

**California State University
Office of the Chancellor
Study of Student Service Access and Basic Needs**

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**BASIC NEEDS
INITIATIVE**

CSU Study of Student Basic Needs

Phase 1

- Perceptions from staff, faculty, and administrators
- Preliminary student data

Phase 2

- Student experience
- Survey at 23 campuses
- Interviews and focus groups 11 campuses

Phase 3

- In-depth analysis of Phase 2 data

Focus on:

- Access of on- and off-campus services
- Use of time
- Use of financial resources

Methods

Quantitative

Locational data was where students entered the city and location of two streets that intersected nearby their residence

23

Campus
Surveys

5.8%

Students
participated



Methods

Qualitative

Representative from northern, southern, and central California and included urban, rural, and suburban areas

11

**CSU campuses with students
who identify as housing and/or
food insecure**

Defining Basic Needs

Food Security

(USDA ERS, 2015)

High food security

No reported indications of food access problems or limitations

Marginal food security

One or two reported indications—typically of anxiety over food sufficiency or shortage of food in the house. Little or no indication of changes in diets or food intake

Low food security

Reports of reduced quality, variety, or desirability of diet. Little or no indication of reduced food intake

Very low food security

Reports of multiple indications of disrupted eating patterns and reduced food intake

Prevalence

Food Security

41.6%

CSU Students
reported food
insecurity

20%

experience
*low food
security*

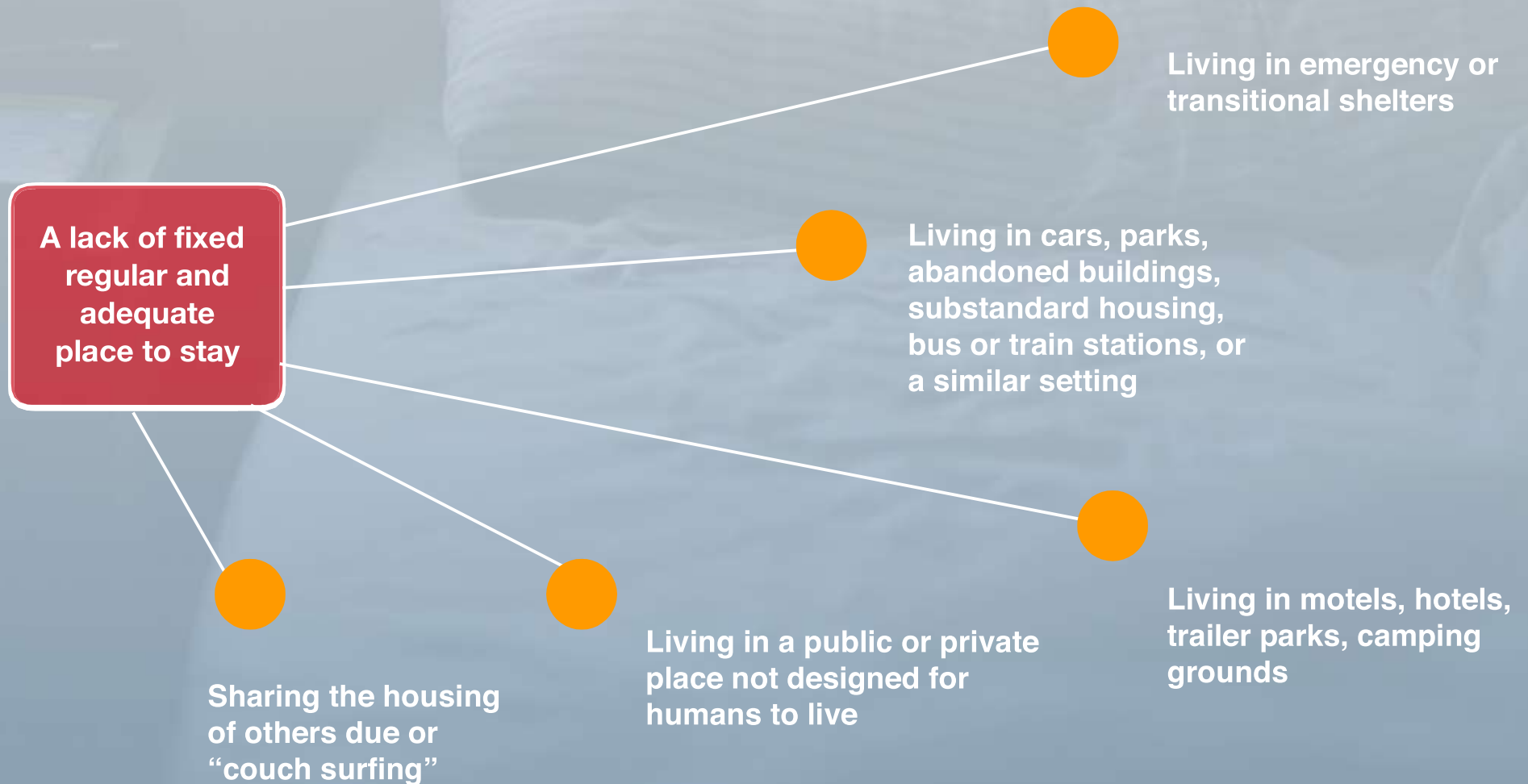
21.6%

experience *very
low food security*

Defining Basic Needs

Homelessness

(The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, Subtitle B of Title VII)



