

CA Real College Survey

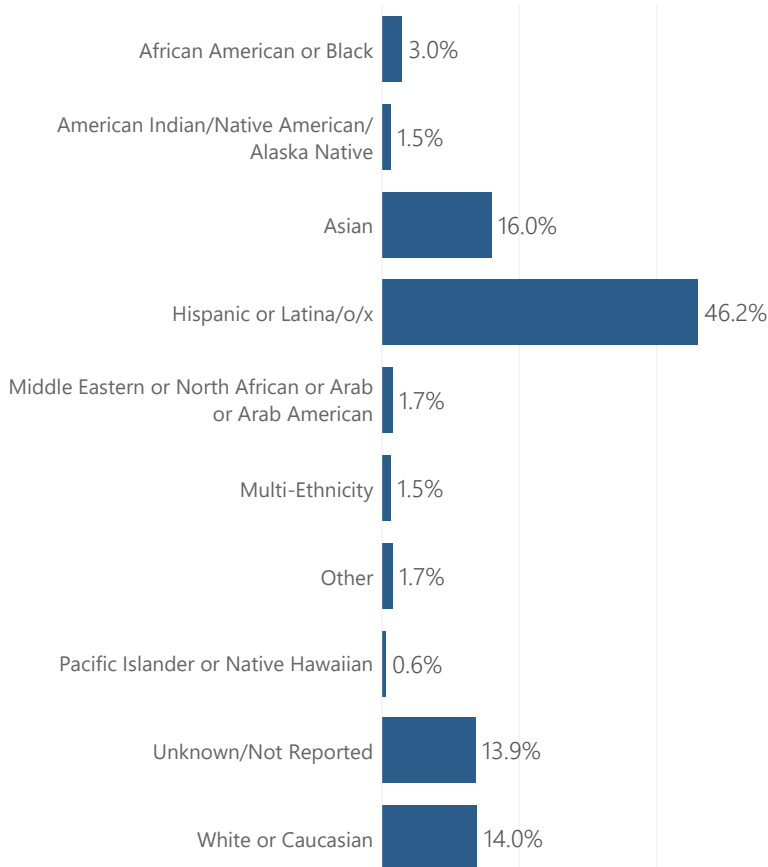
Spring 2023 Fullerton College Results

In the Spring of 2023, Fullerton College (FC) participated in the CA Real College Survey, a state-wide survey of student's basic needs in the California Community College System. The survey was adapted from the largest national survey of basic needs amongst college students with some additions made to reflect the unique characteristics and needs of the CA Community College population.

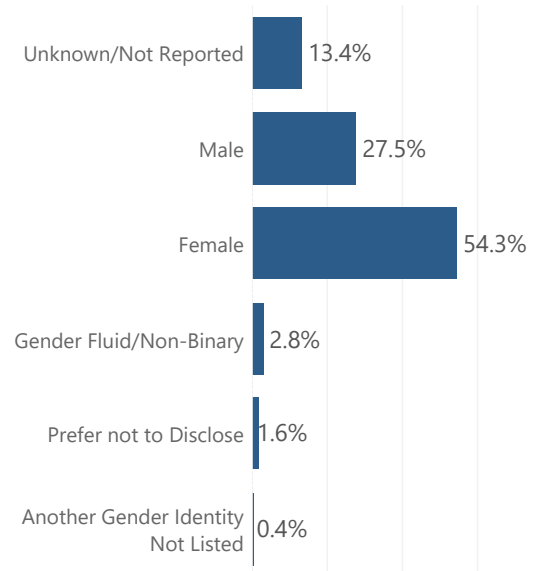
The survey was administered online and students had the opportunity to enter a drawing for a \$250 gift card upon completing the survey. Overall, 808 valid responses were collected from FC, a response rate of 4.6%. Overall, the survey sample roughly matched the overall ethnic and age breakdown of the campus, with slightly more students choosing not to report any ethnicity or age on the survey. Females were over-represented in the survey sample (54% of responses compared to 50% of the total student body).

Survey Population Demographic Breakdown

Race/Ethnicity



Gender



% Identifying as Transgender

2.6%

% Identifying as LGBTQIA2S+

33.9%

Out of the 746 students who responded to the applicable questions, 59.1% reported experiencing at least one basic needs insecurity.




