




A Commitment to Supporting Students' Basic Needs Insecurity

Mt. SAC Board of Trustees Study Session

October 10, 2020

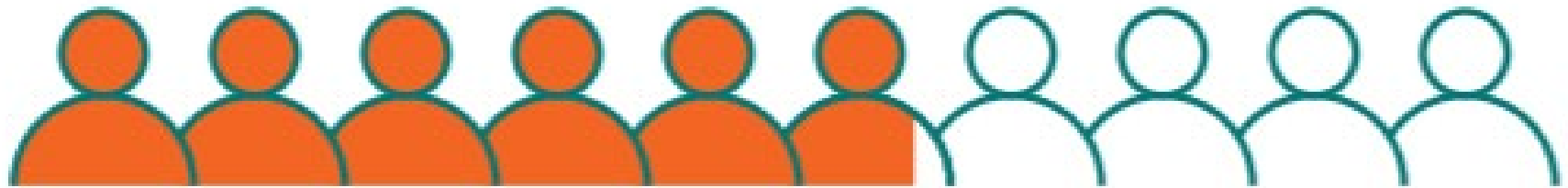


*The **new economics of college have reshaped American higher education**, exacerbating some challenges and creating new ones. Twenty years ago, food and housing insecurity were not among the top concerns of college and university leaders, though at least some students experienced them. Recognition of these problems has improved in the past several years, but the coronavirus pandemic has exposed how shaky this progress was, and how much work remains to be done.*

- #RealCollege During the Pandemic



The Hope Center surveyed 38,000 at 54 Colleges During Pandemic



5.8 out of every 10 students experienced
basic needs insecurity due to the pandemic





Definition of Terms

Food Insecurity

Is the limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods, or the ability to acquire such foods in a socially acceptable manner. The most extreme form is often accompanied with physiological sensations of hunger.

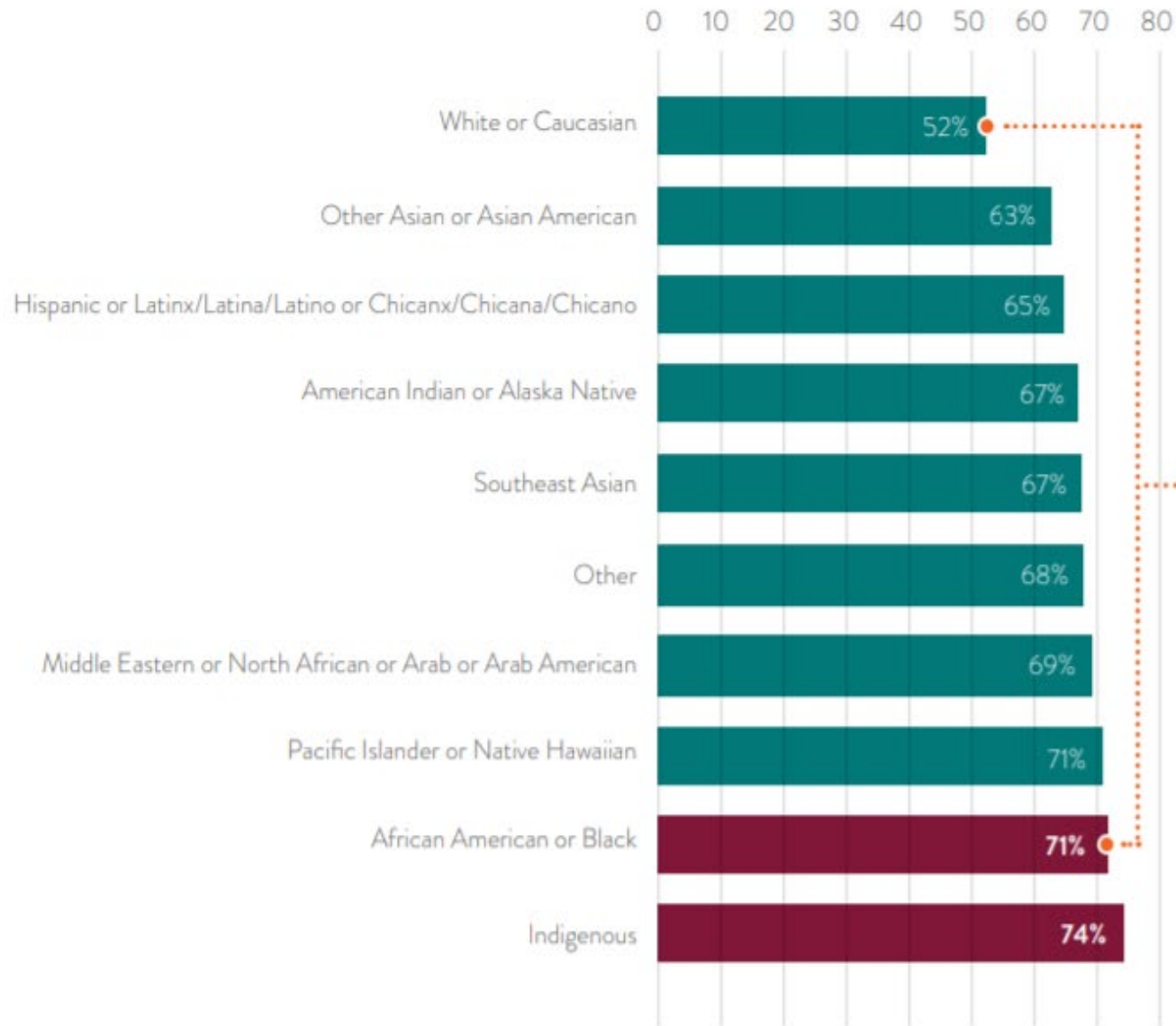
Housing Insecurity

A broad set of challenges such as the inability to pay rent or utilities or the need to move frequently.

