

# 2018 #REALCOLLEGE SURVEY

## SCHOOL REPORT

APRIL 2019



For College, Community, and Justice

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

# 2018 #REALCOLLEGE SURVEY SCHOOL REPORT FOR METROPOLITAN STATE UNIVERSITY OF DENVER

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 20,300 students from Metropolitan State University of Denver and 871 students participated. Thus, the estimated response rate is 4.3%.

\* Overall Basic Needs Insecurity Rates:

- 44% of respondents were food insecure in the prior 30 days
- 62% of respondents were housing insecure in the previous year
- 17% of respondents were homeless in the previous year

\* 70% of students at Metropolitan State University of Denver 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.

\* 14% 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 appendices of the National 2018 #RealCollege Survey report.*

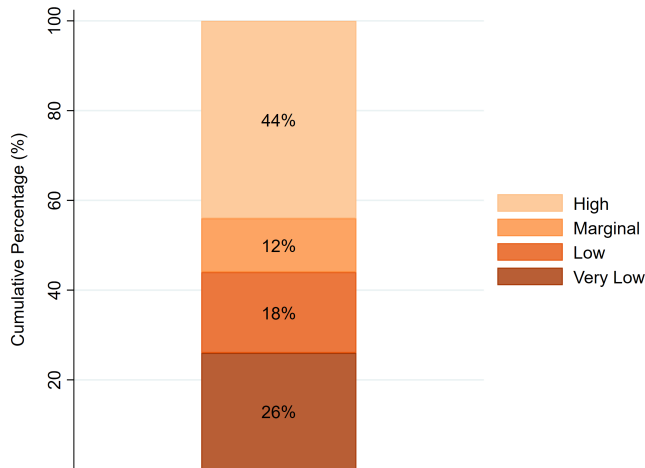
## PREVALENCE OF BASIC NEEDS INSECURITY

### 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 44% of survey respondents at Metropolitan State University of Denver experienced low or very low levels of food security (Figure 1). Moreover, 45% of survey respondents at Metropolitan State University of Denver worry about running out of food before having money to buy more and 47% cannot afford to eat balanced meals.

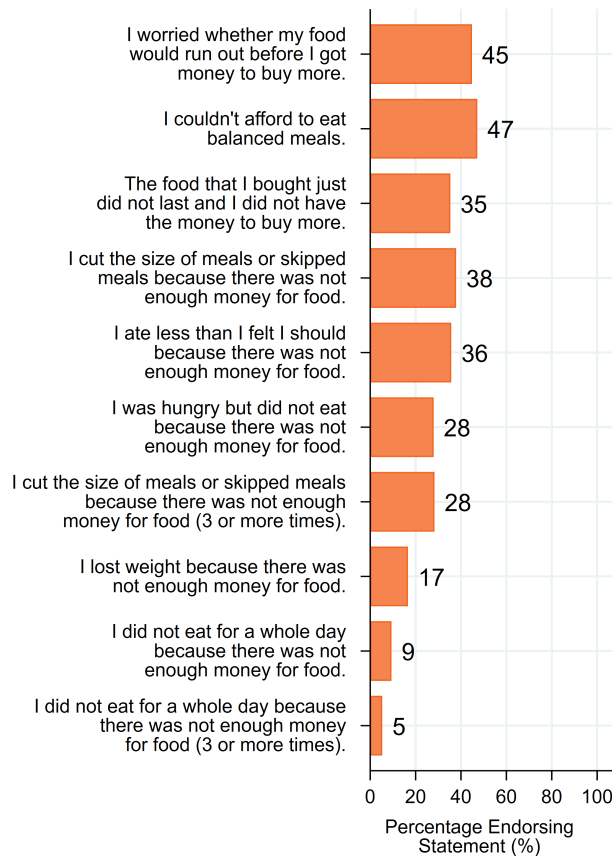
**Figure 1. Food Security Among Survey Respondents at Metropolitan State University of Denver**



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 Metropolitan State University of Denver**



