

Postsecondary Housing Insecurity and Homelessness: Research, Advocacy and Strategies

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Pave The Way Conference



Panel Presenters



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What do we know about housing insecurity in postsecondary student populations?



National Data

- **One fifth of students who are claimed as dependents and 42% of independent students are in poverty.** (*Pew Research Center, 2019*)
- **6 in 10 Bachelor's degree students reported experiencing food insecurity, housing insecurity or homelessness in the past year. 7 in 10 community college students.** (*National #Realcollege Survey Report, 2019*):
 - **Low-income, first-generation and marginalized** student populations impacted at significantly higher levels
 - **Students aged 26-30 more commonly have basic needs insecurity:** 74% experienced housing insecurity
 - **Students with children** experience higher rates of food insecurity (53%) and housing insecurity (66%)
 - **The majority of those experiencing basic needs insecurity are employed** (and working more hours than other students).

What do we know about food and housing insecurity in postsecondary student populations?



In Washington

- **67% of responding students in Community Colleges in the Seattle area reported experiencing food insecurity, housing insecurity or homelessness in the past year.** (*#RealCollege Survey, 2019*)
- **University of Washington research**
- **2020 and 2021 research efforts across the state**



Supporting Postsecondary Students' Basic Needs

- *2SSB 5800 and 2SHB 1893*
- Dr. Erin Frasier, Policy Associate, SBCTC
- Ami Magisos, Assistant Director, WSAC





Homeless College Students – Pilot Program (ESSB 5800)



Program Overview

- Two Universities and Four Community or Technical Colleges
- Provide accommodations to students experiencing homelessness, housing security or who were in the foster care system at the time of high school completion
 - Access to laundry facilities
 - Access to storage
 - Access to locker rooms or shower facilities
 - Reduced-price meals or meal plans
 - Access to food banks
 - Access to technology
 - Access to short-term housing or housing assistance
- Provide students with community resource information

Pilot Evaluation

- Minimum reporting requirements
 - Program-eligible students attending during pilot program
 - Program-eligible students assisted by the pilot program
 - Accommodation strategies
 - Legislative recommendations to better serve students
- Formative & Summative Evaluation
 - Additional metrics based on accommodation type
- Learning Community

Pilot Colleges

- Eastern Washington University
- Western Washington University
- Edmonds Community College
- South Puget Sound Community College
- Yakima Valley College
- Walla Walla Community College

- **Colleges not selected are asked to participate:**
 - Learning Community
 - Data Collection
 - Providing accommodations



Pilot – Eastern Washington University

- **Dedicated case management** by trained EWU graduate student will join the existing Student Care Team.
- **Increased coordination and new partnerships** with area public benefits providers and community-based organizations.
- **Short-term housing assistance** on campus for seasonal breaks and summer.
- **Food card expansion** by 50% each year.



Pilot – Western Washington University

- **Study and Strategic planning**
- **Marketing strategy** and on-campus media campaign
- **Student outreach and campus awareness** in partnership with Office of Off Campus Living and faculty: Events, Landlords Work Group, faculty training
- **Accommodations:** Dedicated case management, Homestays program for breaks, laundry supports, emergency/transitional housing accommodations, SNAP support and EBT retailer application
- **University work group and dedicated staff** to coordinate and expand services on- and off-campus



Pilot – Edmonds Community College

- **Case Management:** Housing Support Navigator from the JK Foundation
- **Short-term/Long-term housing:** rental assistance students at risk of homelessness; rapid re-housing through community partners, and hotel vouchers for temporary shelter until additional resources can be identified.
- **Food:** Campus and community food pantries partnering to provide food, hygiene products and \$25 grocery store cards.
- **Transportation:** bus and gas cards.
- **Laundry:** vouchers to use at Laundry Mat across the street from campus.
- **Shower and Locker Facilities:** accessible at EdCC's Seaview Gym with extended hours and be made available through college breaks.
- **Technology:** loaner lap-tops and 24 hour Wi-Fi access on campus.
- **Mailstops:** student mail stop provided for students without permanent address.



