



Bringing Insights to Action:

Data Informed Approaches to Addressing Student Basic Needs

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Basic Needs Coalition Overview



WHAT

Assembled to address ABOR Basic Needs Working Group but centered on the specific needs of UArizona

WHEN

Launched in Spring of 2019

WHO

Representation across campus



Data Sources

Main Campus Student Survey

- Spring 2021 with a 10.5% response rate
- Full Report on A&R website

Topics

- Extent of need (food, housing, transportation, health care, academic technologies, professional clothing)
- Use of resources
- Barriers to use
- Perceptions of university support
- Impact on academic success
- Differences by population

THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA | ASSESSMENT & RESEARCH

STUDENT BASIC NEEDS SURVEY SUMMARY | SPRING 2021

In Spring 2021, the University of Arizona launched an inaugural Student Basic Needs Survey in collaboration with the [UArizona Student Basic Needs Coalition](#). The survey was initiated as part of an ABOR Task Force on Food Insecurity and Housing. Full text of the survey questions and data tables of responses can be found in the [Appendix A](#).

Basic needs are defined as the essential resources that impact one's health, belonging, persistence, and overall well-being. These resources include, but are not limited to, food, housing, and financial security as well as equitable access to academic technologies and materials.

The survey was conducted February 24 to March 10, 2021. Invitations were sent to all Spring 2021 Main Campus enrolled students with a response rate of 10.5% based on 3,605 complete responses. A table of respondent demographics can be found in [Appendix B](#). Women and graduate students were overrepresented in the survey respondents compared to the student population. Findings should be interpreted within the timing and context of COVID-19 disruptions.

Results have a 95% confidence level (+/- 2%). That is, if the survey was conducted 100 times, the actual percentages of the population would be within 2 percentage points above or below the percentages reported here in 95 out of 100 surveys. For more information, email AssessmentResearch@arizona.edu.

FOOD AND HOUSING NEEDS

Food and housing needs over the last 12 months were assessed using survey questions for use in higher education (see detailed description in [Appendix C](#)).

Low food security is based on students who report reduced quality or variety in their diet. **Very low food security** describes students with disrupted eating patterns and reduced food intake.

Housing insecurity describes students who report a disruption in permanent housing, indicated by sleeping in temporary (i.e., couch surfing) or sub-standard conditions (i.e., outdoors, garage).

35% of respondents experienced food insecurity. 19% reported low food security, and 16% very low food security.

8% of respondents experienced housing insecurity.

7 in 10 respondents experiencing housing insecurity also experienced food insecurity

Data Sources

Student Focus Groups

- Fall 2021
- Undergraduate & Graduate
- Preliminary insights shared today
- Analysis and report in progress

Topics

- Lived experience and barriers to access
- Perceptions of campus efforts
- Recommendations to improve support and communicate resources

It's about not having to worry constantly about whether or not you're going to be able to live decently. I think it's not just being able to eat, but being able to eat healthy food, and not having to walk an hour to get to the grocery store, so that you have time and energy to focus on improving yourself or trying to achieve your goals. - Undergraduate, Computer Science & Mathematics



