Millenials Too Lazy To Eat Cereal?
“I want to get a decent job and support my family.”
“I need to finish what I started.”
“This isn’t about me.”
Even 18-year-olds aren’t “kids” anymore.

This is #RealCollege
The New Economics of College

• College prices are higher than ever
• Most family incomes are stagnant
• The safety net is shredded
• Work doesn’t pay
• Many colleges are underfunded
It’s easy to forget Maslow
Food Insecurity
(18-item USDA, last 30 days)

1. I worried whether my food would run out before I got money to buy more.

2. The food that I bought just didn't last and I didn't have money to get more.

3. I couldn't afford to eat balanced meals.

Only if yes to 1, 2, or 3, proceed

4. I cut size of meals or skipped meals

5. Three or more times

6. I ate less than I should.

7. I was hungry but didn’t eat because there wasn’t enough money for food.

8. I lost weight.

Only if yes to 4, 6, or 7 proceed

9. I didn’t eat for a whole day.

10. Three or more times

If the student has a child, scoring differs somewhat
**Housing Insecurity & Homelessness (Last 12 Months)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Housing Insecure</th>
<th>Homelessness</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>←←← (Any Item)</td>
<td>→→→ (Any Item)</td>
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- Rent increase made it difficult or impossible to pay
- Didn’t pay full gas, oil, electric bill
- Moved in with others, financial problems
- Overcrowding
- Left home b/c felt unsafe
- Moved at least 3 times
- Account defaulted/went into collections
- Received summons to housing court

**Have you been homeless?**

**Have you slept in:**
- Temporary residence/couch
- Temporary hotel/motel
- Shelter
- Camper
- Transitional housing
- Group home
- Treatment center
- Indoor location not meant for habitation
- Outdoor location (street, sidewalk, alleyway, bus stop)
Survey Participants

2015
- 10 community colleges

2016
- 70 community colleges

2017
- 31 community colleges
- 35 4-year institutions

2018
- 90 community colleges
- 33 4-year institutions

167,000 students at 269 institutions
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Community Colleges</th>
<th>4-year Colleges and Universities</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food Insecurity</td>
<td>42-56%</td>
<td>36-41%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Housing Insecurity</td>
<td>46-60%</td>
<td>36-48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homelessness</td>
<td>12-18%</td>
<td>9-14%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2018 Data on Food Insecurity

Cumulative Percentage (%)

High: 39%, 44%
Marginal: 14%, 15%
Low: 19%, 18%
Very Low: 28%, 24%

Two-Year
Four-Year

The Hope Center
For College, Community, and Justice
Two-Year

- I worried whether my food would run out before I got money to buy more. 51%
- I couldn't afford to eat balanced meals. 49%
- The food that I bought just did not last and I did not have the money to buy more. 41%
- I cut the size of meals or skipped meals because there was not enough money for food. 40%
- I ate less than I felt I should because there was not enough money for food. 38%
- I was hungry but did not eat because there was not enough money for food. 32%
- I cut the size of meals or skipped meals because there was not enough money for food (3 or more times). 27%
- I lost weight because there was not enough money for food. 19%
- I did not eat for a whole day because there was not enough money for food. 12%
- I did not eat for a whole day because there was not enough money for food (3 or more times). 7%

Four-Year

- I worried whether my food would run out before I got money to buy more. 44%
- I couldn't afford to eat balanced meals. 47%
- The food that I bought just did not last and I did not have the money to buy more. 34%
- I cut the size of meals or skipped meals because there was not enough money for food. 35%
- I ate less than I felt I should because there was not enough money for food. 33%
- I was hungry but did not eat because there was not enough money for food. 28%
- I cut the size of meals or skipped meals because there was not enough money for food (3 or more times). 24%
- I lost weight because there was not enough money for food. 16%
- I did not eat for a whole day because there was not enough money for food. 8%
- I did not eat for a whole day because there was not enough money for food (3 or more times). 5%
2018 Data on Housing Insecurity

- Any item: Two-Year 60, Four-Year 48
- Had a rent or mortgage increase that made it difficult to pay: Two-Year 30, Four-Year 25
- Did not pay full amount of utilities: Two-Year 27, Four-Year 16
- Did not pay full amount of rent or mortgage: Two-Year 28, Four-Year 19
- Moved in with people due to financial problems: Two-Year 23, Four-Year 16
- Lived with others beyond the expected capacity of the housing: Two-Year 19, Four-Year 14
- Had an account default or go into collections: Two-Year 19, Four-Year 11
- Left household because felt unsafe: Two-Year 8, Four-Year 6
- Moved three or more times: Two-Year 4, Four-Year 3
- Received a summons to appear in housing court: Two-Year 3, Four-Year 3
2018 Data on Homelessness

