

Social Determinants of Student Success:

Housing

2022 CDHE Policy Fellowship

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“The overarching goal of creating academic and personal supports is to provide a viable path to completing postsecondary degrees and certificates that increase the likelihood that these students will have a more stable future”

- *Ronald E. Hallet*



01

The
Problem

Housing is expensive, wages are low, and students face intersecting responsibilities with work, family, and school.

- Data from the latest National Postsecondary Student Aid Study indicate that nearly **1 in 10** U.S. undergraduates are homeless or self-supporting and at-risk of homelessness (Broton, 2020)
- Weighted results from the literature review indicate that **45%** of college students experience some form of housing insecurity (Broton, 2020)
- **55%** of Colorado Community College students identified as being housing insecure from 2020-2021 (The Hope Center, 2021)

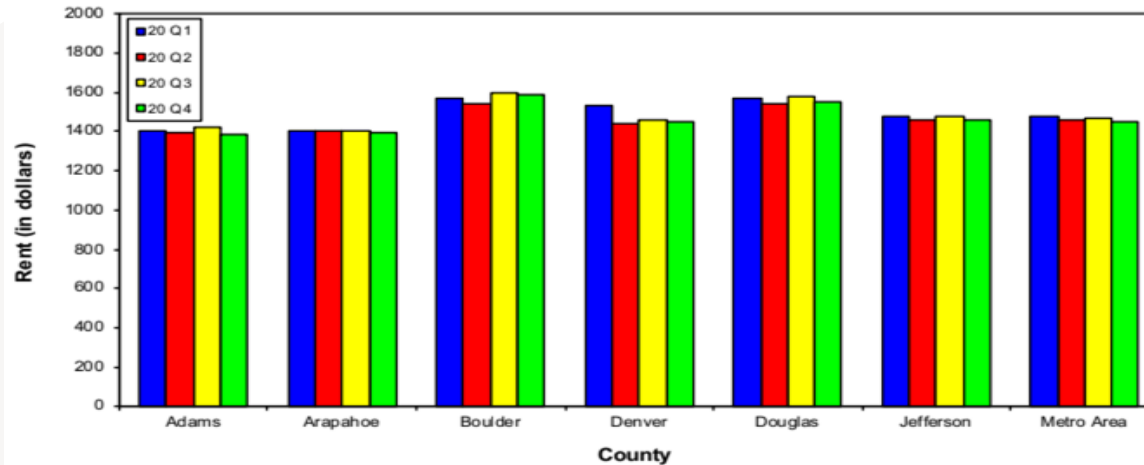
Cost of Housing

\$1,236.57 / month
Efficiency

\$1334.57 / month
1 bedroom,
1 bathroom

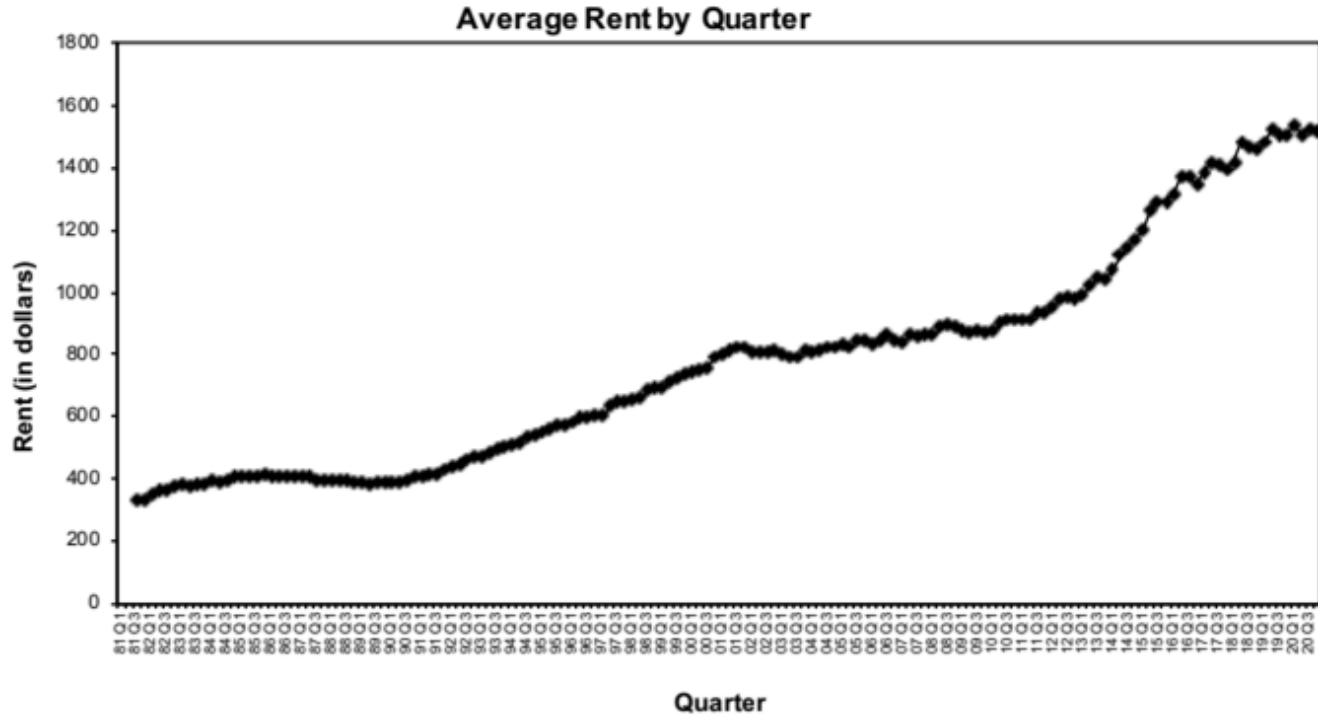
\$1,387.53 / month
2 bedrooms,
1 bathroom

Median Rent by County by Quarter



(Denver Metro Apartment Vacancy & Rent 4th Quarter 2020 Report)

Cost of Housing



(Denver Metro Apartment Vacancy & Rent 4th Quarter 2020 Report)

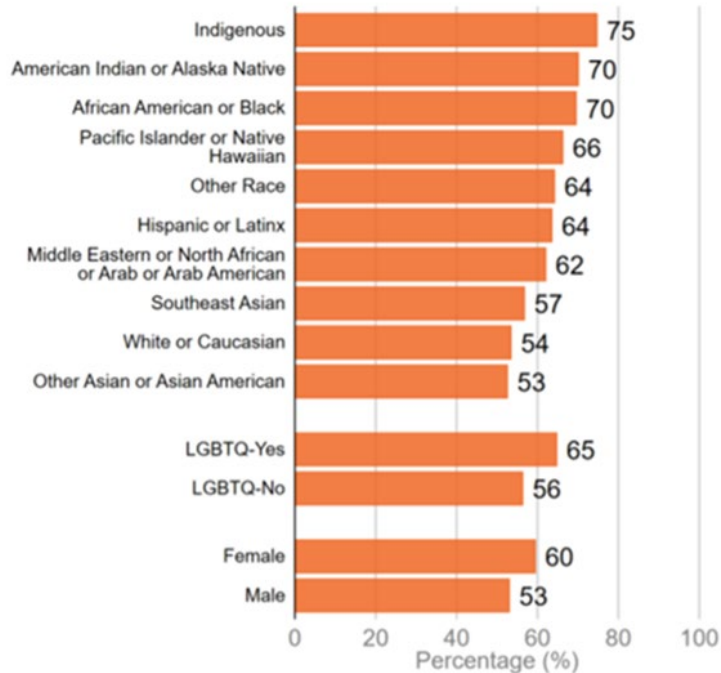
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02

What We
Know

What We Know About...The Students Who Are Impacted

Disparities in Basic Needs Insecurity by Racial and Ethnic Identity, LGBTQ, Status, and Gender Identity



SOURCE | 2020 #RealCollege Survey

NOTES | Classifications of gender identity and racial/ethnic background are not mutually exclusive. Students could self-identify with multiple classifications. For more detail on how each measure of basic needs insecurity was constructed, refer to the [web appendices](#).