Insight

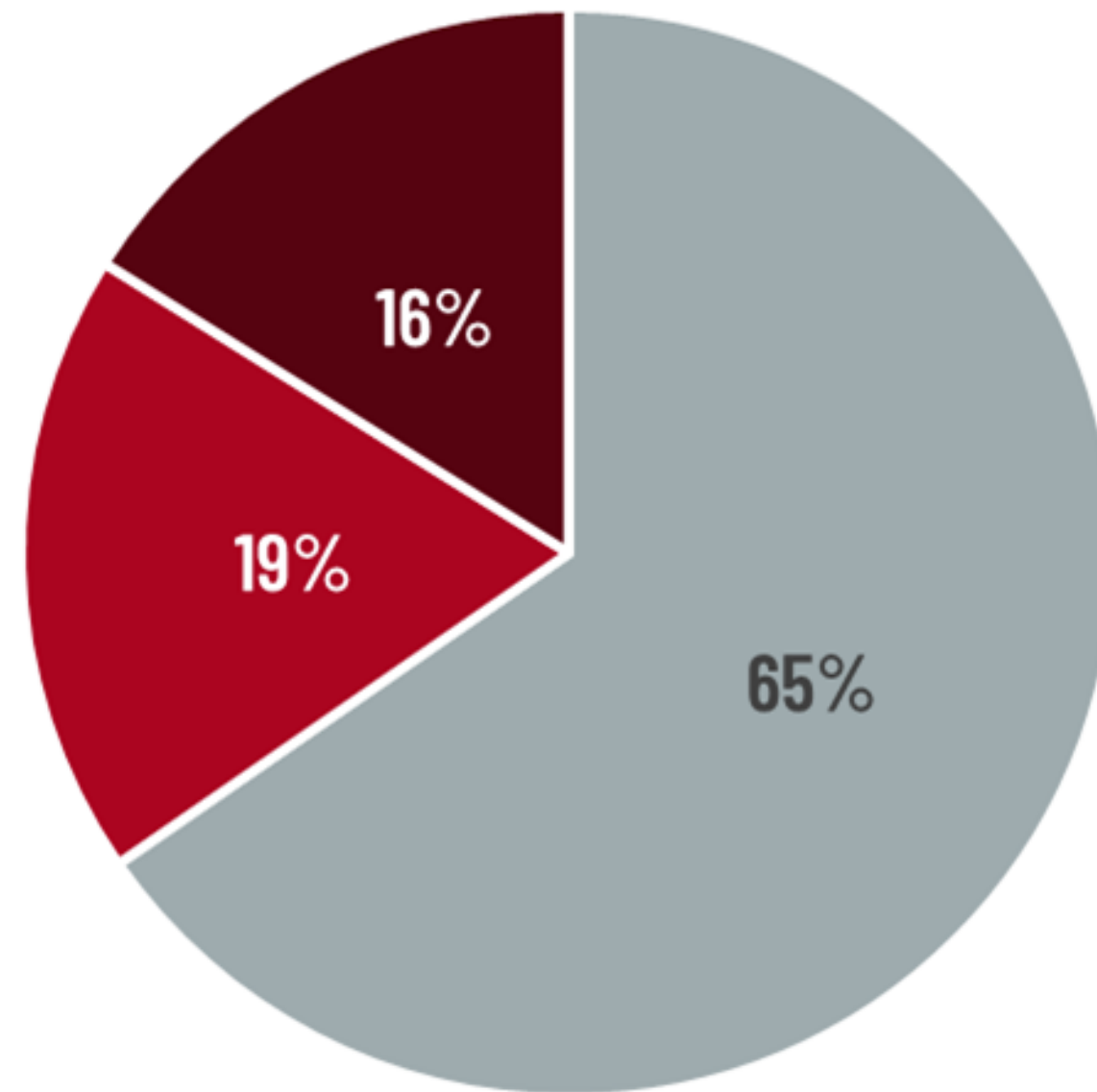
University of Arizona students have unmet basic needs challenges.



1 in 3 surveyed students reported food insecurity

35% of respondents experienced food insecurity.

19% reported low food security, and 16% very low food security.