Pilot – South Puget Sound Community College

- **Case Management:** Student Housing Staff will connect students with housing resources.
- **Short-term/Long-term Housing:** SPSCC will lease units in apartment buildings near campus to provide immediate housing to students.
- **Food:** reduced-price meal plans through on-campus culinary program.
- **Laundry, Showers and Lockers:** SPCC will supply laundry soap, locks and personal hygiene products in addition to access to shower/locker facilities.
- **Technology:** Student Housing Staff member will connect student with loaner laptop options on campus.
- **Mailstops:** Student Life and Mail Services will create secure space to receive mail.



Pilot – Walla Walla Community College

- **Awareness Campaign:** reducing stigma and increasing awareness of community resources and services to support students experiencing housing and food insecurity
- **Short-term/Long-term Housing:** expanded partnerships with community housing resources
- **Food:** improved access to campus food pantry and reduced cost meal programs
- **Laundry, Showers and Lockers:** towels and hygiene kits provided through the food pantry and other convenient locations near campus shower facilities, secure storage and onsite laundry
- **Technology:** loaner laptops will be reserved and made available
- **Mailstops:** secure location will be provide for students to receive mail on campus

Pilot – Yakima Valley College

- **Case Management:** dedicated staff member to refer students to community resources and expanded campus support services
- **Short-term/Long-term Housing:** coordination with community housing agencies and YVC dorm
- **Food:** referral to community resources and implementation of YVC food pantry
- **Laundry, Showers and Lockers:** hygiene kits, dedicated storage and access to laundromat across from campus
- **Technology:** loaner laptops reserved for SSEH students
- **Mailstops:** secure a location where students can receive mail
- **Academic Support:** faculty to help identify appropriate academic accommodations



Postsecondary Student Assistance (2SHB 1893)

Program Overview

- Allows Washington Community and Technical Colleges (CTCs) to provide monetary assistance to students experiencing unforeseen emergencies or situations that affect the student's ability to attend classes.
- Programs must ensure
 - Low-barrier access
 - ALL students are eligible, not just those defined as “needy”
 - Funds are for monetary aid to students
 - FAFSA application is not required
 - Students must submit requests in writing



Student Emergency Assistance Grant (SEAG) Program

Program Principles

- Trust Students
- Be Timely
- Create a Network of Support
- Be Free of Bias/
Discrimination
- Track Outcomes/ Provide
Follow-up
- Leverage Available Resources

Delivery Model

- Student Outreach
- Request Process
- Review & Decision Process
- Notification Process
- Disbursement Process
- Follow-up Process

SEAG Program Colleges

- Centralia College
- Walla Walla Community College
- Skagit Valley College
- Lake Washington Institute of Technology
- Lower Columbia College
- Shoreline Community College
- Clark College
- Tacoma Community College
- Peninsula College
- Seattle Central College
- Edmonds Community College
- Green River College
- Whatcom Community College
- Grays Harbor College
- Pierce College District
- North Seattle College

Feedback & Engagement

- Questions
- Collaborate in Learning Communities
- Contact Us:

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Understanding Housing and Food Insecurity among University of Washington Students

Pave the Way Conference
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Lynne Manzo, Professor, College of Built Environments, UW-Seattle

Research assistants:

Matt Fowle, Kels Phelps



Key take-aways

- Many students across all three campuses – undergraduate and graduate students – are struggling with basic needs
- Next steps of research will offer greater insight into which students are most vulnerable and how these challenges intersect with one another



Photo: Jennie Cecil Moore, Marketplace

Research question and motivation

How prevalent is housing and food insecurity among UW students across all campuses – Seattle, Tacoma, and Bothell?

