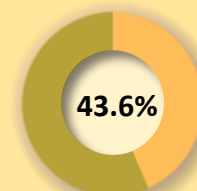


Student's Basic Needs | A February 2021 survey of Rio Hondo College students revealed important insights into food insecurity and housing insecurity. A substantial number of Rio Hondo students reported struggling with issues related to finances, food, housing, mental health, and the COVID-19 pandemic.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



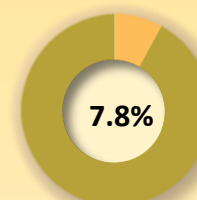
Food Insecurity | More than two in five (43.6%, 376) of the responding students indicated food insecurity, based on questions from the federal Department of Agriculture. To be identified as food insecure, a student reported at least three characteristics of food insecurity within the past 30 days. Examples 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



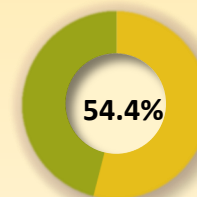
Homelessness | One in thirteen (7.8%, 64) of the respondents self-identified as having been "homeless or unhoused" since starting college. Within the past year, 8.7% (72) reported staying temporarily with a relative/friend or couch surfing, 3.4% (28) stayed in a hotel/motel without a permanent home to return to, and 2.5% (21) stayed in an enclosed location not meant for human habitation, such as vehicle, tent, or unconverted garage.



Homelessness



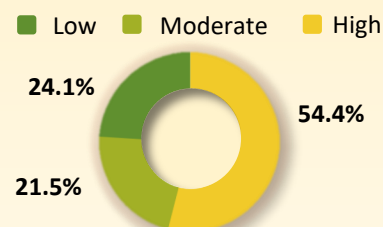
Housing Insecurity | More than half (54.4%, 428) of the responding students provided answers indicating housing insecurity. This status is based on questions from U.S. Census Bureau and a scale from The Hope Center at Temple University. Being housing insecure reflects moving three or more times in the 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.

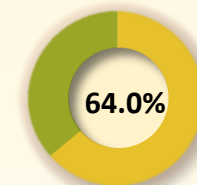


Anxiety & Fear



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.

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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.

| 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.

Results in this and future reports on the Student Life & Resources **survey should be interpreted with caution**. Only 6% of the eligible students completed the survey and 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.

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 more than one-third (34.8%) received federal Pell grants.

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