WEST HILLS COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

WEST HILLS REAL COLLEGE SURVEY ANALYSIS

Office of Accreditation, Research, Institutional Effectiveness, and Planning
Prepared December 7, 2023

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Real College Survey assessed the basic needs among West Hills Community College Students in 2023. This survey was run statewide with assistance from the Research and Planning Group for California Community Colleges (The RP Group). This report will show the disparities in basic needs insecurity that West Hills students face.

As this is a self-reported survey, there are some caveats to be aware of. Some of the questions are open to student's interpretation. These results should not be used to generalize the entire student population of West Hills. The results in this report will reflect only those who responded.

The data was disaggregated into several components. This could result in low n counts which should be interpreted with caution.

Overall, there were a total of 483 responses, but only 431 responses could be considered as several respondents had 141 or more missing responses which was the equivalent of not getting past the first page. The first page included questions regarding full/part time status, years in college, self-reported grades and whether the student lives on campus or off campus.

Highlights:

- 45.8 percent of respondents are experiencing food insecurities
- 23.3 percent of respondents are experiencing homelessness
- 55.0 percent of respondents are experiencing housing insecurities
- Respondents heavily rely on grants to pay for school-related expenses

BACKGROUND

This survey was conducted by The RP Group and the CEO of Affordability, Food & Housing Access Taskforce of the Community College League of California (CCLC) to assess if community college students' basic needs are being met. This is the nation's largest assessment of the security of basic needs.

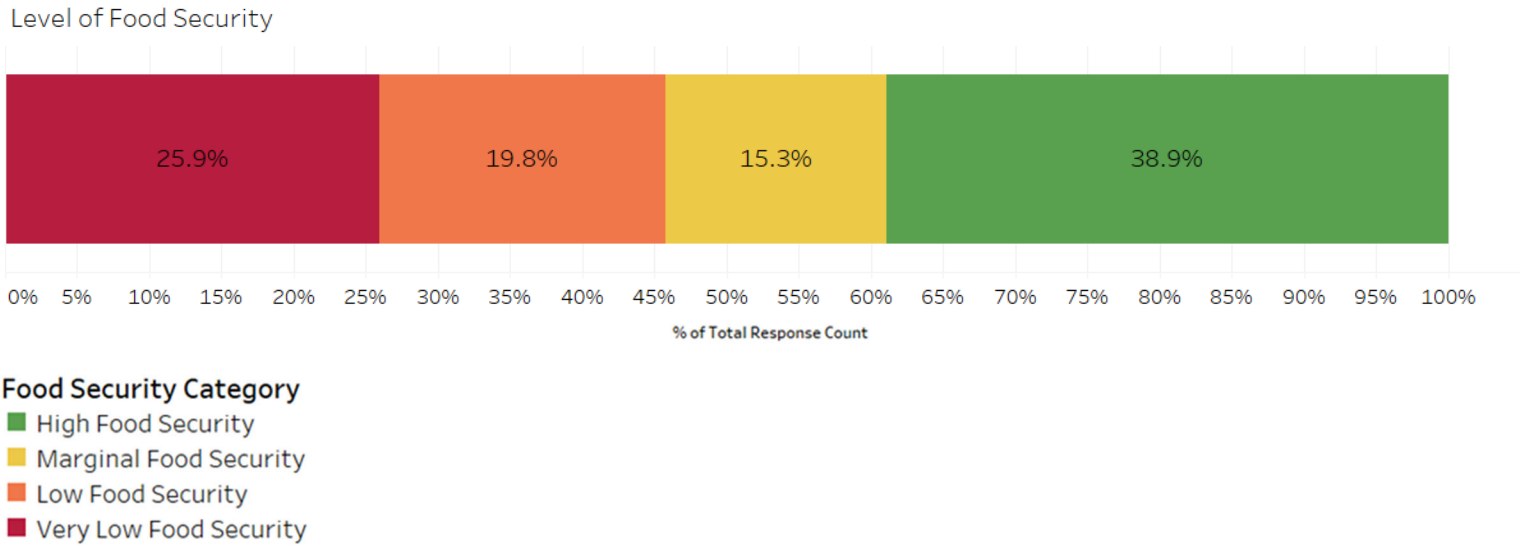
RESULTS

OVERVIEW OF FOOD INSECURITY

The number of questions asked for this portion of the survey was dependent upon whether the students had stated they had children present in their home. If students did have children present in their home, they were asked 18 questions relating to food insecurity whereas students without children were asked 10 questions.