Low food security

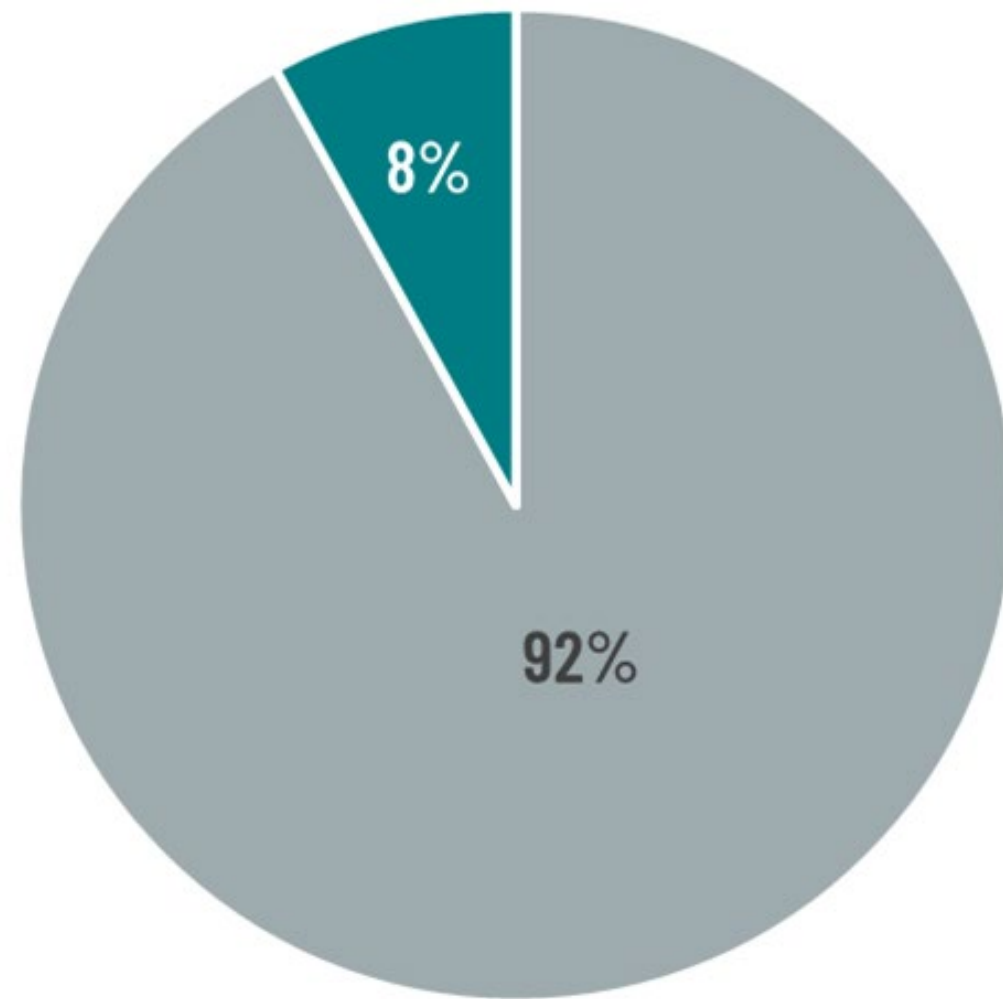
reduced quality or variety in diet

Very low food security

disrupted eating patterns and reduced food intake.

Housing insecurity less common, but a critical need

8% of respondents experienced housing insecurity.



Housing insecurity

disruption in permanent housing, indicated by sleeping in temporary (i.e., couch surfing) or sub-standard conditions (i.e., outdoors, garage).

7 in 10 respondents experiencing housing insecurity also experienced food insecurity





Insight

Students who are from systemically marginalized populations are more likely to experience basic needs insecurity.





Insight

Most students in need did not utilize resources to help meet food or housing insecurity challenges.





Insight

Focus groups revealed reasons for not seeking support are complex, including both internal and external factors.





Insight

Basic needs encompass more than food and shelter.

Worry about meeting needs impact student academics, well-being, and plans for the future.





