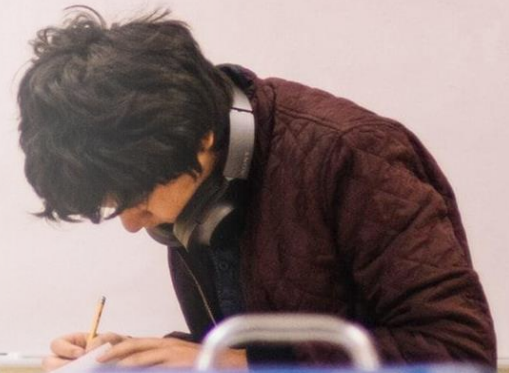


Equity Gaps and Student Basic Needs: Food/Housing Insecurity, Homelessness, & Student Debt at University of Alaska Anchorage

University of Alaska Anchorage
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Travis Hedwig, PhD, Assistant Dean, Division of Population Health Sciences
Rei Shimizu, PhD, LMSW, Assistant Professor, Social Work



College Student Basic Needs

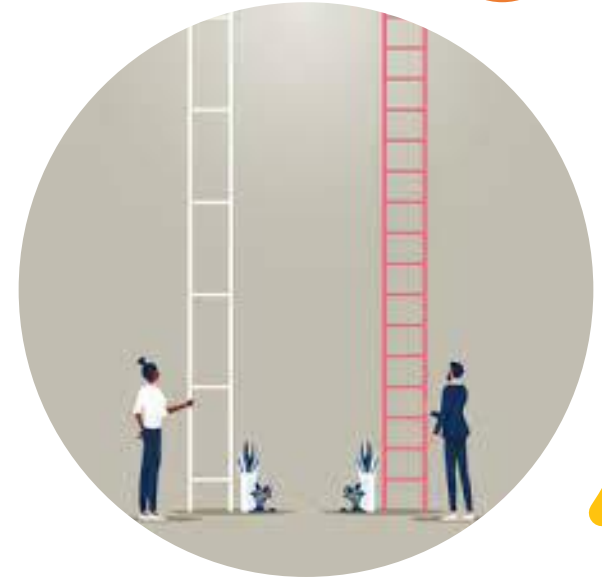
- Student need includes food, housing, health care, financial aid, child-care, technology and internet, course materials, safety, mental health, and transportation.
- A fall 2020 survey found an estimated **58% of U.S. college students experienced basic needs insecurity**¹
 - Rates increase to 61% at 2-year colleges



¹Hope Center for College, Community, & Justice, 2021 <https://hope.temple.edu/sites/hope/files/media/document/HopeNationalReport2021-22-compressed-compressed.pdf>

Impact of Basic Needs Insecurity on Student Success

- Broad impacts on performance and health
 - Lower GPA¹
 - Lower attendance and completion rates²
 - Increased rates of stress, anxiety, and depression³⁻⁴
 - Increased risk of health disparities and development of poor health⁴
- Across basic needs insecurities, the prevalence and impacts are significantly higher among marginalized and underrepresented populations (e.g., community college students, part-time students, LGBTQAI+, females, students of color, first generation, foster youth, disabilities, justice involved, parents, Pell grant recipients),⁵ creating and reinforcing continued inequities in education.



Defining Basic Needs: Food Insecurity

(USDA ERS, 2015)

High food security

No reported indications of food access problems or limitations

Marginal food security

One or two reported indications—typically of anxiety over food sufficiency or shortage of food in the house. Little or no indication of changes in diets or food intake

Low food security

Reports of reduced quality, variety, or desirability of diet. Little or no indication of reduced food intake

Very low food security

Reports of multiple indications of disrupted eating patterns and reduced food intake



Food Insecurity: U.S. & Among College Students

- In 2021, 10.2% of U.S. households were food insecure at least some time during prior year; of those, 3.8% had very low food security.¹
- In 2021, 44% students attending 2-year schools and 32% at 4-year schools experienced food insecurity sometime during college.²

¹ USDA, 2022 <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/ag-and-food-statistics-charting-the-essentials/food-security-and-nutrition-assistance/>

² The Hope Center: <https://hope.temple.edu/sites/hope/files/media/document/HopeNationalReport2021-22-compressed-compressed.pdf>

