



Real College Survey Results for Allan Hancock College

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Date: 11/28/2023

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## **Summary**

Comparing Allan Hancock College to the statewide data, it is evident that both Allan Hancock College students and students across the state exhibit high levels of insecurity among the surveyed students. Specifically, 69 percent of AHC respondents reported experiencing some form of insecurity, while the statewide figure is slightly lower at 68 percent. When it comes to specific types of insecurity, Allan Hancock College students reported lower levels of food insecurity, with 40 percent of them indicating that they face challenges related to access to food, while the statewide figure for food insecurity is 47 percent. Allan Hancock College students reported a slightly higher level of housing insecurity at 61 percent, compared to 58 percent in the statewide data. In terms of homelessness, 27 percent of AHC respondents reported experiencing homelessness, while the statewide rate is slightly lower at 24 percent. These results collectively indicate that Allan Hancock College students surveyed are somewhat more likely to experience housing insecurity and homelessness compared to the statewide average.

## **Introduction**

The Real College survey is a comprehensive basic needs assessment survey created by The Hope Center<sup>1</sup> in 2015 and administered annually at two-and-four-year colleges around the United States and most recently conducted for California Community Colleges in 2019 and 2023. It is the largest assessment of college students' basic needs and addresses affordable food and housing.

## **Methodology**

The survey was sent to contacts at each California community college that agreed to participate in the survey administration. The survey was conducted March 17, 2023, to April 19, 2023. Students were entered into a drawing to win a gift card in addition to college incentives.

## **Survey Sample**

In total, there were 66,741 respondents from 88 colleges to the system-wide survey, with an average of 758 from each college. Allan Hancock College received a file with 1,044 participant records. The Office of Institutional Effectiveness further refined the data to enhance its accuracy and relevance. Initially, 131 respondents from countries outside of the United States (such as Bangladesh, Lithuania, Palestinian Territory, and Ukraine) were excluded because they were likely fraudulent submissions. Additionally, 198 respondents from outside of California were excluded, as their perspectives on housing, homelessness and food insecurity might not align with the local context targeted by the survey. Further data cleaning resulted in the removal of duplicate records. In total, the data cleaning resulted in the exclusion of 598 records. The data presented in this report includes 446 respondents who reported being a student at Allan Hancock College and residing in California.

## **Demographics**

A comparison of demographics between Allan Hancock College and Statewide respondents can be found in Table 1. The data shows the demographic differences between Allan Hancock College and the statewide population in 2023. Allan Hancock College has a slightly lower percentage of females and a higher percentage of Hispanic or Latinx students compared to the statewide average. The age distribution at Allan Hancock College is also different, with a higher percentage of students in the 18 to 20 and 21 to 25 age groups compared to the statewide data.

<sup>1</sup><https://hope.temple.edu/research/hope-center-basic-needs-survey>

Table 1. Demographics of Survey Respondents from Allan Hancock College vs. Statewide Demographics

