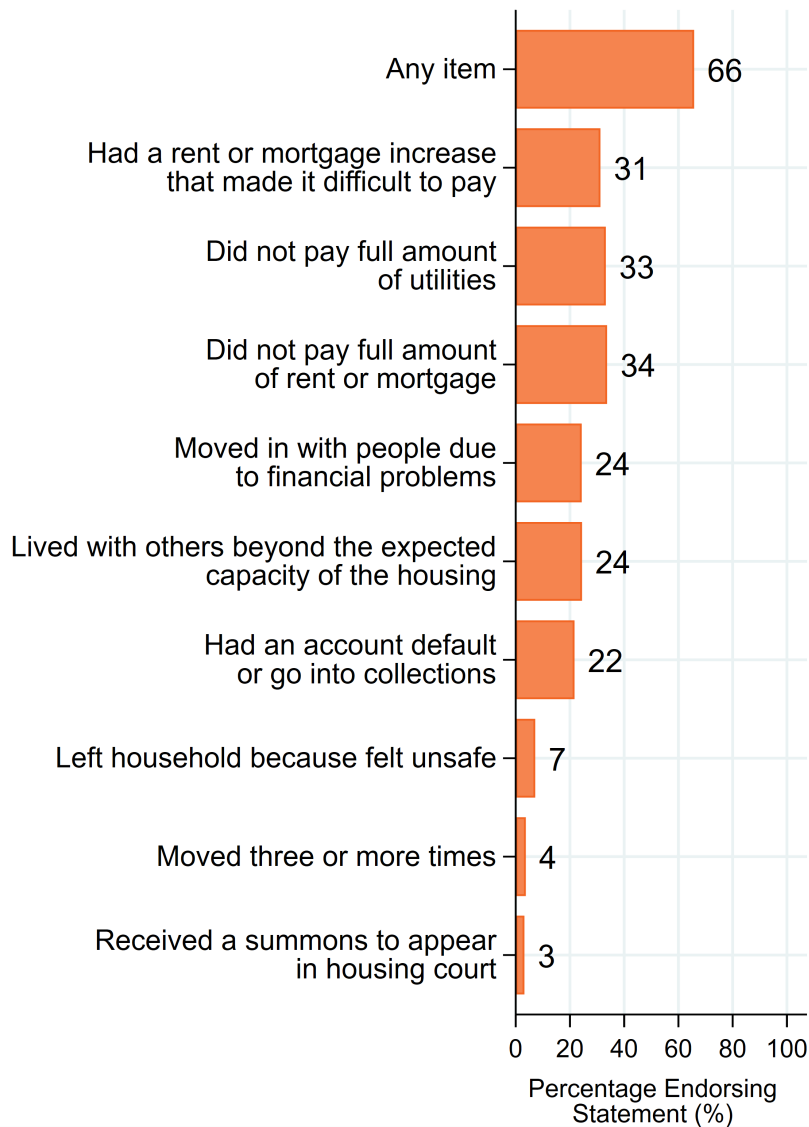
Source: 2018 #RealCollege Survey

## 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 Rio Hondo College? As displayed below, 66% of survey respondents are housing insecure (Figure 3).