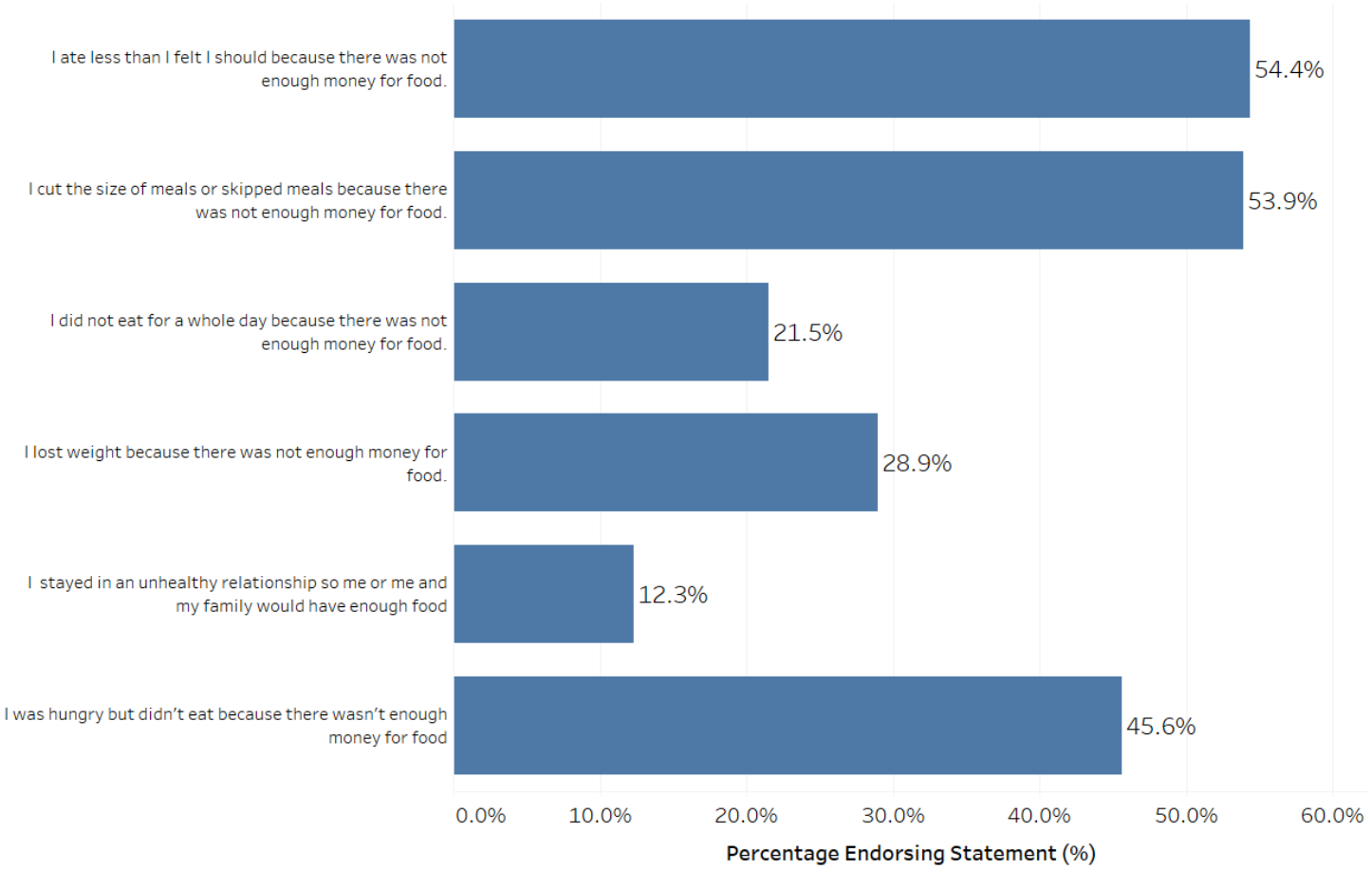
	18-item (children present)	18-item (no children present)
FOOD SECURITY LEVEL		
High	0	0
Marginal	1–2	1–2
Low	3–7	3–5
Very Low	8–18	6–10

The chart above, from the nationwide report, shows how these levels were calculated (Example: if a student with a child present in their home answered 6 of the food insecurity questions with "Yes" they were labeled as having a Low Food Security Level). The difference in questions answered will result in different n counts for food insecurity comparisons throughout the report.



The above chart shows 25.9 percent of respondents as having Very Low Food Security and only 38.9 percent of respondents having High Food Security with the remainder of respondents falling in between the two categories. This survey question reports 61 percent of respondents with some degree of food insecurity.