Housing Insecurity & College Students

- *Difficulty paying rent, mortgage or utility bills, moving frequently, lack of housing stability, affordability, safety, and quality*
- In 2021, 14.4% of U.S. households experienced food insecurity compared to
- 52% of students at 2-year colleges;
- 43% of students at 4-year institutions¹

¹The Hope Center (2022): <https://hope.temple.edu/sites/hope/files/media/document/HopeNationsReport2021-22-compressed-compressed.pdf>

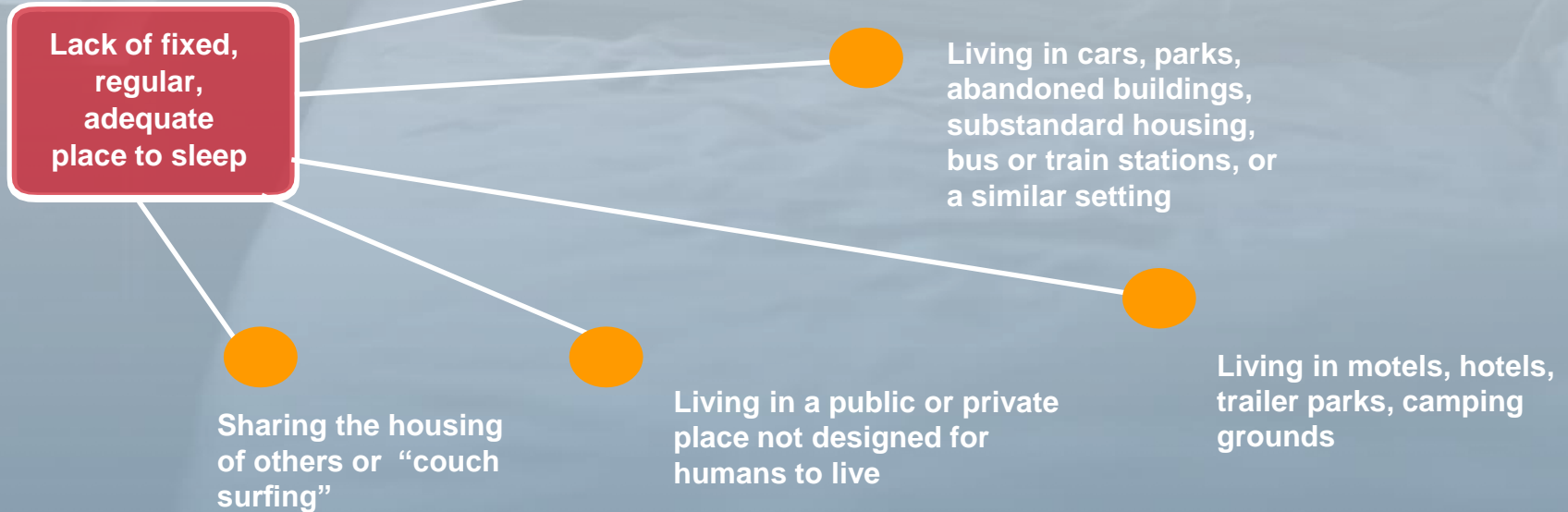
²US Census Bureau (2022) American Housing Survey: <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/ahs.html>



Defining Basic Needs

Homelessness

(The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, Subtitle B of Title VII)



Homelessness: U.S. & Among College Students



- In 2022, approximately 0.2% of Americans experienced homelessness¹
- Approximately 14% percent of college students experience homelessness
 - Rates were similar across 2-year and 4-year institutions²

¹ Policy Advice: <https://policyadvice.net/insurance/insights/homelessness-statistics/>

² The Hope Center: <https://hope.temple.edu/sites/hope/files/media/document/HopeNationalReport2021-22-compressed-compressed.pdf>

UAA Student Surveys: Food Insecurity, Housing Insecurity, & Homelessness

	Survey 1 - 2017 E-Survey N=193 RS=3,000 Spring Semester ¹	Survey 2 - 2019/2020 In Class N=451 Fall-Spring Semester ³	Strongest Predictors of Experiencing Insecurity (Regression)	+ Post COVID National 4-year College Student Estimates ²	
				2-Yr Schools	4-Yr Schools
Food Insecurity	44%	36%	1 st gen and housing insecure	44%	32%
Housing Insecurity	30%	37%	Vets, younger, lower incomes, food insecure, paying out-of-state tuition	52%	43%
Homeless	8.3%	10.4%	Experiences a disability, 1 st gen, student of color, housing insecure	14%	14%

