

Basic Needs Security Among Washington College Students

Washington Student Experience Survey: Executive Summary

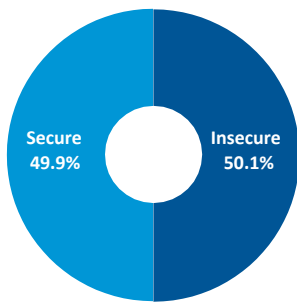
In Fall 2022, students at **39 colleges and universities** across Washington State participated in a survey administered by Western Washington University in partnership with the Washington Student Achievement Council.

Over **9,700 students** responded to the survey, with broad representation: **45.3% students of color**, **39.5% low-income students**, and **51.8% first-generation students**. Responding students shared their experience.

Nearly half of students (49.4%) experienced basic needs insecurity

Students at two-year and four-year colleges had **similar insecurity rates**, with 1 in 2 experiencing food and/or housing insecurity.

2-year colleges



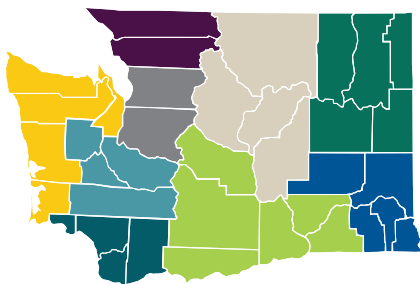
4-year colleges



Washington students struggled with **food and housing insecurity** at high rates:

- **4 out of 10** students (38.3%) experienced food insecurity in the last month
- **3 out of 10** students (34.2%) experienced housing insecurity in the last 12 months
- **1 out of 10** students (11.3%) experienced homelessness the last 12 months

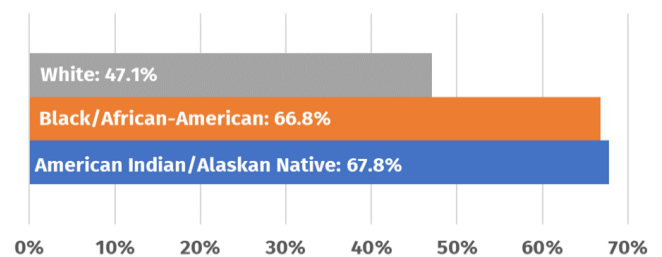
Students experienced high rates of basic needs insecurity **in all regions** of the state.



South Central	57.9%	Southeast	48.8%
South Puget Sound	54.1%	Southwest	48.0%
Northeast	53.8%	North Central	47.9%
Northwest	50.1%	North Puget Sound	45.0%
Peninsula	48.8%		

Some students experienced basic needs insecurity at higher rates than their peers:

- **American Indian/Alaska Native and Black/African American students** experienced significantly higher rates of insecurity than White students.



Less than half of students experiencing insecurity accessed basic needs support resources in the last 6 months:

- 48.9% accessed public resources
- 33.77% accessed campus resources

- **Former foster youth** had the highest rates of basic needs insecurity among all subpopulations:
 - 67.5% experienced food insecurity
 - 58.9% experienced housing insecurity
 - 23.7% experienced homelessness

For more details see the [Washington postsecondary basic needs survey report](#).