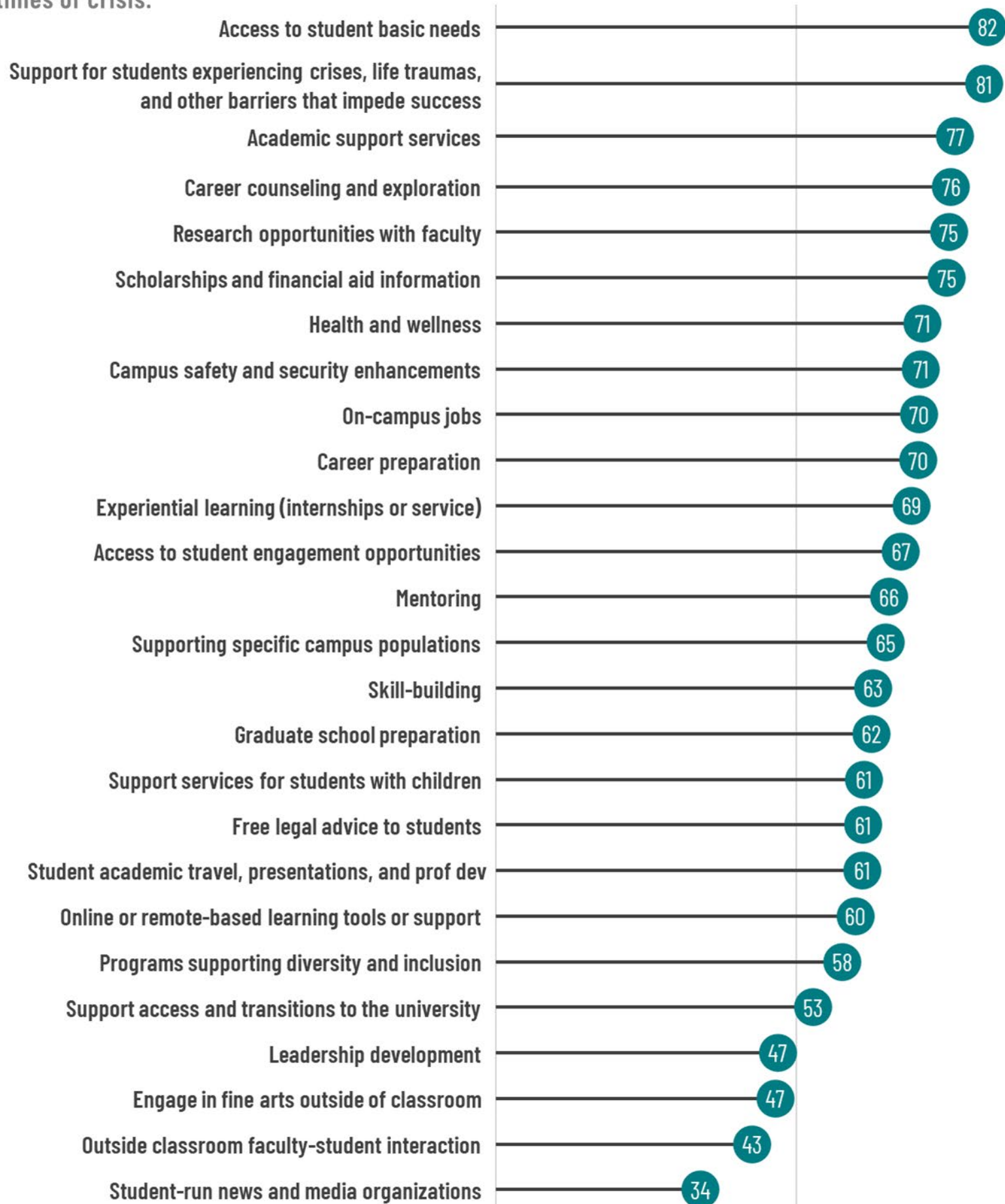
Insight

Student prioritization of basic needs support is high.



Students indicating strong support or identifying an initiative as essential.

Eight in ten students would prioritize initiatives that ensure students have access to basic needs and support in times of crisis.



Out of 26 priorities for funding for student fees, basic needs support was at the top.

Over half (53%) of students rated as essential.

The Role of Faculty

Faculty serve a critical role in normalizing basic needs and in supporting access to and use of basic needs resources by students.

Things faculty can do:

- Add basic needs language to syllabi, and talk about services available *in class*
- Add standing announcement /widget on your D2L course homepage (*example right*)
- Incorporate awareness of basic needs in course assignments, as appropriate or relevant to help reduce stigma & normalize basic needs conversations

Basic Needs Assistance at UArizona

Posted Mar 7, 2022 12:01 AM

In case you are facing challenges of any kind this semester, please be aware that our campus and community have resources that can help!

- For help coping with increased stress and other mental health challenges, please see this [announcement](#) from CAPS.
- If you need food, business clothing or other basic supplies, please visit the [Campus Pantry](#) and/or the [Campus Closet](#).
- If you have several needs at once or [need help now](#), contact the [Dean of Students](#) for assistance. They can help!
- You can also find a wide range of other student support services listed [here](#).



Resources

Website: basicneeds.arizona.edu

Items & Funding Needs

- Campus Closet
- SNAP (food stamps)
- Library Technology Lending
- Childcare support stipend
- Student Emergency Fund

Services & Multi-Resource

- CAPS
- Dean of Students
- 211 Arizona
- Tucson Pima Coalition to End Homelessness



Next Steps for Faculty Senate

Google Document

Help us out by contributing your thoughts on the faculty's role in supporting basic needs!

Connect with SAPC

Diane Ohala (ohalad@arizona.edu), Co-Chair

Cheryl Casey (ccuillie@arizona.edu), Co-Chair

Tim Ottusch (ottusch@arizona.edu), Committee Member



Next Steps for BNC

COMMUNITY PRESENTATIONS

Currently sharing insights across campus and in select community forums

BASIC NEEDS SYMPOSIUM

Plan to share all data and resources through symposium in Fall 2022 from grant by HSI-CARES Act.



Questions?

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Basic Needs Coalition Timeline