In the last 30 days:

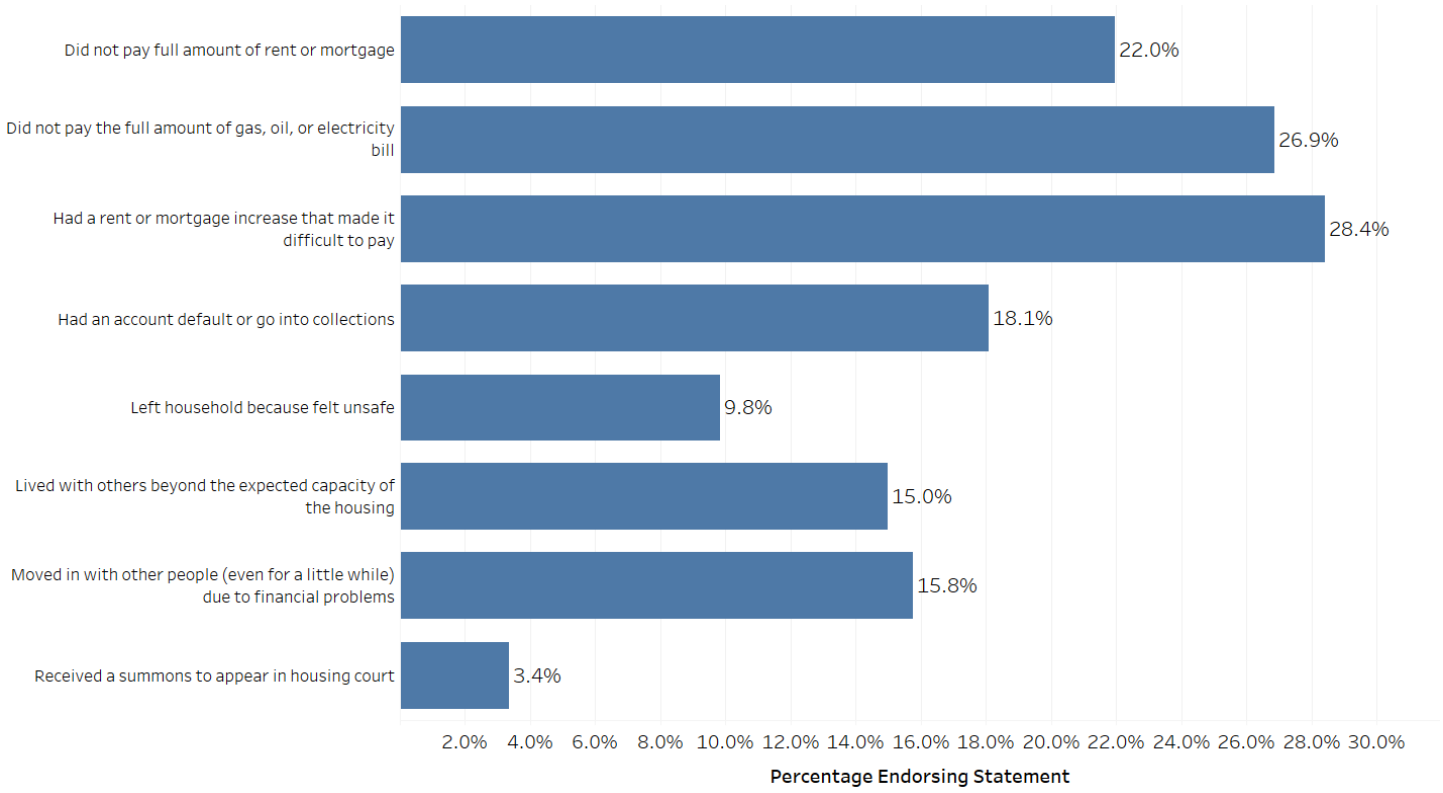


The above chart displays some of the food insecurity questions from the survey and their response rate. At a rate of 53.9 percent, respondents cut the size of their meals or skipped them overall because they did not have enough money for food. Respondents also reported they ate less than they felt they should have because they did not have enough money for food (54.4 percent). Not having enough money for food left 45.6 percent of respondents hungry and not eating.

OVERVIEW OF HOUSING INSECURITY

Along with being asked about their food security, respondents' housing security was also measured. The Real College survey defines housing insecurity as facing challenges to pay rent, expenses associated with housing or moving frequently. The questions asked are listed below. The percentages capture responses that have reported "Yes" as they had experienced the listed situation.

