

Fact Sheet: Impact of Housing Insecurity on Higher Education Outcomes

Housing insecurity among college students remains an under-examined topic in higher education. The impacts of housing insecurity force students to decide between attending classes, studying, working, and securing adequate housing, often impeding success in higher education. In order to examine the significance of housing insecurity in higher education, the Minnesota Office of Higher Education analyzed data on 11,770 students who experienced housing insecurity in high school¹ and compared measurements of achievement and attainment (in both high school and higher education) to housing-secure students. Results cover seven cohorts of students who attended ninth grade in Minnesota between 2005 and 2011.

Demographics and High School Outcomes

- 67 percent of housing-insecure students were students of color versus 20 percent of housing-secure students
- 98 percent of housing-insecure students were eligible for free and reduced price lunch (FRPL) versus 38 percent of housing-secure students
- Housing-insecure students had an average ACT composite score of 18.3 versus 20.2 for housing-secure FRPL students and 23.9 for housing-secure non-FRPL students
- 50 percent of housing-insecure students graduated from high school versus 76 percent of housing-secure FRPL students and 94 percent of housing-secure non-FRPL students (2011 cohort)

Higher Education Outcomes

- 67 percent of housing-insecure high school graduates enrolled in college versus 75 percent of housing-secure FRPL students and 90 percent of housing-secure non-FRPL students (2007 cohort)
- Housing-insecure students enrolled predominantly in two-year public institutions and in associate's programs
- Full-time enrollment rates of housing-insecure students increased to 62 percent (among those enrolling in college), nearly reaching that of housing-secure students
- 25 percent of housing-insecure students who enrolled in college completed their degrees versus 47 percent of housing-secure FRPL students and 73 percent of housing-secure non-FRPL students (2005 cohort)

¹ Housing-insecure students are identified in high school due to the McKinney-Vento act. Still, these numbers likely represent an under-reporting of students experiencing housing insecurity.

Top College Destinations of Housing-Insecure Students (from all seven cohort-years)

Sector of Institution	State	Name	Percent of College Enrollees
Public 2-year	MN	Minneapolis Community and Technical College	28%
Public 2-year	MN	Saint Paul College	15%
Public 2-year	MN	North Hennepin Community College	9%
Public 2-year	MN	Century College	7%
Public 2-year	MN	Normandale Community College	7%
Public 2-year	MN	Anoka-Ramsey Community College	5%
Public 2-year	MN	Rochester Community and Technical College	5%
Public 4-year or above	MN	University of Minnesota Twin Cities	4%
Public 2-year	MN	Lake Superior College	4%
Public 4-year or above	MN	Minnesota State University, Mankato	4%
Public 2-year	MN	St. Cloud Technical & Community College	4%
Public 2-year	MN	Hennepin Technical College	4%
Public 2-year	MN	Inver Hills Community College	3%

Resources for Students Experiencing Basic Needs Insecurity

- **Emergency Assistance for Postsecondary Students (EAPS) Grant Program:** OHE administers this state program that provides selected colleges with funds for emergency cash assistance to students experiencing housing/food insecurity and other hardships.
- **United Way 2-1-1** <https://www.211unitedway.org/>. A statewide hotline operating 24 hours a day, 7 days a week offering a wide range of confidential human services support, including help with housing insecurity. Dial 2-1-1 anywhere in Minnesota.
- **Youth Services Network.** <https://ysnmn.org/#/home>. Combines information on shelter and services for youth and young adults ages 24 and younger by 13 social service agencies in the twin cities.
- **SafeZone Youth Drop-In Center.** <https://face2face.org/support/youth/> 130 East 7th Street, Saint Paul, 651-224-9644. Open 1pm-8pm Monday-Friday, serving ages 14 to 24.
- **YouthLink Drop-In Center.** <http://www.youthlinkmn.org/i-want-help/drop-in-center/> 41 N. 12th Street, Minneapolis, 612-252-1200. Variety of services for youth ages 16 to 24. Open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9am-6pm for 18 to 24 year-olds, 2pm-6pm for 16 to 24 year-olds.
- More information at <https://www.ohe.state.mn.us/mPg.cfm?pageID=2118>