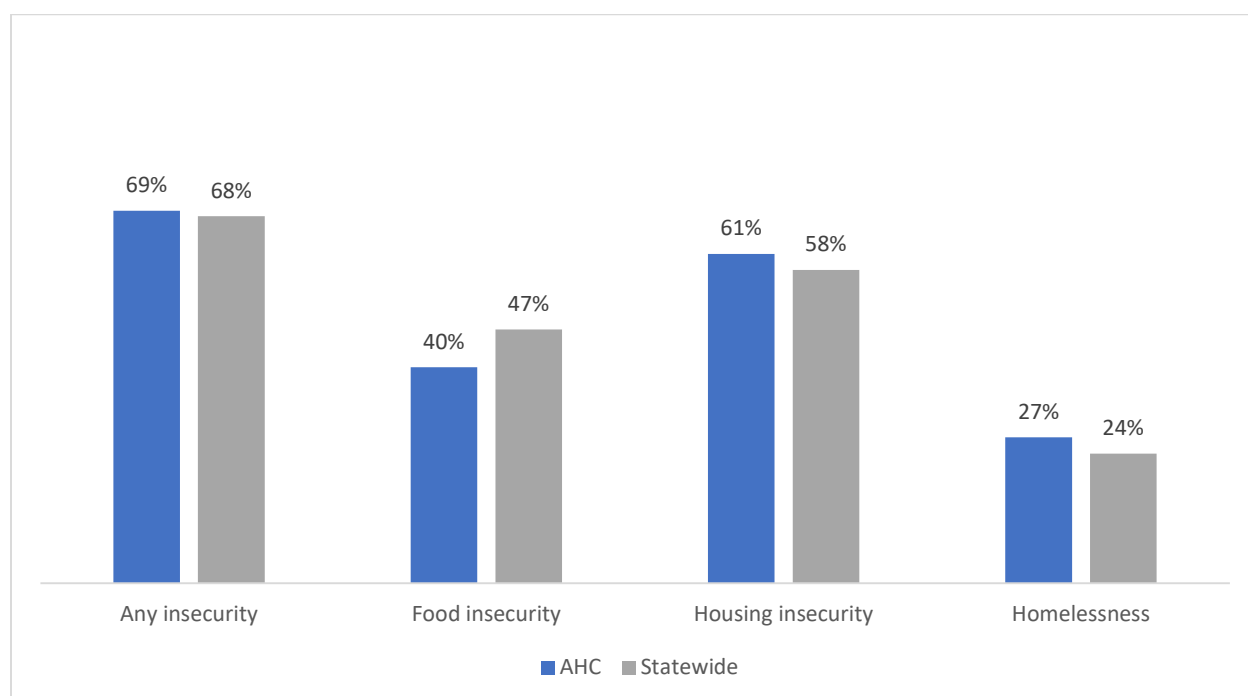
Demographics of Survey Sample		
	2023 AHC	2023 Statewide
<b>Gender Orientation</b>		
Female	61%	64%
Male	37%	31%
Other Gender Orientation	2%	3%
<b>Transgender Status</b>		
Transgender	4%	5%
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>		
Bisexual	9%	10%
Gay or Lesbian	2%	4%
Heterosexual or straight	79%	77%
Not sure or neither heterosexual, gay, or lesbian	10%	8%
<b>Racial or Ethnic Background</b>		
African American or Black	7%	6%
American Indian or Alaskan Native	5%	1%
Asian	9%	12%
Hispanic or Latinx	54%	46%
Middle Eastern or North African or Arab or Arab American	2%	2%
Other/Unknown	3%	2%
Pacific Islander or Native Hawaiian	3%	1%
White or Caucasian	33%	25%
<b>Age</b>		
18 to 20	39%	33%
21 to 25	28%	22%
26 to 30	8%	13%
Older than 30	25%	32%

## Results

The survey results reveal that a significant portion of the respondents from Allan Hancock, 69 percent, reported experiencing some form of basic needs insecurity (Figure 1). More specifically, 40 percent of the respondents reported food insecurity, indicating challenges related to accessing an adequate food supply. Additionally, 61 percent reported housing insecurity, suggesting concerns about stable and safe housing. Finally, 27 percent of the survey respondents reported experiencing homelessness, highlighting the substantial impact of housing-related issues for students. These results underscore the prevalence of various forms of basic needs insecurity among Allan Hancock College students surveyed, with housing insecurity and food insecurity being particularly prominent concerns.

2 out of 3 Allan Hancock College respondents reported experiencing at least one basic needs insecurity.

