

San Diego Mesa College 2023 Real College Survey Results | Executive Summary

Statewide: The RealCollege survey, the nation's largest annual assessment of basic needs security among college students, was last comprehensively reported for California Community Colleges in a 2019 report. The survey was most recently administered in spring 2023. Over 66,000 students from 88 California Community Colleges responded to the survey, revealing that *two out of every three CCC students grapple with at least one basic needs insecurity. Nearly half of CCC students are food insecure, almost 3 out of 5 are housing insecure, and about 1 in 4 are homeless.* (Source: The RP Group and the Chief Executive Officers (CEO) Affordability, Food, and Housing Access Taskforce (2023). Real College California: Basic Needs Among California. Community College Students. Community College League of California.)

College Enrollment Status: At Mesa, respondents are divided evenly between full-time (at least 12 credits) and part-time (fewer than 12 credits) status. Full-time students have slightly higher rates of insecurity than part-time students: 20% vs. 18% identify as food insecure, 27% vs. 26% are housing insecure, and 9% vs. 8% as homeless.

Gender Orientation: Among respondents, 69% are female, 28% are male, and 3% identify as other. Female respondents have much higher rates of insecurity than their male counterparts across all three insecurities: 29% vs. 11% in food insecurity, 39% vs. 15% in housing insecurity, and 12% vs. 6% in homelessness.

Racial or Ethnic Background: White or Caucasian students comprise 38% of the survey respondents followed by Hispanic or Latinx students at 33% and then Southeast Asian students at 12%. African American or Black students comprise 10% of the survey respondents. The rates of basic needs insecurity, particularly for food and housing, are highest among Mesa's White or Caucasian (14% identify as food insecure and 20% identify as housing insecure) and Hispanic or Latinx students (16% identify as food insecure and 21% identify as housing insecure).

Sexual Orientation: The majority of survey respondents identify as heterosexual or straight at 76%, followed by 11% as bisexual, 8% as not sure/neither heterosexual, gay, lesbian, or bisexual, and then 4% as gay or lesbian. Heterosexual or straight respondents have substantial levels of insecurity: 32% identify as food insecure, 43% as housing insecure, and 14% as homeless.

Age: Respondents are spread out across all age groups: 28% are 18 to 20, 24% are 21 to 25, 15% are 26 to 30, and 33% are older than 30. All age groups reported double-digit rates of housing insecurity at 13% for those 18 to 20, 16% for those 21 to 25, 10% for those 26 to 30, and 19% for those older than 30. Food insecurity rates were also in the double digits for those 18 to 20 (10%), 21 to 25 (12%), and older than 30 (13%).

U.S. Citizenship/Permanent Residency: Ninety-four percent of respondents identify as U.S. citizens or permanent residents. Among U.S. citizens and permanent residents, 40% are food insecure, 53% are housing insecure, and 18% are homeless. In terms of the 6% of respondents who are not U.S. citizens or have permanent residency, 3% are food insecure, 4% are housing insecure, and 2% are homeless.

Employment Status: The majority of survey respondents are employed at 75% followed by 16% who are not employed and not looking for work and 10% who are not employed but looking for work. Notably those who are employed reported substantial levels of insecurity: 32% are food insecure, 42% are housing insecure, and 13% are homeless.

Dependency Status: Nearly two thirds of survey respondents identified as independent (64%). Twenty-two percent reported they are dependents. Independent students reported higher levels of insecurity: 29% are food insecure, 40% are housing insecure, and 13% are homeless.

Pell Recipients: Forty-three percent of survey respondents are Pell Grant recipients. Among these recipients, 21% identify as food insecure, 26% as housing insecure, and 10% as homeless.

Relationship Status: Half of survey respondents are single, 25% are in a relationship, and 22% are married or in a domestic partnership. Only 3% identify as divorced. Single respondents had the highest levels of insecurity: 22% are food insecure, 28% are housing insecure, and 11% are homeless. Among students who are in a relationship, 12% are food insecure, 15% are housing insecure, and 5% are homeless.