- Our region is increasingly expensive
- National research indicates high rates of housing and food insecurity among college students
- Urban@UW discussions
- Prior research by C. Stevens at UW-Tacoma



Methodology

- Online confidential survey
 - Conducted February and March 2018
- Survey responses matched with UW administrative records
- Intentional sampling and recruitment strategies
 - Census and random sampling (varied by campus)
 - Lottery incentives



Data

Survey Questions

- Housing and food experiences and vulnerabilities
 - Did not say “homeless”
 - USDA food security module
 - Specific to university setting
- Social service use, financial resources, foster care experience, self-reported identity
- Open-ended responses

Administrative Records

- Enrollment details
 - E.g., course of study
- Demographics
- Academic information



Survey respondents

Age 18+; Enrolled, matriculated Winter Quarter 2018

	# of Responses	Response rate
Total from sample	5,440	20.0%
By campus		
Bothell	560	19.4%
Tacoma	1,161	23.0%
Seattle grad/prof	1,602	19.8%
Seattle undergrads	2,117	19.0%



Population-level estimates, Housing Insecurity

Please describe where you live currently.

	% of population	Population estimate range	
		Lower	Upper
In a vehicle, shelter, outdoors, or other area not intended for habitation	0.30%	87	235
Couch surf, RV, or double up	0.05%	5	58

In the last 12 months, have you used any of the following strategies because you lacked a stable and adequate nighttime residence?

	% of population	Population estimate range	
		Lower	Upper
In a vehicle, shelter, outdoors, or other area not intended for habitation	3.3%	1,527	2,046
Couch surf, RV, or double up	8.8%	4,361	5,204
Selected both of the above responses	2.5%	1,129	1,585