Figure 1: Basic Needs Insecurities Among California Community College Survey Respondents: Allan Hancock College vs. Statewide

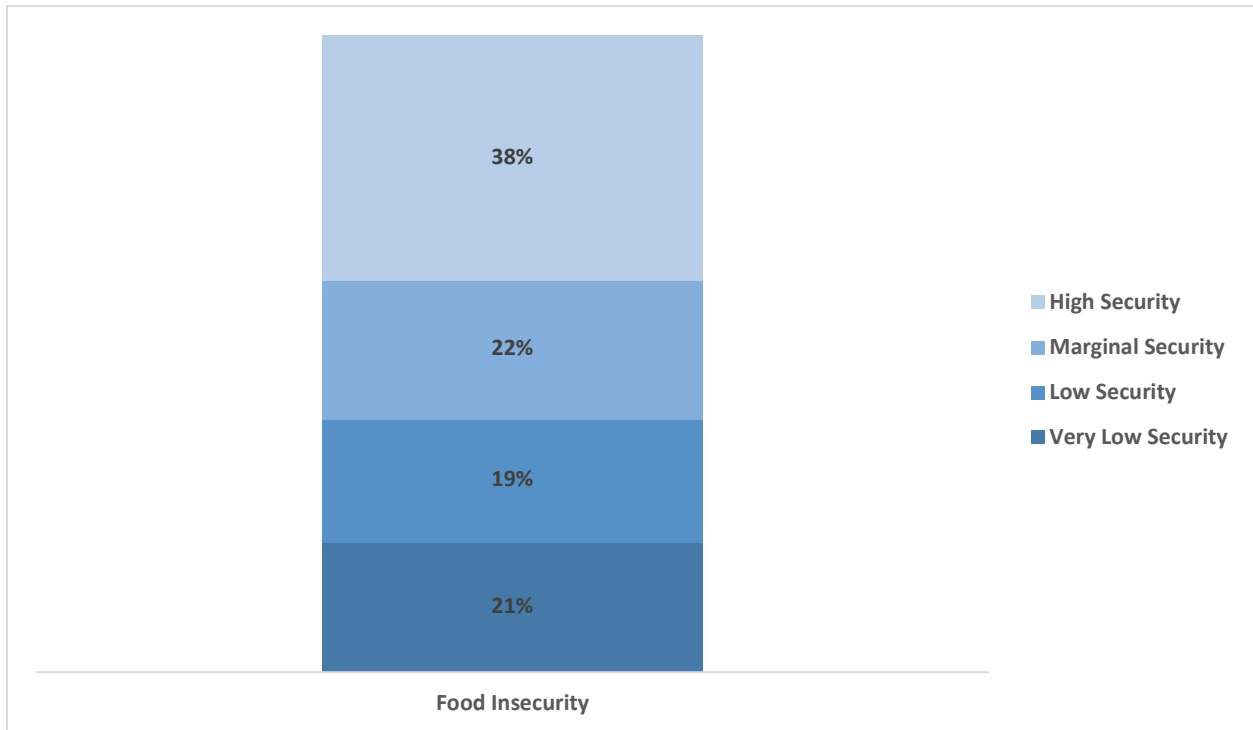


### Food Insecurity

Food insecurity was measured by an 18-question scale that asked students about their access to food, affordability, consistency, and quality. Overall, 40 percent of Allan Hancock College students are food insecure, with 21 percent reporting very low food security, 19 percent low food security, 22 percent marginal food security, and 38 percent high food security (Figure 2).

2 out 5 Allan Hancock College respondents reported experiencing food insecurity.

