

# 2018 #REALCOLLEGE SURVEY

## SCHOOL REPORT

MARCH 2019



For College, Community, and Justice

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

# 2018 #REALCOLLEGE SURVEY SCHOOL REPORT FOR LEHMAN COLLEGE

Report prepared by the Hope Center for College, Community, and  
Justice at Temple University

March 2019

## OVERVIEW

- \* Invitations to complete the questionnaire were sent by email to 11,978 students from Lehman College, and 1,467 completed it. Thus, the estimated response rate is 12%.
- \* Overall Basic Needs Insecurity Rates:
  - 55% are food insecure
  - 64% are housing insecure
  - 14% are homeless
- \* 75% of students at Lehman 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.
- \* Only 21% of food insecure students utilize SNAP benefits and only 12% of homeless students utilize housing benefits.

*For more information on the research methodology and survey participants, please refer to the appendices of the City University of New York #RealCollege Survey report.*

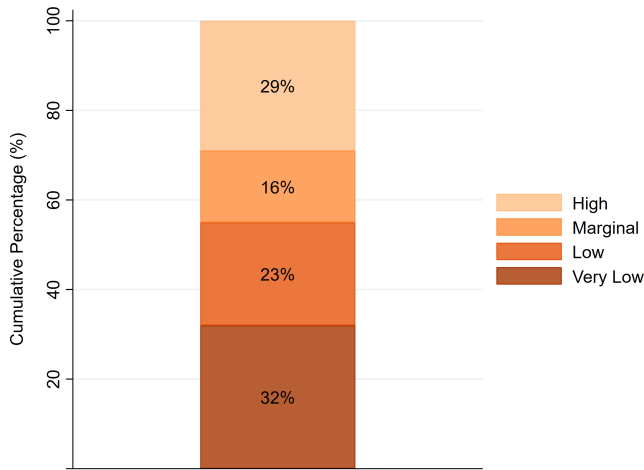
## PREVALENCE OF BASIC NEEDS INSECURITY

### 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, 55% of survey respondents at Lehman College experienced low or very low levels of food security (Figure 1).

Moreover, 59% of survey respondents at Lehman College worry about running out of food before having money to buy more and 61% cannot afford to eat balanced meals.

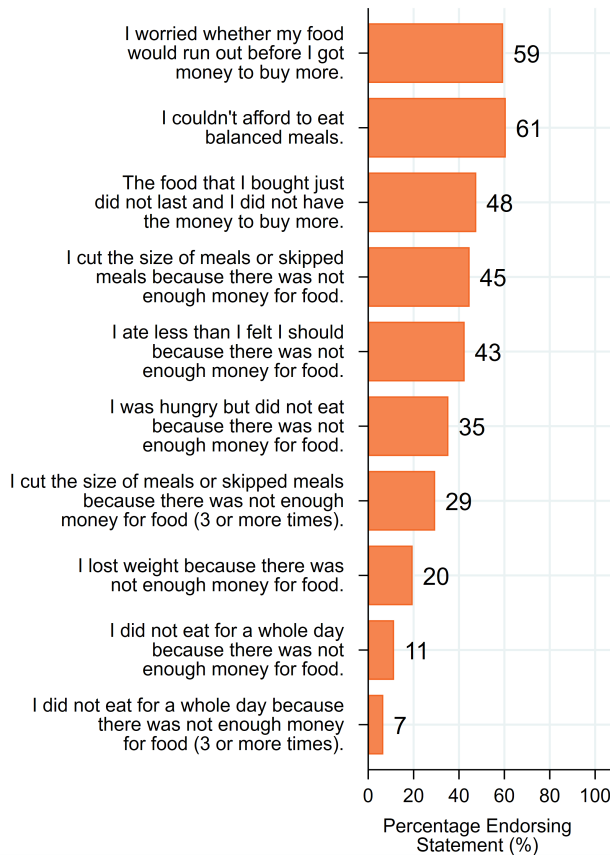
**Figure 1. Food Security Among Survey Respondents at Lehman College**