n=5,440; N=54,532



Population-level estimates, Food Insecurity

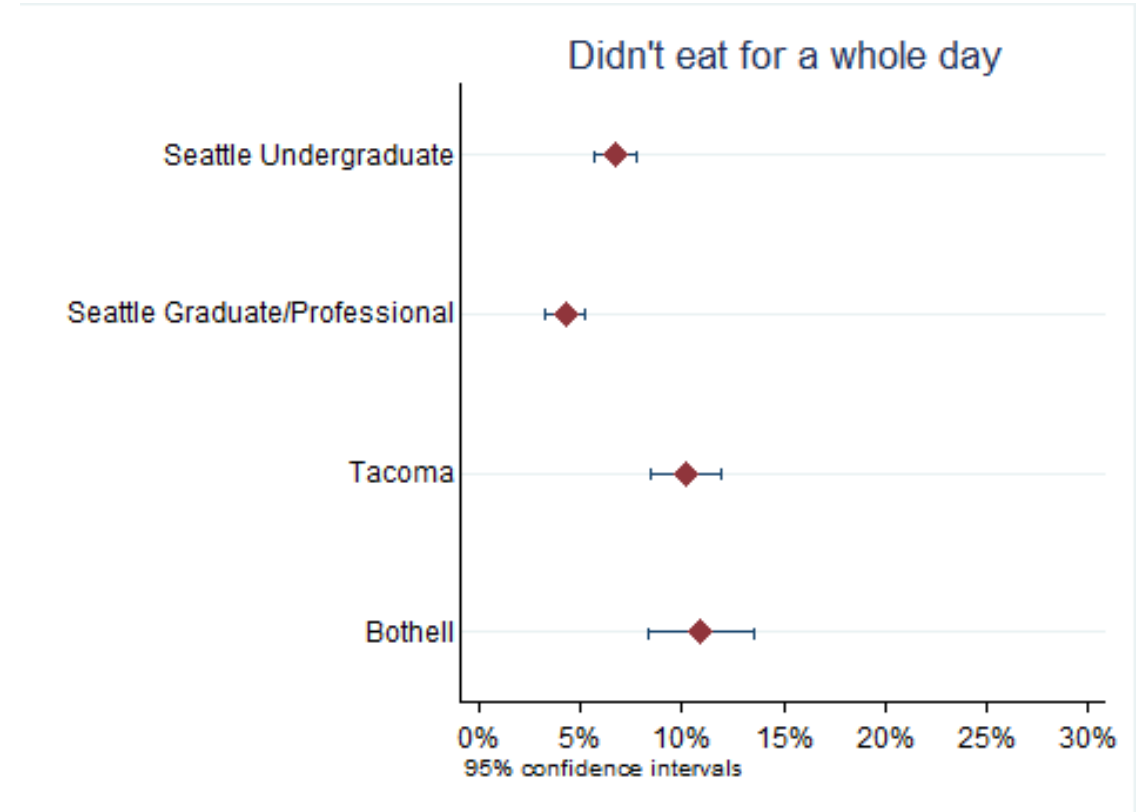
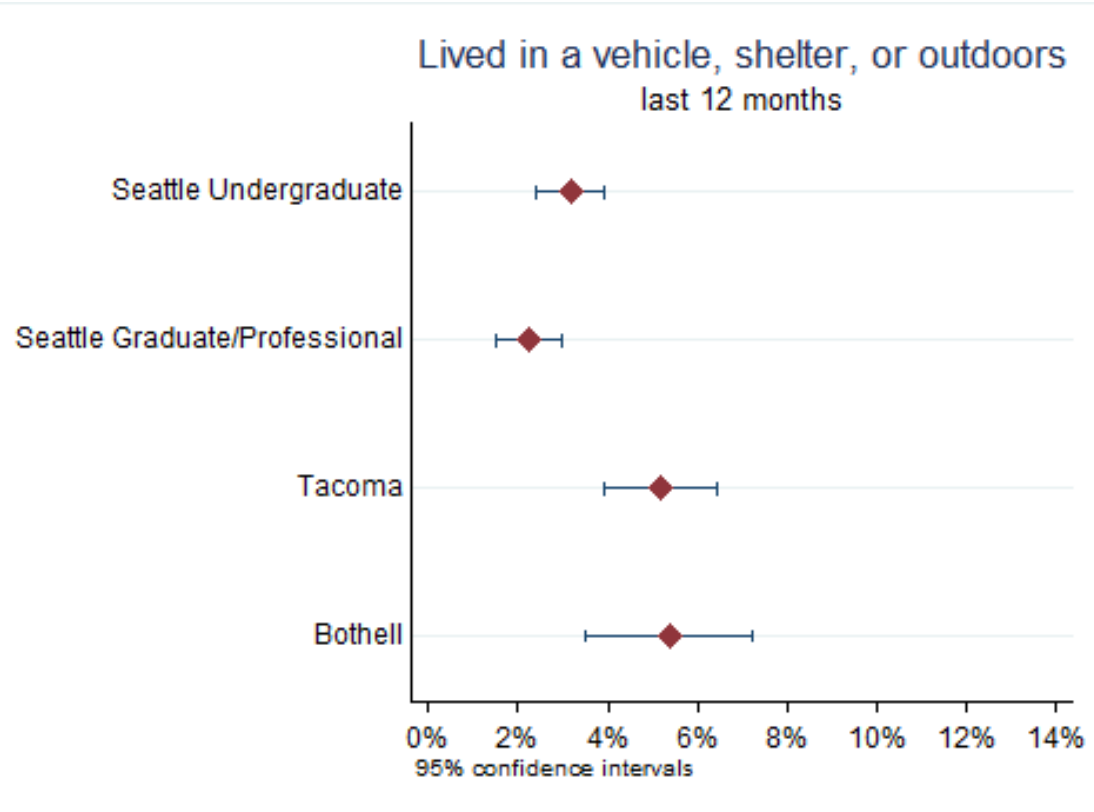
In the <u>last 30 days</u> , [...] because there wasn't enough money for food?			
	% of population	Population estimate range	
		Lower	Upper
did you ever cut the size of your meals or skip meals	18.3%	9,402	10,549
did you ever eat less than you felt you should	18.6%	9,540	10,691
did you lose weight	8.7%	4,341	5,182

In the <u>last 12 months</u> , did you ever not eat for whole day because there was not enough money for food?			
	% of population	Population estimate range	
		Lower	Upper
	6.9%	3,363	4,112

n=5,440; N=54,532



Variation across student bodies



n=5,440; N=54,532



Effects of school breaks

In the <u>last 12 months</u> , have you lacked [...] because of school breaks (including summer)?			
	% of population	Population estimate range	
		Lower	Upper
a stable and adequate nighttime residence	4.6%	2,177	2,805
adequate or affordable food	5.8%	2,833	3,522

n=5,440; N=54,532



Strategies employed when experiencing housing challenges

In the last 12 months, have you used any of the following strategies because you lacked a stable and adequate nighttime residence?