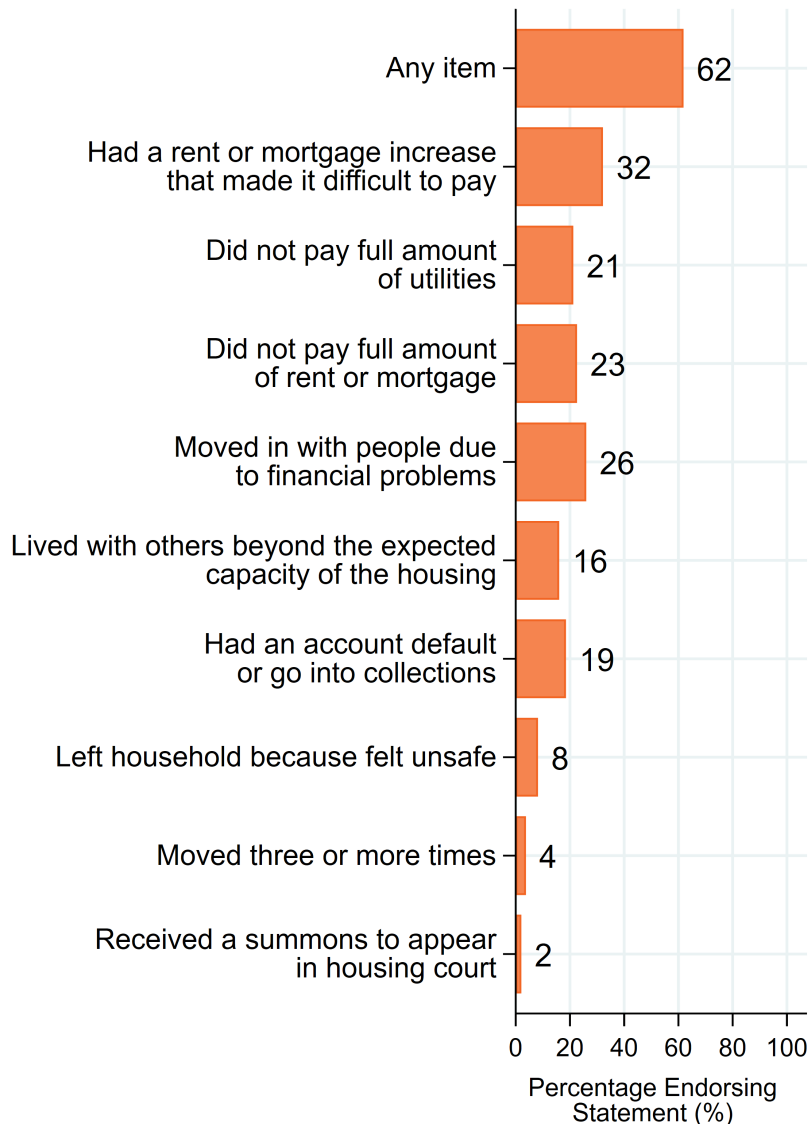
Source: 2018 #RealCollege Survey

## 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 Metropolitan State University of Denver? As displayed below, 62% of survey respondents are housing insecure (Figure 3).

