

What Now? Practitioners and Researchers Discuss New Federal Data on College Students' Basic Needs

Leanne Davis and Sara Goldrick-Rab

October 13, 2023



Presenters



Sara Goldrick-Rab

Senior Fellow
Education Northwest



Tracy Hunt-White

Statistician
National Center for
Education Statistics



Leanne Davis

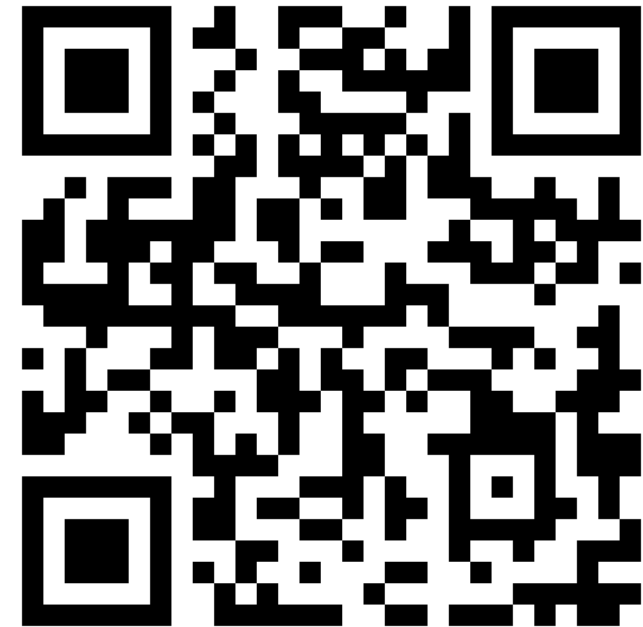
Managing Researcher
Education Northwest



National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS)

NPSAS examines the characteristics of students in postsecondary education, with special focus on how they finance their education.

Access NPSAS data via DataLab using the QR code.



Measuring Basic Needs Insecurity Using NPSAS

Food Insecurity

- Prior 30 days
- Four levels based on USDA 10-item: secure, minimally secure, low security, very low security
- Insecure = low + very low

Homelessness

- Prior 30 days
- Measure aligned with prior research
- Includes sheltered and unsheltered homelessness