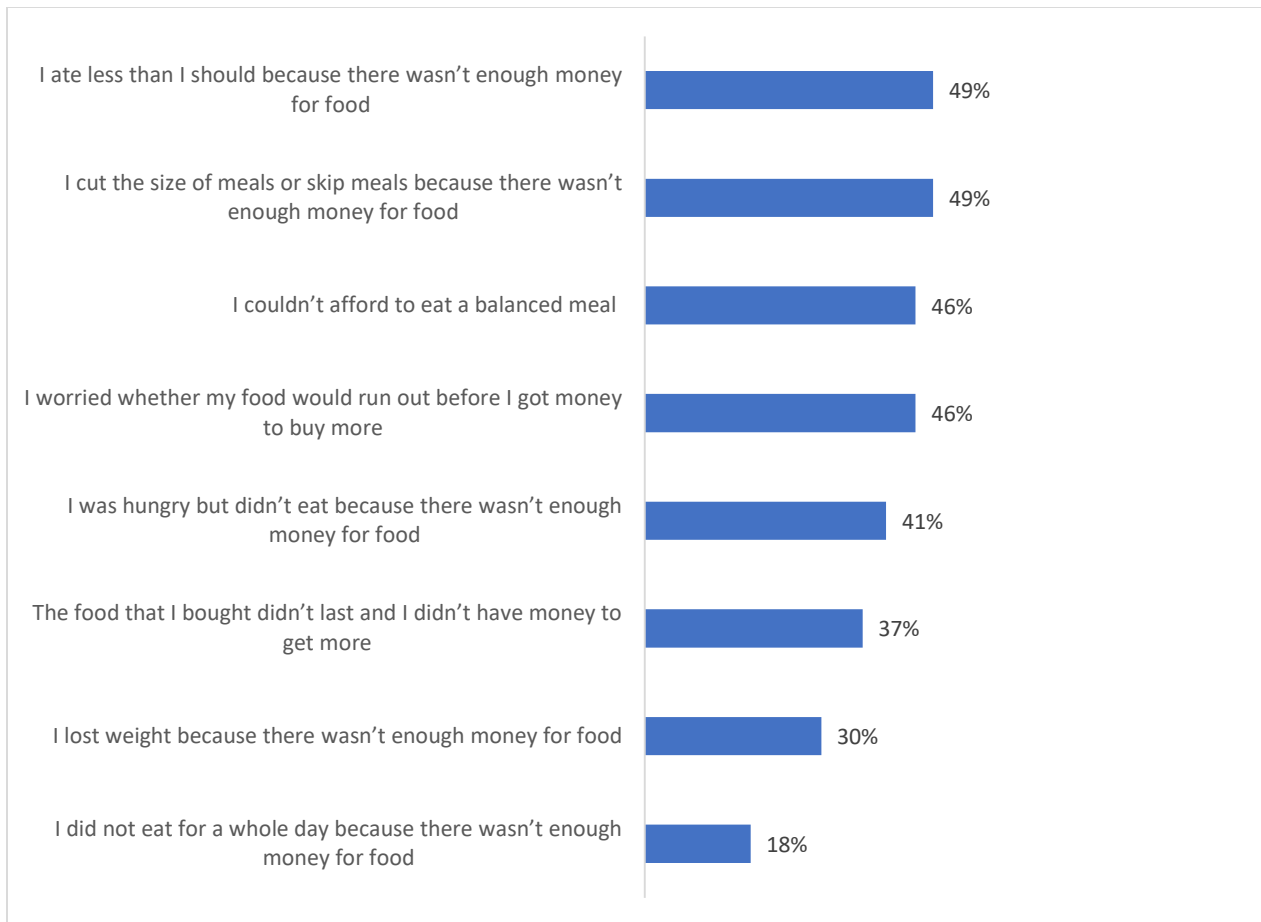
Figure 2: Food Insecurity Among Allan Hancock College Survey Respondents in 2023



The survey results reveal various challenges related to food security among the respondents. Nearly half of the respondents, 49 percent, resorted to measures such as reducing meal sizes, skipping meals, or eating less than they should because of financial constraints affecting their access to food (Figure 3). Moreover, 46 percent expressed concerns about their food running out before they could afford more, and a similar percentage couldn't afford to maintain a balanced diet. A significant portion, 41 percent, indicated going hungry because they didn't have enough money for food. Additionally, 37 percent faced the situation where the food they bought didn't last, and they lacked the means to purchase more. These findings highlight the significant and multifaceted challenges related to food insecurity experienced by Allan Hancock College students surveyed.

AHC vs. Statewide: Allan Hancock College had lower food insecurity – low or very low - (40%) compared to statewide average (46%).

