



# APPENDIX

## Survey Methodology

The student quotes and data presented in this report come from The Hope Center Student Basic Needs Survey, administered at 91 colleges between January 2023 and July 2024. The online survey, administered through Qualtrics, was distributed to all students, all undergraduate students (surveying graduate students was optional), or a random sample of undergraduate and graduate students, at each participating college. Students were recruited via emails and email reminders. Some colleges opted for additional types of outreaches, such as flyers, text messages, or posts on social media or learning management platforms. Some colleges also offered incentives to enhance survey participation. All respondents indicated their informed consent at the beginning of the survey. The study was approved by Temple University’s institutional review board. Below we provide detailed information on the survey sample and measures for the findings presented in the "First Look" survey report.

### Sample

Of 769,945 recruited students, 79,128 completed the Hope survey (10.3% response rate). 528 respondents were excluded from the analyses because they indicated they did not attend a participating college, and 13 schools (4250 respondents) were excluded because the school did not reach the minimum response rate threshold of 5%, resulting in a final sample of 74,350 students from 91 schools with a response rate of 12.2%. The characteristics of the schools and survey respondents in our sample are detailed below.

**Table 1.** Sample Characteristics

**Student Characteristics (N = 74,350)**

African American or Black	13%
American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous	3%
East Asian	4%
Filipinx	3%
Hispanic or Latine or Chicane	29%
Middle Eastern or North African, Arab, or Arab American	2%
Pacific Islander or Native Hawaiian	1%
South Asian or Desi	2%
Southeast Asian	3%
White or Caucasian	49%
Another Racial or Ethnic Identity	2%
Multiracial or Multiethnic	11%
Parenting Students	23%
Age > 25	42%
LGBTQIA+	22%
Pell Grant Recipients	35%
First-Generation College Students	53%



Part-Time Students	37%
Students with Disabilities	21%
Employed Students	68%
Undergraduate Students	75%
Community College Students	73%

<b>Institutional Characteristics (N = 91)</b>	<b>N</b>
Public 2-Year College	85
Unduplicated 12-month headcount <10,000	71
Unduplicated 12-month headcount 10,000-19,999	67
Unduplicated 12-month headcount 20,000+	18
Minority Serving Institution	6
	51

*Note: Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number. Students who did not respond to relevant items or selected "Prefer not to answer" are excluded from the calculation. Cumulative percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding and "check all that apply" items. Measures and definitions are described below.*

## Survey Measures:

### Student Characteristics:

**LGBTQIA+:** Students were asked "Do you identify with the LGBTQIA+ community?" As written in the survey instrument: "By LGBTQIA, we mean individuals who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex, agender, and asexual. We add the + signify inclusion of the full diversity of gender identities and sexual orientations, which cannot be described by this (or any) combination of letters."

**Race & Ethnicity.** Race and ethnicity were measured with a single item so as not to create a hierarchy among these interrelated identities. Students were provided with all of the options listed in Table 1. The multiracial or multiethnic group includes students who selected more than one of the options (including "another option not listed here"). Those who selected multiple options are included in the multiracial or multiethnic group and in each race/ethnicity category they selected. Students are considered non-White if they selected any of the following race and ethnicity options: (a) African American or Black; (b) American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous; (c) East Asian; (d) Filipinx; (e) Hispanic or Latine or Chicane; (f) Middle Eastern or North African, Arab, or Arab American; (g) Pacific Islander or Native Hawaiian; (h) South Asian or Desi; or (i) Southeast Asian.

**Parenting Students:** Students were asked "Are you the parent, primary caregiver, or guardian (legal or informal) of any children?"

**Pell Grant Recipient:** Students who selected "Pell Grant" for "Which of the following do you use to pay for expenses associated with attending [COLLEGE NAME] this term?" are identified as Pell Grant recipients.



