

De Anza College Office of Institutional Research and Planning

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From: Ola Sabawi, Research Analyst

Date: 6/18/2018

Subject: Food, Housing, and Transportation Security Survey, Spring 2018

The Food, Housing, and Transportation Security Survey was designed to assess basic needs insecurities among De Anza's student population during the spring quarter of 2018. The De Anza survey was based on the model established by the Wisconsin HOPE Lab at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The HOPE Lab survey model was used to assess food security, housing security, and homelessness among college students from seventy institutions located in twenty-four different states^{1 2}. For De Anza to follow the HOPE Lab model allows for comparison between the rates of food insecurity, housing insecurity, and homelessness reported by De Anza students with the rates reported by other college students regionally and nationally. The national and regional rates used for comparison were retrieved from a national study of basic needs insecurities among college students that was published by the Wisconsin HOPE Lab in 2017³. Regional rates include colleges located in the West Census Region, which contains Washington, Oregon, California, Arizona, New Mexico, Montana, and Idaho⁴.

In addition to the basic needs survey model used by the Wisconsin HOPE Lab, the De Anza survey attempted to measure transportation security among our students. The transportation security questions were developed locally and therefore, cannot be compared to rates reported by other colleges at the regional or national levels. Open-ended responses were also collected about respondent's food, housing, or transportation needs or issues. The survey was distributed by email to all registered students on May 10th, 2018, and remained open for two weeks. **2,021 responses were submitted, which resulted in an 11% response rate.** Demographic characteristics among survey respondents accurately represented De Anza's student population. The highest percentage point variability between the sample of participants and the population of students was among male students who were underrepresented in the sample by 12 percentage points.

^{1 3} (Goldrick-Rab, Richardson, & Hernandez, 2017): <http://www.wihopelab.com/publications/Hungry-and-Homeless-in-College-Report.pdf>

^{2 4} (Wisconsin HOPE Lab, 2017): <http://www.wihopelab.com/publications/Wisconsin-HOPE-Lab-LA-CC-District-Report-Survey-Student-Needs.pdf>

Basic Needs Insecurities

Survey respondents indicated high rates of basic needs insecurity on all measures:

- 60% (1,209) of survey respondents were transportation insecure
- 58% (1,171) of respondents were food insecure (low and very low food security)
- 56% (1,128) of respondents were housing insecure
- 18% (365) of respondents were homeless

