

This Month's Topic: Food and Housing Insecurities Among CHC Students

This DYK covers potential food and housing insecurity challenges that CHC students are now facing relative to Spring 2018. To that end, this DYK compares results from the 2018 Student Satisfaction Survey to those of the [Spring 2020 Student Needs Survey](#).

Baseline: Spring 2018 Student Satisfaction Survey

The results below are from the [Spring 2018 Student Satisfaction Survey Dashboard](#)

Every two years, the office of Institutional Effectiveness, Research & Planning deploys the Student Satisfaction Survey. The survey consists of 38 different sections covering a multitude of questions which include satisfaction items regarding various aspects of instruction, student services, and the campus itself. The satisfaction survey includes items covering housing and food insecurity among students. A total of 610 students responded to at least one survey item.

Table 1 shows that 13% of students reported that they did not pay the full amount of rent, mortgage, or utilities owed. Ten percent of students responding to the survey also mentioned having to move in with others due to financial issues they encountered.

Table 1. In the past 12 months, did you experience any of the following housing situations?

Response:	#	% of Total Respondents (n=610)
Didn't pay full amount of rent, mortgage, or utilities	82	13.4
Moved in with other people due to financial problems	58	9.5
Moved 2 or more times	31	5.1
Didn't have a home	26	4.3
Didn't know where I was going to sleep, even for one night	24	3.9
Doubled up in a room with someone out of necessity	23	3.8
Thrown out or evicted from my home	21	3.4
Other	16	2.6
Total	281	-

Note: Respondents could have selected multiple options if applicable

Table 2 highlights results specific to food insecurity items. Of those responding during the 2017-18 academic year, 20.1% were often or sometimes hungry but did not have enough money to eat. Additionally, 22.2% of students stated that they often or sometimes could not afford to eat balanced meals. Fifteen percent of students also indicated that they did not have enough food to last until they were paid again and 16.3% stated that they would cut the size or skip meals to make their food last longer. Lastly, 10% of respondents skipped a full day of eating because they did not have enough money and 7.7% used food stamps to purchase food or obtained food from a charity.

Table 2. During this academic year (2017-2018), how often did you experience the following situations?

Response:	Often		Sometimes		Seldom		Never		Total
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#
I was hungry but didn't have enough money to eat	43	7.3%	78	13.3%	92	15.7%	373	63.7%	586
I could not afford to eat balanced meals	48	8.2%	85	14.5%	82	14.0%	372	63.5%	587
I didn't have enough food to last until I got paid again	37	6.3%	50	8.5%	71	12.1%	426	72.7%	584
I cut the size of or skipped meals so my food would last longer	38	6.5%	57	9.7%	73	12.5%	418	71.3%	586
I skipped eating a full day because I didn't have enough money	19	3.2%	42	7.2%	49	8.4%	472	80.5%	582
I used food stamps to purchase food or got food from a charity	22	3.8%	22	3.8%	26	4.4%	515	87.9%	585

Spring 2020 Student Needs Survey: A Comparison

The Office of Institutional Effectiveness, Research & Planning also worked with various stakeholder groups to develop a student need's survey in Spring 2020. This survey was designed to understand issues that CHC students were facing in light of the pandemic. We received a total of 827 responses from students.

Table 3 demonstrates the personal support needs of CHC students during the Spring 2020 semester. 14%-15% of students responding to the survey stated that they needed some form of assistance with regards to rent, food, or utilities. Additionally, of the 827 respondents to the student needs survey, 391 (47%) of these students also provided their contact information to receive additional support for their needs.

Table 3. Personal Support Needs of CHC Students

Personal Support Needs	Yes		No		Total #
	#	%	#	%	
Mental Health Services	149	18.5	657	81.5	806
Rental Assistance	124	15.4	681	84.6	805
Utilities Assistance	123	15.2	686	84.8	809
Food Assistance	115	14.2	694	85.8	809
Medical Services (i.e., chat with Nurse Practitioner)	64	8.0	734	92.0	798

Implications

When compared to the 2018 Student Satisfaction Survey results, it indicates that students are struggling to a greater degree with food and housing insecurity which is expected given the impact of the current pandemic on employment.

For instance, 115 students (14.2%) indicating that they needed food assistance compared to the Spring 2018 Student Satisfaction Survey results which showed that 61 (10%) of respondents mentioned that they often or sometimes that they skipped a full day of eating because they did not have enough money or that 44 (7.6%) often or sometimes used food stamps to purchase food or got food from a charity. There is also a disparity in the amount of students asking for food assistance compared to the number of responses stating that they often were hungry and did not have enough food to eat (43 or 7.3% of students responding to the Satisfaction Survey). Students also indicated a higher degree of need when it came to rental (124 students or 15% of total respondents) and utility (123 or 15% of total respondents) assistance than had been indicated in the 2018 Satisfaction Survey which had 82 students (13% of respondents) stating that they had trouble paying their rent, mortgage, or utilities.

Using the data gathered from the student needs results, we can project that 914 students at CHC need some form of rental assistance, 907 students need assistance paying their utilities, and 848 students need some form of food assistance. Ultimately, more research will need to be done in order to demonstrate the degree to which these students continue to struggle with food and housing insecurity issues at Crafton Hills College.