**Figure 3. Housing Insecurity Among Survey Respondents at Rio Hondo College**



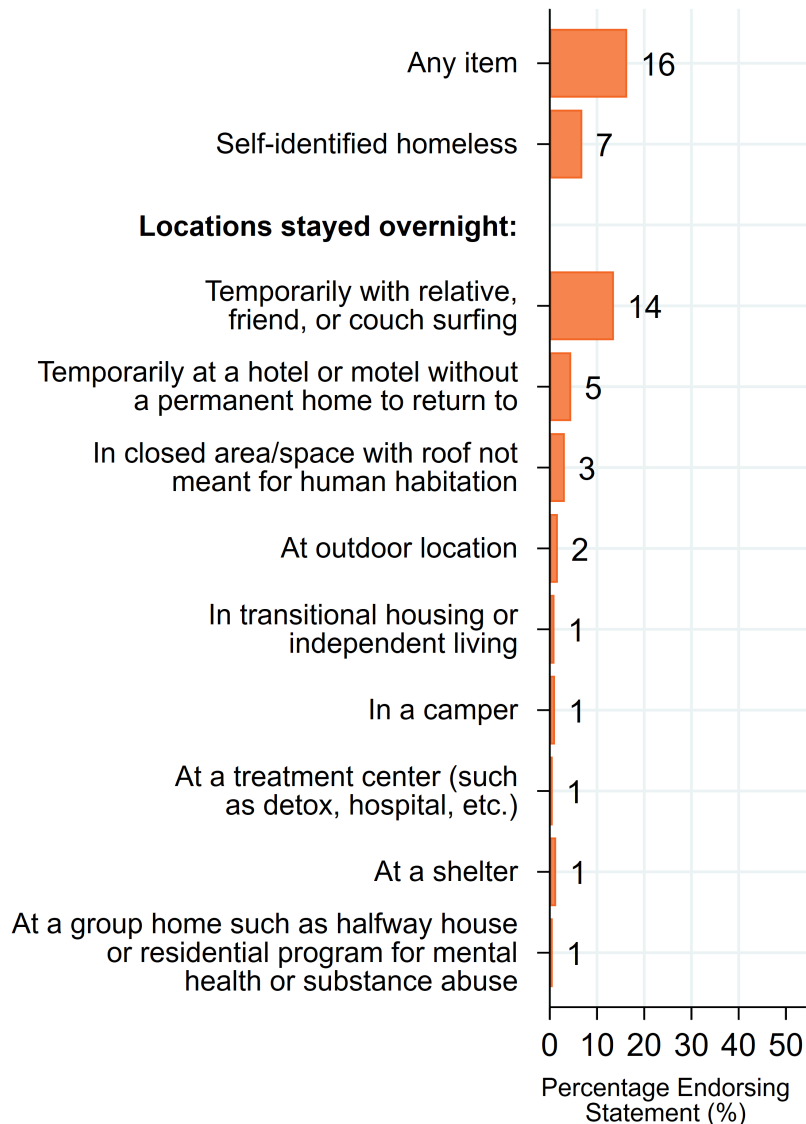
Source: 2018 #RealCollege Survey

## 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 Rio Hondo College? As displayed below, 16% of survey respondents experience homelessness (Figure 4).