Measures for Disaggregated Analyses

Student Level

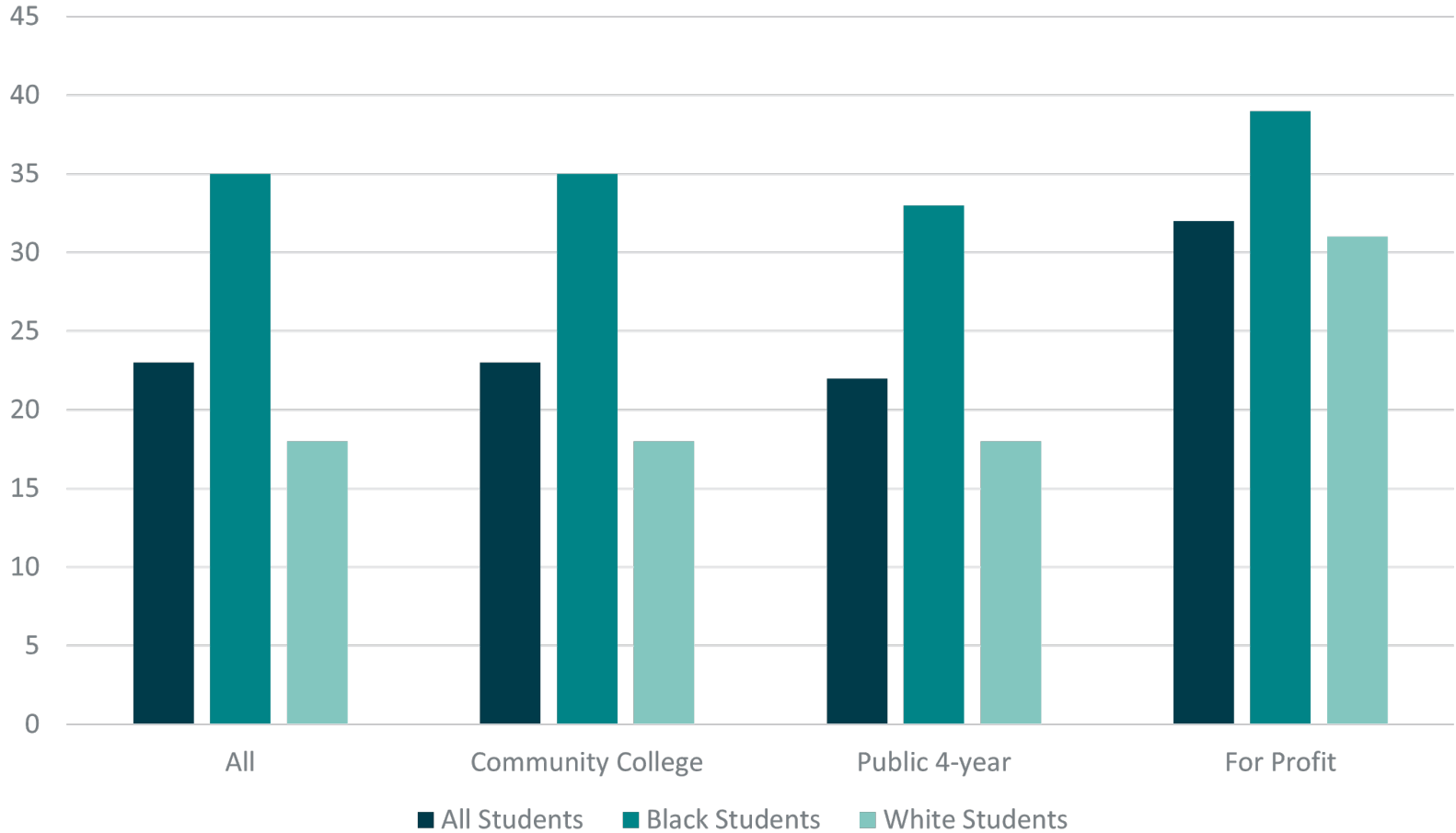
- Demographics (race, sex, age, income)
- Life (parenting, working, disability, financial support)
- Academics (undergrad/grad, enrollment intensity, past educational experience)