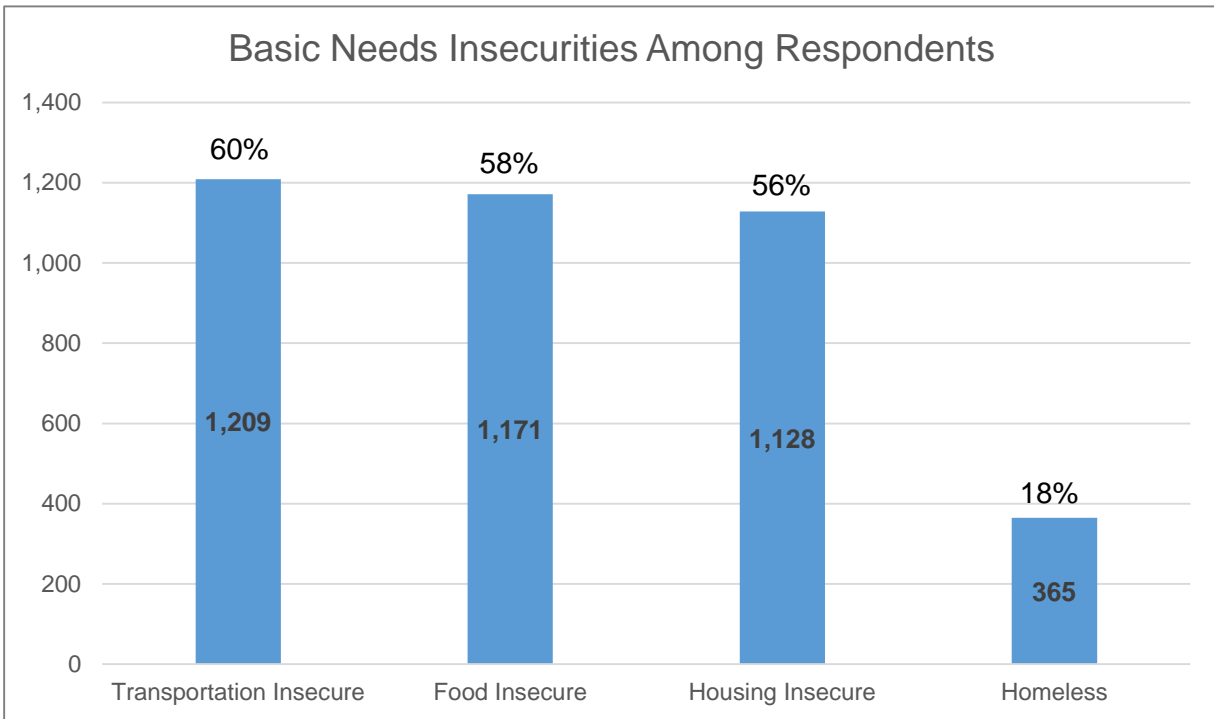


Figure 1: Rates of basic needs insecurities as indicated by survey respondents

Demographics

Ethnicity

Most ethnic groups among the sample of respondents matched the rates of the student population within a difference of 0 to 2 percentage points. The largest percentage point difference is among Asian students who were underrepresented in the sample by 7 percentage points; and among White students who were overrepresented in the sample by 4 percentage points.

	Respondents #	Respondents %	De Anza Population %
African American	90	4%	4%
Asian	710	35%	42%
Filipino	107	5%	7%
Latino/a	485	24%	25%
Native American	12	1%	0%
Pacific Islander	20	1%	1%
White	466	23%	19%
Decline to state	131	6%	2%
Total	2,021	100%	100%

Table 1: Ethnicity of survey respondents compared with De Anza's student population

Gender

Respondents who identified as male in the survey sample were underrepresented by 12 percentage points while females were overrepresented by 10 percentage points. Although De Anza does not collect specific rates of other student gender identities among the student population, the combined rates of gender identities other than male or female among survey respondents (2%) corresponds to rates collected from CCCApply⁵.

	Respondents #	Respondents %	De Anza Population %
Woman	1,194	59%	49%
Man	773	38%	50%
Transgender	8	0%	-
Non-binary	15	1%	-
Genderqueer or gender nonconforming	9	0%	-
An identity not listed above	12	1%	-
No Response	10	0%	1%
Total	2,021	100%	100%

Table 2: Gender of survey respondents compared with De Anza's student population

⁵ <http://www.deanza.edu/ir/deanza-research-projects/studentcharacteristics/LGBTQIRreport.pdf>

Age

The rates of respondents' reported age groups was representative of the rates found in the student population, with a percentage point difference between 0 and 3. Among survey respondents and De Anza's student population, the majority of students (70%) were young adults between 18 and 25 years old.

	Respondents #	Respondents %	De Anza Population %
Under 18 years	36	2%	2%
18 - 20	746	37%	39%
21 - 25	566	28%	31%
26 - 30	230	11%	11%
31 - 35	160	8%	6%
36 - 40	98	5%	4%
Over 40 years	173	9%	9%
No Response	12	1%	-
Total	2,021	100%	100%

Table 3: Age of survey respondents compared with De Anza's student population

Other Characteristics

- The rates of respondents who reported that they were veterans or active members of the U.S. military matched the rate among the student population (2%).
- Respondents who reported being placed in foster care were representative of the rate found in the student population with a difference of 1 percentage point.
- Students with disabilities were overrepresented among survey participants by 4 percentage points.
- Pell grant recipients among survey respondents overrepresented their peers among the student population by 11 percentage points.

