

California State University System-Wide Study on Housing Stability and Food Security

- Quantitative and qualitative data from 23 California State University (CSU) staff, faculty, and administrators
- Quantitative and qualitative and data from one CSU
- Analysis of campus websites and student support service documents of programs to address food security, housing stability, and emergency funds for students

California State University System-Wide Study on Housing Stability and Food Security

- Staff, faculty, and administrators appear to be underestimating the extent the impact of these social problems on students
- 11 campuses had programs for food insecure students ranging from small pantries to large food programs and services. One campus had a program directed at housing stability
- Campuses tend to focus on food security, largely seeing the issue of housing instability as insurmountable

California State University System-Wide Study on Housing Stability and Food Security

- 5 campuses incorporate students' needs as a part of student success directives and the university mission; however, many campuses expressed aspirational thinking to support students restrained by actual or perceived institutional barriers. Further, some campus representatives expressed hesitation to focus on these issues.
- Students who experienced food and/or housing instability reported high levels of stress and the need for single points of contact.

Consistencies in research

- Debbie Cochrane & Laura Szabo-Kubitz *On the Verge: Costs and Tradeoffs Facing Community College Students – California Community Colleges*
- Katharine Broton, Victoria Frank, & Sara Goldrick-Rab *Safety, Security, and College Attainment: An Investigation of Undergraduates' Basic Needs and Institutional Response*. Association of Public Policy and Management
- National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth *Financial aid for unaccompanied homeless youth a survey report*
- National Center for Homeless Education *Determining eligibility for rights and services under the McKinney-Vento act*

Campus Strategies Often Implemented

- Committee with campus wide representation
- Emergency response team
 - Case Management: Assessment, resource linkage, follow up
- Campus employment
- Meal assistance program (Meal donations)
- Short term housing
- Emergency grants and loans
- Food pantries
- Mobile apps
- SNAP (CalFresh) enrollment
- Nutritional programs

Recommendations for Future Research

- Greater understanding of the basic needs of college/university student populations
- Financial aid and academic barriers for students
- Efficacy of campus programs and practices
- Longitudinal research on the experiences students with barriers to basic needs

Next Steps

- CSU Chancellor's Office Conference on Food Security and Housing Stability – June 20-21, 2016
- Phase 2 of the study (2016-2017)
 - System wide quantitative and qualitative study of basic needs in the CSU
- Phase 3 of the study (2017-2018)
 - Implementation and evaluation of model programs for students experiencing food and housing insecurity

Rashida Crutchfield, MSW, EdD
California State University, Long Beach
Rashida.crutchfield@csulb.edu
(562) 985-2109