**Figure 4. Homelessness Among Survey Respondents at Rio Hondo College**

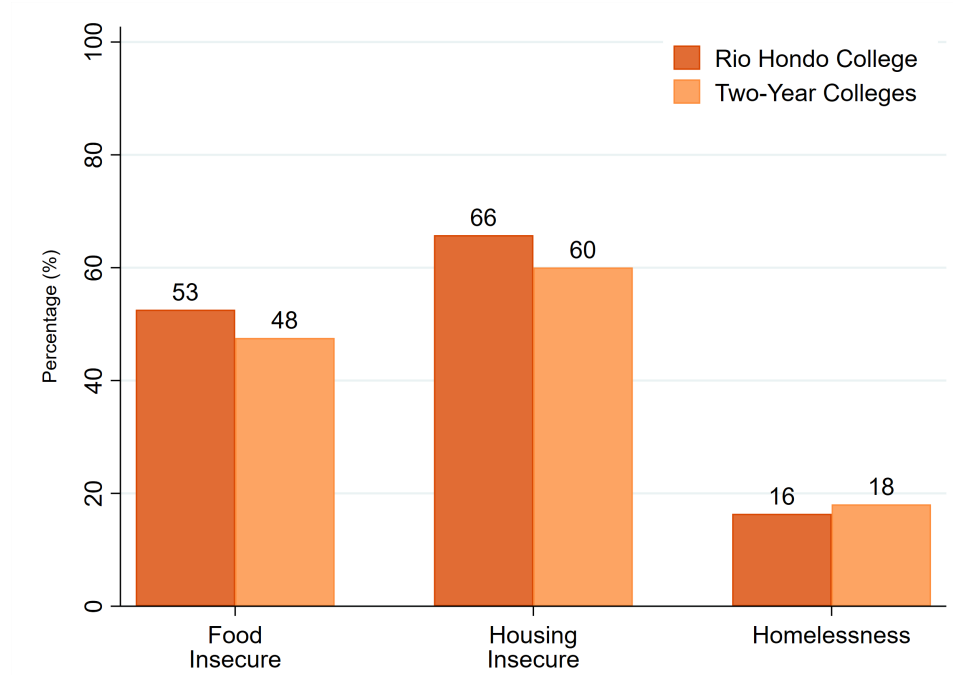


Source: 2018 #RealCollege Survey

## COMPARISON TO TWO-YEAR COLLEGES

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

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

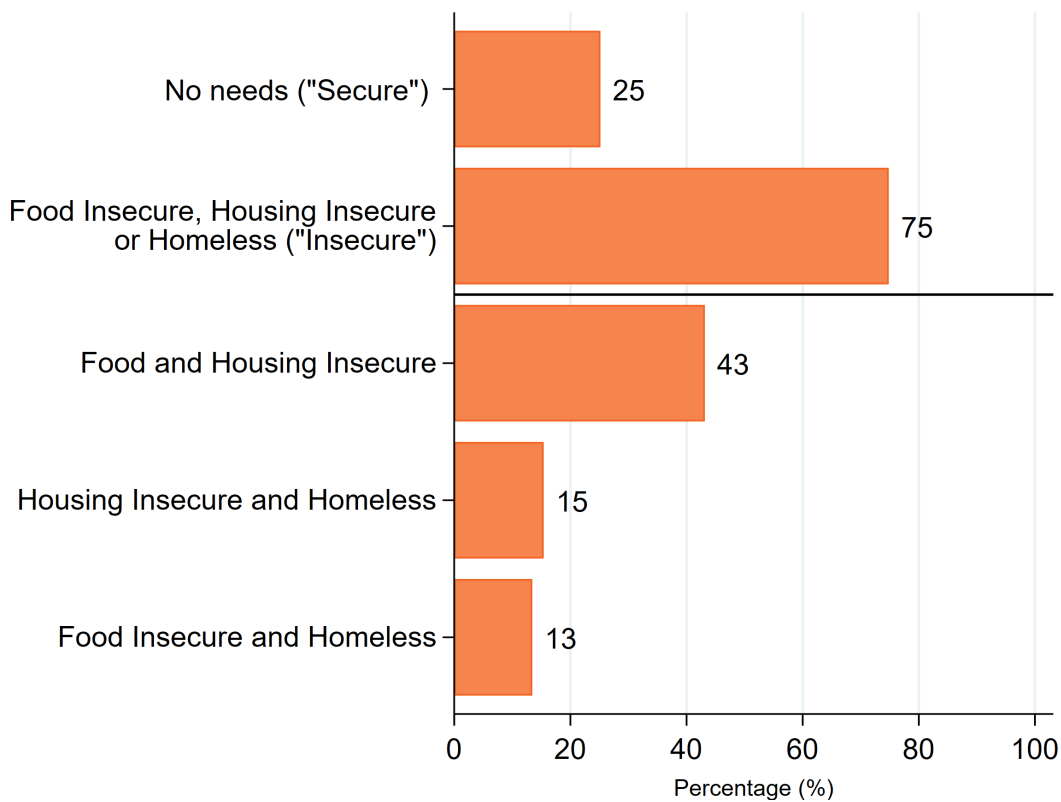


Source: 2018 #RealCollege Survey

## OVERLAPPING CHALLENGES

Food insecurity, housing insecurity, and homelessness are overlapping concerns, with 75% of students at Rio Hondo 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 Rio Hondo 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 Rio Hondo College**

	Number of Students	Food Insecurity (%)	Housing Insecurity (%)	Homelessness (%)
<b>GENDER ORIENTATION</b>				
Male	200	50	63	17
Female	543	55	69	17
Transgender	.	.	.	.
Other	10	70	90	40

<b>SEXUAL ORIENTATION</b>				
Heterosexual or straight	626	52	68	16
Gay or lesbian	20	50	65	25
Bisexual	55	55	62	16
Other	39	64	67	23
<b>RACIAL OR ETHNIC BACKGROUND</b>				
White or Caucasian	63	57	68	19
African American or Black	12	92	92	42
Hispanic or Latinx	621	52	66	16
American Indian or Alaskan Native	10	50	50	30
Middle Eastern or North African or Arab or Arab American	.	.	.	.
Southeast Asian	18	44	61	28
Pacific Islander or Native Hawaiian	.	.	.	.
Other Asian or Asian American	31	45	65	13
Other	21	57	76	14
Prefers not to answer	19	63	74	26
<b>STUDENT IS A U.S. CITIZEN OR PERMANENT RESIDENT</b>				
Yes	691	54	67	17
No	27	41	59	19
Prefers not to answer	24	54	63	8
<b>HIGHEST LEVEL OF PARENTAL EDUCATION</b>				
No high school diploma	217	54	71	20
High school diploma	190	52	67	14
Some college	253	58	69	17



Bachelors degree	56	41	50	20
Does not know	32	38	59	9
<b>AGE</b>				
18 to 20	262	44	45	13
21 to 25	199	57	71	17
26 to 30	122	60	84	24
Older than 30	162	60	86	19