The survey considered three areas of basic needs:

Food Insecurity: defined as the limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe food, or the ability to acquire such food in a socially acceptable manner.

Housing Insecurity: defined as a broad set of challenges such as the inability to pay rent or utilities, or the need to move frequently.

Homelessness: defined as not having a stable place to live. Students were identified as homeless if they responded affirmatively to a question asking if they had been homeless or if they identified living conditions that were considered signs of homelessness (e.g. couch surfing or living somewhere not meant for habitation).

Among the three types of basic needs, **FC students were most likely to experience housing insecurity**, although rates for all three types of insecurities was lower than other students in the region (Los Angeles/Orange County).

	Fullerton College	LA/Orange County	CA Statewide
 <p>Food Insecurity</p> <p>35%</p> <p>41% of respondents worried whether their food would run out before they got money to buy more in the last 30 days.</p> <p>At Fullerton....</p> <p>34% stated that the food that they bought didn't last and they didn't have money to get more in the last 30 days.</p> <p>44% of respondents couldn't afford to eat a balanced meal in the last 30 days.</p>			
 <p>Housing Insecurity</p> <p>50%</p> <p>29% reported that there was a rent or mortgage increase that made it difficult to pay in the last 12 months.</p> <p>At Fullerton...</p> <p>20% reported that they have been unable to pay or underpaid rent or mortgage in the last 12 months.</p> <p>16% reported not being able to pay the full amount of a gas, oil, or electricity bill in the last 12 months.</p>			
 <p>Homelessness</p> <p>15%</p> <p>4% of respondents reported being homeless at some point over the last 12 months.</p> <p>At Fullerton...</p> <p>9% have temporarily stayed with relative, friend or couch surfing during the last 12 months.</p> <p>3% have slept in a closed area/space with a roof not meant for human habitation in the 12 months.</p>			

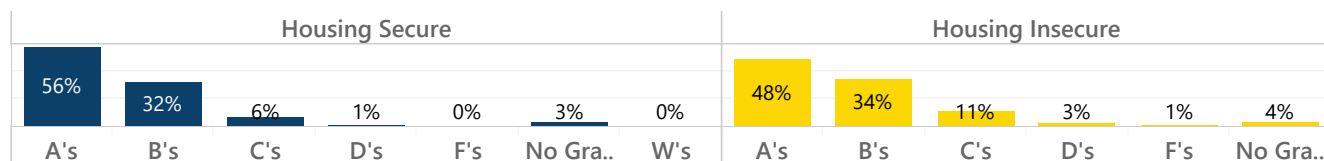
At the beginning of the survey, students were asked to report on their grades over the past academic year, selecting whether their grades were mostly A's, B's, C's etc.

In general, the majority of respondents (49%) reported receiving mostly A's. When looking across the three basic needs, the overall grade distribution was roughly the same with students not experiencing basic needs skewing slightly more towards the upper end of the grading scale. Homelessness and food insecurity seemed to affect students' grades equally with the average grade being approximately one quarter of a grade point lower for students experiencing these insecurities. Housing insecurity still had a negative effect on students' grades, but at a lower rate, with the average being closer to one fifth of a grade point lower.

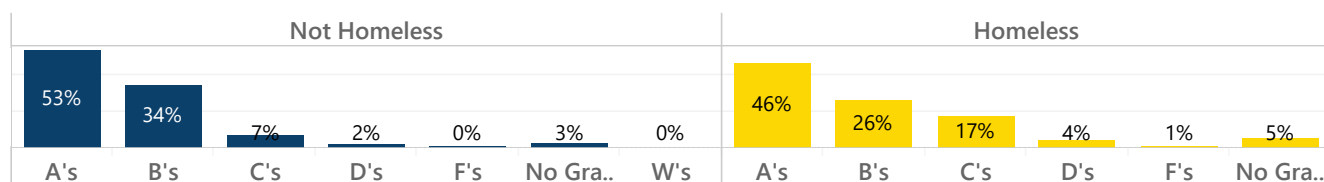
While considering the data presented below, it is important to note that the self-reported grades of the survey sample does not mirror the colleges' overall grade distribution over the 22-23 school year (the same time period that students were being asked to reflect on). At the college level, there was a much larger proportion of W's (15%) and F's (12%) awarded. Therefore, any interpretation of the results or generalizations to the population as a whole, must be done with caution.