¹Trawver & Hedwig, 2020 <https://doi.org/10.1080/10530789.2020.1676987>

²The Hope Center, 2022: <https://hope.temple.edu/sites/hope/files/media/document/HopeNationalReport2021-22-compressed-compressed.pdf>

³Trawver & Hedwig, 2019-2020 – Unpublished Study

UAA Student Survey 19/20: Financial Aid³

- 79% of students received some form of financial aid....but of those:
 - 65% reported that it DID NOT cover educational expenses
 - 79% reported that it DID NOT cover living expenses
- 27% of all participating students reported that they have incurred credit debt to pay for education and/or living expenses



UAA Basic Needs Initiatives: Organic, Grassroots, and Bottom-Up



Coming together: HHSN

- 2018 Food Insecurity Working Group
- 2018 Homeless Student Solutions Coalition
- 2019 these groups combined to form the UAA Hunger & Homelessness Support Network (HHSN)

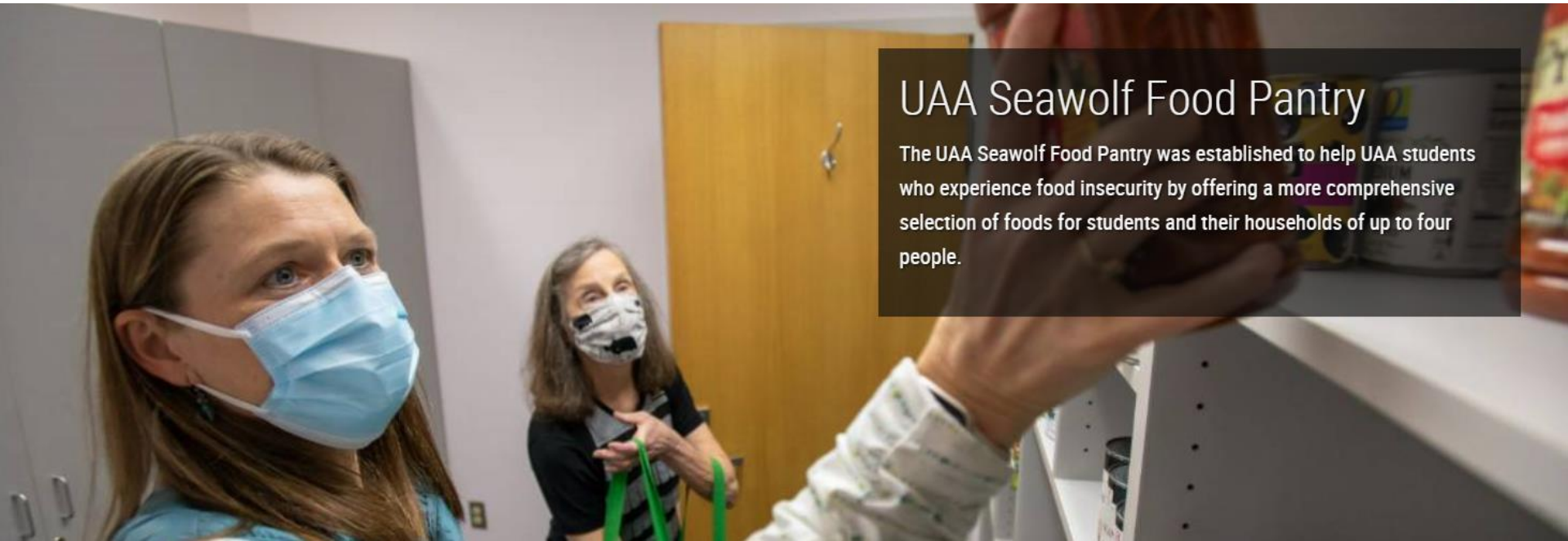
The **UAA Hunger & Homelessness Support Network** develops solutions to meet basic needs for UAA students

- Outreach and Awareness
- Research and Policy
- Food pantry
- Emergency/housing



Seawolf Food Pantry - Who is using our pantry?

Food Pantry Utilization Data



UAA Seawolf Food Pantry

The UAA Seawolf Food Pantry was established to help UAA students who experience food insecurity by offering a more comprehensive selection of foods for students and their households of up to four people.