Figure 3: Scale Items for Food Insecurity Among Allan Hancock College Survey Respondents in 2023



AHC vs. Statewide: Nearly half of Allan Hancock College respondents (49%) ate less or cut the size of meals or skipped meals because there wasn't enough money compared to statewide (34%).

### Housing Insecurity

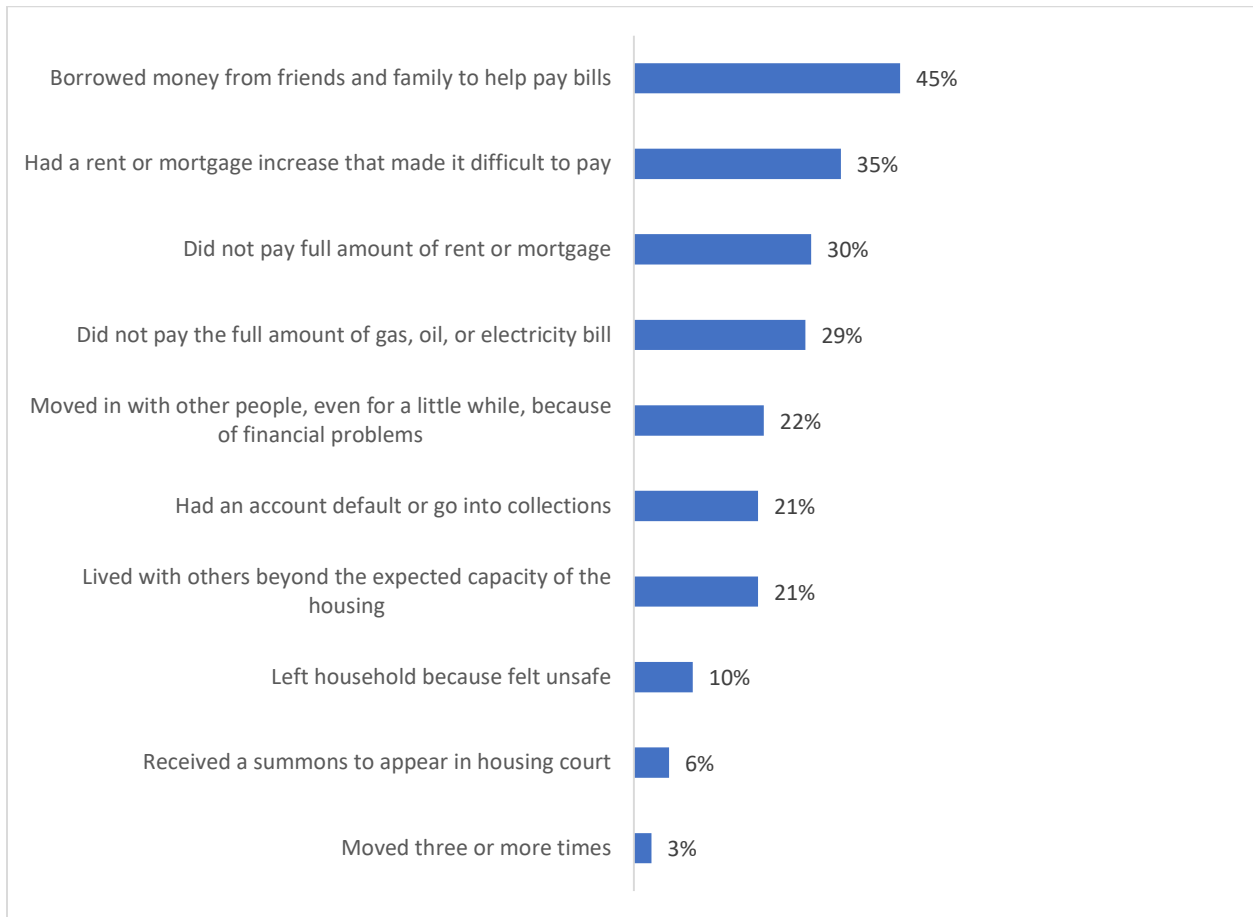
Housing insecurity was measured on a nine-item scale that asked students about their ability to pay housing expenses such as rent or mortgage payments, utilities, and shared living expenses. A significant percentage of respondents in the data faced financial and housing-related difficulties leading to housing insecurity.