Prevalence

Homelessness

10.9%

of CSU STUDENTS report
being homeless

18%

of African American and first-
generation college students
experienced homelessness
(a higher rate than any other
group)

Exploring the Phase 3 Report

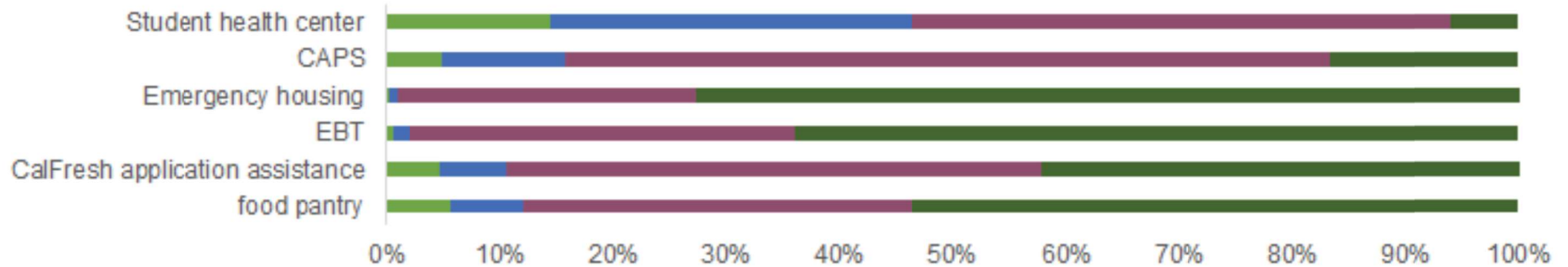


Findings from Phase 3 serve to illustrate student experiences.

- Descriptions of **disparity gaps**.
- Use of **financial aid, loans, and credit cards**.
- **Demands on their time** for paid employment, unpaid work, and familial obligations based on students' level of basic need security.
- Analysis provides overall **context for use of on- and off-campus services**.

Use of on-campus supports for all study participants

CSU students' use of on-campus supports



	food pantry	CalFresh application assistance	EBT	Emergency housing	CAPS	Student health center
■ currently use it	5.6%	4.7%	0.7%	0.2%	4.9%	14.4%
■ used it in the past	6.5%	5.9%	1.4%	0.8%	10.8%	32.0%
■ heard of it, but never used it	34.3%	47.3%	33.9%	26.4%	67.7%	47.6%
■ never heard of it and/or never used it	53.6%	42.2%	63.9%	72.7%	16.6%	6.0%

■ currently use it
 ■ used it in the past
 ■ heard of it, but never used it
 ■ never heard of it and/or never used it