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 Lehman College**



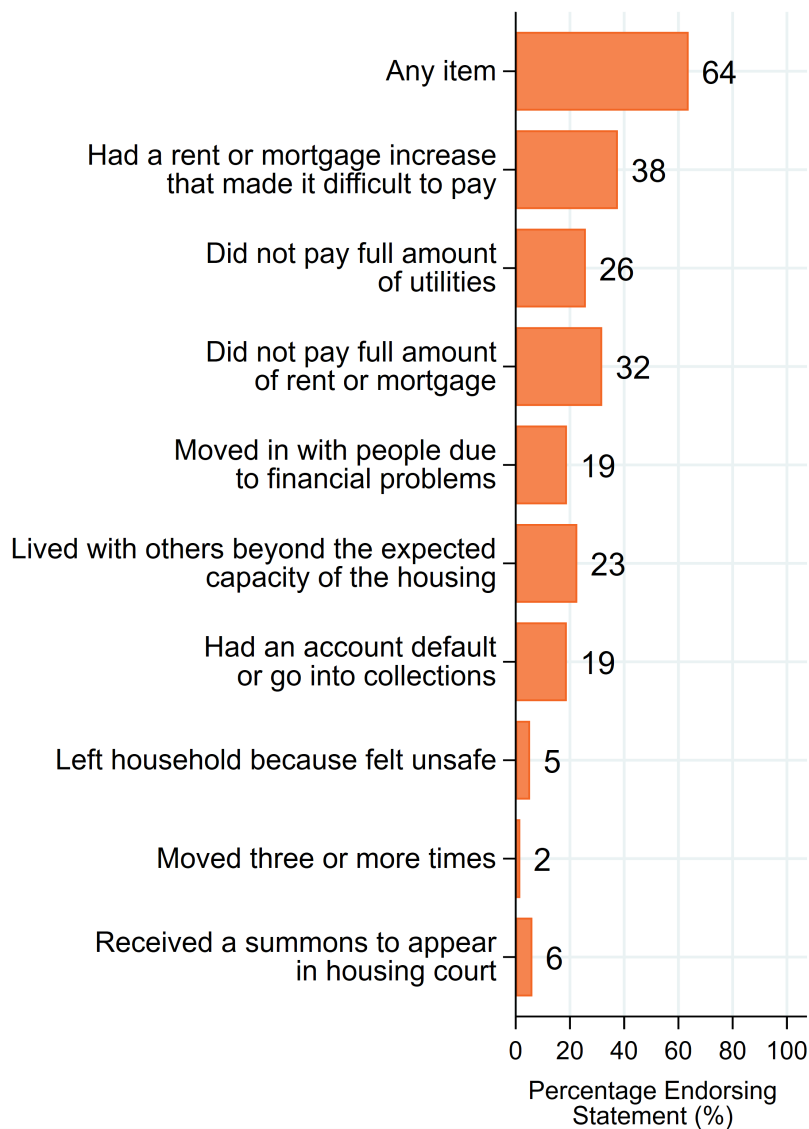
Source: 2018 #RealCollege Survey

## 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 Lehman College? As displayed below, 64% of survey respondents are housing insecure (Figure 3).

