

2024 WA Student Experience Survey (WSES) on Postsecondary Basic Needs

Information Session

September 6, 2024





Agenda

- **Overview:** What is the Washington Student Experience Survey (aka Basic Needs Survey)?
- **Process:** How will we administer the survey?
- **Promotion:** How can we foster awareness and high response rates?
- **Data and findings:** How can the survey data be used?
- **Q&A and Next Steps**

Overview: What is the WA Student Experience Survey (aka basic needs survey)?



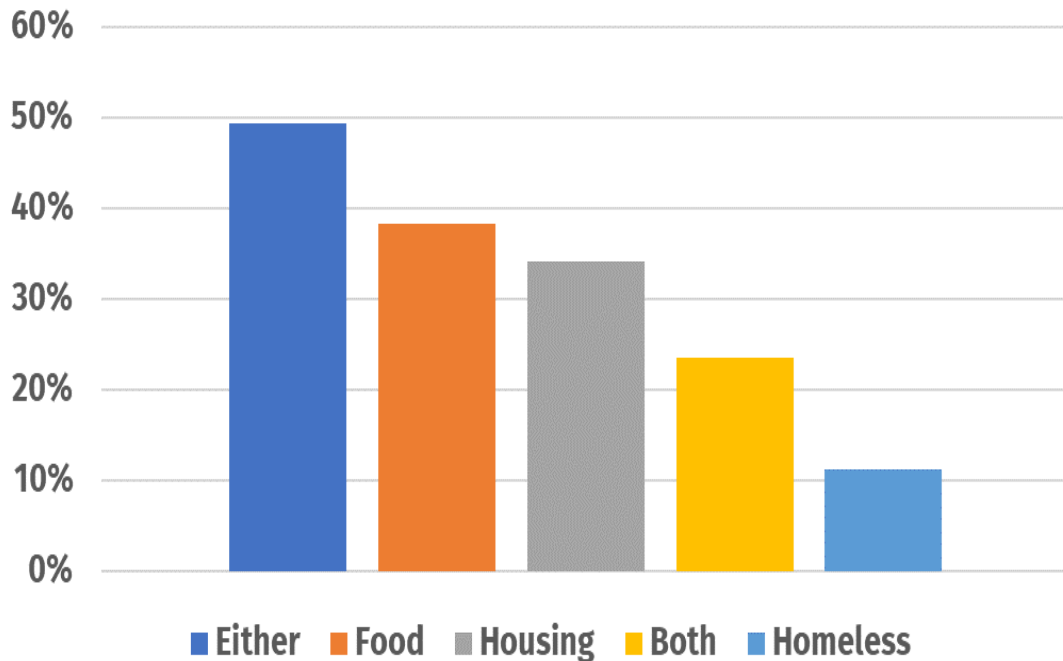


Why a coordinated survey in Washington?

- **Institutional, regional and state level data to drive larger-scale change**
- Understanding prevalence and resource use/barriers to use
- Comparable data with the same instrument - and institutions can have the data for further analysis and institutional/regional insights
- A Washington instrument serving Washington institutions over time for learning, planning and advocacy.



2022 Survey: What did we learn?



Source: Washington Student Achievement Council
<https://wsac.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2023.BasicNeedsReport.pdf>

Postsecondary students' basic needs are not being met.

Key findings from the fall 2022 basic needs insecurity state survey:

- **1 in 2 students** reported experiencing either food or housing insecurity or homelessness
- **High basic needs insecurity in all regions of the state and in CTCs and baccalaureate institutions.**
- **Higher insecurity for certain groups** like former foster care students and parenting students
- **Less than half of students experiencing insecurity accessed basic needs support resources in the prior 6 months.**



How has the 2022 survey information been used?

- **Awareness**
 - Media
 - Postsecondary Basic Needs Stakeholder Convenings
 - House and Senate Work sessions
- **Advocacy, funding, planning**
 - Testimony, new legislation to address students' needs
 - Grants
 - Institutional strategic planning
 - Community partnership development



Legislative requirement in 2024

Postsecondary Basic Needs Act ([2SHB 1559](#) 2023) requirement:

By the beginning of the 2024-25 academic year, the Washington student achievement council must collect and disseminate results of a student survey developed by the student achievement council, in collaboration with the state board for community and technical colleges and an organization representing the presidents of the public four-year institutions of higher education, to assess food security, housing security, and access to basic economic supports. Results from the survey may be used by the institutions of higher education and the tribal college. Existing survey tools may be used for this purpose.^[1]

In addition, the statute for the **Supporting Students Experiencing Homelessness** grant program [ESSB 5702](#) (2023) also requires institutions to do annual census surveying on students' food and housing insecurity, and this state survey fulfills this requirement.