Has Biological, Adopted, Step, or Foster Children Who Live in the Household: Sixteen percent of survey respondents report having children in the household. Of these respondents, 9% are food insecure, 11% are housing insecure, and 3% are homeless. It is also worth pointing out that among the 84% of respondents who do not have children in the household, 34% are food insecure, 47% are housing insecure, and 16% are homeless.

Single Parents: Among the 16% of overall respondents who reported being parents, 30% of them are single parents. Looking at single parents, 21% are food insecure, 26% are housing insecure, and 10% are homeless. The rates of insecurity are also high among non-single parents: 32% are food insecure, 40% are housing insecure, and 8% are homeless.

Foster Care: Three percent of respondents have been in foster care. Of those, only 2% across the board are food insecure, housing insecure, and homeless.

Military/Veteran: Seven percent of survey respondents have served in the military. Among those with military affiliation, 3% are food insecure, 4% are housing insecure, and 1% are homeless.

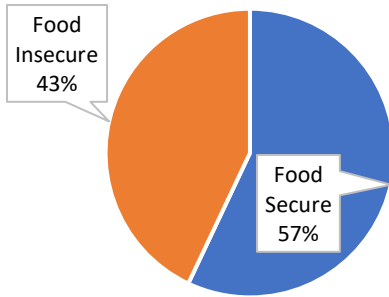
Convicted of a Crime/Formerly Incarcerated: Three percent of survey respondents have been convicted of a crime. Of those, 2% are food- and housing-insecure and 1% are homeless.

Disability or Medical Condition: Among survey respondents, 39% have a psychological disorder, 19% have attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), 16% have a chronic illness such as asthma or diabetes, and 12% have a learning disability. Respondents with a psychological disorder have the highest rates of insecurity among those with any disability or medical condition: 20% are food insecure, 25% are housing insecure, and 9% are homeless.

Collegewide: *San Diego Mesa College received 1,510 responses. Two out of three Mesa students reported facing at least one basic needs security, with 43% reporting food insecurity, 58% reporting housing insecurity, and 19% reporting having been homeless in the past year. Across all insecurities, Mesa is performing the same as or better than the state.*

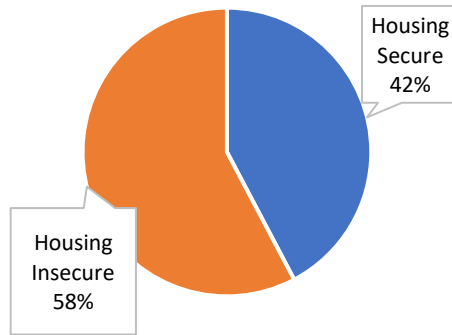
	Mesa	Statewide	% Point Difference
Any Insecurity	66%	68%	-2%
Food Insecurity	43%	47%	-4%
Housing Insecurity	58%	58%	0%
Homelessness	19%	24%	-5%

Food Insecurity



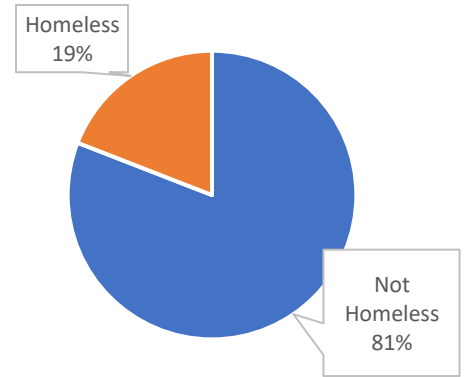
Over 2 out of 5 survey respondents reported food insecurity

Housing Insecurity



Nearly 3 of 5 survey respondents reported housing insecurity

Homelessness



Nearly 1 in 5 survey respondents reported being homeless

Basic Needs Insecurities by Ethnicity