Use of off-campus services

Table 1. CSU Student Use of Off-Campus and Public Supports in the Past 12 Months

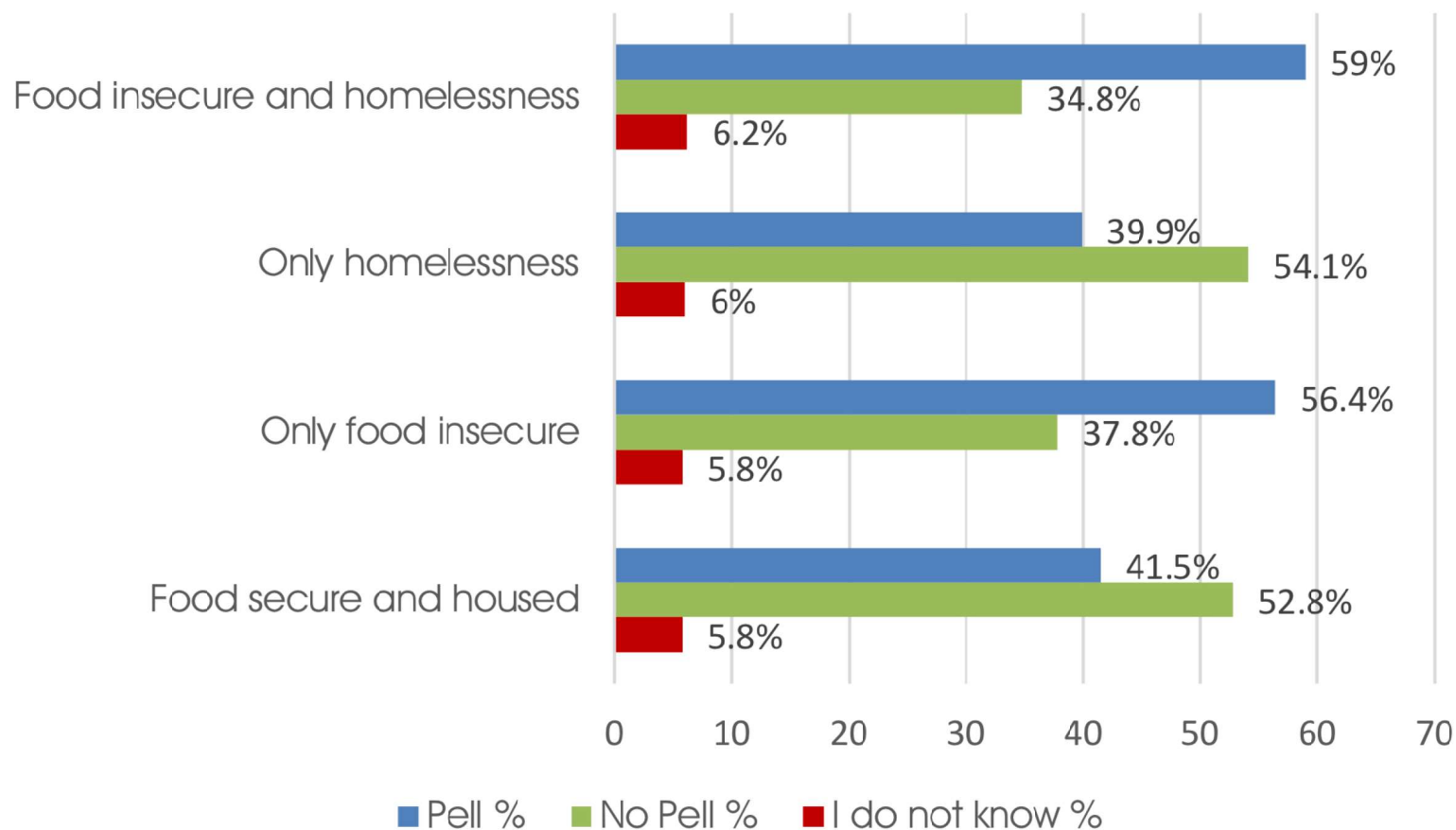
Service	Currently use %	Used in past %	Currently use and used in past combined %	Heard of it, but never used it %	Never heard of it and/or never used it %
Off-campus food pantry	1.8%	5.4%	7.2%	48.3%	44.6%
Emergency meal assistance	0.2%	0.7%	0.9%	28.3%	70.8%
Shelter	0.1%	1.0%	1.1%	64.1%	34.8%
Transitional living	0.2%	0.9%	1.1%	42.9%	56.0%
Subsidized housing	1.4%	1.3%	2.7%	49.2%	48.0%
WIC	1.7%	5.2%	6.9%	49.0%	44.2%
TANF	0.6%	1.8%	2.4%	33.4%	64.3%
SSI	0.9%	1.4%	2.3%	41.6%	56.1%
SSDI	0.7%	1.2%	1.9%	35.6%	62.5%
Medicaid	8.5%	5.4%	13.9%	60.3%	25.8%
Childcare assistance	1.0%	1.7%	2.7%	58.6%	38.8%
Unemployment	0.5%	6.0%	6.5%	53.8%	39.7%
Utility assistance	2.7%	3.0%	5.7%	38.5%	55.8%
EITC	1.6%	5.7%	7.3%	36.6%	56.1%
Veterans benefits	2.6%	1.1%	3.7%	59.0%	37.3%

