

## This Month's Topic: #RealCollegeCA Survey on Basic Needs

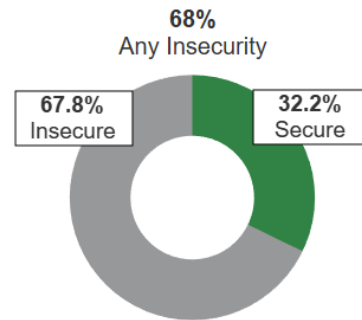
This "Did You Know" summarizes the results from the California Community Colleges (CCCs) [#RealCollege Survey](#), which assessed basic needs insecurity among college students, including food and housing insecurity. A total of 356 out of 4,992 [Crafton Hills College \(CHC\)](#) students responded to this survey which was administered in Spring 2023 by The Research and Planning Group for California Community Colleges (The RP Group) and the CEO Affordability, Food & Housing Access Taskforce of the Community College League of California (CCLC). This survey was administered to a total of 88 CCCs and over 66,000 students.

### Methodology

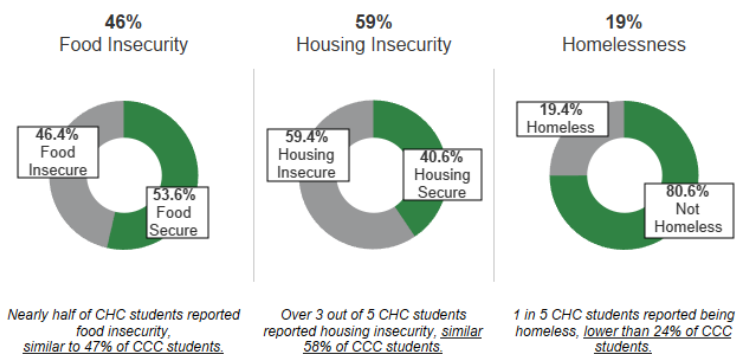
This survey was distributed to colleges who expressed interest in participating in the survey administration. It was available from March 17, 2023, to April 19, 2023. The survey's primary objective was to assess the changing levels of basic needs insecurity among college students. It encompassed inquiries into a range of topics, including students' academic experiences, financial hardships, daily life circumstances, access to food both at home and on campus, housing arrangements, living conditions, demographic information, and additional relevant topics.

### Findings

- Overall, about 7 out of 10 CHC student survey respondents reported encountering at least one basic needs insecurity. Nearly half of the CHC respondents were food insecure, 3 out of 5 were housing insecure, and 1 out of 5 were homeless in the past year.
- Certain demographic groups at CHC are disproportionately affected by basic needs insecurities, similar to those impacted at CCCs. Specifically, students at CHC who indicated a higher likelihood of experiencing food insecurity, housing insecurity, and homelessness were:
  - Female students
  - Transgender students
  - Non-binary students
  - Queer+ students
  - Black/African American students
  - American Indian/Alaskan Native students
  - Students 25 to 29 years of age
  - Students 40 to 49 years of age
  - Students previously convicted of a crime
  - Single parent students
  - Students who were in foster care
  - Veteran students
  - Students with a disability or medical condition
- The groups listed above were also more inclined to receive support from different programs in the last 12 months, such as Medicaid and SNAP.



7 out of 10 CHC students reported at least one basic needs insecurity, comparable to 68% of CCC students.



### Next Steps

Inequalities in meeting basic needs continue to persist at CHC. The Basic Needs Center at CHC provided a list of strategies that have recently been employed or intend to employ to address some of the challenges within the report.

### Student Finances

When it comes to student finances, they are currently engaged in ongoing collaboration with the CHC Foundation to provide students with Emergency Funding during times of crisis. Additionally, they are also providing transportation assistance to students by

For questions, please contact Jessica Beverson, Research Analyst, at [jbeverson@craftonhills.edu](mailto:jbeverson@craftonhills.edu)

distributing \$50 gas cards, available twice a semester, specifically to students facing financial need. Moreover, they are maintaining support for students utilizing public transportation in the Riverside County region by offering Riverside Transit Authority (RTA) bus passes. Furthermore, they are in the process of developing initiatives such as providing parking permits for unhoused/low-income students and planning to coordinate with Financial Aid to create a scholarship for marginalized students who do not qualify for traditional scholarships.

### **Student Employment**

Regarding student employment, they aim to maintain their efforts in linking students with the CHC Career Center for comprehensive employment readiness and assistance. Additionally, they plan to direct students to seek employment assistance from the San Bernardino and Riverside counties America's Job Center of California (AJCC).

### **Housing Insecurity**

When addressing housing insecurity, their commitment involves ongoing referrals of students to city agencies like Redlands Family Service and Community Action Partnership of San Bernardino for crucial support services like rental assistance, rapid rehousing, and eviction/foreclosure assistance. Moreover, they plan to connect students with Inland Counties Legal Services to access pro-bono assistance concerning eviction notices, rental increases, and inadequate housing concerns.

### **Homelessness**

In addressing homelessness, their strategy involves raising awareness about campus services and community resources during Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week in November 2024. Throughout this week, they plan to host community agencies, including those catering to the LGBTQIA+ community, to provide insights into their housing services, as well as food insecurity. Furthermore, they plan to partner with a local hotel, such as La Quinta in Yucaipa, to offer hotel vouchers to students with emergency housing needs. Additionally, they seek to strengthen their partnerships with local agencies that offer rental assistance, transitional housing, and shelter programs to enhance the efficiency of application and referral processes.

### **Food Insecurity**

When it comes to food insecurity, their approach includes ongoing provision of meal vouchers for CHCs on-campus café, Duck & Owl, alongside efforts to facilitate the use of EBT cards for food purchases through coordination with San Bernardino County, in collaboration with Duck & Owl and Follett. Additionally, they aim to enhance food accessibility by partnering with various departments to create "Snack Stations" across campus, thereby making food more readily available to students. Moreover, they plan to increase the food distribution frequency to departments, from once to twice per month, to further support students in need. Furthermore, they plan to create a Farm Fresh Distribution on a monthly basis, offering students fresh and healthy food choices.

### **Other General Strategies**

For all services offered through the Basic Needs Center, their goal is to enhance accessibility by updating the Basic Needs webpages. These updates will include links to community and partner agencies addressing various needs such as financial support, housing assistance, food resources, and health/wellness services. Furthermore, these links will encompass LGBTQIA+ services available in Riverside and San Bernardino counties. As the Basic Needs Center team reviewed this document, they recognize the areas where more targeted supportive services are needed for CHC's LGBTQIA+ students, as well as the necessity for enhancing the housing resources to better serve our homeless students. Through the implementation of these strategies, CHC aims to promote equitable access to basic needs for every student, fostering an environment where all students can thrive academically and personally.

### **References:**

- The RP Group and the Chief Executive Officers (CEO) Affordability, Food & Housing Access Taskforce (2023). *Real College California: Basic Needs Among California Community College Students*. Community College League of California.
- Beverson, J. (2023). #RealCollegeCA on Basic Needs. *Unpublished manuscript*. Office of Institutional Effectiveness, Research and Planning, Crafton Hills College.