Food Pantry Users

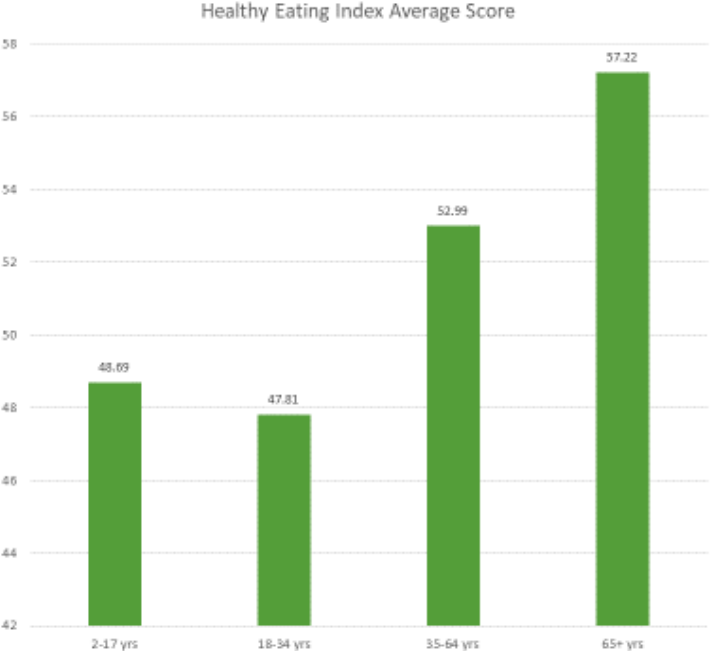
- About 52% of users are freshman (26%) and sophomores (26%).
- 77% of users are full-time students.
- 77% also live off campus
- The average size of household is 2.37.
- Most of our students hear about the pantry via flyers and the school newsletter and then word of mouth (from a friend).

We have 82 unique users and 239 reported uses (does not include those who did not check-in or did not want to.)