	Respondents #	Respondents %	De Anza Population %
Total	2,021	100%	100%
Veteran or Active U.S. Military			
Yes	44	2%	2%
No	1,957	97%	98%
No Response	20	1%	-
Pell Grant Recipient			
Yes	474	23%	12%
No	1,524	75%	88%
No Response	23	1%	-
Disability			
Yes	178	9%	5%
No	1,819	90%	95%
No Response	24	1%	-
Ever Placed in Foster Care			
Yes	34	2%	1%
No	1,964	97%	99%
No Response	23	1%	-

Table 4: Other characteristics among survey respondents compared with De Anza's student population

Food Insecurity

Food security among survey respondents was measured using the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Six-Item Short Form of the Food Security Survey Module. The food security scale has been adjusted to use in a self-administered survey format. Responses to each item on the food security scale are scored based on the number of affirmative responses. The score for each respondent determined their food security status; with a score between 0 and 1 affirmative responses indicating high or marginal food security, a score between 2 and 4 indicating low food security, and a score between 5 and 6 indicating a very low food security⁶. Respondents' food security status is compared to regional and national rates retrieved from a Wisconsin Hope Lab study of food security among college students⁷.

Affirmative Responses to Food Security Items

Survey participants responded affirmatively to each item on the food scale in rates that are comparable to national rates (difference within 4 percentage points). The highest variability was in affirmative responses to the item: *Did you ever cut the size of your meals or skip meals because there wasn't enough money for food?* To which survey respondents had a higher rate of affirmative responses by 4 percentage points.

	De Anza Respondents		National
	#	%	
The food that I bought just didn't last and I didn't have enough money to get more	1,053	52%	52%
I couldn't afford to eat balanced meals	1,177	58%	60%
Did you ever cut the size of your meals or skip meals because there wasn't enough money for food?	1,006	50%	46%
Did you ever eat less than you felt you should because there wasn't enough money for food?	834	41%	43%
Were you ever hungry but didn't eat because there wasn't enough money for food?	664	33%	36%

Table 5: Rates of affirmative responses to specific items in the USDA food security scale

⁶ (U.S. Department of Agriculture, 2012): <https://www.ers.usda.gov/media/8282/short2012.pdf>

⁷ (Goldrick-Rab, Richardson, & Hernandez, 2017): <http://www.wihopelab.com/publications/Hungry-and-Homeless-in-College-Report.pdf>

Food Security Status

Definitions of the three food security statuses according to the USDA’s Guide to Measuring Household Food Security⁸ are:

- High or marginal food security:
Food secure – Household show no or minimal evidence of food insecurity
- Low food security:
Food insecure – Without hunger
- Very low food security:
Food insecure – With hunger

The majority of survey respondents reported “high or marginal” food security, while food insecurity “without hunger” rates were higher than regional and national averages:

- 42% (845) of respondents had a “high or marginal” food security status which is 1 percentage point higher than the regional average and 2 percentage points lower than the national average.
- 25% (505) of respondents had a “low” food security status which is 2 percentage points higher than both the regional and national averages.
- 33% (666) of respondents had a “very low” food security status which is 3 percentage points lower than the regional average and equal to the national average.

	De Anza	Region	National
<i>Food Security scale</i>	<i>Last 12 Months</i>	<i>Last 30 Days</i>	
High or marginal security (score = 0-1)	42%	41%	44%
Low security (score = 2-4)	25%	23%	23%
Very low security (score = 5-6)	33%	36%	33%