Homelessness

Means that a person is without a place to live, often residing in a shelter, an automobile, an abandoned building or outside

Basic Needs Insecurity by Race/Ethnicity



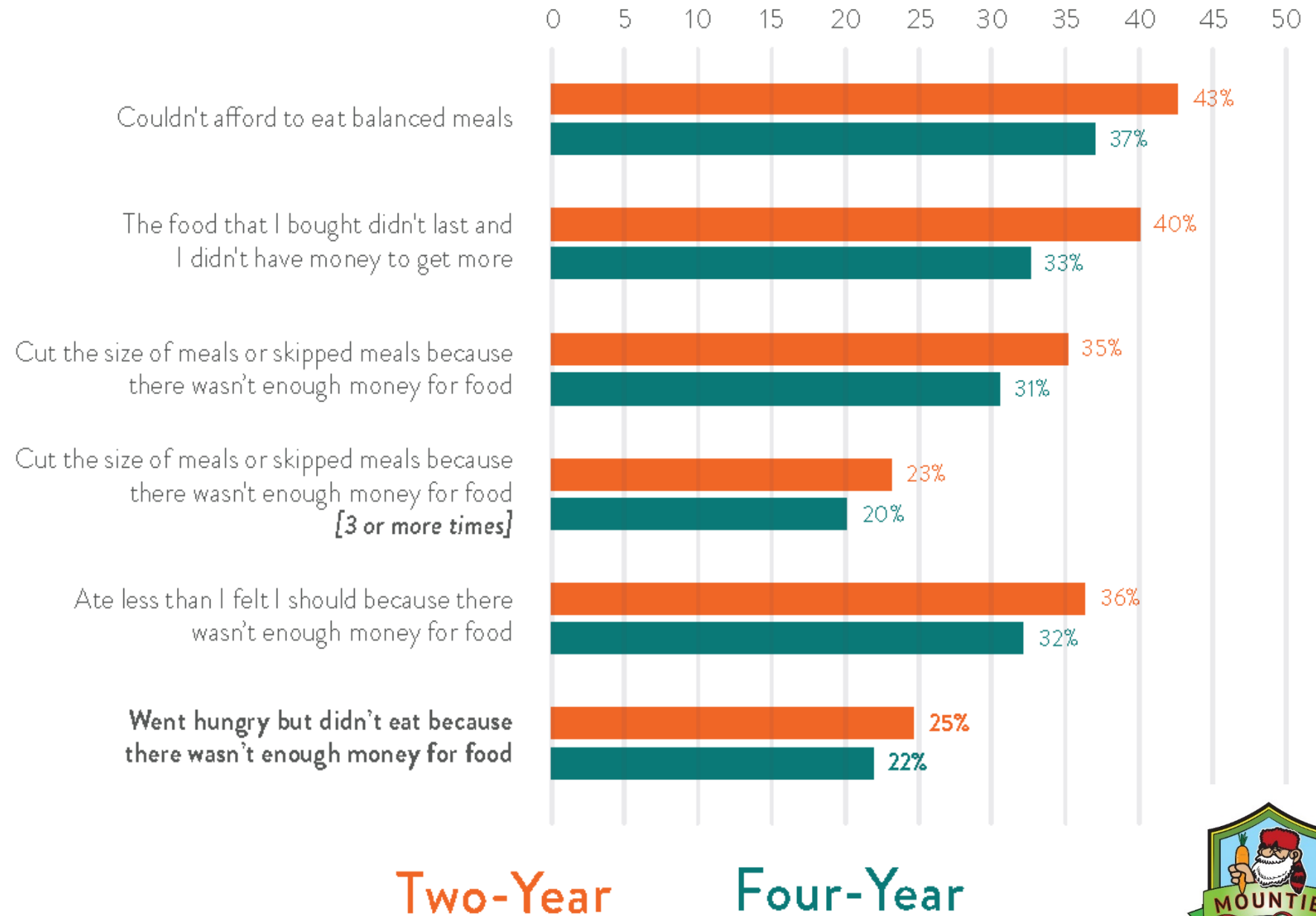
THE
BLACK/WHITE GAP
IN BASIC NEEDS
INSECURITY WAS
19 percentage points

SOURCE | 2020 #RealCollege During the Pandemic Survey

NOTES | Classifications of racial/ethnic background are not mutually exclusive. Students could self-identify with multiple classifications. For more detail on how each measure of basic needs insecurity was constructed, refer to the [web appendices](#).