Disparities between Experiences

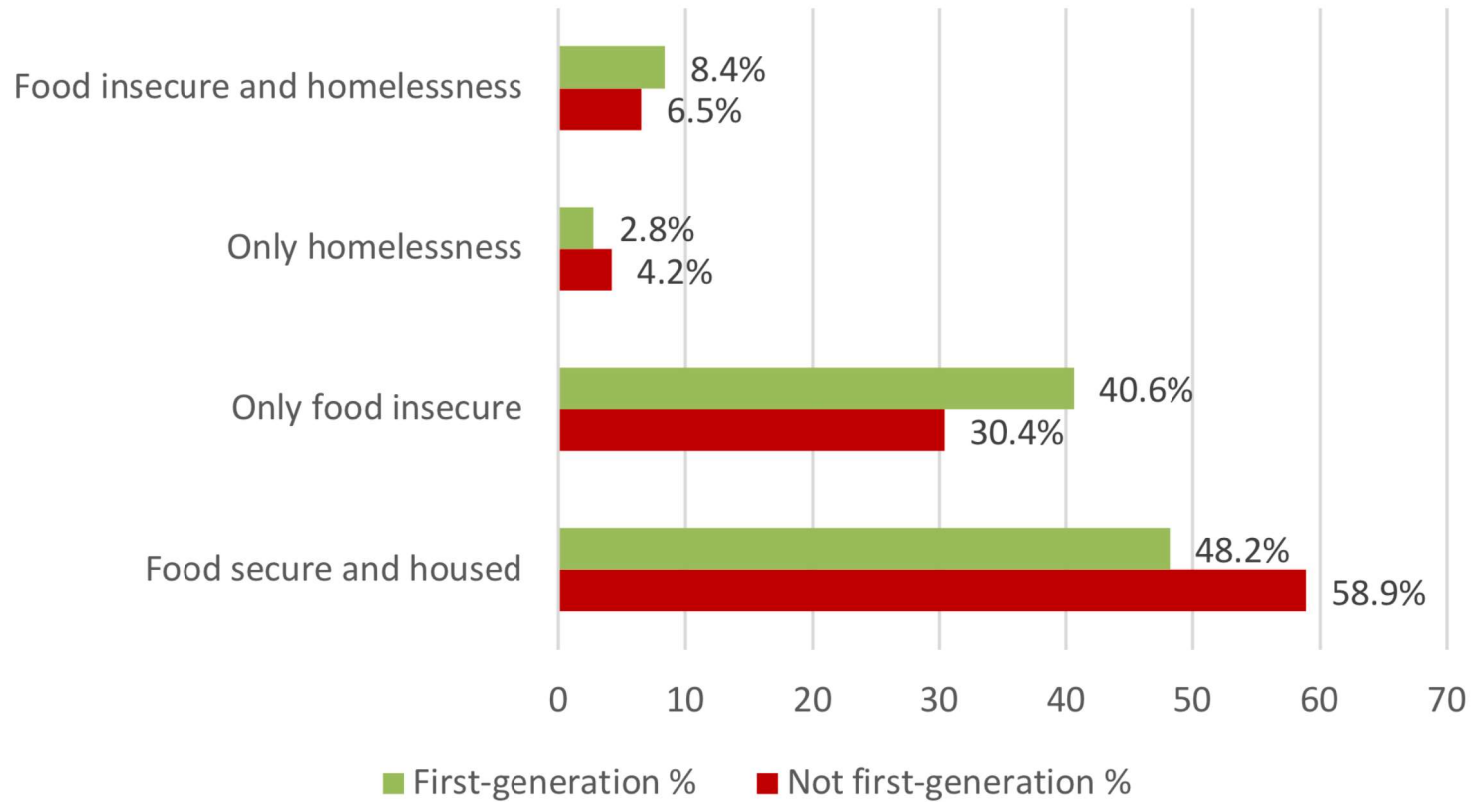
Table 2. CSU Student Basic Needs Security by Race

	Food secure and housed %	Only food insecure %	Only homeless %	Food insecure and homeless %
Asian	60.9	29.4	3.9	5.9
Black or African American	39.2	46.8	2	12.1
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	50.5	39.1	3.4	7
Other	49.5	39.9	2.9	7.6
White	58.2	30.3	4.5	7