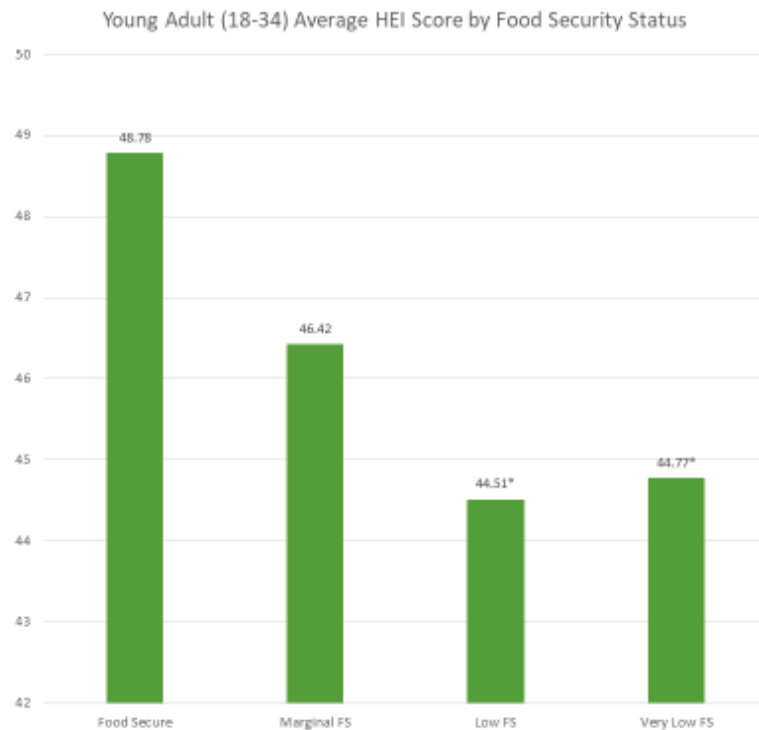


The Intersectionality of Basic Needs

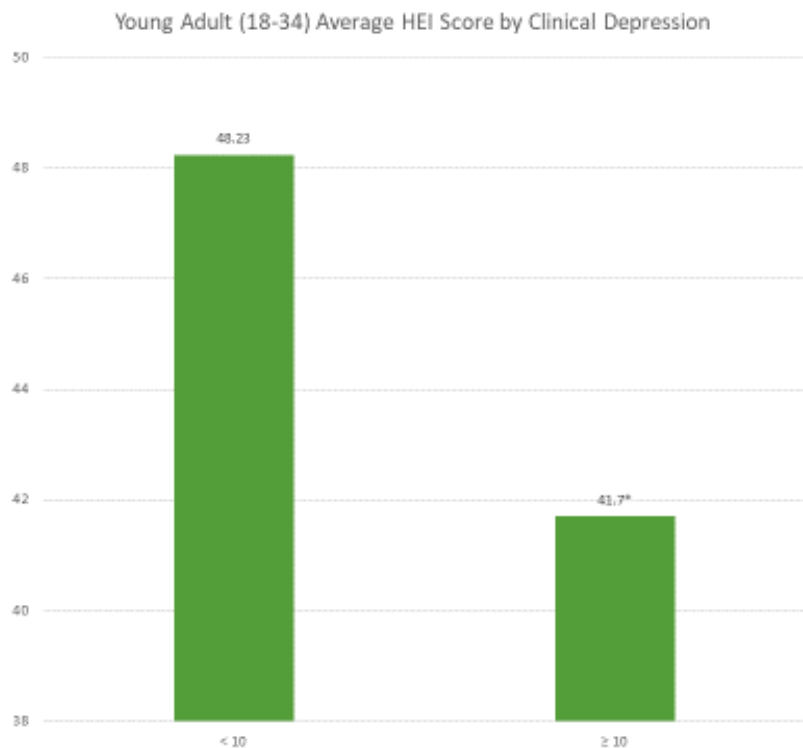
Dietary Quality by Age



Variations in DQ by Food Security Status

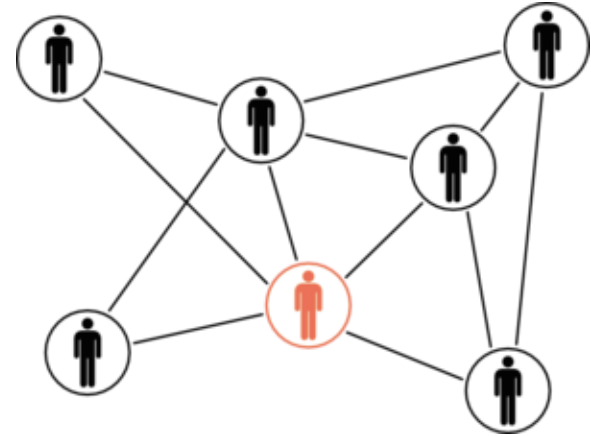


Variations in DQ by Clinical Depression



Localizing: Emerging and Strengthening Partnerships

- Hunger & Homelessness Support Network (HHSN)
- Seawolf Food Pantry
- CARE Team
- Student Health and Counseling Center (SHCC)
- Parking Services (PB&J drive, donation of funds to pantry)
- Student Food Services/culinary arts
- Multicultural Student Services (MSS)
- UAA Health Promotion Team
- Housing & Residential Life
- Administrative support (Offices of Students Success, Financial Aid)
- USUAA Student Governance (Resolutions on food security, basic needs)
- Faculty (e.g., School of Social Work, Health Sciences, Human Services, Dietetics & Nutrition, Justice)
- Student advisors, clubs (e.g. HPSO), and community members
- Seawolf Shuttle (Office of the Chancellor, USUAA)



Ideal: Single-Point-of-Contact

Recommendations

- **Prioritizing basic needs is essential to fulfill the promise of higher education**
 - Student success is more than academic
- **Increased funding/institutional support important but not everything**
 - System-wide approaches
 - Single point of contact
 - Good models already out there (e.g. Calstate Center for advancing equity in higher ed; Oregon State University Basic Needs Center)
- **Are we busily reinforcing structures of privilege or creating pathways to equity?**
 - What students, whose success?
 - Educational and occupational opportunity for all students
- **Principles of universal design for higher education**
 - If we can't meet student basic needs on our campuses, how can we expect to address these same challenges in our communities?

Contact Information

Travis Hedwig, PhD
University of Alaska Anchorage
College of Health
Division of Population Health Sciences
thhedwig@alaska.edu

Rei Shimizu, PhD, LMSW
University of Alaska Anchorage
College of Health
School of Social Work
rshimizu@alaska.edu