Table 6: Food security status among survey respondents

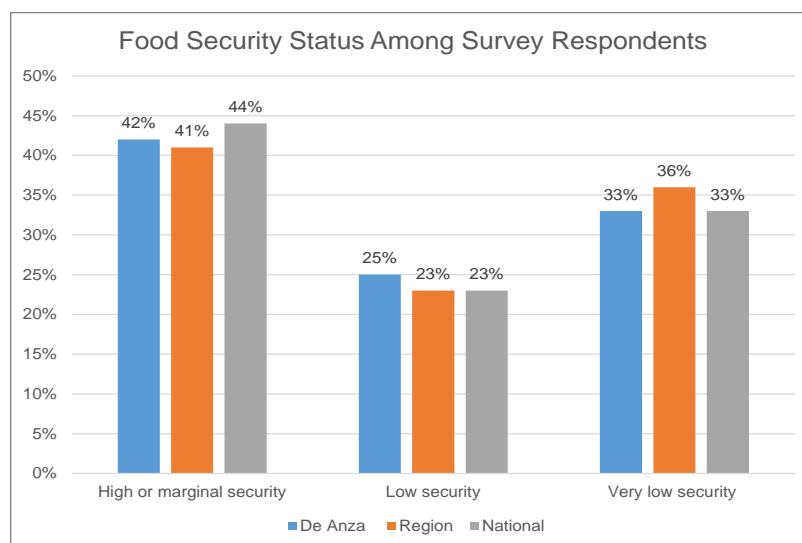


Figure 2: Food security status among survey respondents

⁸ (United States Department of Agriculture, 2000): <https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/FSGuide.pdf>

Housing Insecurity and Homelessness

Housing insecurity and homelessness survey questions were adapted from Wisconsin Hope Lab studies and same methodology was used. Housing insecurity was defined as a set of broad housing issues including frequent moves, crowding, poor housing quality, or the inability to afford rent or bills. Homelessness describes the absence of a place to live, which includes people who live in shelters, vehicles, or abandoned structures⁹. Housing insecurity and homelessness were measured with 5 survey items each with an addition of one locally added question to the housing security items. An affirmative response to any one of the items indicates evidence for housing insecurity or homelessness.

Survey respondents indicated higher rates of housing insecurity (56%; 1,128) and higher rates of homelessness (18%; 365) than regional and national averages:

- Housing insecurity among survey respondents was 3 percentage points higher than the regional average and 5 percentage points higher than the national average.
- Homelessness rates among respondents was 3 percentage points higher than the regional average and 4 percentage points higher than the national average.

	De Anza	Region	National
Housing Insecure	56%	53%	51%
Homeless	18%	15%	14%

Table 7: Rates of housing insecurity and homelessness among survey respondents

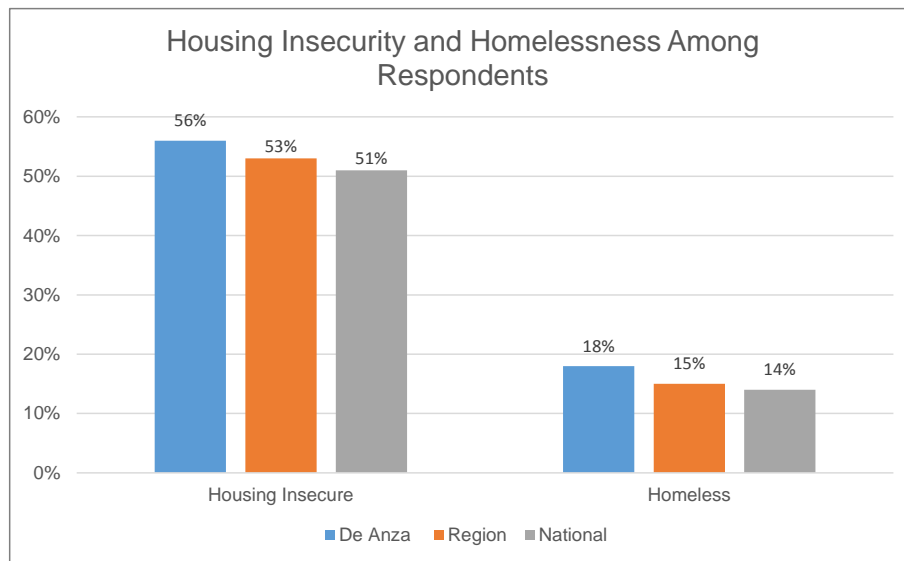


Figure 3: Rates of housing insecurity and homelessness among survey respondents

⁹ (Goldrick-Rab, Richardson, & Hernandez, 2017): <http://www.wihopelab.com/publications/Hungry-and-Homeless-in-College-Report.pdf>