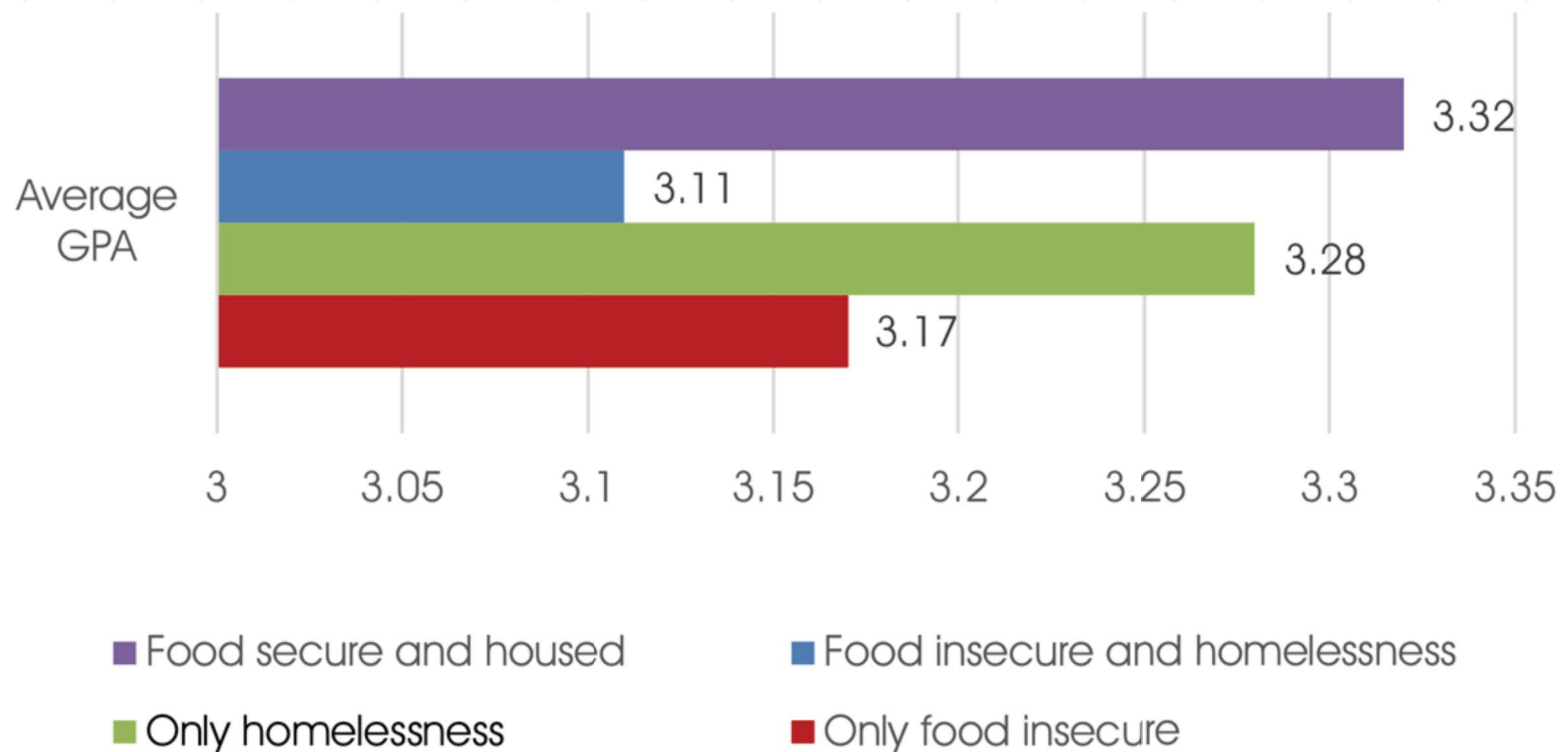
Pell grantees experience greater food and housing insecurity



