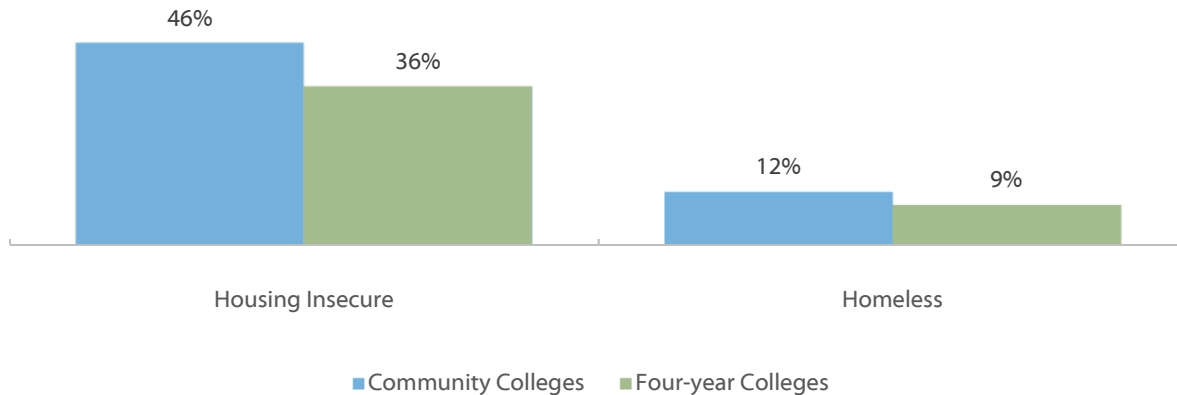


Housing Security and Homelessness

**Results from a 2018 Wisconsin HOPE Lab Survey of Basic Needs:
Housing Security and/or Homelessness within Prior 12 Months at Community
and Four-Year Colleges**



A recent report by the Wisconsin HOPE lab has found high levels of housing insecurity and homelessness among college students. Being homeless or “without a place to live, often residing in a shelter, an automobile, an abandoned building, or outside” can make an already challenging college experience even more difficult. Housing insecurity, including inability to pay full housing costs and moving in with others due to financial issues, is less severe, but can also make the college experience difficult.

The Wisconsin HOPE lab conducted a third round of its housing and food security survey in 2018. The survey was open to any college that wanted to participate. The 66 participating colleges were mostly public, two-year and four-year, and from the Northeast and South regions of the U.S. The results were similar to results from the two previous rounds of this survey.

In the 2018 survey, researchers found that 46 percent of community college students and 36 percent of four-year college students experienced housing insecurity in the previous 12 months. Additionally, the study found that 12 percent of community college students and nine percent of four-year students experienced homelessness in that same time period. As the cost of college rises, basic needs security may become a barrier to success for more students. Some colleges are addressing housing issues with emergency grants, temporary housing, and partnerships with local organizations to provide rental assistance to students

Source: Goldrick-Rab, S., Richardson, J., Schneider, J., Hernandez, A., & Cady, C. (2018). Still Hungry and Homeless in College. Wisconsin HOPE Lab. <http://wihopelab.com/publications/Wisconsin-HOPE-Lab-Still-Hungry-and-Homeless.pdf>; U.S. News and World Report (February 27, 2018). A New Focus on College Campuses: Ending Housing Insecurity. <https://www.usnews.com/news/education-news/articles/2018-02-27/campus-focus-on-solving-housing-insecurity-helping-homeless-students>.