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



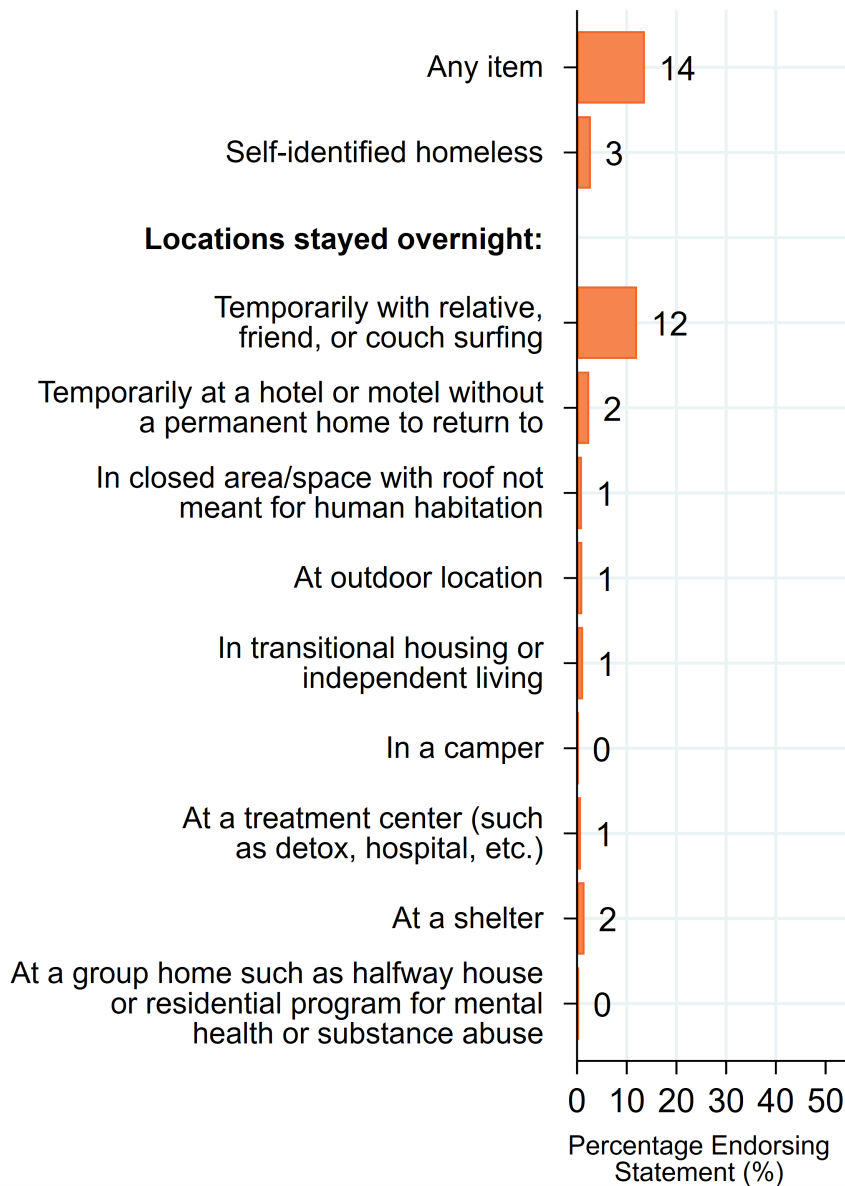
Source: 2018 #RealCollege Survey

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

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

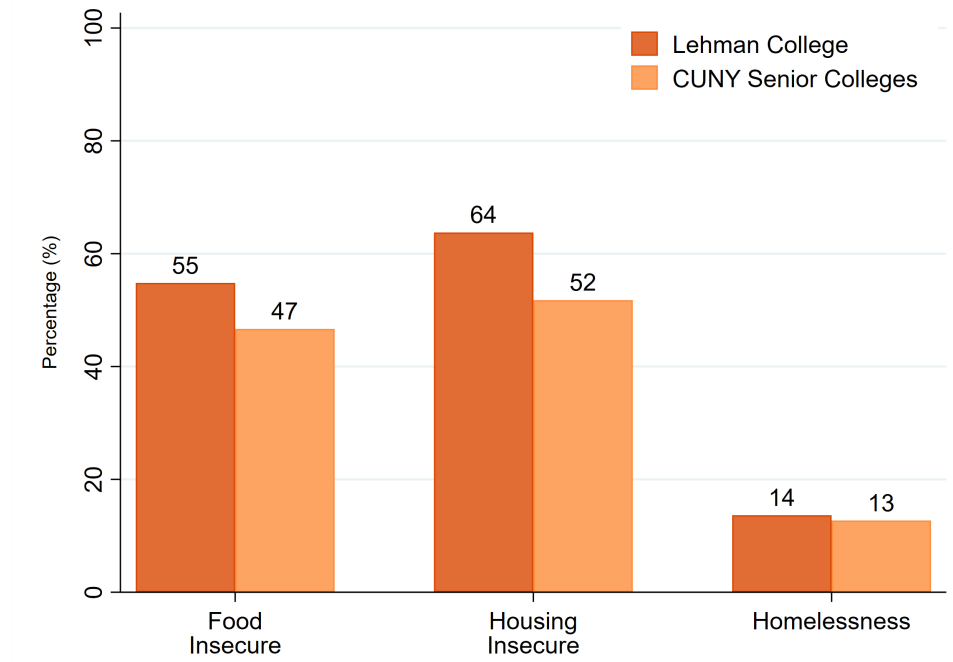


Source: 2018 #RealCollege Survey

## COMPARISON TO CUNY SENIOR COLLEGES

In comparison to all CUNY Senior colleges, Lehman