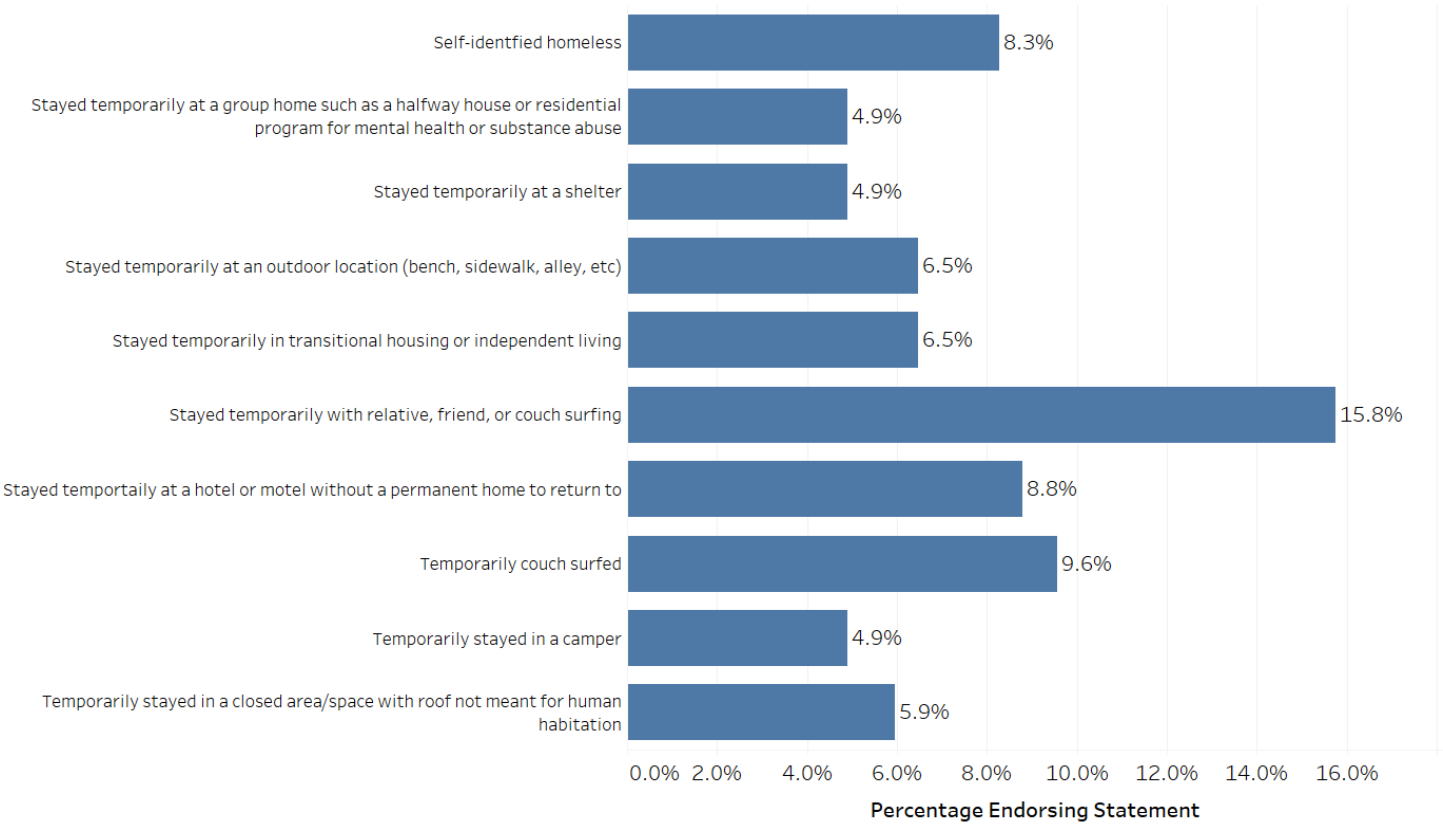
In the past 12 months:



The most common struggles respondents are experiencing is paying a rent/mortgage that increased (28.4 percent) and paying the full amount of their utility bills (26.9 percent). These are both related to costs and affordability. Respondents were less likely to report receiving summons to appear in housing court (3.4 percent) and leaving household due to feeling unsafe (9.8 percent).

The survey defines homelessness as not having a stable place to live. Students were identified as homeless if they self-identified or had living conditions defined as signs of homelessness.

In the past 12 months, have you:



Respondents most common sign of homelessness was staying temporarily with someone they know or couch surfing (15.8 percent).

OVERVIEW OF DEMOGRAPHICS BY FOOD/HOUSING INSECURITY

This table demonstrates a set of demographics and the different basic needs insecurities. The percentages are being counted by how many respondents of the set demographic responded "Yes" to experiencing at least one of the situations related to the insecurity category.

For instance, respondents over the age of 30 had the highest housing insecurity at 70.3 percent. This means that of the respondents that identified as over the age of 30, 70.3 percent of them are experiencing at least one of the items classified as housing insecurity.