**Figure 3. Housing Insecurity Among Survey Respondents at Metropolitan State University of Denver**



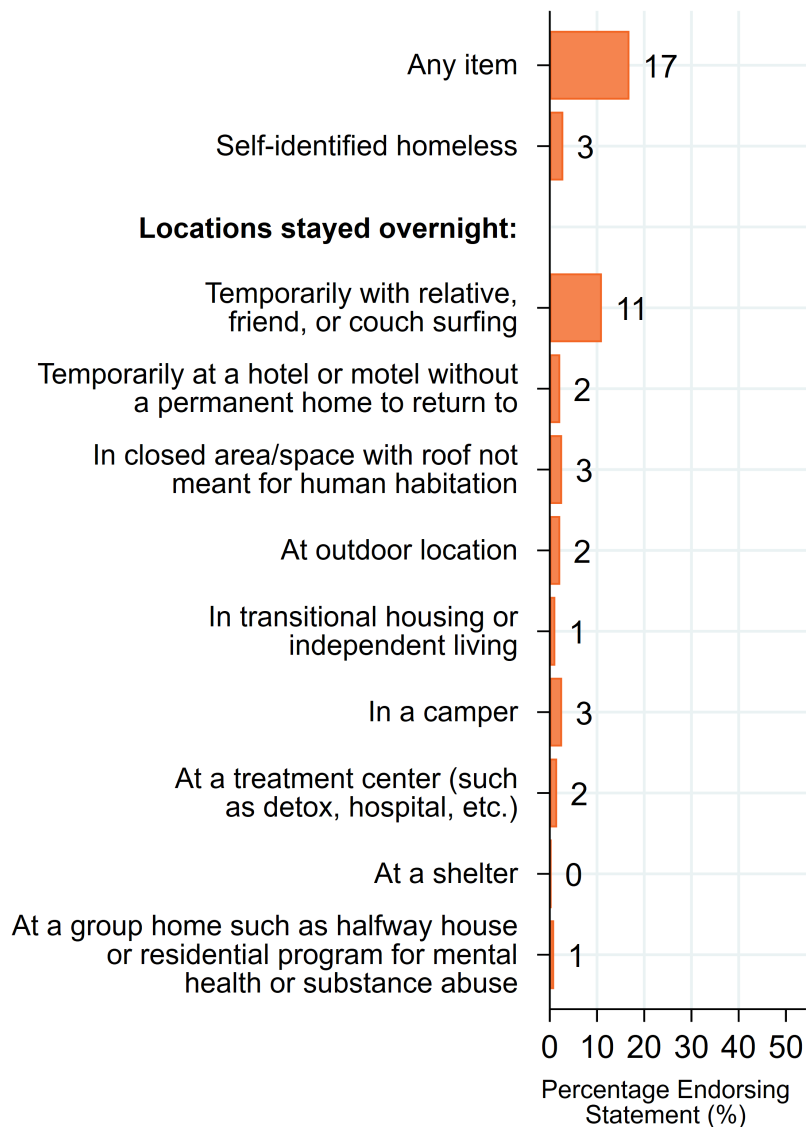
Source: 2018 #RealCollege Survey

## 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 Metropolitan State University of Denver? As displayed below, 17% of survey respondents experience homelessness (Figure 4).