College 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**

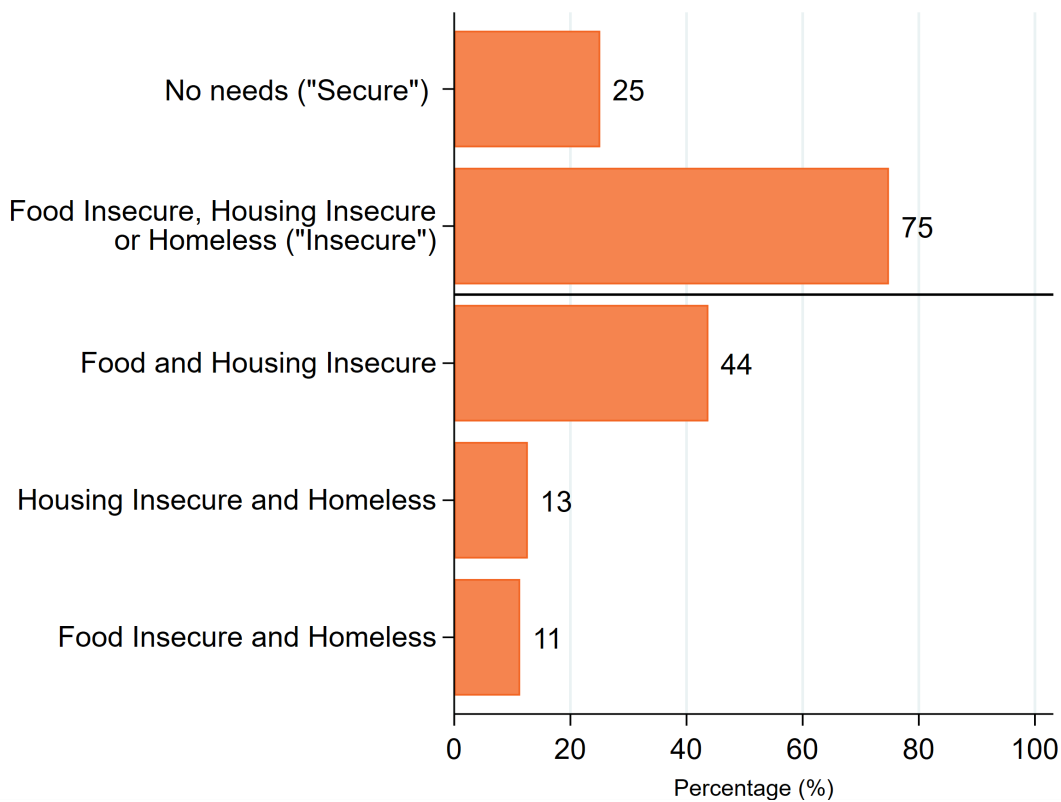


Source: 2018 #RealCollege Survey

## OVERLAPPING CHALLENGES

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

	Number of Students	Food Insecurity (%)	Housing Insecurity (%)	Homelessness (%)
<b>GENDER ORIENTATION</b>				
Male	250	52	59	18
Female	1,138	56	65	13
Transgender	.	.	.	.
Other	21	71	57	19