In general, the impact of basic needs insecurity did not seem to have a large effect on student's grades. When considering this data, it is important to keep in mind that survey population's grade distribution looked markedly different than that of the college overall.

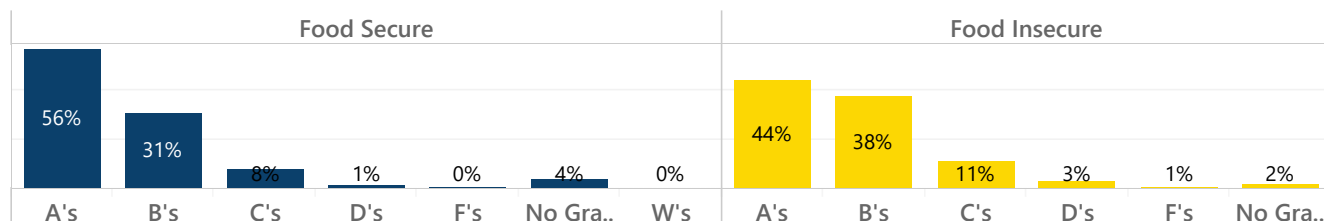
Housing Security



Homelessness



Food Security



Takeaway's From Fullerton College's 2023 Real College Survey

1. Fullerton College students are less likely to experience basic needs insecurities than other community college students in our geographic area and across the state.

2. Housing insecurity is the most common basic need experienced by FC students, as was the case back in 2020 when the last assessment of students' basic needs was conducted. Nearly 70% of students experiencing housing insecurity reported that they were receiving some sort of public assistance. Given that FC, along with the vast majority of community colleges, do not offer student housing, the campus will need to conduct further inquiry on how to address this challenge.

3. The rate of basic needs insecurity across all three areas has decreased from 2020, with the greatest gains being made in the area of food insecurity. While we can not draw a direct correlation between data points, it is worth noting that the campus has invested significant resources in improving access to affordable and well balanced meals over the last year which has resulted in 54% of students responding that they have used Fullerton College's cafeteria in the last 12 months, and 21% responded that they used the food bank on campus.

A NOTE ON BASIC NEEDS BY SUBPOPULATIONS

Data collected from the survey allowed for disaggregated analysis by race/ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, disability status, and various life circumstances (military impacted, justice impacted, foster status, and single parent).

The OIE team did consider these disaggregations when compiling this report. Unfortunately, the sample size, when broken down by subgroup, was too small to make to make any generalizations.

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Housing Insecurity Indicators

<i>In the past 12 months have you....</i>	Yes		No	
been unable to pay or underpaid rent or motgage?	153	20.4%	597	79.6%
received a summons to appear in housing court?	24	3.2%	719	96.7%
not paid the full amount of a gas, oil, or electricity bill?	126	16.9%	620	83.1%
borrowed money from friends or family to help pay bills?	242	32.5%	503	67.5%
had an account default or go into collections?	101	13.5%	645	86.5%
moved in with other people, even for a little while, because of financial problems?	130	17.4%	617	82.6%
lived with others beyond the expected capacity of the house or apartment?	113	15.2%	631	84.8%

In the past 12 months was there a rent or mortgage increase that made it difficult to pay?	Yes		No	
	220	29.2%	534	70.8%

In the past 12 months how many times have you moved?		
	N	%
Never	597	79.1%
Once	99	13.1%
Twice	40	5.3%
3 times	16	2.1%
4 times	0	0.0%
5 or more times	3	0.4%

In the past 12 months did you leave your household because you felt unsafe?	Yes		No	
	49	6.5%	705	93.5%

Homelessness Indicators

In the past 12 months have you ever been homeless?	Yes		No	
	28	3.7%	725	96.3%

In the past 12 months did you couch surf, that is, moved from one temporary housing arrangement to another because you had no other place to live?	Yes		No	
	37	4.9%	718	95.1%