Part-Time Students: In Spring 2023, students were asked “As of today, how many credits are you taking during the current academic term?” in the survey instrument. In Fall 2023, the question was changed to “What is your enrollment status? (“Full-time” is defined as being enrolled in at least 12 credits for undergraduates or at least 6 credits for graduate students.)” Students who selected “1 to 11 credits (part-time)” or “Part-time” are identified as part-time students. Students who selected “Enrolled but taking 0 credits” or “I’m not sure” are considered as missing data.

First-Generation College Students: Students were asked “What is the highest level of education completed by any of your parents and/or guardians?” in the survey instrument. First-generation refers to students whose parents or guardians have not attained a bachelor's degree or any graduate degree. Students who selected “I don't know” or “prefer not to answer” are considered as missing data.

Students with Disabilities: Students were asked “Are you registered on your campus (e.g., with an office for disability services) as having a documented and diagnosed disability?” in the survey instrument. Students who selected “yes” or “I have a diagnosed disability but have not registered with an office on campus” are identified as students with disabilities. Students who selected “prefer not answer” are considered as missing data.

### **Basic Needs Measures:**

Food Insecurity: We assessed food security over the prior 30 days using the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) 18-item Adult Food Security Survey Module which classifies students as having high, marginal, low, or very low levels of food security. We used the USDA standard practice and classified people with “low” and “very low” food security as experiencing food insecurity, which is defined as the limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe food, or the limited or uncertain ability to acquire such food in a socially acceptable manner.

Housing Insecurity: Housing insecurity over the previous year was assessed using nine questions adapted from the national Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) Adult Well-Being Module. Students are considered housing insecure if they reported experiencing any of the following in the last 12 months: (a) been unable to pay or underpaid rent or mortgage, (b) received a summons to appear in housing court, (c) not paid the full amount for utilities (such as gas, oil, electric, water, internet, phone), (d) had an account default or go into collections, (e) moved in with other people, even for a little while, because of financial problems, (f) lived with others beyond the expected capacity of the house or apartment, (g) had a rent or mortgage increase that made it difficult to pay, (h) moved three or more times, including for college, (i) left your household because you felt unsafe.

Homelessness: Homelessness means not having a fixed, regular, and adequate place to live. Students are considered homeless if in the previous year they self-identified as



homeless or experienced the signs of homelessness, measured with items developed by Crutchfield & Maguire (2017). We use this inclusive definition (which aligns with the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance-Act) because students who are experiencing homelessness and signs of homelessness face comparable challenges. Students are identified as experiencing homelessness over the previous year if they (a) responded “Yes” to the question “In the past 12 months, have you ever been homeless?” or reported sleeping in any of the following places in the last 12 months: (b) temporarily stayed with relatives, friends, or couch surfing until I found other housing, (c) temporarily at a hotel or motel without a permanent home to return to (not on vacation or business travel), (d) at a shelter, (e) in transitional housing or independent living program, (f) at a group home such as a halfway house or residential program for mental health or substance abuse, (g) at a treatment center (such as detox, hospital, etc.), (h) in a camper or RV (not on vacation), (i) an outdoor location such as a street, sidewalk, or alley, bus or train stop, campground or woods, park, beach, or riverbed, under bridge or overpass, (j) in a closed area/space with a roof not meant for human habitation such as abandoned building, car or truck, van, encampment or tent, or unconverted garage, attic, or basement.

Basic Needs Insecurity: Students are identified as experiencing basic needs insecurity if they reported experiencing food insecurity, housing insecurity, and/or homelessness.

Depression or Anxiety: Depression and anxiety were measured using the nine-item Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ-9) and seven-item Generalized Anxiety Disorder Scale (GAD-7), respectively. Respondents were asked to indicate the frequency of various symptoms during the past 2 weeks. Students were identified as experiencing clinically significant symptoms of depression or anxiety if they met the clinical cutoff for moderate, moderately severe, or severe levels of depression and/or moderate or severe levels of anxiety. These screens have been validated as highly correlated with diagnoses by clinicians in a variety of populations, including young adults.