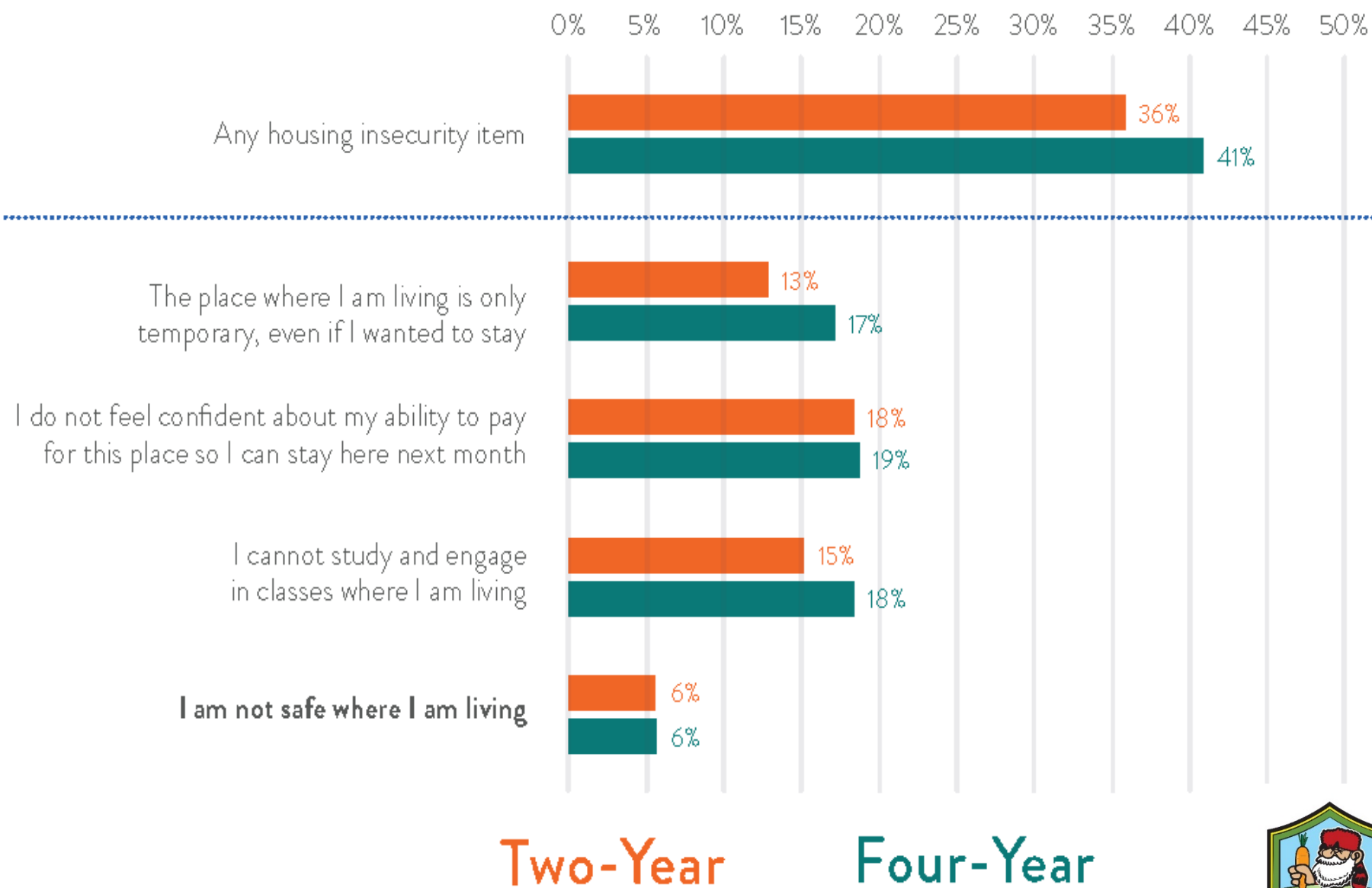
Food Insecurity by College Type



SOURCE | 2020 #RealCollege During the Pandemic Survey



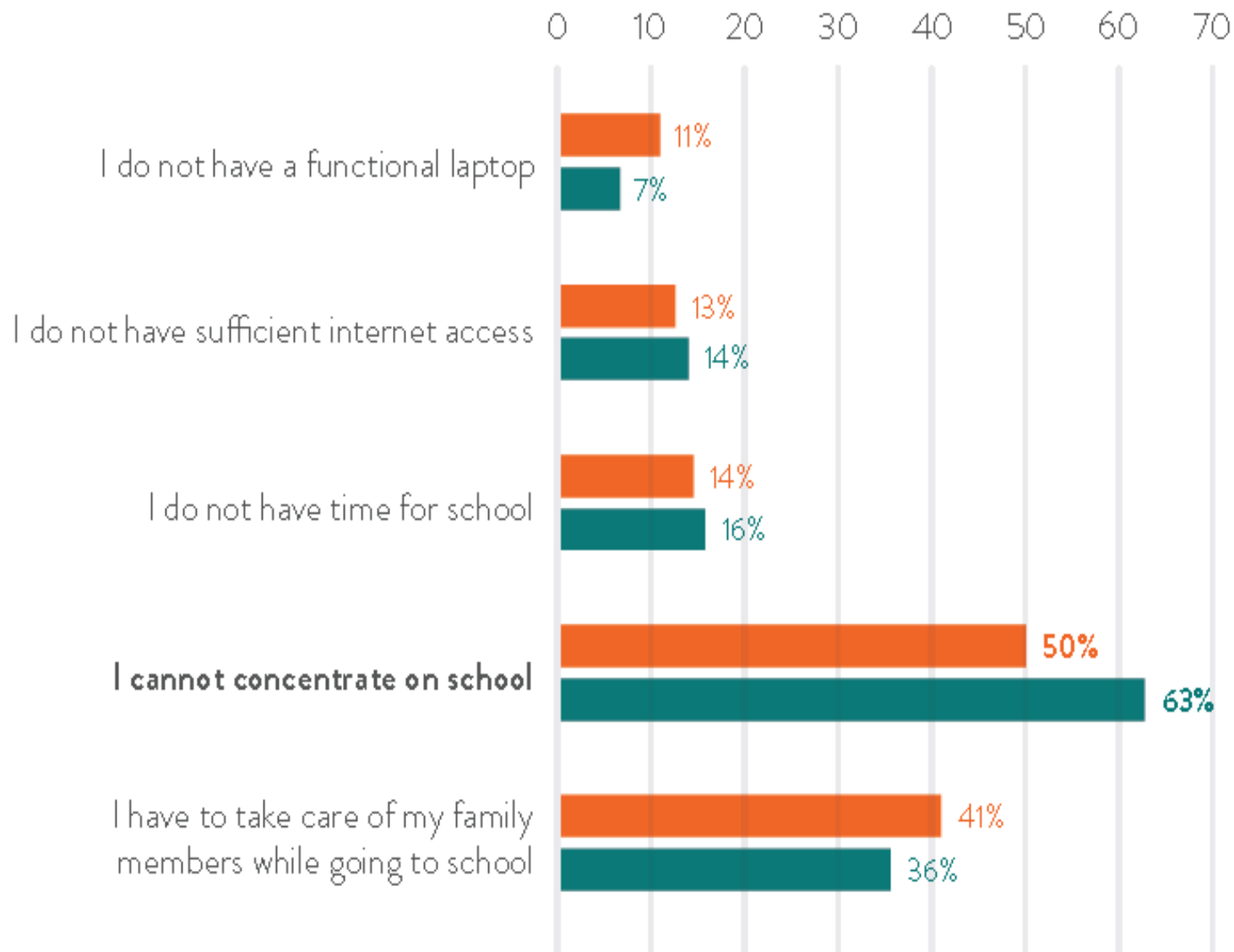
Housing Insecurity by College Type



SOURCE | 2020 #RealCollege During the Pandemic Survey



Academic Challenges by College Type



Two-Year

Four-Year

SOURCE | 2020 #RealCollege During the Pandemic Survey



Student Voices from the Research

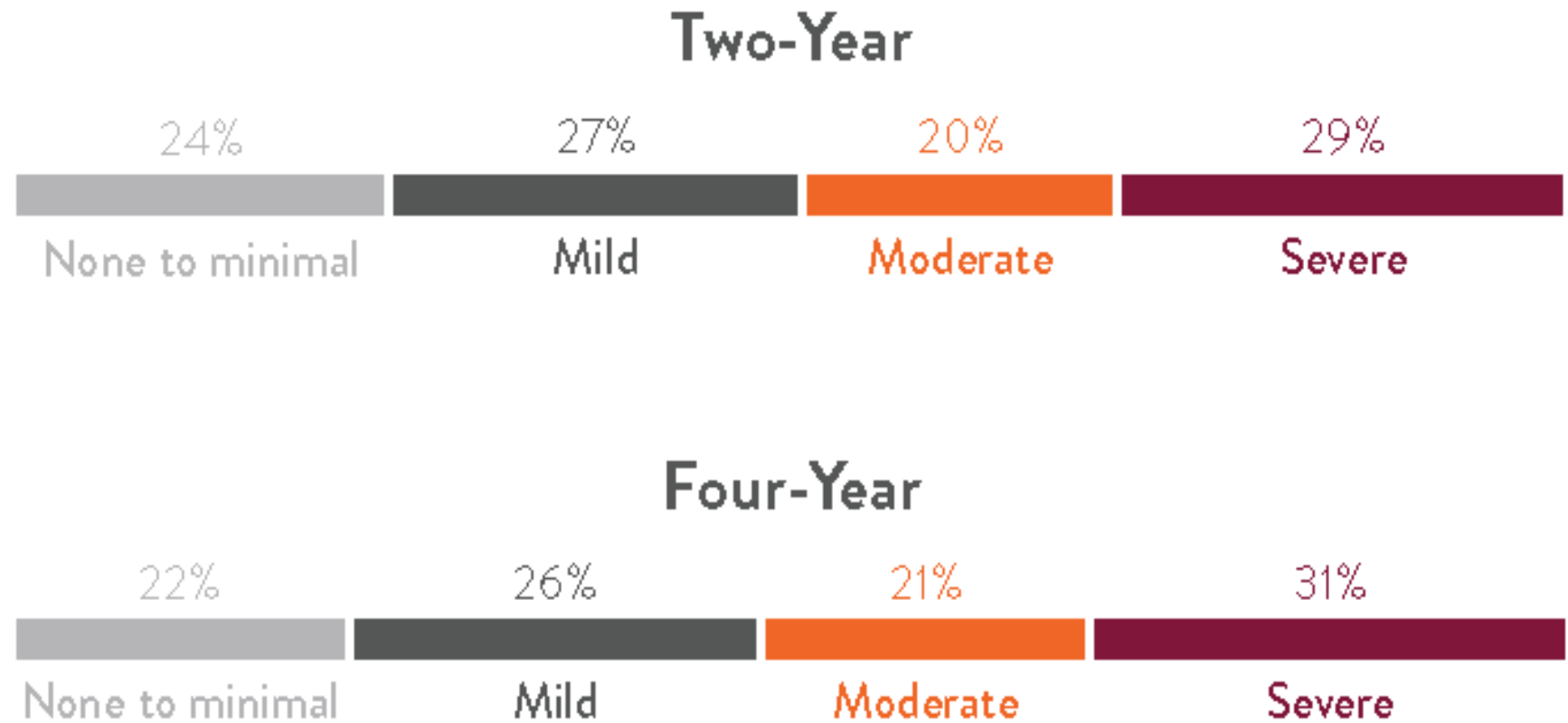
“We are in the country, so the internet is lagging. I have the best-available for our area. Zoom sometimes freezes or disconnects due to our service. I would like to be able to connect in person with people. When I am struggling it helps to see and ask questions the moment I have an issue.”

“I’m working extra hard being an essential worker. That makes it hard to study, as I’m so exhausted from work because of the current situation.”

“I’m working in a hospital on a COVID floor, taking care of my parents and daughter from afar. My granddaughter and other daughter have already had COVID-19.”