3 out of 5 Allan Hancock College respondents reported experiencing housing insecurity.

Approximately 45 percent of individuals borrowed money from friends and family to help cover their bills, while 35 percent struggled due to rent or mortgage increases that strained their finances (Figure 4). Additionally, 30 percent were unable to pay the full amount of their rent or mortgage, and 29 percent

couldn't pay their full gas, oil, or electricity bills. Financial instability also led 22 percent to temporarily move in with others, and 21 percent lived in overcrowded housing conditions. Furthermore, 21 percent experienced account defaults or collections, 10 percent left their households due to safety concerns, and 6 percent received summonses to appear in housing court. A smaller portion, 3 percent, had to move three or more times due to various reasons. These statistics highlight the prevalence of financial and housing challenges among Allan Hancock College respondents.

Figure 4: Scale Items for Housing Insecurity Among Allan Hancock College Survey Respondents in 2023



AHC vs. Statewide: AHC was very similar to statewide average for housing insecurity.

**Homelessness**

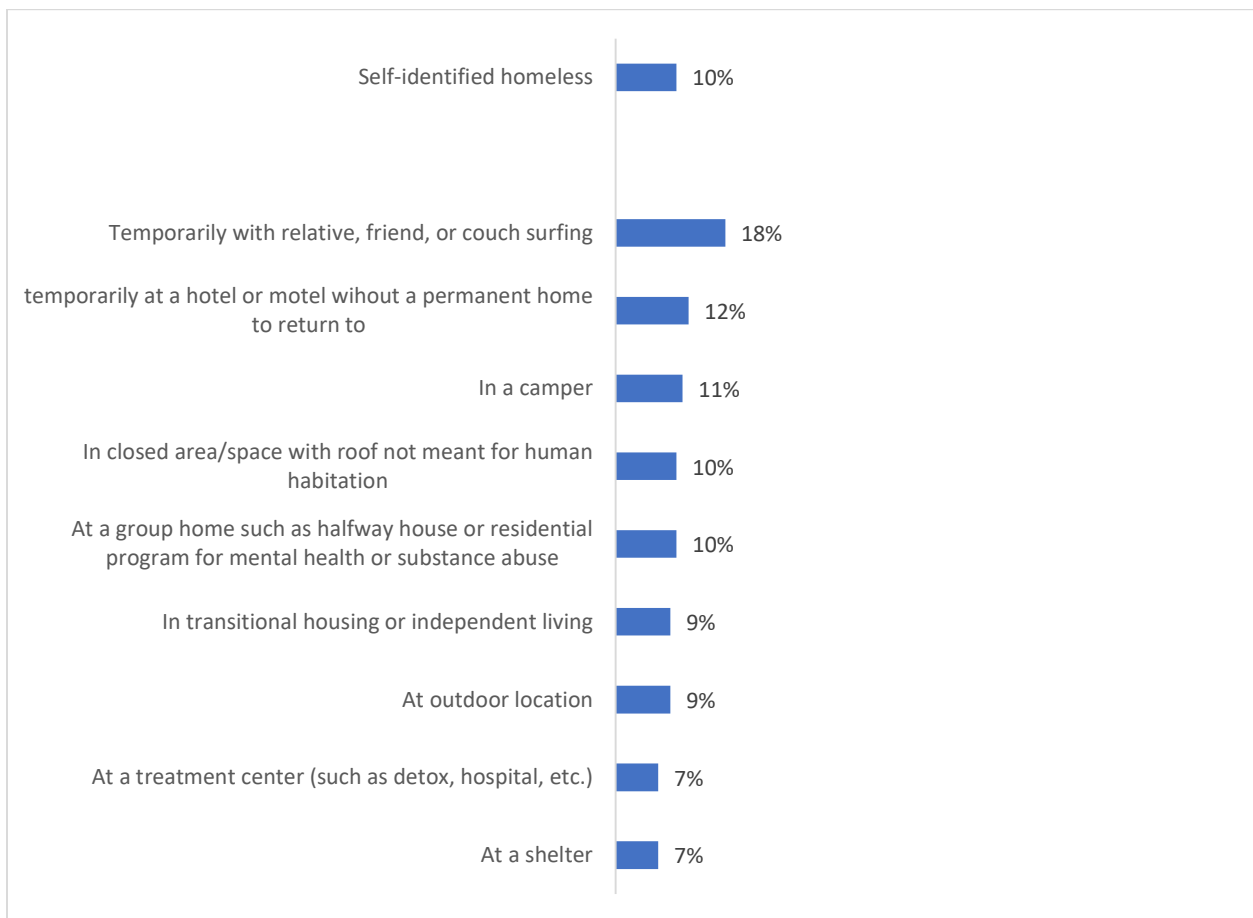
One question directly asked students if they had been homeless. Nine additional items assessed living conditions correlated with homelessness. The data reveals various living situations among the respondents, with 10 percent self-identifying as homeless in the past 12 months (Figure 5).