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 Rio Hondo College**

	Number of Students	Food Insecurity (%)	Housing Insecurity (%)	Homelessness (%)
<b>COLLEGE ENROLLMENT STATUS</b>				
Full-time (at least 12 credits)	368	51	57	14
Part-time (fewer than 12 credits)	449	54	73	18
<b>YEARS IN COLLEGE</b>				
Less than 1	195	46	52	14
1 to 2	261	53	64	20
3 or more	304	56	76	17
<b>DEPENDENCY STATUS</b>				
Dependent	255	45	52	11
Independent	491	58	76	20
<b>STUDENT RECEIVES THE PELL GRANT</b>				
Yes	366	57	69	19
No	452	49	63	14
<b>STUDENT HAS CHILDREN</b>				
Yes	229	54	76	14
No	589	52	62	17
<b>RELATIONSHIP STATUS</b>				

Single	422	51	64	16
In a relationship	206	58	67	19
Married or domestic partnership	98	49	78	16
Divorced	19	63	89	32
Widowed	.	.	.	.
<b>STUDENT HAS BEEN IN FOSTER CARE</b>				
Yes	32	66	91	31
No	716	53	66	16
<b>STUDENT HAS BEEN IN MILITARY</b>				
Yes	24	46	79	25
No	725	54	67	17
<b>EMPLOYMENT STATUS</b>				
Employed	464	57	72	19
Not employed, looking for work	152	55	60	13
Not employed, not looking for work	163	38	52	11
<b>STUDENT HAS BEEN CONVICTED OF A CRIME</b>				
Yes	26	65	92	35
No	757	52	66	16
<b>DISABILITY OR MEDICAL CONDITION</b>				
Learning disability (dyslexia, etc.)	57	68	77	35
Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)	33	70	76	24
Autism spectrum disorder	.	.	.	.
Physical disability (speech, sight, mobility, hearing, etc.)	33	55	67	24
Chronic illness (asthma, diabetes,	67	49	75	28

autoimmune disorder, cancer, etc.)				
Psychological disorder (depression, anxiety, etc.)	209	63	75	25
Other	15	73	67	53
No disability or medical condition	455	49	64	13