Level of Anxiety by Survey Respondents

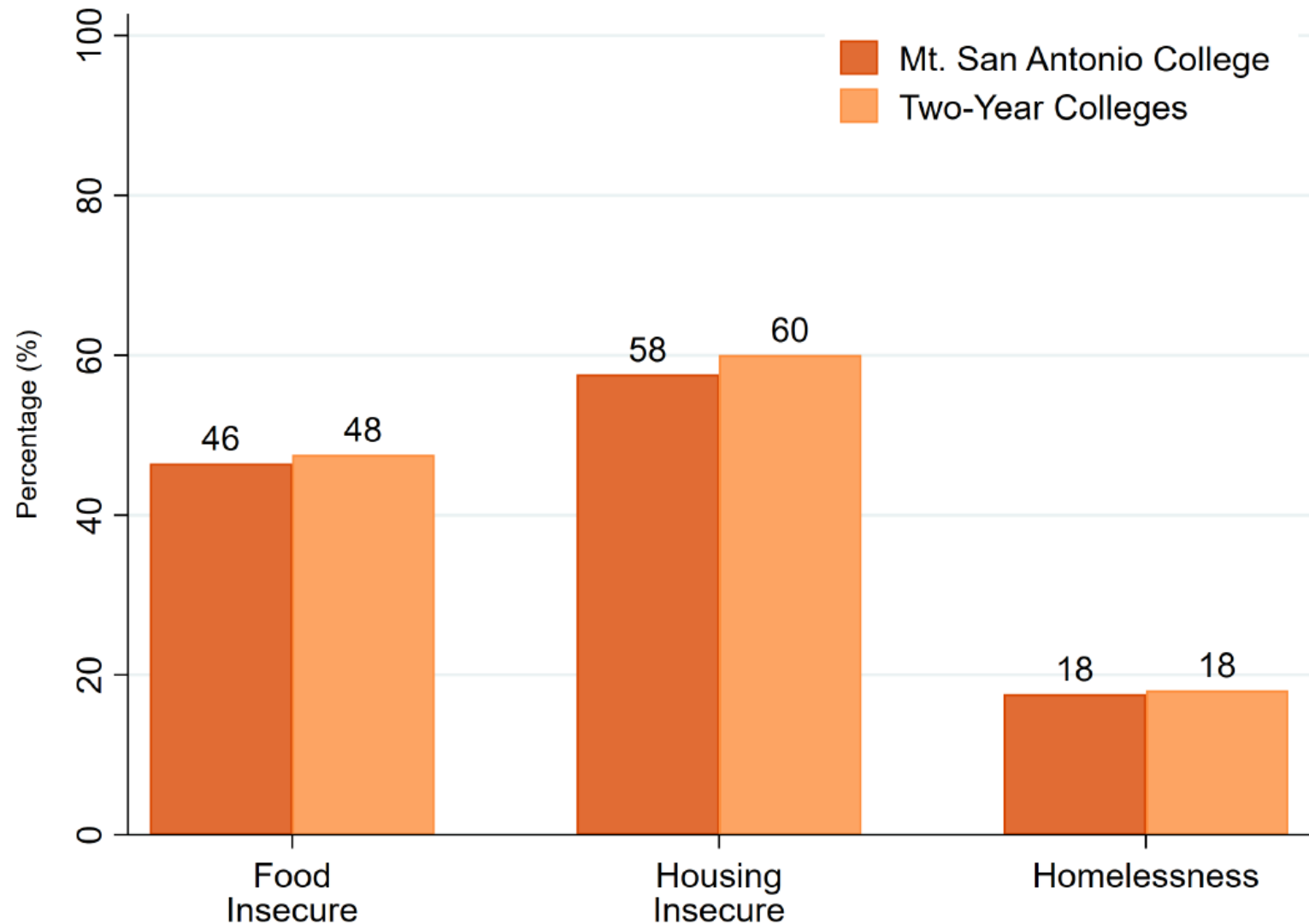


SOURCE | 2020 #RealCollege During the Pandemic Survey

NOTES | The Generalized Anxiety Disorder Scale (GAD-7) was used to measure anxiety. Cumulative percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding. For more detail on how anxiety was constructed, as well as additional breakdowns, refer to the [web appendices](#).



Mt. SAC's Basic Needs Insecurity Data Compared to Other Community Colleges



Source: #RealCollege Survey 2018





MT. SAC STUDENT VIGNETTE 1 (JOSE)

Education Status: Mt. SAC alumnus as of Fall 2020

Basic Need Insecurity Pre-Pandemic: Housing insecure and wanted to learn about any resources available. Latino, first-generation college student and was sleeping in his car with his dog companion.

Basic Need Insecurity During Pandemic: Unable to utilize local drop-in centers to shower and wash his clothes. Also could not use public places to do homework and charge his technology. Migrated to LA area and found places to sleep in his car and then exposed to COVID-19 and tested positive for COVID-19.

Basic Needs Resources Received: Basic Needs Resources staff connected Jose with LAHSA's Project Room Key and connected with hotel placement for four weeks. Jose recovered from COVID and continued to focus on his classes.

Current Enrollment Status: Successfully transferred to Cal Poly Pomona for Fall 2020 studying Animal Science. Jose obtained housing through his work at Cal Poly working on the farm and reports doing well and being grateful for Mountie Fresh Basic Needs Resources.



MT. SAC STUDENT VIGNETTE 2 (MARIA)

Education Status: Continuing student in good academic standing (3.5+ GPA) near completion

Basic Need Insecurity Pre-Pandemic: Maria is an older homeless student living in her car with her adult son. Maria accessed food pantry, food vouchers, and financial aid. Also received support via Behavioral Wellness Team.

Basic Need Insecurity During Pandemic: During first few months, continued to live in car, could not access showers or power outlets to charge her laptop, and food.

Basic Needs Resources Received: She received an emergency grant and food bags, and assistance from Financial Aid.

Current Enrollment Status: Maria was last enrolled in the spring and has not responded to contacts.



MT. SAC STUDENT VIGNETTE 3 (ANGELA)

Education Status: Continuing active student enrolled in 12 units for Fall 2020 pursuing Psychology AA Transfer.

Basic Need Insecurity Pre-Pandemic: Introduced to Basic Needs via CalFresh outreach efforts. Through the CalFresh prescreen process, Basic Needs staff learned that Angela was sleeping in her car. She is Latina, 54 years old, and has been living in her car and couch surfing with family members for over a year.

Basic Need Insecurity During Pandemic: During pandemic, Angela reported being anxious due to possible exposure COVID-19 and sleeping in her car.

Basic Needs Resources Received: Basic Needs team connected student with LAHSA and she was able to participate in the Project Room Key and is currently living in a hotel. Housing Navigator is also seeking to provide her with long-term housing placement options. Student was provided laptop and Wi-Fi hotspot from Mt. SAC. Basic Needs Coordinator checks in with student once every other week and she is actively participating in Mountie Fresh Food Pantry.

Current Enrollment Status: Angela reports she is grateful for the safe space and the ability to be able to focus on her education. Student reports being focused in her academic courses and wishes to transfer to a 4-year university.