**Figure 4. Homelessness Among Survey Respondents at Metropolitan State University of Denver**

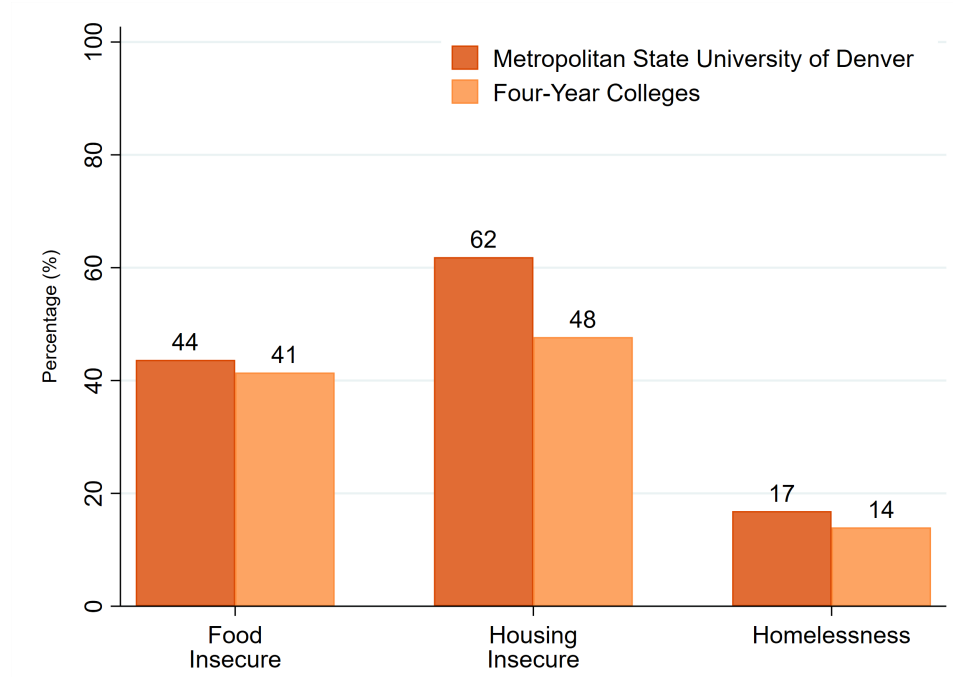


Source: 2018 #RealCollege Survey

## COMPARISON TO FOUR-YEAR COLLEGES

In comparison to the overall rates for students attending a four-year college in 2018, Metropolitan State University of Denver has a higher rate of food insecurity, a higher rate of housing insecurity, and a higher rate of homelessness (Figure 5).

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

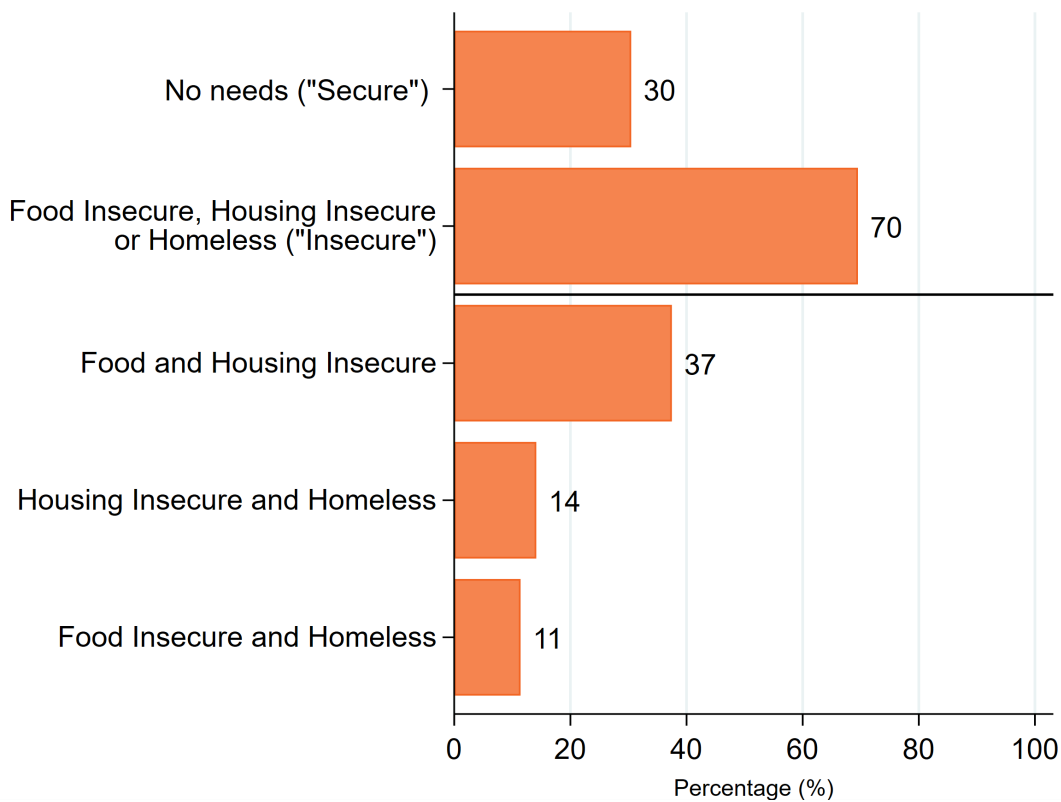


Source: 2018 #RealCollege Survey

## OVERLAPPING CHALLENGES

Food insecurity, housing insecurity, and homelessness are overlapping concerns, with 70% of students at Metropolitan State University of Denver 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 Metropolitan State University of Denver**



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 Metropolitan State University of Denver**