Housing Insecurity

- 56% (1,128) of respondents answered affirmatively to at least one of the items indicating housing insecurity compared with a regional average of 53% and a national average of 51%.
- Two housing insecurity items had the highest rates of affirmative responses when compared with the national average:
 - 38% of respondents indicated they had to double up or share a room during the past 12 months compared with 17% of the national average (21 percentage point difference).
 - 31% of respondents indicated they had to move in with other people due to financial problems compared with 18% of the national average (13 percentage point difference).
- A local addition to the housing insecurity items revealed that 13% of survey respondents were unable to attend class at De Anza due to a housing issue during the past 12 months.

	De Anza Respondents		National
	#	%	
<i>Any of the below items:</i>	1,128	56%	51%
Didn't pay the full amount of rent or mortgage	428	21%	21%
Didn't pay the full amount of utilities	457	23%	28%
Moved two or more times in the year	309	15%	14%
Doubled up or shared a room	776	38%	17%
Moved in with other people due to financial problems	621	31%	18%
Were unable to attend class at De Anza due to housing issues	255	13%	-

Table 8: Rates of affirmative responses to items measuring housing insecurity (past 12 months)

Homelessness

- 18% (365) of respondents answered affirmatively to at least one of the items indicating housing insecurity compared with a regional average of 15% and a national average of 14%.
- Two homelessness items had the highest rates of affirmative responses when compared with the national average:
 - 10% of respondents indicated that they didn't have a home sometime during the past 12 months compared with 2% of the national average (8 percentage point difference).
 - 8% of respondents indicated that they stayed in a vehicle, abandoned building, or other place not meant as housing at any time during the past 12 months compared with 4% of the national average (4 percentage point difference).

	De Anza Respondents		National
	#	%	
<i>Any of the below items:</i>	365	18%	14%
Was thrown out of your home	131	6%	6%
Was evicted from your home	78	4%	3%
Stayed in a shelter	39	2%	2%
Stayed in a vehicle, abandoned building, or other place not meant as housing	164	8%	4%
Did not know where you were going to sleep, even for one night	216	11%	8%
Didn't have a home	207	10%	2%

Table 9: Rates of affirmative responses to items measuring homelessness (past 12 months)

Transportation Insecurity

60% (1,209) of survey respondents answered affirmatively to at least one item out of six which indicated transportation insecurity. The three highest rates of affirmative responses were to the following items:

- 33% (676) of survey respondents indicated they spend two or more hours per day commuting to and from De Anza.
- 32% (643) indicated they missed class because of an issue with public transportation (e.g. running late, missed a connection).
- 29% (589) indicated they missed class because they had to share a car or could not get a ride.

	Respondents	Percent
<i>Any of the below items:</i>	1,209	60%
Unable to pay for gas or public transportation to get to class	542	27%
Had to decide between using money for gas or public transportation to get to work versus to class	574	28%
Missed class because you had to share a car or could not get a ride	589	29%
Missed class because of an issue with public transportation (e.g. running late, missed a connection)	643	32%
Unable to walk or bike due to weather or sickness and did not have another form of transportation available	398	20%
Spend two or more hours per day commuting to and from De Anza	676	33%

Table 10: Rates of affirmative responses to items measuring transportation insecurity (past 12 months)

Basic Needs Insecurity by Demographics

Rates of basic needs insecurity for each demographic group was compared with insecurity rates of all other respondents to assess variability and to identify groups with high and low rates of insecurity.