Locations stayed overnight:

- Self-identified homeless
- Temporarily with relative, friend, or couch surfing
- Temporarily at a hotel or motel without a permanent home to return to
- In closed area/space with roof not meant for human habitation
- At outdoor location
- In transitional housing or independent living
- In a camper
- At a treatment center (such as detox, hospital, etc.)
- At a shelter
- At a group home such as halfway house or residential program for mental health or substance abuse

Two-Year

- Any item: 18
- Self-identified homeless: 5
- Temporarily with relative, friend, or couch surfing: 14
- Temporarily at a hotel or motel without a permanent home to return to: 3
- In closed area/space with roof not meant for human habitation: 3
- At outdoor location: 2
- In transitional housing or independent living: 2
- In a camper: 1
- At a treatment center (such as detox, hospital, etc.): 1
- At a shelter: 1
- At a group home such as halfway house or residential program for mental health or substance abuse: 1

Four-Year

- Any item: 14
- Self-identified homeless: 2
- Temporarily with relative, friend, or couch surfing: 10
- Temporarily at a hotel or motel without a permanent home to return to: 2
- In closed area/space with roof not meant for human habitation: 2
- At outdoor location: 2
- In transitional housing or independent living: 1
- In a camper: 1
- At a treatment center (such as detox, hospital, etc.): 1
- At a shelter: 1
- At a group home such as halfway house or residential program for mental health or substance abuse: 0
Basic Needs Intersect

Two-Year

- No needs ("Secure") 30%
- Food Insecure, Housing Insecure or Homeless ("Insecure") 70%
- Food and Housing Insecure 39%
- Housing Insecure and Homeless 16%
- Food Insecure and Homeless 13%

Four-Year

- No needs ("Secure") 39%
- Food Insecure, Housing Insecure or Homeless ("Insecure") 61%
- Food and Housing Insecure 30%
- Housing Insecure and Homeless 11%
- Food Insecure and Homeless 9%

Percentage (%)
Food Insecurity
Last 30 Days

- White males: 35%
- White females: 40%
- African American males: 56%
- African American females: 59%
Food Insecurity
Last 30 Days

- Not Pell or first gen: 36%
- Not Pell but first gen: 46%
- Pell but not first gen: 54%
- Pell and first gen: 54%
Homelessness Last 12 Months

- Male: 19%
- Female: 16%
- Transgender: 33%
- None of the above: 30%
Homelessness
Last 12 Months

- Parent: 16%
- Served in Military: 23%
- Former Foster Youth: 38%
- Returning Citizen: 40%
Students enduring poverty spend as much time on college, but more time working & less time sleeping.
Without their basic needs secured, students feel ashamed, alone, and unable to focus on learning. They often feel hopeless.
We can and must do better.
Step 1: Remember, students are humans first.
Step 2:
Create a planned culture of caring embracing the students we have, not the students we wish we had.
Step 3: Rethink how ROI is calculated.

Ensure that revenue generated via food and housing services does not undermine graduation rates—or heighten risk of student loan default.
Bridge college and community:

- Advance partnerships with food banks, childcare providers, mechanics, housing authorities, faith-based communities, and so on...
- Increase takeup of public benefits
- Expand emergency funds: aim for grants without repayment delivered in 2-3 days
In January the U.S. Government Accountability Office finally acknowledged what students have been saying:

“The substantial federal investment in higher education is at risk if college students drop out because they cannot afford basic necessities like food.”
Students in need are not receiving the necessary government support.

*GAO says 43% of students at risk of food insecurity receive SNAP.*

*We find just 20% of food-insecure students receive SNAP*

*Very few get subsidized housing.*
Step 4: Communicate the care everywhere.

“Any student who faces challenges securing their food or housing and believes this may affect their performance in the course is urged to contact the Dean of Students for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable her to provide any resources that she may possess.”
Step 5: Iterate and evaluate. Focus on what is viable, effective, and sustainable.
Advocate

• For greater access to public benefits for college students
• For expanding the national school lunch program
• For affordable housing and childcare
• For work that pays
• For a financing model for public higher education that is *inclusive and effective*
Join the #RealCollege movement

Conference
Sept 28-29
Houston

RealCollege.org
Stay in touch

THE hope CENTER
FOR COLLEGE, COMMUNITY, AND JUSTICE

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