Demographics	Food Insecurity	Homelessness	Housing Insecurity
Gender Orientation			
Female	67.1% (110/235)	22.0% (52/236)	60.2% (142/236)
Gender Fluid/Non-Binary	75.0% (6/8)	37.5% (3/8)	62.5% (5/8)
Male	46.2% (48/104)	29.8% (31/104)	51.9% (54/104)
Prefer not to disclose	60.0% (3/5)	20.0% (1/5)	40.0% (2/5)
Sexual Orientation			
Bisexual	42.9% (15/35)	25.7% (9/35)	51.4% (18/35)
Gay or Lesbian	80.0% (4/5)	20.0% (1/5)	60.0% (3/5)
Neither heterosexual, gay, lesbian, or bisexual	47.4% (9/19)	15.0% (3/20)	30.0% (6/20)
Straight/Heterosexual	48.5% (128/264)	25.8% (68/264)	60.6% (160/264)
Age			
Age 18-20	41.9% (54/129)	20.0% (26/130)	40.8% (53/130)
Age 21-25	53.3% (32/60)	38.3% (23/60)	66.7% (40/60)
Age 26-30	42.2% (19/45)	26.7% (12/45)	60.0% (27/45)
Age Over 30	51.4% (57/111)	21.6% (24/111)	70.3% (78/111)
Racial or Ethnic Background			
African American	73.7% (14/19)	57.9% (11/19)	73.7% (14/19)
Asian	44.4% (4/9)	11.1% (1/9)	55.6% (5/9)
Filipino	33.3% (1/3)	0% (0/3)	33.3% (1/3)
Hispanic	41.6% (99/238)	20.1% (48/239)	52.7% (126/239)
Native	77.8% (7/9)	55.6% (5/9)	77.8% (7/9)
Other	50.0% (3/6)	16.7% (1/6)	50.0% (3/6)
Pacific Islander	100.0% (3/3)	66.7% (2/3)	66.7% (2/3)
White	55.0% (33/60)	28.3% (17/60)	68.3% (41/60)
Middle Eastern	100.0% (1/1)	100.0% (1/1)	0% (0/1)
Grand Total	**45.8% (173/378)**	**23.3% (90/387)**	**55.0% (213/387)**

OVERVIEW OF BASIC NEEDS DISPARITIES BY ACADEMIC ECONOMIC AND LIFE EXPERIENCES

The percentages in the below table show the percentage of respondents who answered “Yes” to the corresponding basic needs category. For example,29.2 percent of respondents who are part time answered "Yes” to at least one of the Homelessness questions.

Academic, Economic, and Life Experiences	Food Insecurity	Homelessness	Housing Insecurity
College Enrollment Status			
Full-time (at least 12 credits)	41.3% (97/235)	19.5% (47/241)	52.7% (127/241)
Part-time (less than 12 credits)	53.2% (75/141)	29.2% (42/144)	59.0% (85/144)
Dependency Status			
Dependent	34.6% (27/78)	24.4% (19/78)	44.9% (35/78)
Independent	50.2% (109/217)	25.8% (56/217)	65.4% (142/217)
Student has children			
Yes	50.0% (53/106)	22.0% (24/109)	67.0% (73/109)
No	43.9% (118/269)	24.1% (66/274)	50.7% (139/274)
Single Parents Status (only among parents)			
Single Parent	72.2% (26/36)	38.9% (14/36)	86.1% (31/36)
Non-Single Parent	40.8% (29/71)	16.2% (12/74)	59.5% (44/74)
Relationship Status			
Divorced	85.7% (6/7)	42.9% (3/7)	85.7% (6/7)
In a relationship	49.5% (52/105)	22.9% (24/105)	61.9% (65/105)
Married or domestic partnership	43.9% (29/66)	24.2% (16/66)	59.1% (39/66)
Single	45.9% (78/170)	25.3% (43/170)	54.1% (92/170)
Widowed	0% (0/1)	0% (0/1)	0% (0/1)
Student has been in foster care			
Yes	81.1% (30/37)	51.4% (19/37)	75.7% (28/37)
No	43.0% (131/305)	21.2% (65/306)	55.9% (171/306)
Student served in the military			
Yes	57.1% (12/21)	42.9% (9/21)	71.4% (15/21)
No	47.0% (155/330)	23.6% (78/331)	56.8% (188/331)
Employment Status			
‘Employed’	54.1% (120/222)	28.4% (64/225)	58.7% (132/225)
‘Not Employed, Looking for Work’	39.2% (20/51)	17.3% (9/52)	48.1% (25/52)
‘Not Employed, NOT Looking for Work’	27.4% (17/62)	7.9% (5/63)	50.8% (32/63)
Student has been convicted of a crime			
Yes	71.4% (15/21)	42.9% (9/21)	90.5% (19/21)
No	45.5% (152/334)	23.3% (78/335)	55.2% (185/335)
Grand Total	**45.8% (173/378)**	**23.3% (90/387)**	**55.0% (213/387)**

OVERVIEW OF BASIC NEEDS INSECURTY BY DISABILITY

The below table displays what disability/medical condition respondents identified as having and what basic need insecurities they are facing.