Higher Rates of Insecurity

The demographic groups with the highest rates of basic needs insecurity among survey respondents were identified by calculating the median of all 5 insecurity measures (housing insecurity, homelessness, transportation insecurity, low food security, and very low food security). Groups with the highest risk for basic needs insecurity include:

- Pell grant recipients (M = 0.16)
- Ethnicity: Latino/a (M = 0.15)
- Ethnicity: African American (M = 0.13)
- Other gender identity (M = 0.12)
- Ethnicity: Filipino (M = 0.11)
- Veteran or active U.S. Military (M = 0.1)

Lower Rates of Insecurity

Demographic groups with the lowest risk for basic needs insecurity among survey respondents include:

- Age: Over 40 years (M = -0.13)
- Age: 36-40 years (M = -0.09)
- Ethnicity: Asian (M = -0.08)
- Age: Under 18 years (M = -0.07)
- Ethnicity: White (M = -0.07)

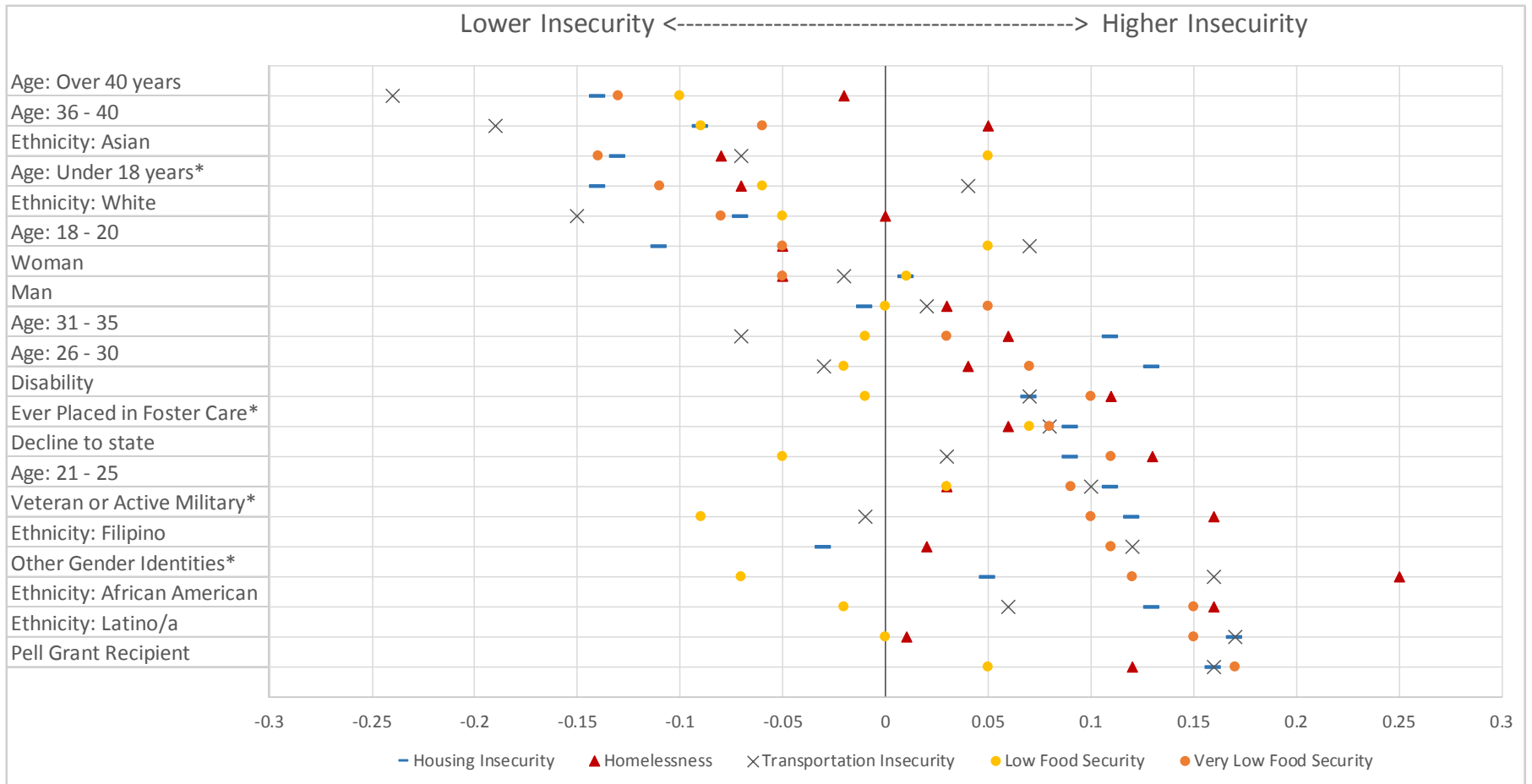


Figure 4: Variance in basic needs insecurities based on respondents' demographic information

*Sample size is less than 50 respondents

Additional Comments Grouped into Themes

	Count	Percent
Total Additional Comments	354	100%
Daily Struggles and Miscellaneous Comments	154	44%
The need for more scholarships or grants/ student is not receiving help from parents or make just enough money to be ineligible for financial aid.	25	7%
Not struggling with basic needs/ financially stable or has parental support	23	6%
Struggling with all expenses (Cost of living, food, books, bills, housing, and gas)	22	6%
Struggling with work/school balance and experiencing burnout/ working is a bigger priority than school to meet basic needs (rent and food)	16	5%
Struggling to provide for family dependents/ single parent cannot afford basic needs because of childcare cost	14	4%
School costs and fees are too high (books/fees/tuition/course fees/supportive technology/parking and course materials)	11	3%
Appreciate the help and resources they received through college (BOG waiver, bike program, free food, disability vehicle, and ECO Pass)	10	3%
International student struggling with tuition and living costs - without the ability to work in the U.S.	9	3%
