



Housing Inequities

*The case for housing security
programs as a pathway to equity in
higher education*

A stylized sunburst graphic composed of numerous light blue rays radiating from a central dark blue circle, set against a solid blue background.

Homelessness and Housing Insecurity



HOMELESS DEFINITION

- Lacking shelter: living in public spaces, abandoned buildings
- Imminent risk of losing housing: doubling up, couch surfing
- Unaccompanied homeless youth and families: unstably housed, imminent risk of eviction
- Individuals and families: fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence

Source: Department of Housing and Urban Development



HOUSING INSECURITY DEFINITION

Inability or risk of not being able to pay

- Rent
- Utilities
- Moving frequent

Source: Wisconsin Hope Lab



Prevalence



DATA POINTS

- Point in Time Count (2017): **553,742** individuals
- FAFSA Filings (2013): **58,000** students filed as homeless

Sources: Department of Housing and Urban Development,

U.S. Department of Education

CHAPIN HALL, UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

Missed Opportunities: Youth Homelessness in America

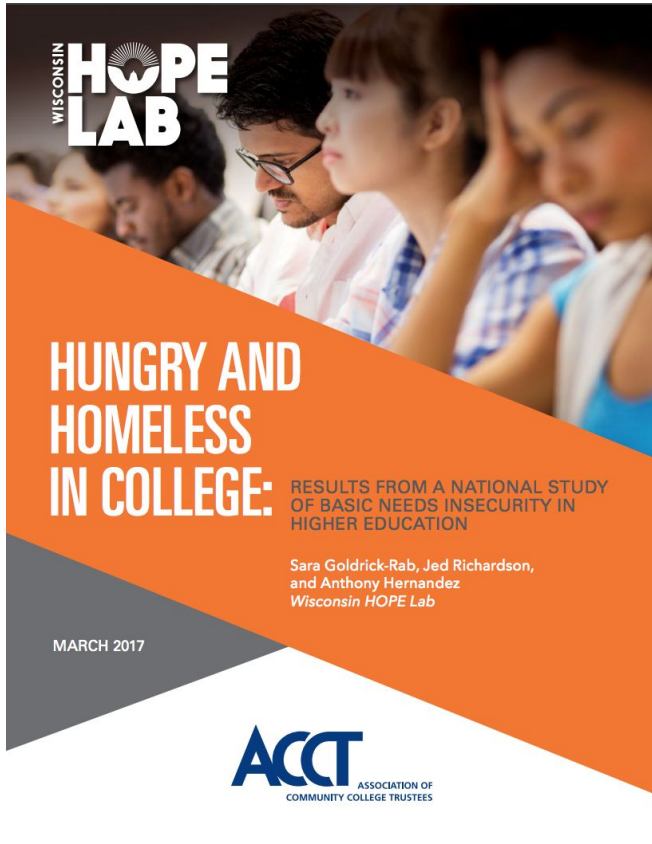
National Estimates

The first in a series of Research-to-Impact briefs by Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago on understanding and addressing youth homelessness.


Missed Opportunities: National Estimates highlights results from a national survey on unaccompanied youth homelessness in America. The study captures youth homelessness broadly, including sleeping on the streets, in shelters, running away, being kicked out, and couch surfing. Overall, findings show one in 10 young adults ages 18-25, and at least one in 30 adolescents ages 13-17, experience some form of homelessness unaccompanied by a parent or guardian over the course of a year. As a nation, we are missing opportunities to ensure that all young people can reach their full potential and contribute to stronger communities and economies across the country.

1 in 10 adults ages 18-25 experience homelessness in the course of a year

WISCONSIN HOPE LAB



- **33,000** community college students
- **70** community college campus
- Over **50%** experienced housing insecurity
- **13-14%** experienced homelessness



Vulnerable Student Populations



VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

- First generation
- Veterans
- Former foster care
- Unaccompanied homeless youth
- DACA or undocumented
- Families and single parents
- Survivors of sexual and domestic violence
- LGBTQI+

Source: Sackett, C., Goldrick-Rab, S., & Broton, K. (2016, September). Addressing Housing Insecurity and Living Costs in Higher Education. U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.



Student Behaviors



IN THE CLASSROOM

- Falling asleep
- Consistently late to class
- Hygiene problems
- Struggling to connect ideas from one class session to the next
- Difficulty meeting task requirements (e.g. online submission, printing)



Campus Compact Student Housing Insecurity Mapping Tool

Student Housing Insecurity Mapping Tool



MAPPING TOOL SECTION

H. EMERGENCY FUND

Does your campus have an emergency fund for students? Y / N

If yes, is it limited to one-time use only per student? Y / N

If yes, can funds be used toward housing expenses? Y / N

If yes, is there a limit on the amount of money offered? Y / N

A large, stylized sunburst graphic in shades of blue, centered on the left side of the slide. The sunburst consists of a central circle with numerous rays extending outwards, creating a fan-like shape. The rays are of varying lengths and are arranged in a circular pattern.

Student Housing Insecurity Mapping Tool Findings



FINDINGS

- Lack of public information
- Staff and administrative personnel unfamiliar with resources
- Campus representatives are hesitant to participate in study



Faculty Interventions



SYLLABUS STATEMENT

Example 1: “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 resources that she may possess.”

Professor Sara Goldrick-Rab, Temple University

<https://medium.com/@saragoldrickrab/basic-needs-security-and-the-syllabus-d24cc7afe8c9>



SYLLABUS STATEMENT

Example 2: “If you are experiencing problems with your housing, it may impact your ability to meet the expectations of this course. Please reach out to me and let me know what challenges you are facing so that we can discuss accommodations that can be made to ensure you are successful in this course. My goal is to make this course accessible for all students - no matter what their circumstances.”

Professor Danielle Leek, Bunker Hill Community College



DURING/POST CLASS

- Make assignments/assessments accessible. This means offering flexible options for submission (does the assignment really *have* to be submitted online?)
- Let students be your guide. Provide a 1-2 post class survey to ask: “What elements of the course expectations were difficult for you to meet?” and/or “How can I make this class more accessible?”



Staff Interventions

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

F. EMERGENCY HOUSING PARTNERSHIPS

Does your campus have partnerships with organizations that provide emergency housing? Y / N

If yes, list the organizations: Emergency Shelter?

Long-term transitional housing?

Flexible hours/policies for students?

_____ Y / N

Y / N

Y / N

_____ Y / N

Y / N

Y / N

_____ Y / N

Y / N

Y / N

_____ Y / N

Y / N

Y / N

SINGLE POINT OF CONTACT (SPOC)

- Supporting Unaccompanied Homeless Youth
- Designating Single Point of Contact

G. SINGLE POINT OF CONTACT (SPOC)

Does your campus have a SPOC?

Y / N

If yes, list the department where the SPOC is located:

Source: Dukes, C., Lee, C., & Bowman, D. (2013, June). College Access and Success for Students Experiencing Homelessness: Toolkit for Educators and Service Providers. National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth.



Student Housing Insecurity Initiative Page

Student Housing Insecurity

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Ca Campus Programs

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Are you interested in developing more programs and resources for students struggling with housing insecurity and homelessness? Get inspired by examples from member institutions throughout the country.

Aft 13 Student Housing Insecurity Annotated Bibliography

coi be ha: The bibliography below includes sources for faculty, staff, and students that are interested in addressing and learning more about student housing insecurity. The three subsections of the bibliography are:

Ca I. Literature on students experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity

II. Research discussing the prevalence of housing insecurity on campuses

III. Resources for program development and assessment of resources

Three key resources for each of these subsections are provided below.

[Student Housing Insecurity Annotated Bibliography](#)



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