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

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Presenters

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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?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Beginning Postsecondary Students Longitudinal Study</th>
<th>NPSAS Restricted Use File</th>
<th>Room for Improvement</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Follows an NPSAS cohort</td>
<td>- Need a license to use</td>
<td>- Measures of public benefits use (current SNAP measure is pre-college)</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Can examine relationship between basic needs insecurity and student outcomes</td>
<td>- Must request directly from the National Center for Education Statistics</td>
<td>- Measure of housing insecurity</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Can examine change over time</td>
<td></td>
<td>- Measure of foster care experience</td>
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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!

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