Disability or medical condition	Food Insecurity	Homelessness	Housing Insecurity
ADHD	74.5% (35/47)	42.6% (20/47)	66.0% (31/47)
Autism	55.6% (5/9)	33.3% (3/9)	44.4% (4/9)
Chronic Disability	62.5% (20/32)	43.8% (14/32)	81.3% (26/32)
Learning Disability	45.2% (14/31)	12.9% (4/31)	45.2% (14/31)
Physical Disability	41.2% (7/17)	11.8% (2/17)	47.1% (8/17)
Psychological Disability	52.0% (26/50)	28.0% (14/50)	54.0% (27/50)
Grand Total	45.8% (173/378)	23.3% (90/387)	55.0% (213/387)

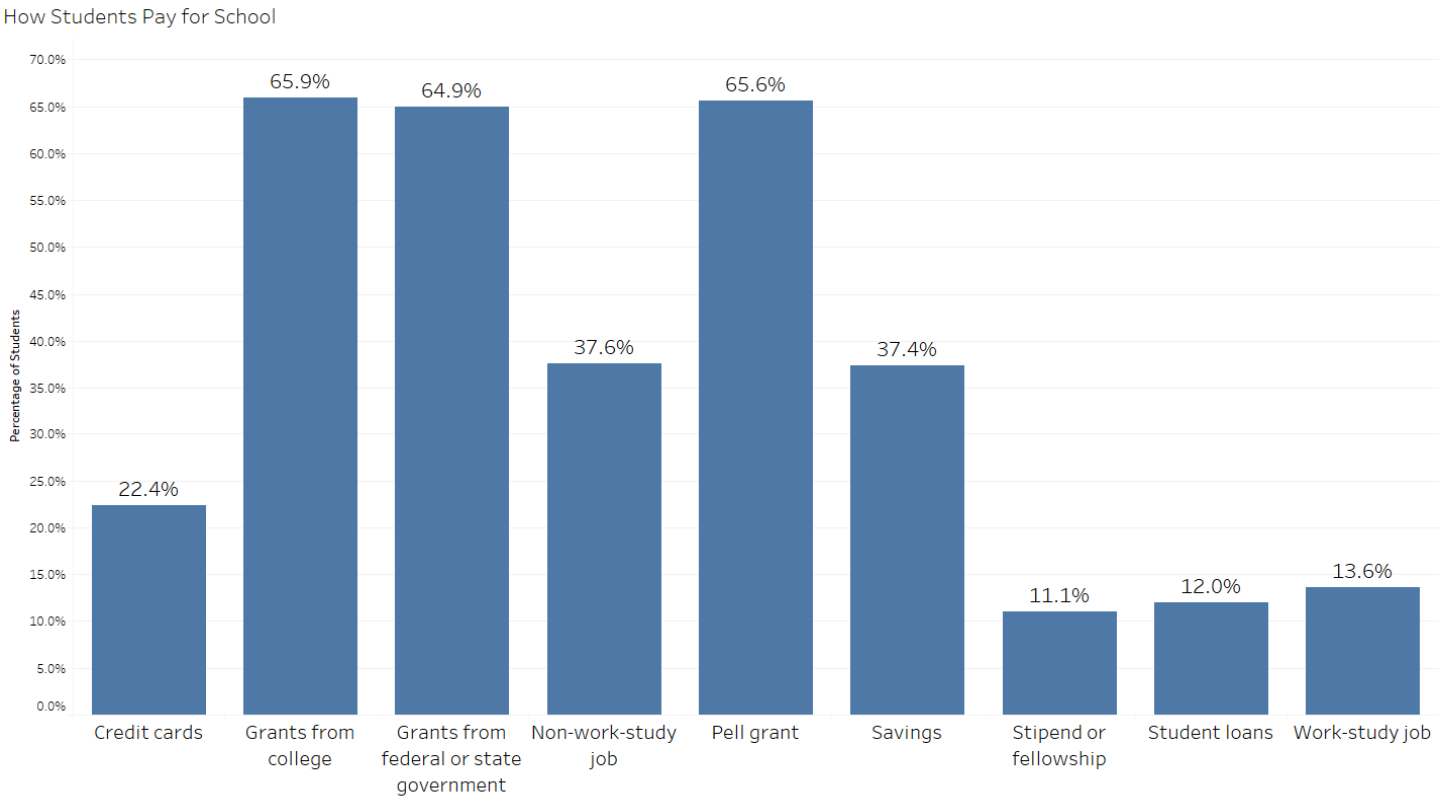
Those with ADHD reported higher levels of food insecurity while those with a chronic disability reported higher housing insecurity and homelessness.