<b>SEXUAL ORIENTATION</b>				
Heterosexual or straight	1,201	54	63	12
Gay or lesbian	37	57	68	16
Bisexual	83	66	72	28
Other	59	53	64	29
<b>RACIAL OR ETHNIC BACKGROUND</b>				
White or Caucasian	76	46	55	17
African American or Black	387	64	67	17
Hispanic or Latinx	796	54	66	12
American Indian or Alaskan Native	14	57	79	21
Middle Eastern or North African or Arab or Arab American	16	44	50	25
Southeast Asian	53	38	45	17
Pacific Islander or native Hawaiian	.	.	.	.
Other Asian or Asian American	63	52	56	11
Other	53	51	68	17
Prefers not to answer	56	52	61	14
<b>STUDENT IS A U.S. CITIZEN OR PERMANENT RESIDENT</b>				
Yes	1,312	55	64	13
No	60	58	68	22
Prefers not to answer	20	45	65	10
<b>HIGHEST LEVEL OF PARENTAL EDUCATION</b>				
No high school diploma	349	56	68	11
High school diploma	247	53	60	15
Some college	514	59	69	14



Bachelors degree	227	45	54	14
Does not know	75	56	57	19
<b>AGE</b>				
18 to 20	369	45	43	7
21 to 25	523	55	64	16
26 to 30	192	64	79	20
Older than 30	318	60	80	13

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 Lehman College**

	Number of Students	Food Insecurity (%)	Housing Insecurity (%)	Homelessness (%)
<b>COLLEGE ENROLLMENT STATUS</b>				
Full-time (at least 12 credits)	1,121	54	61	14
Part-time (fewer than 12 credits)	323	58	74	14
<b>YEARS IN COLLEGE</b>				
Less than 1	206	46	51	12
1 to 2	393	53	62	12
3 or more	845	58	68	15
<b>DEPENDENCY STATUS</b>				
Dependent	561	49	52	12
Independent	842	59	72	15
<b>STUDENT RECEIVES THE PELL GRANT</b>				
Yes	943	56	63	13
No	501	53	65	15
<b>STUDENT HAS CHILDREN</b>				
Yes	351	61	72	14
No	1,086	53	61	14
<b>RELATIONSHIP STATUS</b>				

Single	822	55	61	15
In a relationship	370	55	66	11
Married or domestic partnership	180	52	71	12
Divorced	28	75	86	14
Widowed	.	.	.	.
<b>STUDENT HAS BEEN IN FOSTER CARE</b>				
Yes	23	78	78	35
No	1,386	54	64	13
<b>STUDENT HAS BEEN IN MILITARY</b>				
Yes	12	42	58	8
No	1,399	55	64	14
<b>EMPLOYMENT STATUS</b>				
Employed	893	60	72	16
Not employed, looking for work	302	53	48	11
Not employed, not looking for work	201	37	47	6
<b>STUDENT HAS BEEN CONVICTED OF A CRIME</b>				
Yes	.	.	.	.
No	1,402	55	64	14
Prefers not to answer	16	63	63	25
<b>DISABILITY OR MEDICAL CONDITION</b>				
Learning disability (dyslexia, etc.)	39	67	67	10
Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)	34	74	68	21
Autism spectrum disorder	.	.	.	.
Physical disability (speech, sight, mobility, hearing, etc.)	63	65	76	22

Chronic illness (asthma, diabetes, autoimmune disorder, cancer, etc.)	168	58	73	15
Psychological disorder (depression, anxiety, etc.)	231	70	74	22
Other	33	73	85	36
No disability or medical condition	999	51	61	12