1 out of 10 Allan Hancock College respondents said they had experience homelessness and 1 out of 4 reported experiencing living conditions correlated with homelessness.

Eighteen percent of respondents reported temporarily stayed with relatives, friends, or engaged in couch surfing. Another 12 percent resorted to temporary stays in hotels or motels without a permanent home to return to. Approximately 11 percent lived in campers, while 10 percent resided in group homes, such as halfway houses or residential programs for mental health or substance abuse. A further 10 percent found shelter in enclosed areas or spaces not intended for human habitation, and 9 percent lived outdoors. Some respondents, 9 percent, were in transitional housing or independent living situations, while 7 percent were staying at shelters or treatment centers, including detox facilities and hospitals.

Figure 5: Scale Items for Homelessness Among Allan Hancock College Survey Respondents in 2023



AHC vs. Statewide: AHC had higher rates of homelessness risk-factors (27%) compared to statewide (24%) but similar self-reported homelessness (10%).

### Demographic Differences in Basic Needs Insecurity

When comparing food insecurity, housing insecurity, and homelessness across various demographic groups, significant variations emerge (Table 2). In terms of gender, females exhibit a higher prevalence of food insecurity at 42 percent, while males are slightly lower at 34 percent, and those with other gender orientations have the highest rate at 50 percent. However, when it comes to housing insecurity, all genders are roughly equally affected, with a rate of 61 percent. Homelessness, on the other hand, shows a stark contrast, with males experiencing the highest rate at 40 percent, while females and other gender orientations are notably lower at 19 percent and 33 percent, respectively.

Examining the data by ethnicity, American Indian or Alaskan Native individuals face the highest rates of housing insecurity (78 percent), while Hispanics or Latinx individuals have the lowest (61 percent). Similarly, Pacific Islander or Native Hawaiian individuals experience the highest rate of homelessness (70 percent), while Hispanic or Latinx individuals have the lowest (11 percent). Food insecurity varies across ethnic groups, with White or Caucasian individuals having the lowest rate at 33 percent, and Other/Unknown individuals the highest at 70 percent.

In terms of age, the data reveals that younger individuals (18 to 25) face higher rates of housing insecurity (41 percent to 73 percent) compared to those older than 25 (55 percent to 69 percent). Homelessness is more prevalent among those aged 21 to 25 (52 percent), while those aged 18 to 20 face the lowest rate (15 percent). Food insecurity is relatively consistent across age groups, with individuals older than 30 having a slightly higher rate (48 percent) than those aged 18 to 20 (30 percent).