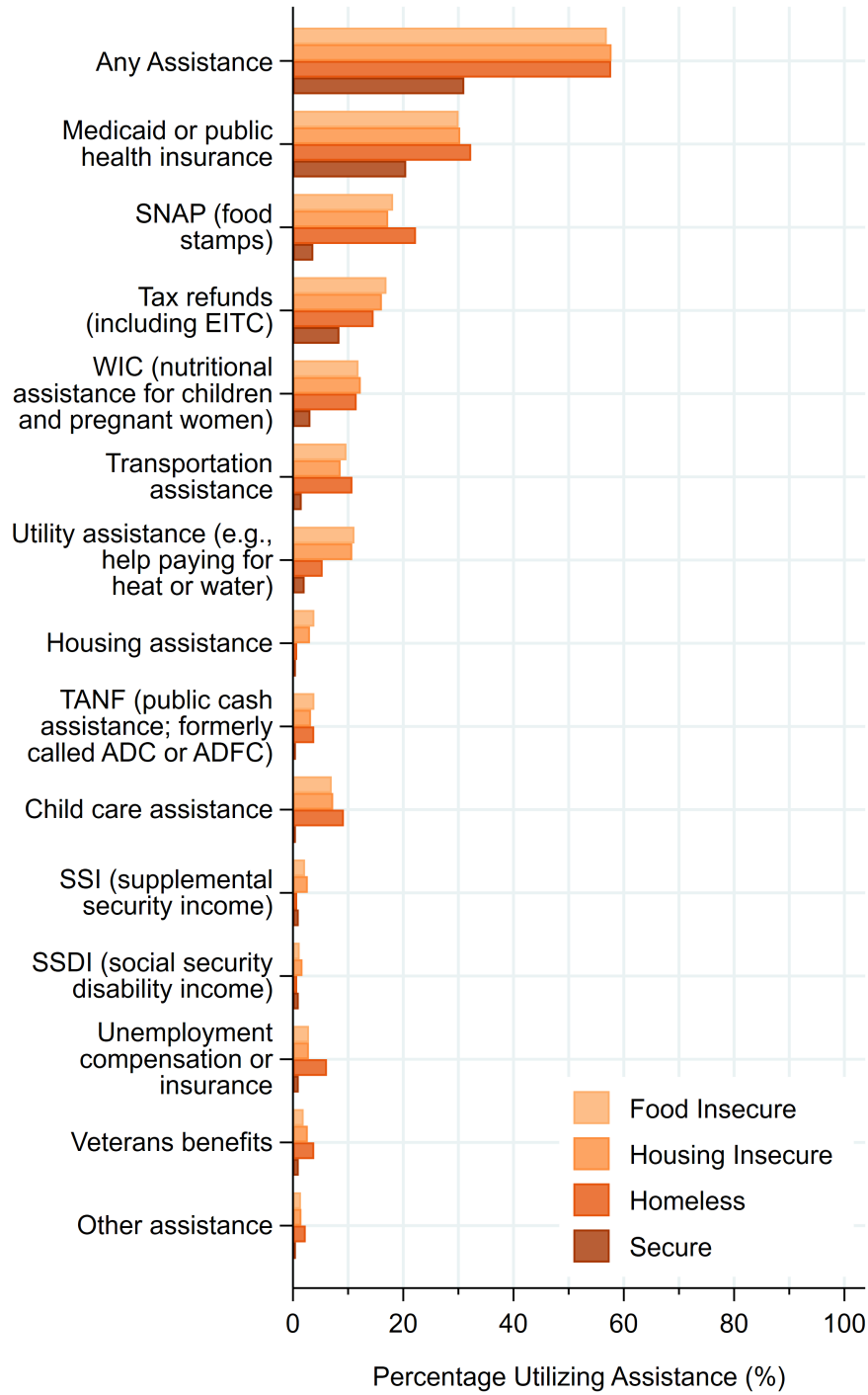
Source: 2018 #RealCollege Survey

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

### UTILIZATION OF SUPPORTS

Many students at Rio Hondo College who experience basic needs insecurity do not receive public assistance (Figure 7). Fully 18% of food insecure students receive SNAP. In addition, 1% 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 (31%) than their peers.

**Figure 7. Use of Assistance Among Survey Respondents at Rio Hondo 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**

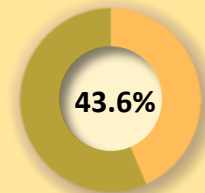
If you have questions about this report, please contact the Hope Center Research Team at [hopesrvy@temple.edu](mailto:hopesrvy@temple.edu).

**Students' Basic Needs** | A February 2021 survey of Rio Hondo College students revealed important insights into food insecurity and housing insecurity. A substantial number of Rio Hondo students reported struggling with issues related to finances, food, housing, mental health, and the COVID-19 pandemic. This brief report presents some of the most notable results from the 2021 Student Life & Resources survey.



**Food Insecurity** | More than two in five (43.6%, 376) of the responding students indicated food insecurity, based on questions from the federal

Department of Agriculture. To be identified as food insecure, a student reported at least three characteristics of food insecurity within the past 30 days. Examples of these characteristics are "I worried whether my food would run out before I got money to buy more," "I couldn't afford to eat balanced meals," "Were you ever hungry but didn't eat because there wasn't enough money for food?", and "Did you ever not eat for a whole day because there wasn't enough money for food?"

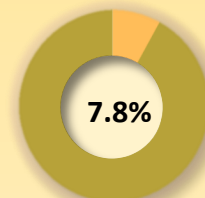


Food Insecurity



**Homelessness** | One in thirteen (7.8%, 64) of the respondents self-identified as having been "homeless or unhoused" since starting college. Within the

past year, 8.7% (72) reported staying temporarily with a relative/friend or couch surfing, 3.4% (28) stayed in a hotel/motel without a permanent home to return to, and 2.5% (21) stayed in an enclosed location not meant for human habitation, such as a vehicle, tent, or an unconverted garage.

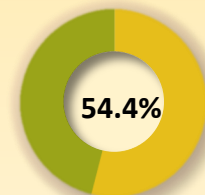


Homelessness



**Housing Insecurity** | More than half (54.4%, 428) of the responding students provided answers indicating housing insecurity. This status is based on

questions from U.S. Census Bureau and a scale from The Hope Center at Temple University. Being housing insecure reflects moving three or more times in the past 12 months or answering "yes" to questions such as the following: "In the past 12 months, was there a rent or mortgage increase that made it difficult to pay?", "In the past 12 months, have you moved in with other people, even for a little while, because of financial problems?", or "In the past 12 months, did you leave your household because you felt unsafe?"