MT. SAC STUDENT VIGNETTE 4 (PETER)

Education Status: Last enrolled at Mt. SAC in Fall 2019. He was enrolled in the Welding Program.

Basic Need Insecurity Pre-Pandemic: Student informed class professor of his homeless status and student was sleeping on campus, in friend's car, and around the community in parks and buildings. Student is homeless due to substance abuse and abusive relationship.

Basic Need Insecurity During Pandemic: Student dropped his classes Spring due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Basic Needs Resources Received: Student was introduced to Basic Needs Resources via BWT referral Summer 2018. Student met with BN Coordinator who completed a Housing Referral with local Youth Coordinated Entry System lead agency, Hathaway-Sycamores Child and Family Services. Student was provided with food voucher cards and CalFresh benefit outreach support at Mt. SAC. Student was connected with EOPS and was accepted to EOPS and received book voucher support and educational counseling support. Student regularly participated in our office pantry and Food Pantry distribution while on campus.

Current Enrollment Status: BN Coordinator reached out to student in Winter 2019 and Spring 2020 but was unable to communicate with student. Student's whereabouts are unknown.

In March 2019, the following was presented to the Board of Trustee as "On the Horizon" for Basic Needs at Mt. SAC

- Basic Needs Coordinator (Full Time) to oversee the broad range of support services for basic needs is expected to be hired in May 2019
- Secure a physical space for a physical food pantry that will be accessible to students throughout the month
- This space will also serve as a hub for other basic needs resources (i.e. CalFresh and Medi-Cal application assistance and referrals for housing, on-campus mental health services, and job training/opportunities)
- Potential partnership with Tzu Chi Foundation to support existing or additional food distribution efforts
- Explore methods to strengthen partnerships with Coordinated Entry Systems to increase pipelines local housing resources





Mt. SAC's Commitment to Basic Needs Has to Led Significant Achievements

Basic Needs Coordinator hired and leads College's basic needs efforts

Established a physical Food Pantry in Bldg. 67A

Progressing to year three of CalFresh Outreach grant (\$65,000 annually)

Launched Campus Peer Navigator Program to support homeless students

Partners with Sodexo to offer drive-thru food pantry during pandemic

Partners with Tzu Chi Foundation, Sowing Seeds for Life, Leah's Pantry

Member of #RealCollege California and survey institution

Basic Needs Committee (advisory committee to Basic Needs Resources)

Foundation's Basic Needs Fund Drive During Pandemic

Since March: \$57,764 raised

- \$27,764 from Mt. SAC Community and Friends
- \$30,000 Gift from Hollywood Foreign Press Association
- Mt. SAC will be announced as grant recipient at

HFPA
PHILANTHROPY

**EMPOWERING THE
NEXT GENERATION**

**ANNUAL GRANTS PRESENTATION
OCTOBER 13, 2020 5PM PT**

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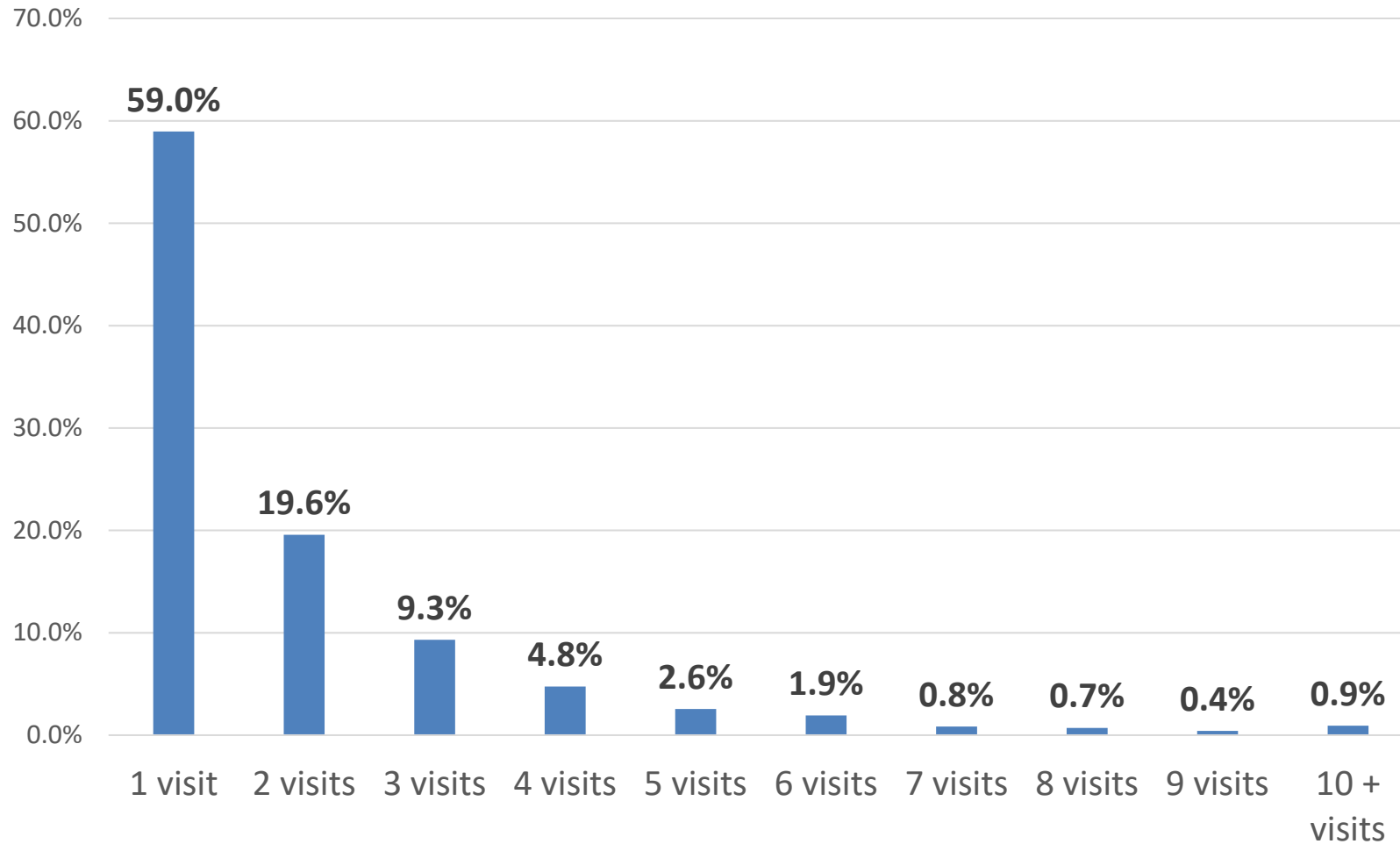
Basic Needs Resources Numbers and Additional Updates