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<i>In the past 12 months have you slept in any of the following places?</i>	Yes		No	
	In a rented or owned house, mobile home, or apartment (alone or with roommates/friends)	244	32.5%	506
In a rented or owned house, mobile home, or apartment with family	495	65.9%	256	34.1%
Temporarily staying with a relative, friend or couch surfing until I find other housing	68	9.2%	674	90.8%
Temporarily at a hotel or motel without a permanent home to return to (not on vacation or business travel)	19	2.6%	723	97.4%
In a camper	12	1.6%	729	98.4%
At a shelter	9	1.2%	736	98.8%
In transitional housing or independent living program	19	2.5%	725	97.5%
At a group home such as halfway house or residential program for mental health or substance abuse	8	1.1%	736	98.9%
At a treatment center (such as detox, hospital, etc.)	17	2.3%	724	97.7%
Outdoor location such as street, sidewalk, or alley, bus or train stop, campground or woods, park, beach, or riverbed, under a bridge or overpass	16	2.2%	724	97.8%
In a closed area/space with a roof not meant for human habitation such as abandoned building, car or truck, van, RV, or camper, encampment or tent, or unconverted garage, attic, or basements	25	3.4%	715	96.6%

Food Insecurity Indicators

<i>In the last 30 days, were the following situations often true, sometimes true, or never true for you?</i>	Often true		Sometimes true		Never true	
	I worried whether my food would run out before I got money to buy more	109	14.7%	194	26.2%	437
The food that I bought didn't last and I didn't have money to get more/	81	10.9%	171	23.1%	489	66.0%
I couldn't afford to eat balanced meals	114	15.4%	214	28.8%	414	55.8%

The next six questions were only asked to respondents who indicated sometimes or often true for one of the items above.

In the last 30 days, did you ever cut the size of your meals or skip meals because there wasn't enough money for food?	Yes		No	
		195	51.5%	184

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In the last 30 days, how often did this happen? (cut the size of your meals or skipped meals because there wasn't enough money for food)		
	N	%
Once	14	7.1%
Twice	52	26.5%
Three times	43	21.9%
Four times	17	8.7%
Five times	15	7.7%
More than five times	55	28.1%

In the last 30 days, did you ever eat less than you felt you should because there wasn't enough money for food?	Yes		No	
		203	54.0%	173

In the last 30 days, were you ever hungry but didn't eat because there wasn't enough money for food?	Yes		No	
		159	42.1%	219

In the last 30 days, did you lose weight because there wasn't enough money for food?	Yes		No	
		101	27.1%	272

In the last 30 days, did you ever not eat for a whole day because there wasn't enough money for food?	Yes		No	
		57	15.1%	321

In the last 30 days, how often did this happen? (you did not eat for a whole day because there wasn't enough money for food)		
	N	%
Once	6	10.3%
Twice	11	19.0%
Three times	10	17.2%
Four times	11	19.0%
Five times	4	6.9%
More than five times	16	27.6%

The next three sets of questions were only asked to respondents who had previously reported that they had children.

Were the following statements often, sometimes, or never true for you in the last 30 days?	Often true	Sometimes true	Never true

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I relied on only a few kinds of low-cost food to feed my children because I was running out of money to buy food	9	7.6%	32	26.9%	78	65.6%
I couldn't feed my children a balanced meal, because I couldn't afford that	8	6.7%	15	12.6%	96	80.7%
My child was not eating enough because I just couldn't afford enough food	5	4.2%	7	5.9%	107	89.9%

In the last 30 days...	Yes		No	
Did you cut the size of your children's meals because there wasn't enough money for food	8	6.7%	111	93.3%
Did your children ever skip meals because there wasn't enough money for food	9	7.6%	110	92.4%
Were your children ever hungry but you just couldn't afford more food	7	5.9%	112	94.1%
Did any of your children ever not eat for a whole day because there wasn't enough money for food	2	1.7%	115	98.3%

In the last 30 days, how often did this happen?		
	N	%
Once	2	16.7%
Twice	7	58.3%
Three times	1	8.3%
Four times	0	0.0%
Five times	0	0.0%
More than five times	2	16.7%