	Number of Students	Food Insecurity (%)	Housing Insecurity (%)	Homelessness (%)
<b>GENDER ORIENTATION</b>				
Male	211	39	58	18
Female	504	45	63	16
Transgender	.	.	.	.
Other	20	60	80	40

<b>SEXUAL ORIENTATION</b>				
Heterosexual or straight	546	40	59	16
Gay or lesbian	46	43	67	20
Bisexual	93	61	73	14
Other	39	51	74	36
<b>RACIAL OR ETHNIC BACKGROUND</b>				
White or Caucasian	453	39	57	17
African American or Black	52	48	77	23
Hispanic or Latinx	197	45	66	13
American Indian or Alaskan Native	26	69	81	31
Middle Eastern or North African or Arab or Arab American	.	.	.	.
Southeast Asian	12	33	50	25
Pacific Islander or Native Hawaiian	.	.	.	.
Other Asian or Asian American	26	54	54	12
Other	22	77	91	45
Prefers not to answer	19	58	74	21
<b>STUDENT IS A U.S. CITIZEN OR PERMANENT RESIDENT</b>				
Yes	698	43	62	17
No	15	27	47	0
Prefers not to answer	.	.	.	.
<b>HIGHEST LEVEL OF PARENTAL EDUCATION</b>				
No high school diploma	90	42	66	11
High school diploma	114	50	61	18
Some college	262	49	68	20



Bachelors degree	246	36	55	15
Does not know	15	27	40	20
<b>AGE</b>				
18 to 20	193	40	47	16
21 to 25	239	47	66	19
26 to 30	127	49	79	18
Older than 30	165	38	61	16

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 Metropolitan State University of Denver**

	Number of Students	Food Insecurity (%)	Housing Insecurity (%)	Homelessness (%)
<b>COLLEGE ENROLLMENT STATUS</b>				
Full-time (at least 12 credits)	554	42	59	17
Part-time (fewer than 12 credits)	217	48	69	16
<b>YEARS IN COLLEGE</b>				
Less than 1	146	37	49	11
1 to 2	156	44	58	19
3 or more	420	47	67	19
<b>DEPENDENCY STATUS</b>				
Dependent	283	42	53	18
Independent	435	45	68	16
<b>STUDENT RECEIVES THE PELL GRANT</b>				
Yes	340	53	70	21
No	431	37	55	13
<b>STUDENT HAS CHILDREN</b>				
Yes	165	49	63	16
No	606	42	62	17
<b>RELATIONSHIP STATUS</b>				

Single	322	43	60	18
In a relationship	257	48	68	19
Married or domestic partnership	127	34	51	9
Divorced	18	44	78	22
Widowed	.	.	.	.
<b>STUDENT HAS BEEN IN FOSTER CARE</b>				
Yes	19	58	74	21
No	707	43	62	17
<b>STUDENT HAS BEEN IN MILITARY</b>				
Yes	44	43	55	30
No	679	43	62	16
<b>EMPLOYMENT STATUS</b>				
Employed	587	45	64	17
Not employed, looking for work	51	55	65	20
Not employed, not looking for work	98	31	45	13
<b>STUDENT HAS BEEN CONVICTED OF A CRIME</b>				
Yes	37	57	81	46
No	704	43	61	16
<b>DISABILITY OR MEDICAL CONDITION</b>				
Learning disability (dyslexia, etc.)	66	50	65	30
Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)	85	59	71	34
Autism spectrum disorder	16	63	81	38
Physical disability (speech, sight, mobility, hearing, etc.)	49	53	73	27
Chronic illness (asthma, diabetes, etc.)	104	52	72	23

autoimmune disorder, cancer, etc.)				
Psychological disorder (depression, anxiety, etc.)	303	54	71	22
Other	37	43	62	38
No disability or medical condition	344	36	57	12

