

The National Pulse on **Basic Needs in Higher Education**



National data from the Hope Center for Students' Basic Needs Support confirm what campus leaders see every day: **unmet basic needs can negatively affect students' academic performance, well-being, and persistence.**

When students are worried about their next meal or a safe place to sleep, they have limited ability to focus on their education. Investing in helping students meet their basic needs is an essential investment in student success and retention.

The National Reality

Based on a survey of more than 74,000 higher-ed students across the U.S. reveals the scale of the challenge students face today:



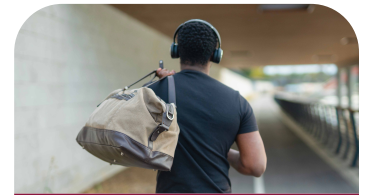
59%

of students experience at least one form of basic needs insecurity related to food or housing.



41%

of students struggle with food insecurity.



14%

of students have experienced homelessness in the last year.



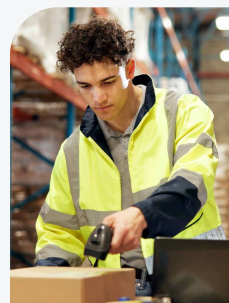
48%

of students experience housing insecurity.

The Cost of Disconnection

The link between students' basic needs and persistence is unequivocal.

When these needs go unmet, the impact on graduation rates is severe:



79%

of students who stopped out or considered leaving school cited basic needs insecurity as the primary reason.

73%

of students face basic needs insecurity when broader factors like mental health, transportation, and childcare are included.

44%

of students report clinically significant symptoms of anxiety or depression, often exacerbated by the stress of unmet needs.



Intersecting Needs

Different types of basic needs insecurity frequently overlap.

Students who experience one form of basic needs insecurity face other challenges as well.



78% who face food insecurity also face housing insecurity or homelessness



53% who face food or housing insecurity experience anxiety or depressions



28% who missed three or more classes due to childcare access also missed classes or work due to transportation issues

The Awareness Gap

Even when support exists, a significant barrier remains: **students often don't know where to turn.**



92% of students who missed classes due to transportation issues did not access public transportation assistance.

48% of students experiencing basic-needs insecurity were unaware that campus support existed.

65% of students report they are not aware of campus resources available to help them.

BASIC NEEDS SOLUTIONS FROM TIMELYCARE:

A Coordinated Approach To Student Basic Needs Support

TimelyCare Basic Needs helps colleges and universities respond to growing student basic needs with a more coordinated model of support. Designed to help campuses connect students with the right resources and strengthen follow-through, it offers two levels of support based on campus needs.

For Students

They get more coordinated support, stronger follow-through, and fewer barriers to accessing the resources they need.

For Your Team

You extend capacity as TimelyCare supports navigation and follow-up, helping your team move from reactive coordination to a more structured approach.

For Your Campus

You gain greater visibility into student need, support activity, and where students may be stalling—so you can strengthen coordination and make more informed decisions.

Supporting Your Students' Basic Needs Is More Complex Than It Looks

- Students receive resources, **but don't know how to follow through**
- Staff **can't scale** manual follow-up
- Systems are **fragmented** across teams and tools
- Leaders **lack visibility** into what happens after referral
- Students **struggle to navigate** the support system and fall through the cracks



Ready to build a stronger campus community?



Visit [timelycare.com/basic-needs](https://www.timelycare.com/basic-needs) to see how coordinated support leads to student success.