	% of population	Population estimate range	
		Lower	Upper
Added people to your housing without telling the landlord	4.5%	2,132	2,738
Joined someone else's housing without telling the landlord	2.9%	1,312	1,799
Lived in a motel/hotel	1.2%	487	782
Traded work for a place to sleep	0.6%	197	418
Traded sex for a place to sleep	0.5%	143	349

n=5,440; N=54,532



Strategies employed when experiencing food challenges

In the last 12 months, have you used any of the following strategies because you lacked adequate or affordable food?

	% of population	Population estimate range	
		Lower	Upper
Skipped a meal because on-campus food was too expensive	38.5%	20,254	21,707
Skipped a meal because on-campus food vendors were closed	23.5%	12,180	13,465
Accessed an on-campus food pantry or food bank	3.9%	1,840	2,370
Accessed an off-campus food pantry or food bank	3.1%	1,442	1,944
Accessed an off-campus free meal site or program (e.g., soup kitchen or church meal service)	1.5%	636	988
Accessed any food support (campus pantry OR off-campus pantry OR off-campus free meal site)	6.6%	3,237	3,934

n=5,440; N=54,532



Use of and application for housing-related resources

	Do you currently use any of the following housing-related resources?			Since you have been attending the university, have you applied but not received any of the following housing-related resources?		
	% of population	Population estimate range		% of population	Population estimate range	
		Lower	Upper		Lower	Upper
Section 8/housing voucher	0.85%	331	601	1.03%	409	709
Temporary rental assistance	0.64%	234	467	0.88%	341	621
Nonprofit-owned housing	0.78%	289	567	0.84%	318	597
Public housing	1.71%	742	1121	0.99%	390	694
Income-based housing or rent ¹	3.84%	1,817	2,372	2.31%	1,047	1,472
Homeowner assistance ²	1.59%	685	1,053	0.76%	282	543
Utility assistance	3.21%	1,487	2,011	1.62%	703	1,064

1. Prompt included explanation: "i.e., your income makes you eligible for access to your housing or a reduced rental



Social safety net use

Do you use any of the following resources?			
	% of population	Population estimate range	
		Lower	Upper
TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families)	0.27%	71	220
WIC (Supplemental nutrition program for Women, Infants, and Children)	1.05%	436	704
SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, a.k.a. food stamps)	2.59%	1,185	1,637
SSI (Supplemental Security Income)	0.48%	159	365
SSDI (Supplemental Security Disability Insurance)	0.37%	115	293
Medicaid or Public health insurance (e.g., Apple Health)	13.70%	6,973	7,973
Veteran's benefits	3.19%	1,498	1,979
Unemployment assistance	0.33%	97	267
Child care assistance	1.11%	466	745
Transportation assistance	2.26%	1,016	1,453
Other social service (e.g., soup kitchens, free clinics)	1.23%	510	827

n=5,440; N=54,532



Ongoing analyses and next steps

- Translate items into USDA food insecurity categories
- Subgroup analyses by demographics and background characteristics
 - E.g., race/ethnicity, first generation college student status, parental status, students identifying as non-binary and/or LGBTQ, former foster youth, veterans, disability status
- Analysis of additional survey items
 - Distance from campus, details about housing costs
- Qualitative analysis of open-ended questions





Upcoming Opportunities

- **Learning Community on Postsecondary Housing Insecurity**
 - January date TBD
- **WSAC Advisory Group on Non-Academic Student Supports:**
 - March date TBD
- **Hope Center for College, Community and Justice:**
 - July 2020: #RealCollege Survey: College participation sign up for FY21
 - Oct 2020: #RealCollege Conference on Postsecondary Students' Basic Needs

Continue the Conversation



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