Reasons Students Gave for Why they are Housing Insecure (Smith, 2020)

- “Student monies didn’t cover living expenses”
- “Paying for car, cell phone, internet service/ computer, food and toiletries leave me with no money for rent!”
- “I had \$1700 stolen from me”
- “Flood, fire, mold, and bugs that rendered their previous dwellings uninhabitable”
- “I can’t swing work and school or I’ll have a nervous breakdown. I tried”
- “depression”
- “Forced to be homeless by husband”
- “Verbal abuse”
- “Death of a family member”
- “Having a criminal history”
- “Wrongful eviction,”
- “Poor”

What We Know About....

Availability of Resources to Housing - Insecure Students

- State-sponsored assistance is extremely limited
- No federal policy comprehensively addresses post-secondary homelessness
- Pell Grant ranges from \$675-\$6495 annually for full-time students

What We Know About....

Impacts of Housing Insecurity on Student Success

Course attendance & registration

Students experiencing housing insecurity report higher rates of missing class and/or withdrawing from classes (Silva et. al., 2017)

Class performance

Students experiencing housing insecurity report higher rates of struggling to perform in their coursework (Silvia et. al., 2017)

Retention

Students experiencing housing insecurity are less likely to retain and persist to graduation compared to housing -secure peers (Karlin & Martin, 2020)

What We Know About....

What Other States & Institutions are Doing

Housing Priority (California AB 122B)-- Public universities and colleges must give students experiencing homelessness priority access to residence halls and year-round housing.

(Louisiana HB 906) – Public universities with housing over breaks should give students experiencing homelessness priority access.

Enrollment Priority (California AB 801) – Students experiencing homelessness get priority enrollment in classes at public universities and community colleges

Tuition & Fee Waivers (Maryland HB 482) – Students who are unaccompanied and homeless under the age of 25 are exempt from tuition for 5 years at public universities and community colleges

Showers (California AB 1995) – Students experiencing homelessness while attending community college get access to campus showers.

(Hallett & Crutchfield, 2017, p. 57)

What We Know About....

What Other States & Institutions are Doing

UCLA

A student-led initiative led to “Bruin Shelter,” a housing option for students experiencing homelessness.

Kennesaw State

Set aside a suite in residence halls for emergency housing for students at risk for homelessness

CSU Long Beach

Comprehensive program that offers multi-faceted support, including case management, emergency housing and emergency grants

(Hallett & Crutchfield, 2017)

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03

What We
Recommend

Campus Policy Recommendations

- **Campus Point of Contact:** Official certification for staff in this position; advertising the name and contact for this individual to campus & students
- **Campus -Wide Resolution:** Include food and housing security among 100% of students in campus strategic plans (*Wright, Haskett & Anderson, 2020*)

Campus Policy Recommendations

Increase Faculty & Staff Training:

Include basic -needs training in diversity, equity, and inclusion workshops for faculty and staff

- Be aware of the problem and recognize students in need
- Create a sense of belonging for struggling students
- Be able to help students connect with available resources

Integrate Campus Services:

Combine and centralize student services to:

- Provide visibility of personnel who can provide assistance
- Simplify access to services
- Minimize the number of times students have to tell their story

Provide Access to Assistance Facilities:

Meet basic -needs of housing insecure and homeless students by:

- Providing free overnight parking on campus
- Providing free access to showers, laundry facilities, and storage
- Providing emergency beds in dormitories and housing during breaks in the academic year

Statewide Policy Recommendations

- **Develop Specific Training for Single Point of Contact (SPOC) at all Colorado Colleges & Universities:**
 - A certificate required for SPOC and offered by the state
- **Develop Secure Housing Checklist Designation:**
 - Possible items may include:
 - Emergency funding exclusive for housing
 - Targeted efforts to increase student awareness about housing services
 - Basic needs security statement required in all syllabi
 - Housing Checklist items may be included with initiatives already in place

References

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