A few lessons from 2022

2022	2024
Institutional participation (voluntary, not all CTCs)	All publics (and available for non-publics for own use)
Institutions fielded the survey; Heavy lift and unable to examine representativeness due to some missing solicitation population data	Centralized administration
Survey participation rates Low (yet similar to national surveys like Hope Center's)	Strategies to increase participation
Campus access and state report	State report PLUS: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Individual data sets- SBCTC dashboard- WSAC cross-sector multi-campus dash

Process: How will the survey be administered?

Matt Bryant, WWU Lead Project Partner





Survey Instrument

- Substantially similar to 2022 instrument
- 25-30 items (depending on responses)
- Items focus on food security, housing security, healthcare access, resource use, and limited demographics
- Changes reflect change in methodology - collecting demographic data directly vs. matching responses to institutional demographic data
- Expanded questions around childcare access/needs



Survey Administration

- Participating institutions provide data to WWU (student emails + key demographics)
- WWU administers survey to students via email (with a 'from' address from your institution/SBCTC) with weekly reminders
- Institutions promote survey participation to students ('check your email' campaigns, survey stations, etc.)
- WWU matches survey responses to demographic data provided by institutions for analysis
- WWU returns datasets for respondents enrolled at each institution for further analysis at the local level



Survey Timeline

Winter and Spring 2024	Engagement with stakeholders on survey plan
May - July 2024	Confirmed administration plan, survey instrument, protocols, data sharing
July 2024	IRB review completed
September 30, 2024	DSAs w/WWU finalized
October 21, 2024	Student datasets submitted to WWU
October 28, 2024	Survey distributed
Nov 22, 2024	Survey closes for responses
Jan 2025	Findings report distributed
Jan/Feb 2025	Institutional data sets shared
July 2025	Dashboard shared for state and multi-institution data insights



Q&A on survey administration

- What questions do you have about the survey instrument and the survey administration process?
- Follow-up questions about survey administration can be directed to SSI@wwu.edu

How can we increase awareness and promote survey participation?





Survey Awareness and Promotion

Challenge:

Low survey response rates will affect data usefulness, especially at the local and regional levels.

Strategies:

- **Institutional Communication:** templates and timeline to be provided by WSAC/SBCTC
- **Awareness events** (ex tabling with computers available, mention at other large events)
- **Public messaging** (Reader boards, portal announcements, texting, social media)
- **Partnership with student leadership, faculty** to encourage participation



Survey Awareness and Promotion

Outreach Timeline:

- Email with survey will be sent to enrolled students 10/28. Students who haven't responded will receive follow up email invitations to participate 11/04, 11/11, and 11/18.
 - Institutional messages can be timed to amplify

Outreach messages:

- Templates will be available by end of September
- Who sends messages? Leadership, Student Affairs

Question: What additional support for promotion will assist you in encouraging student survey participation?

Email with survey will be sent:	Outreach message options
To all enrolled students: 10/28	10/21 (1 week prior) 10/29 (1 day after)
To those who haven't opened the survey: 11/04 11/11 11/18	11/18 (last week to participate)
	11/21 (Survey closes 11/22)

How will the data be used?





How will the data be used?

- **State level:**
 - State findings report will include the state data set (similar to 2023)
- **Institutional data sets**
 - What you will get
 - Examples of use
- **Multi-institution data (county, region, sector, etc.)**
 - SBCTC dashboard for CTCs
 - Planned: WSAC dashboard for multi-institution data access

Next steps and Questions





Next steps for the survey

- September:
 - **Public universities and SBCTC:** Data share agreements complete by 9/30
 - **Student Services/Affairs:** Increase awareness of survey on campus
- October:
 - **Public universities and SBCTC:** Share data with WWU for survey administration (10/21 deadline)
 - **Student Services/Affairs:** Promote survey awareness and participation
- November:
 - **Promote survey awareness and participation with students**
 - **Survey closes 11/22**

Washington Basic Needs Survey

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<https://wsac.wa.gov/student-supports> (Basic Needs Survey
Tab)