- Mountie Fresh Food Pantry
 - Distribution models:
 - Outdoor Farmer's Market (1x month) – Pre-COVID-19
 - In-Store experience (6x month) – Pre COVID-19
 - Drive-Thru (2x month – COVID-19 response)
 - Bags distributed: 7,834 bags = 195,850 lbs. of food
- CalFresh Outreach
 - 1,200 prescreens for CalFresh benefits (former food stamp program)
 - 97 submitted applications: 36% successfully receiving benefits
- Housing Referrals
 - Campus Peer Navigator refers students to housing resources (highly impacted)
- Ongoing collaboration with Behavior Wellness Team
- Assembled Mountie Fresh Basic Needs Team
 - Two Hourly assistants and student ambassador



Mountie Fresh Food Pantry Pre-Pandemic Data

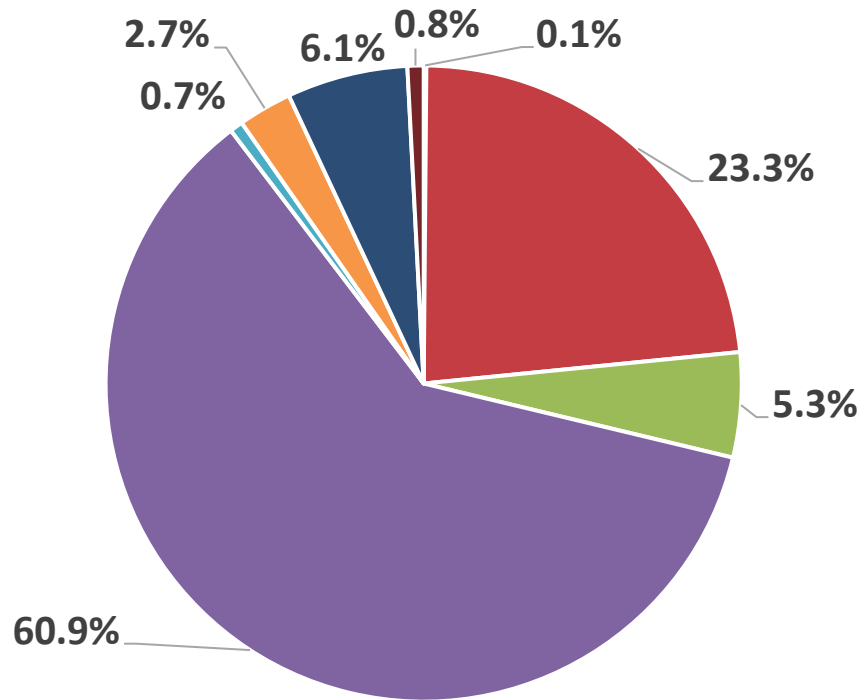
Number of Visits Per Student (Percentage)
Spring 2018 - Spring 2020



Number of Visits	Count of Students
1 visit	2,656
2 visits	882
3 visits	420
4 visits	214
5 visits	115
6 visits	87
7 visits	38
8 visits	32
9 visits	19
10 + visits	42
Total	4,505

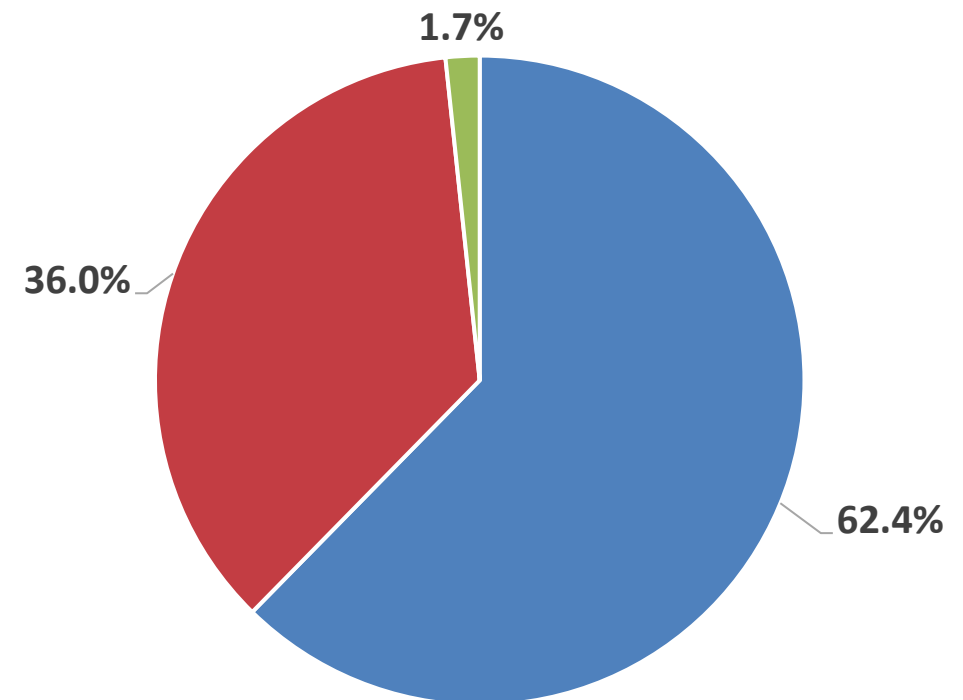
Mountie Fresh Food Pantry Pre-Pandemic Data (4,505 Students)