Institutional Level

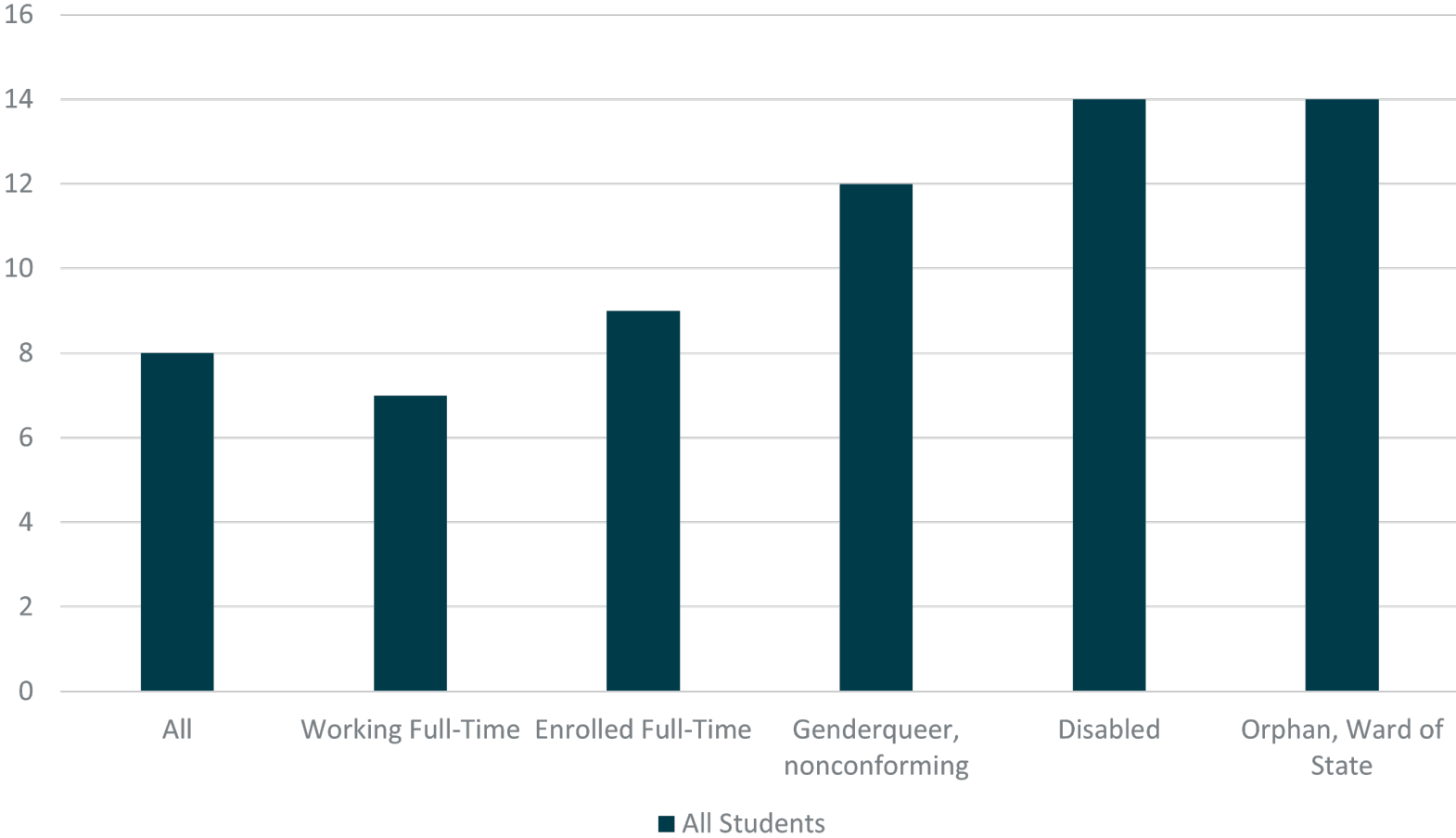
- Type, sector, control, minority-serving institution
- Demographics, finances
- Selectivity, accreditor, mode of instruction



Example: Prevalence of Food Insecurity Among Undergraduates, by Institutional Type and Race



Example: Prevalence of Homelessness Among Undergraduates, by Specific Characteristics



What's Next?

Beginning Postsecondary Students Longitudinal Study

- Follows an NPSAS cohort
- Can examine relationship between basic needs insecurity and student outcomes
- Can examine change over time

NPSAS Restricted Use File

- Need a license to use
- Must request directly from the National Center for Education Statistics

Room for Improvement

- Measures of public benefits use (current SNAP measure is pre-college)
- Measure of housing insecurity
- Measure of foster care experience

Food Insecurity and Homelessness in American Higher Education: An Overview of New Nationally Representative Estimates

Initial analysis of the data plus suggestions for further research

You can find this and more at the QR code or in the FREE #RealCollege Resource Library at saragoldrickrab.com



Panelists



John King

Chancellor of the
State University of
New York and 10th U.S.
Secretary of Education



Frances Villagran-Glover

Houston Community
College: President,
Southeast College &
Interim VC of Student
Services



Tammeil Gilkerson

President/CEO of
Evergreen Valley College



Keith Curry

President/CEO of
Compton College



Call to Action

- 1 Educate federal policymakers and support legislation to address basic needs
- 2 Educate the higher education sector and subsectors on the need to support students
- 3 Educate potential partner organizations about the need to support students
- 4 Educate the public with an updated image of who students are
- 5 Analyze students' challenges and opportunities for support through new lenses, including illuminating the role of basic needs in completion



Thank you!

Contact

Leanne Davis | Leanne.Davis@ednw.org



| educationnorthwest.org