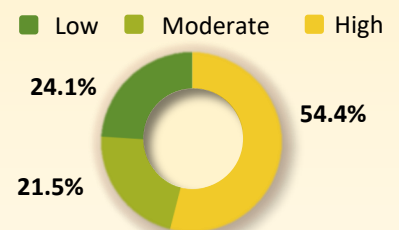


Housing Insecurity



**Mental Health** | More than half (54.4%, 410) of the respondents reported being distressed by "anxiety, fears, worries, nervousness" "extremely" or

"quite a bit." Another one in five (21.5%, 162) reported being "moderately" distressed by anxiety and these related conditions. Only 24.0% (181) reported being distressed only "a little bit" or "not at all." More than one in three (35.2%, 264) of the respondents reported being distressed "extremely" or "quite a bit" by depression.

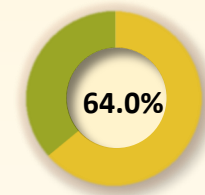


Anxiety & Fear



**COVID-19 pandemic** | More than three in five (64.0%, 485) of the responding students have been financially affected by the pandemic.

This includes losing their own job, reduced hours at work, or a family member/partner losing their job. Almost one in six (15.7%, 119) of the respondents had a family member or partner hospitalized with COVID-19.



Covid \$\$ Losses

**Additional Results** | Consistent with the results reported above, responses to other items indicate that a **substantial number of respondents experience hardships related to food insecurity, housing instability, and the COVID-19 pandemic.** Although these numbers do not reflect the majority of RHC students, they do identify a deep level of need for a large number of survey respondents. The results also display that respondents use campus resources: one in six received food and/or borrowed technology (portable computer, Wi-Fi hotspot) from the college.

.....  
*I am about to graduate from Rio Hondo and transfer, which I am happy about it, but at the same time, my unstable economic situation scares me. — Student Comment*  
 .....

Topic/Item	Response(s)	% (#)
Lack of food negatively affected student's ability to succeed in school	"Strongly Agree" or "Agree"	20.8% (176)
Received services from CalFresh or WIC	Checked box	22.0% (187)
Received services from Rio Hondo RioSource Food Pantry or Grab & Go Grocery Distribution	Checked box	17.9% (152)
Lack of stable housing negatively affected student's ability to succeed in school	"Strongly Agree" or "Agree"	19.5% (152)
Experienced symptoms and/or tested positive for COVID-19	Checked box	33.0% (250)
Lost family member/partner due to COVID-19	Checked box	21.2% (161)
Had a quiet place to study or participate in classes	"Almost never or never" or "Rarely"	18.3% (138)
Used technology lent by the college	Marked option	17.8% (134)
Taking out credit card debt to cover academic or living expenses	"Yes"	36.9% (274)

## Survey Methods & Limitations

The RHC Student Life & Resources survey was available on SurveyMonkey between February 10 and March 1, 2021. The list of eligible students included all students who were enrolled for course credit as of February 9 and had an email address on file with the college. Exceptions not included in the list were apprenticeship, Public Safety Advanced In-Service Training, and dual-enrolled high school students. In total, 11,989 students were eligible. These students received multiple survey invitations via email. The college supported data collection through several posts to social media and two "All Roadrunners" email messages. Nine hundred forty seven (947 or 7.9%) opened the survey and **720 (6.0%) answered enough items to be considered "complete"** by SurveyMonkey. On average, respondents spent less than eight minutes completing the 42-question survey.

Consistent with The #RealCollege Survey and the CSU Study of Student Basic Needs, only 6% of the eligible students completed the survey. Also, some groups appeared in the sample in much greater proportion than they did in the overall student population. Due to these reasons, **the survey results cannot be generalized to the overall Rio Hondo student population. The results do describe the level of need for those who responded to the survey.**

With approximately 720 respondents completing the survey, the **results have a 4% margin of error.** To the extent that the results represent the overall student population, the "true score" would be within four percentage points above or below the score reported here. For example, the reader could be 95% certain that a score of 50% reported by the sample would be between 46% and 54% for the overall population.

## Demographics

The "typical" respondent taking the survey was a woman (70.4%) between the ages of 18 and 20 (30.0%) and identified as Hispanic/Latinx (80.7%). This respondent was enrolled between 12.0 and 14.9 units (29.8%) and at the college for six or more semesters (31.6%). This respondent was single (48.3%) and without children under the age of 18 (76.3%), living in a household of four persons (22.8%). Almost half (46.9%) of the respondents helped to financially support their siblings or parents and almost half (48.8%) received federal Pell grants.

.....  
*I would love to say thank you to the resources that Rio Hondo has provided. The grocery pick ups were a huge help to my family.*  
 — Student Comment  
 .....