1st Generation college students and basic needs insecurity



GPA and basic needs security



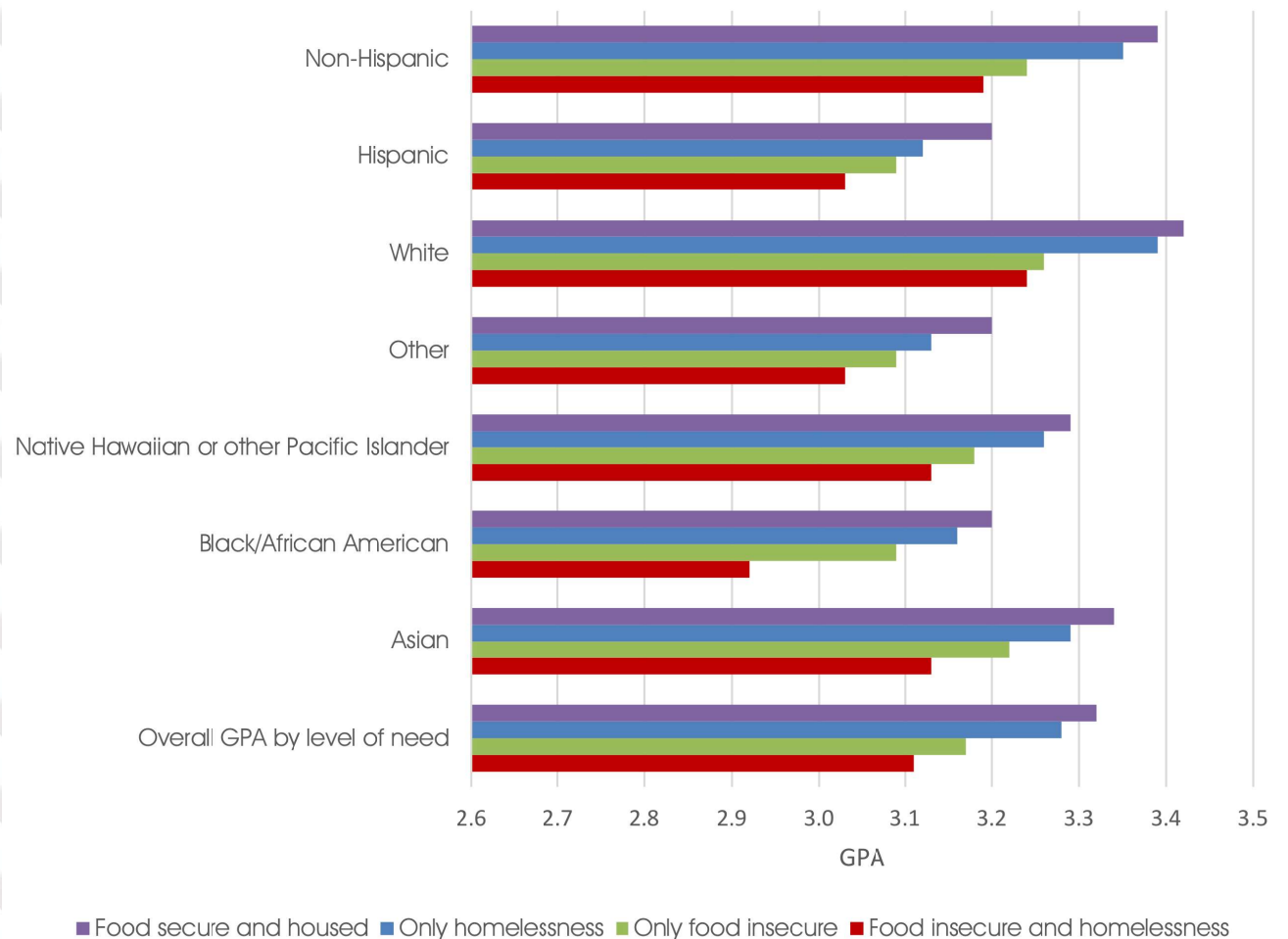
Housing and Academics

“ It affects my studying if I don't know where I'm going to go, where am I studying or am I concentrating on studying because I'm not worried about where I'm going to go.

Gabrielle (CSUDH)



GPA based on basic needs security race and ethnicity



Demands on Time



Demands on student time and level of basic needs security

Table 4. *Demands on Student Time Compared and Level of Basic Needs Security*

	All students	Food Secure and Housed	Food Insecure and Homeless	Only Homeless	Only Food Insecure
Average hours of paid work per week	13.6	13.3	15.2	13.05	13.8
Average hours of family obligations per week	11	10.9	11.14	8.5	11.5
Average hours of unpaid work per week	4	3.6	5.2	3.84	4.3

Paid employment



I make pretty good money and it's still not enough. My wife works too. [We earn] too much to get CalFresh benefits. . . I was having to use credit to buy food. And that's not good. And then, two kids...It just gets harder and harder every year.

Isaac (FSU)

Unpaid employment

“ I have my internship all day [1 day a week]. I'm there 8 hours and as soon as I get out, I come straight [to campus] and I don't get out until 9:45p.m. . . . You fall asleep. You aren't participating. . . . Damn, my health or my school? My health or my school? Which one?

Deliah (CSUDH)

Experience with internships is invaluable, but that doesn't make rent and grocery bills disappear.

Tom (CSUN)

Familial Obligations

“ I was helping them out. Then coming back to school and working this job, I still send money back home. I'm still trying to eat healthy, so sometimes—It can't really work for me because with my budget . . . It's really difficult.

Evan (CSUN)

With my financial aid I'm able to help my mom pay bills and gas. That's my responsibility from month to month. That's another [reason] why I'm living off of rice and pasta.

Cathy (CSULA)

Supports and Barriers to Access of On-Campus Services



Supports to Access of On-Campus Services

“ I feel really appreciative that he at least noticed. I was a student that always participated, always like on the second row raising my hand. I didn't think anyone would notice, because my other professors didn't really ask.

Carloeena (CSUN)

Even if I don't know how to do something, I'll figure it out. That's kind of my thing too . . . I didn't know that whole process but I'm like, let me just try it, let me just see.