OVERVIEW OF HOW STUDENTS PAY FOR SCHOOL

The chart below shows how students pay for school.

The percentage of responses show that respondents rely heavily on grants to pay for school expenses, with the most common being grants from the college (65.9 percent). A high percentage also rely on non-work-study jobs and savings.

Students reported not relying much on stipends/fellowships (11.1 percent) and student loans (12.0 percent).

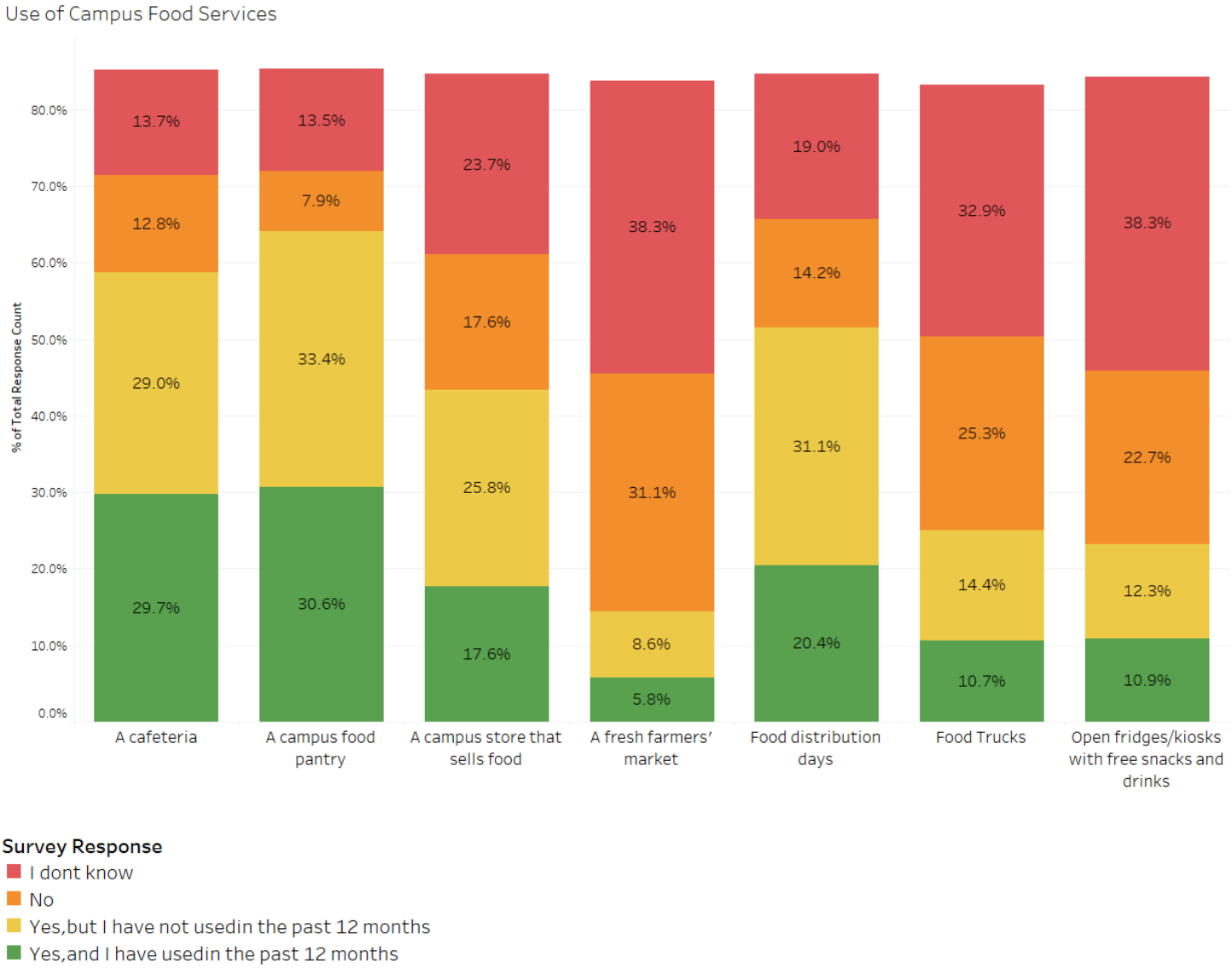


OVERVIEW OF USE OF CAMPUS SERVICES

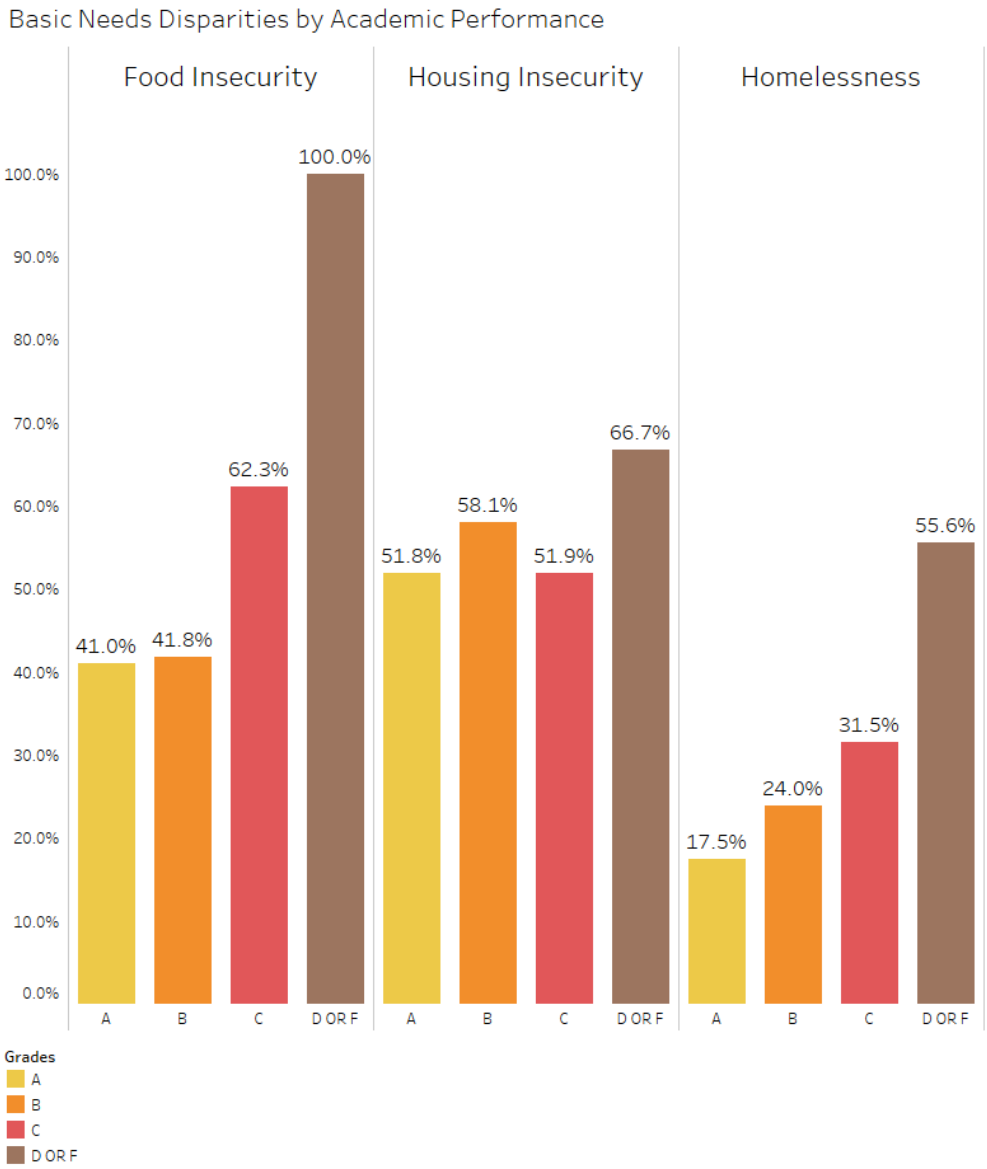
The chart below demonstrates the use of, and awareness of, campus services offered to students.

The "I don't know" and "No" responses on services that are offered on campus are what the college should be focusing on. It is also important to note that responses are based on student interpretation. This could result in unusual responses (ex. The fresh farmers market responses).

The responses show that there may be gaps in awareness and usage of campus services available at West Hills. As both West Hills locations have a store that sells food, the 23.7 percent of responses indicating respondent unawareness should be the area of focus.



OVERVIEW OF BASIC NEEDS INSECURITY BY GRADES

Respondents were asked what their past academic year's grades were, on average. This information was used to compare grades and basic needs insecurities. The counts for respondents with grades D or F were relatively low (n count of 9 or below) and should be interpreted with caution.

Food insecurity is higher for respondents with a reported C grade (62.3 percent). Housing insecurity is higher for those with a reported B grade (58.1 percent). Homelessness is at 31.5 percent for those with a reported C grade.