

RURAL COLLEGE STUDENTS: BASIC NEEDS INSECURITY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Compared to students attending four-year public or private colleges or universities in cities, suburbs, or towns, students attending colleges in rural communities

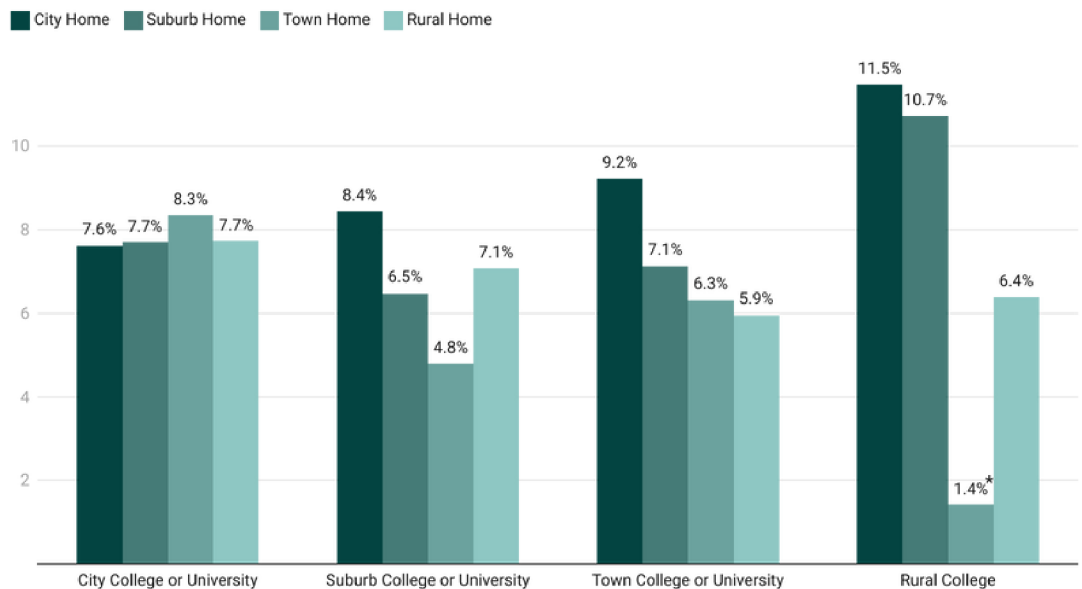
- experience higher rates of recent homelessness.
- are less confident they could come up with \$500 or \$2,000 in the next month if an unexpected need arose.

Furthermore, close to one-in-five students attending four-year public or private colleges or universities in rural communities experience low or very low food security.

HOMELESSNESS

Students attending four-year public or private colleges or universities in rural communities experience higher rates of homelessness within the last 30 days (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Percent of Four-Year College Students Experiencing Homelessness in the Last 30 Days, by Location of Home Community and Urbanization of College or University



Note. * = The estimate is unstable because the standard error represents more than 50% of the estimate. Interpret the data with caution.

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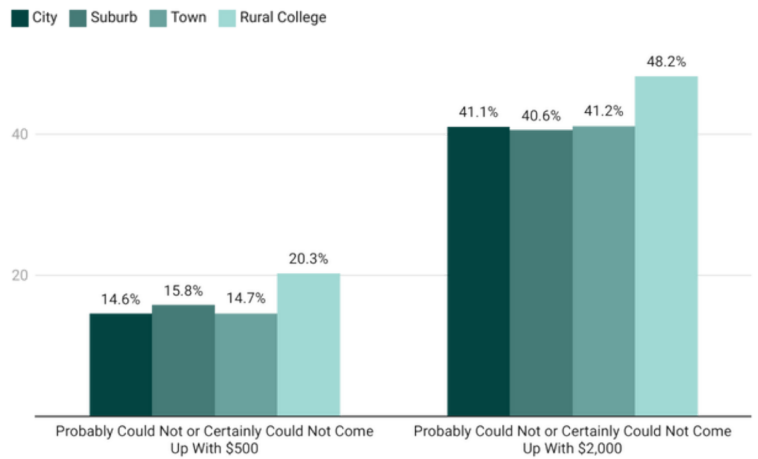


AVAILABLE EMERGENCY FUNDS

One-in-five students attending four-year colleges or universities in rural communities would be not be able to come up with \$500 in the next month if an unexpected need arose (Figure 2).

The gap widens as the needed money increases: close to half (48.2%) of students attending four-year colleges or universities in rural communities would not be able to come up with \$2,000 in the next month if an unexpected need arose.

Figure 2. Percent of Four-Year College Students Who Could Not Come Up With Emergency Funds in the Next Month, by Urbanization of College or University

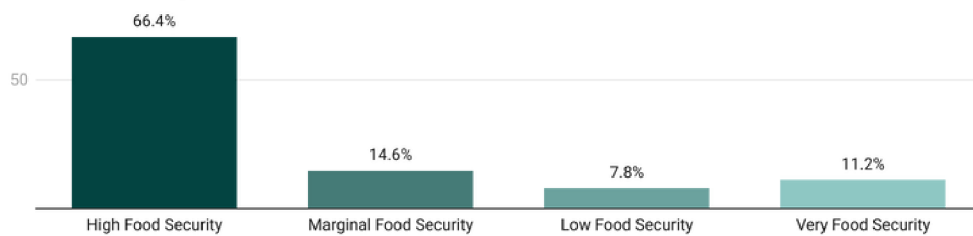


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FOOD SECURITY

One-in-five (20.0%) students attending four-year colleges or universities in rural communities experience low or very low food security (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Percent of Four-Year College Students Attending Public or Private Rural Colleges or Universities Experiencing Different Levels of Food Security



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Recommended citation:

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Methodology:

We analyzed data from the 2019-2020 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS). The National Center for Education Statistics has overseen data collection for the NPSAS every 3-4 years since 1987. The NPSAS offers a representative cross-sectional study of students enrolled in postsecondary education. Learn more about the NPSAS at <https://nces.ed.gov/surveys/npsas/>.

Our research is funded by the Ascendium Education Group and the University of Idaho. Ascendium Education Group is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization committed to helping people reach the education and career goals that matter to them. Ascendium invests in initiatives designed to increase the number of students from low-income backgrounds who complete postsecondary degrees, certificates and workforce training programs, with an emphasis on first-generation students, incarcerated adults, rural community members, students of color and veterans. Ascendium's work identifies, validates and expands best practices to promote large-scale change at the institutional, system and state levels, with the intention of elevating opportunity for all. For more information, visit <https://www.ascendiumphilanthropy.org>.