The need to establish a college resource or program for shared housing/carpools/ride shares/ or school shuttle	6	2%
The need to better advertised resources within and around campus on shelters/food banks/ and ECO Pass	5	1%
Working more than one job	4	1%
Getting loans/ maxing credit cards/ getting into debt	3	1%
Issues with expensive health insurance costs/ medical expenses	3	1%
Need for reasonable employment opportunities for students close to school	2	1%
Free mental health counseling when going through tough times	1	0%
Comments on Housing	85	24%
Struggling with cost of housing/ rent, working long hours to pay rent/tuition/and other expenses	50	14%
The need for low income and international student housing options	23	6%
Living in a shelter/ vehicle/ homeless	8	2%
The need for a special overnight parking permit for students who live in their vehicle, or a designated overnight parking area that is safe from drug use and burglary	4	1%
Comments on Food	85	24%
Food cost on campus is too expensive/ the need for cheaper and healthier meal options	34	10%
Struggling with cost of food/ diet consists of cheap junk food or fast food/ very small or infrequent meals/ stealing food to survive	17	5%
There are limited/ no healthy food or vegetarian options on campus/ low quality cafeteria food	16	5%
Food banks not enough/ the need for more grocery/ fresh food assistance for homeless or low income students	8	2%
The need for cheap/ subsidized meal cards that students can purchase (ex. 10 meal punch or swipe card)	2	1%
Common kitchen area for homeless students to cook and refrigerate their perishables	2	1%
Extending food court hours to evenings for night course students	2	1%
Food bank should carry simple snacks for busy students	1	0%
Cheaper big meal options with a lot of calories to last all day (like Una mas on campus)	1	0%
Classes or programs that teach students how to cook fresh healthy meals with limited resources (make the most of food bank items)	1	0%
Free food vouchers should be available to students in emergency circumstances, not just for low-income students	1	0%