Ethnicity of Students Served
Spring 2018 - Spring 2020



- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Black or African American
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- White
- Asian
- Latinx
- Two or More Races
- Unknown

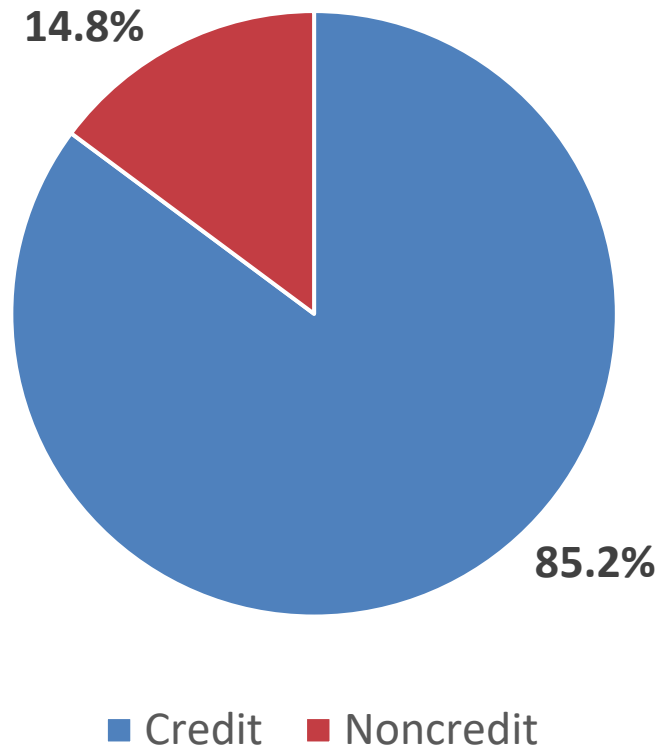
Gender of Students Served
Spring 2018 - Spring 2020



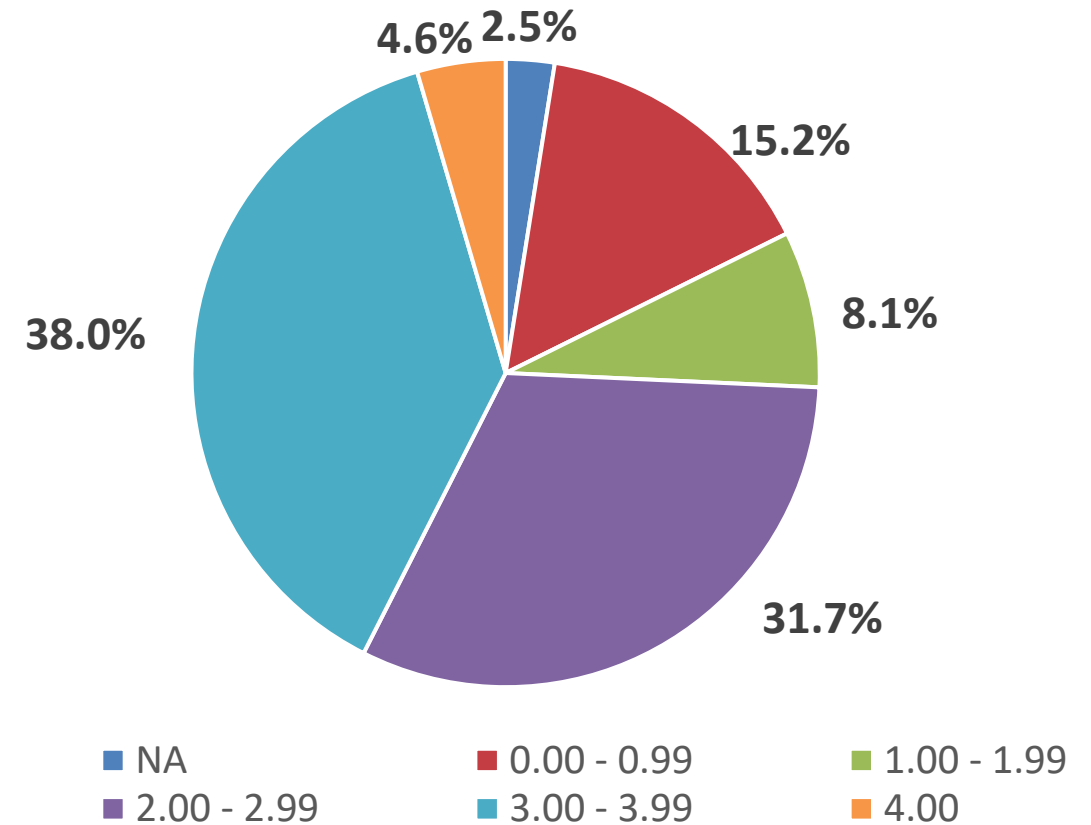
- Female
- Male
- Not Stated

Mountie Fresh Food Pantry Pre-Pandemic Data (4,505 Students)

Noncredit and Credit Students Served
Spring 2018 - Spring 2020



GPA of Students Served
Spring 2018 - Spring 2020



Basic Needs During Pandemic: Mountie Fresh Drive-Thru Food Pantry



Mountie Fresh Drive-Thru Food Pantry



Additional Campus Resources for Students During Pandemic

- CARES Act Emergency Grant
 - Total distribution of \$8,770,900 to 12,874 students
- Laptop Loan Program
 - Collaboration among Student Services, IT, and Library
 - Loaned laptops and/or Wi-Fi to 3,500 students
- Student Equity Food and Gas Cards distributions ongoing
- Foundation's Basic Needs Fundraising Drive
- Student Services Virtual Help Center to assist students during first week of semester
- Mental Health Resources from Student Health Center





Basic Needs Resources Thanks the Board of
Trustees for Your Support!