Table 2: Insecurity Rates for Allan Hancock College Students by Student Demographic

Demographics of Survey Sample			
	Food	Housing	Homelessness
All Students	40%	61%	27%
Female	42%	61%	19%
Male	34%	61%	40%
Other Gender Orientation	50%	33%	33%
Transgender	73%	80%	67%
Bisexual	63%	80%	37%
Gay or Lesbian	57%	71%	43%
Heterosexual or straight	34%	58%	25%
African American or Black	56%	44%	56%
American Indian or Alaskan Native	56%	78%	39%
Asian	59%	55%	52%
Hispanic or Latinx	37%	61%	11%
Middle Eastern or North African or Arab or Arab American	57%	86%	57%
Other/Unknown	70%	80%	20%
Pacific Islander or Native Hawaiian	80%	70%	70%
White or Caucasian	33%	54%	43%

18 to 20	30%	41%	15%
21 to 25	41%	73%	52%
26 to 30	55%	83%	17%
Older than 30	48%	69%	19%

Among Allan Hancock College students, those who have been in foster care, served in the military, committed a crime, or are single parents face the most severe basic needs insecurities (Table 3). Foster care alumni have notably high rates of food insecurity (62 percent), housing insecurity (81 percent), and homelessness (85 percent). Military veterans experience a lower food insecurity rate (25 percent) but high housing insecurity (89 percent) and homelessness (72 percent). Students who have been convicted of a crime report high food insecurity (72 percent), housing insecurity (89 percent), and homelessness (50 percent) compared to no crime conviction. Single parents report high food insecurity (71 percent), housing insecurity (67 percent), and a slightly lower homelessness rate (19 percent) compared to non-single parents. These group generally face the highest levels of basic needs insecurities among students.

Table 3: Insecurity Rates for Allan Hancock College Students by Student Life Experiences

Demographics of Survey Sample			
	Food	Housing	Homelessness
All Students	40%	61%	27%
<b>College Enrollment Status</b>			
Full-Time	40%	60%	35%
Part-Time	41%	62%	15%
<b>Dependency Status</b>			
Dependent	43%	50%	28%
Independent	40%	69%	29%
<b>Student Receives Pell Grant</b>			
Yes	45%	66%	27%
No	34%	55%	28%
<b>Student has Children</b>			
Yes	59%	70%	20%
No	34%	59%	29%
<b>Single Parent Status</b>			
Non-Single Parent	50%	74%	21%
Single Parent	71%	67%	19%
<b>Relationship Status</b>			
Divorced	*	*	*
In a relationship	56%	62%	35%
Married or domestic partner	37%	68%	20%
Single	31%	58%	26%
Widowed	*	*	*
<b>Student has been in foster care</b>			
Yes	62%	81%	85%
No	37%	59%	23%

<b>Student served in the military</b>			
Yes	25%	89%	72%
No	42%	57%	21%
<b>Employment status</b>			
Employed	43%	67%	32%
Not employed, looking for work	37%	55%	11%
Not employed, not looking for work	17%	35%	17%
<b>Student has been convicted of a crime</b>			
Yes	72%	89%	50%
No	38%	60%	25%

**Conclusion**

The Real College survey conducted in 2023 sheds light on basic needs insecurities among California community college students, revealing significant challenges in the areas of food, housing, and homelessness. With sixty-nine percent of Allan Hancock College respondents reporting some form of basic needs insecurity, it is evident that these issues are pervasive within the student population. Despite Allan Hancock College students reporting a slightly lower overall rate of food insecurity compared to the statewide average (40 percent vs. 47 percent), housing insecurity at AHC is slightly higher (61 percent vs. 58 percent). Moreover, the rate of homelessness among AHC students is notably elevated at 27 percent, surpassing the statewide figure of 24 percent. These findings underscore the importance of Allan Hancock College’s Basic Needs Office and the pressing need for targeted interventions and support systems to address the unique challenges faced by Allan Hancock College students.