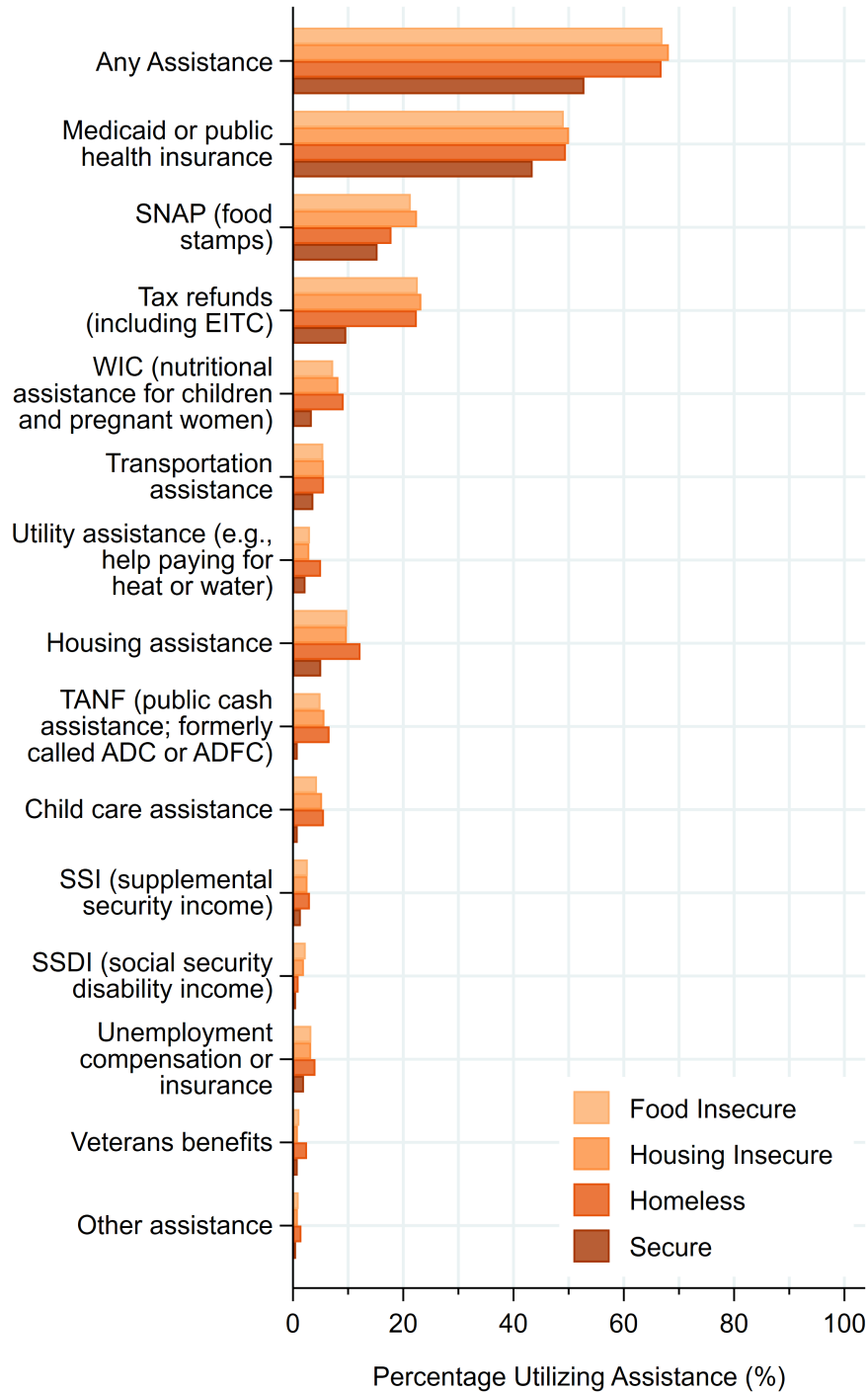
Source: 2018 #RealCollege Survey

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

## UTILIZATION OF SUPPORTS

Many students at Lehman College who experience basic needs insecurity do not receive public assistance (Figure 7). Only 21% of food insecure students receive SNAP. Likewise, only 12% 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 (53%) than their peers.

**Figure 7. Use of Assistance Among Survey Respondents at Lehman 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 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).