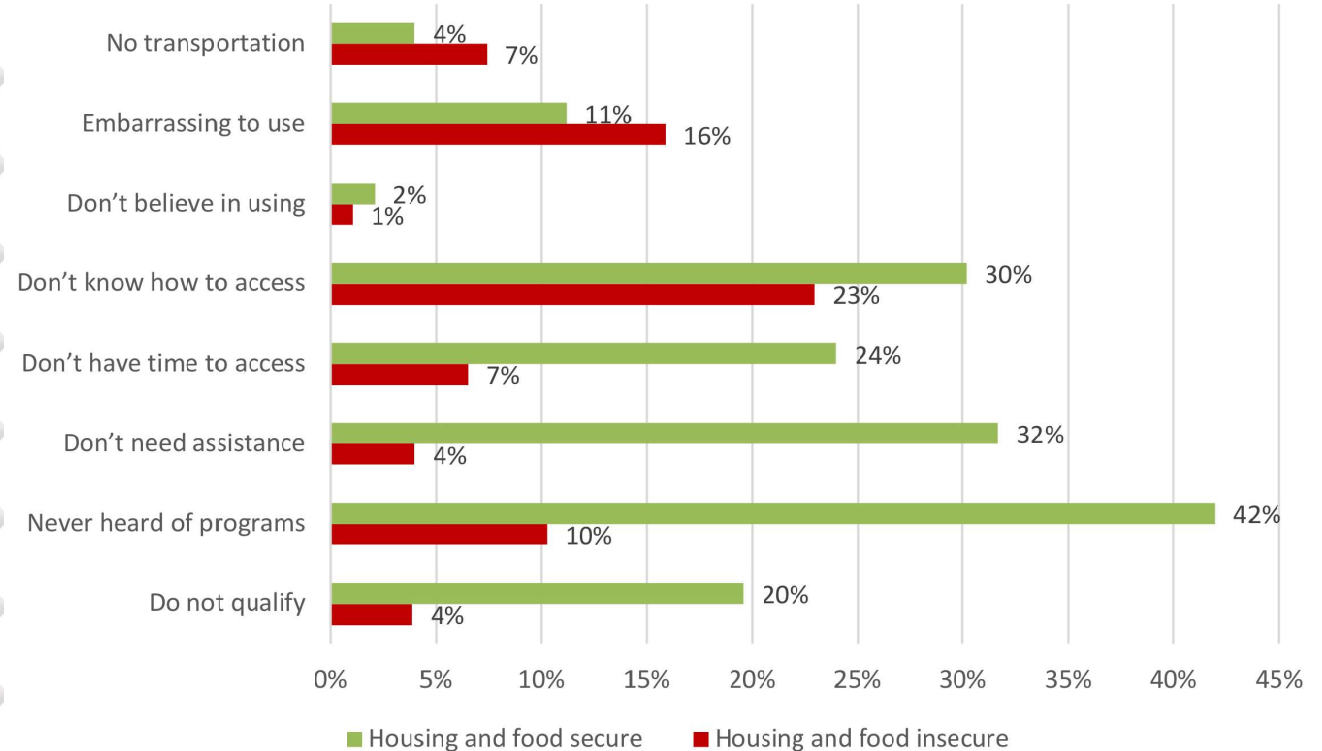
Kianna (CSULB)

Barriers to Access of On-Campus Services

Am I broke enough for this free food?

There might be a student who has nothing . . . I don't wanna like take away from them.

Bianca (CSUSB)



CalFresh

I figured since it's the government, there's no way around it.

Monica (SDSU)

Table 7. CalFresh Application Assistance by Race and Ethnicity

	Currently use it %	Used it in the past %	Currently use and used in past combined %	Heard of it but never used it %	Never heard of it/not offered at my campus %
Asian	2.5	4.8	7.3	40.5	52.1
Black and African American	8.7	11.7	20.4	48	31.6
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	4.4	4.9	9.3	44.3	46.4
Other	5.7	6.6	12.3	49.2	38.6
White	4.2	4.8	9	49.6	41.4
Hispanic	5.6	6.3	11.9	49.4	38.7
Non-Hispanic	4	5.4	9.4	46.3	44.3

Food Pantries

It's been amazing. Everybody's super friendly. It's super casual. You don't get that vibe like you're a lesser person.

Lenore (FSU)

Counseling and Psychological Services

“

I think that that has really been helping, because [my counselor] kind of knows what has been going on . . . It has been hard kind of like grinding back into the year and you know just having to deal with the anxiety of possibly not having housing next year.

Gloria (CSULA)

Student Health Centers

“ Oh, no. I'm a very private person, so I don't really talk personal. But, for me, it was actually the Health Medical Service . . . I went there and — it was around the time when my parents got arrested by ICE . . . I guess I told the health doctor because they ask you questions, and then they sent me to [counseling and psychological services] and then that's when I got my counselor, and then she brought up The Den [food pantry]. . . . She told me that they help out students in need.

Ella (CSUSB)

Emergency Housing Services

“ I love this school, 'cause they knew what was going on so they let me stay in the dorms until the semester ended. They allowed it. So, I'm really grateful for that.

Erika (CSULB)

She got me to stay in a temporary room until I was able to figure out something.

Elizabeth (FSU)

Emergency Meal Programs



I was able to take advantage of a \$300 grant that helped me out with food and, you know, [emergency] dorming and [emergency] food. It was nice to just eat like, healthy again.

Kendrick (CSULB Alumni)

Financial Aid, Loans, and Credit Card Use

“ I had ended up taking out a temporary loan from one of the loan services . . . I was freaking out at first because I was like, wait, how am I going to pay for this?