	Count	Percent
Total Additional Comments	354	100%
Comments on Transportation	72	20%
Struggling with transportation/ long commute/ public transportation/ traffic/ relying on others for commute	33	9%
Need help with transportation expenses such as car maintenance/ insurance/ gas	14	4%
The need to improve public transportation (Increased service hours to cover night courses/ express bus on highway 85 from San Jose/ more frequent bus stops/ Uber or Lyft discounted rates or pick up area)	12	3%
Faculty and instructors should be more sensitive and understanding of transportation circumstances leading to a missed class	3	1%
Public transportation is not reliable	3	1%
Dangers of assault, harassment, and violence on public transportation	2	1%
More night and online courses (to reduce time spent commuting in traffic)	2	1%
Parking tickets are expensive/ parking ticket forgiveness for first-time offenders	2	1%
Live-stream lectures so that students can attend class in case of emergency	1	0%

Table 11: Open-ended responses grouped into themes

References

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Index of Tables and Figures

Table 1: Ethnicity of survey respondents compared with De Anza’s student population3

Table 2: Gender of survey respondents compared with De Anza’s student population3

Table 3: Age of survey respondents compared with De Anza's student population4

Table 4: Other characteristics among survey respondents compared with De Anza's student population.....4

Table 5: Rates of affirmative responses to specific items in the USDA food security scale.....5

Table 6: Food security status among survey respondents6

Table 7: Rates of housing insecurity and homelessness among survey respondents.....7

Table 8: Rates of affirmative responses to items measuring housing insecurity (past 12 months)8

Table 9: Rates of affirmative responses to items measuring homelessness (past 12 months)8

Table 10: Rates of affirmative responses to items measuring transportation insecurity (past 12 months)9

Table 11: Open-ended responses grouped into themes..... 13

Table 12: Rates of basic needs insecurity among survey respondents by demographics 16

Figure 1: Rates of basic needs insecurities as indicated by survey respondents2

Figure 2: Food security status among survey respondents.....6

Figure 3: Rates of housing insecurity and homelessness among survey respondents7

Figure 4: Variance in basic needs insecurities based on respondents' demographic information 11

Addendum

Table 12: Rates of basic needs insecurity among survey respondents by demographics

	Respondents #	Housing Insecure	Homeless	Transportation Insecure	Food Security	
					Low Security	Very Low Security
Gender						
Woman	1,194	56%	16%	59%	25%	31%
Man	773	55%	20%	61%	25%	36%
Other Gender Identities	44	61%	43%	75%	18%	45%
No Response	10	30%	0%	10%	10%	20%
Ethnicity						
African American	90	68%	33%	66%	23%	47%
Asian	710	47%	13%	55%	28%	24%
Filipino	107	53%	20%	71%	35%	43%
Latino/a	485	69%	19%	73%	25%	44%
Native American	12	67%	33%	83%	17%	58%
Pacific Islander	20	75%	35%	80%	20%	50%
White	466	50%	18%	48%	21%	27%
Decline to state	131	60%	27%	58%	20%	40%
Age						
Under 18 years	36	42%	11%	64%	19%	22%
18 - 20	746	49%	15%	64%	28%	30%
21 - 25	566	64%	20%	67%	27%	39%
26 - 30	230	67%	22%	57%	23%	39%
31 - 35	160	66%	24%	53%	24%	36%
36 - 40	98	47%	23%	42%	16%	27%
Over 40 years	173	43%	16%	38%	16%	21%
No Response	12	17%	8%	8%	17%	17%
Veteran or Active U.S. Military						
Yes	44	68%	34%	59%	16%	43%
No	1,957	56%	18%	60%	25%	33%
No response	20	45%	25%	50%	30%	30%
Pell Grant Recipient						
Yes	474	68%	27%	72%	29%	46%
No	1,524	52%	15%	56%	24%	29%
No Response	23	48%	17%	48%	30%	26%
Disability						
Yes	178	62%	28%	66%	24%	42%
No	1,819	55%	17%	59%	25%	32%
No Response	24	46%	29%	54%	25%	33%
Ever Placed in Foster Care						
Yes	34	65%	24%	68%	32%	41%
No	1,964	56%	18%	60%	25%	33%
No Response	23	48%	30%	48%	26%	35%