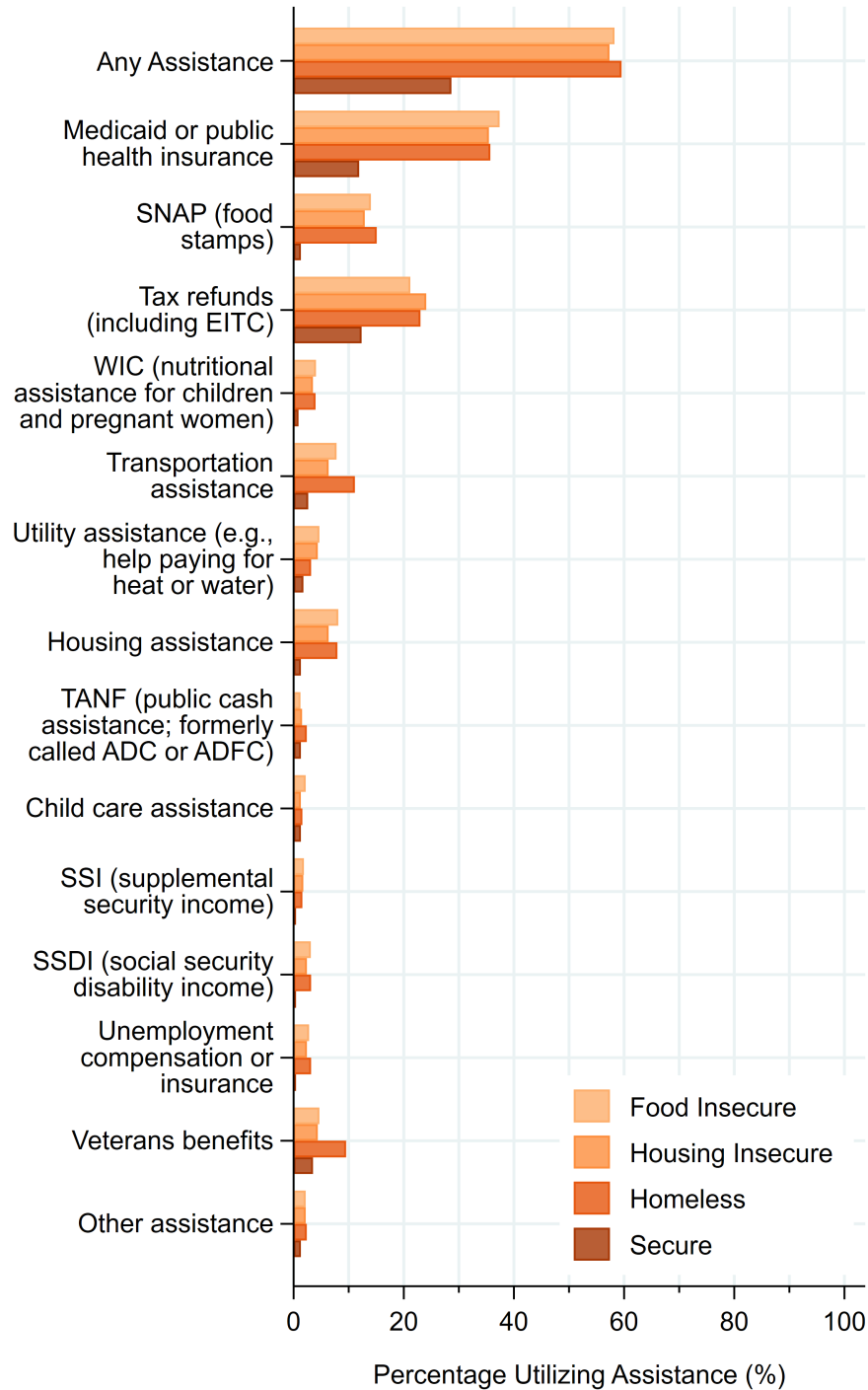
Source: 2018 #RealCollege Survey

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

### UTILIZATION OF SUPPORTS

Many students at Metropolitan State University of Denver who experience basic needs insecurity do not receive public assistance (Figure 7). Fully 14% of food insecure students receive SNAP. 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 (29%) than their peers.

**Figure 7. Use of Assistance Among Survey Respondents at Metropolitan State University of Denver 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).