Kathy (CSULA)

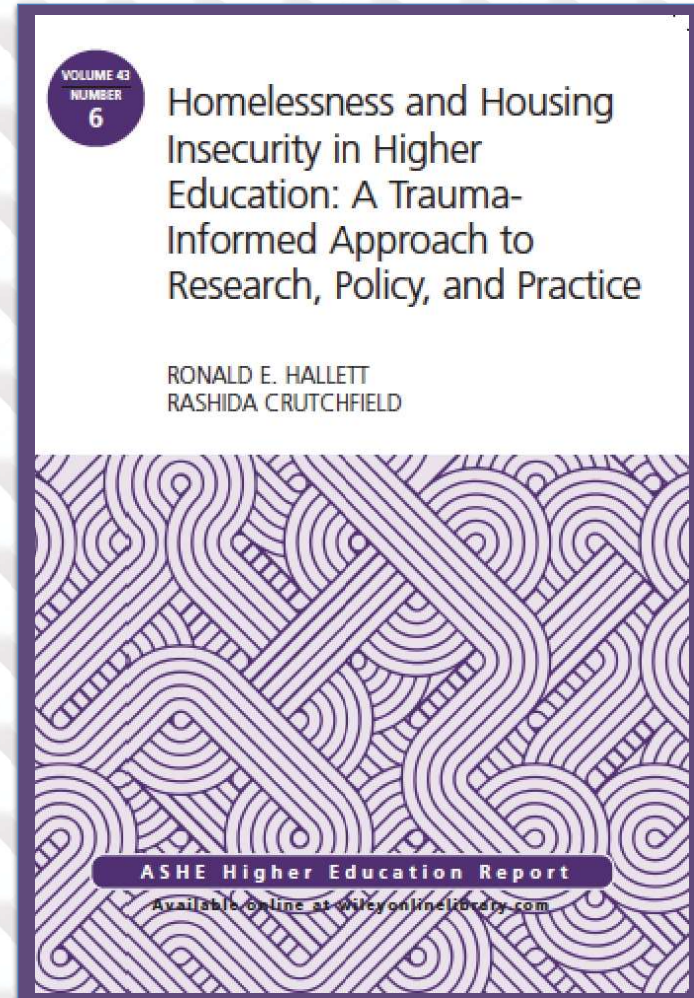
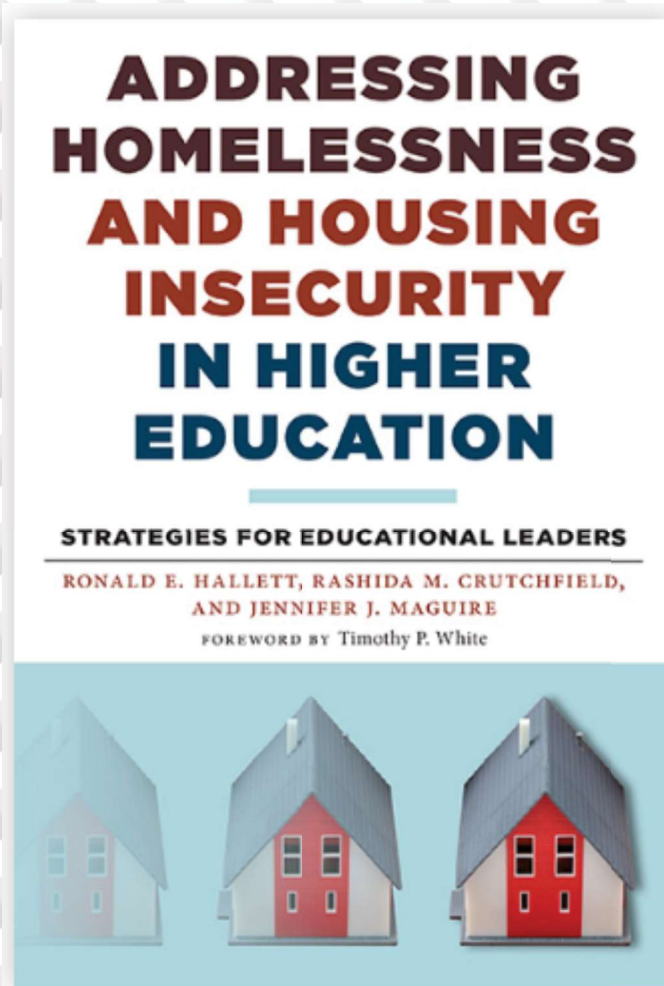
It's an investment in my education. I'm paying it. Right now, I live by my credit card. With my job, hopefully, I'm able to save up and pay that . . . [So], okay, I'll buy the food this week

Fernanda (CSUB)

Recommendations

- Create or sustain Single Points of Contact (SPOC) to coordinate student service provision
- Sustain and evaluate efforts to address food and housing insecurity.
- Increase awareness, access, and use of on-campus resources for students, specifically for student groups who are disproportionately impacted
- Train faculty and staff to identify, respond, and refer students to appropriate points of contact.
- Promote continued sharing of information across campuses.
- Advocate to address barriers to off-campus public social services for higher education students.

Useful Resources





BASIC NEEDS INITIATIVE

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www.calstate.edu/BasicNeeds

www.calstate.edu/basicneeds/resources