Supporting #RealCollege Parenting Students

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We thank Seldin/Haring-Smith Foundation for the generous support that made these reports possible.
A student is deemed a parenting student if they said yes to:

“Are you the parent or guardian to any biological, adopted, step, or foster children who live in your household?”

23,000+ parenting students
Nearly 7,000 single parents
Basic Needs Insecurity

53% Food insecure in prior 30 days

68% Housing insecure in prior 12 months

17% Homelessness in prior 12 months
Basic Needs Insecurity
By Institution Type

Two-Year

54% Food insecure in prior 30 days
69% Housing insecure in prior 12 months
17% Homelessness in prior 12 months

Four-Year

43% Food insecure in prior 30 days
55% Housing insecure in prior 12 months
16% Homelessness in prior 12 months
Food Insecurity By Gender Identity

- Female: 55%
- Male: 46%
- Non-Binary/Third Gender: 76%
- Prefer to Self-describe: 70%
Housing Insecurity
By Racial or Ethnic Background

- Black: 80%
- Hispanic or Latinx: 74%
- Indigenous: 82%
- White: 67%
Homelessness
By Relationship Status

- Single: 23%
- In a Relationship: 21%
- Divorced: 19%
- Widowed: 26%
- Married or Domestic Partnership: 10%
Childcare Utilization by Child Age

Parenting students with children ages 0-5 who need, use, or plan to use childcare
Childcare Utilization

At two-year institutions:

• 40% of all parenting students
• 41% of single parents

At four-year institutions:

• 38% of all parenting students
• 32% of single parents
Weekly Childcare Spending

- **I pay $200+ for childcare**
  - 23% of All Parenting Students
  - 19% of Single Parents

- **$100-199**
  - 28% of All Parenting Students
  - 28% of Single Parents

- **$1-$99**
  - 26% of All Parenting Students
  - 30% of Single Parents

- **I don’t pay for childcare**
  - 22% of All Parenting Students
  - 23% of Single Parents
Of the parenting students who said they cannot afford childcare,

- 69% Food insecure in prior 30 days
- 85% Housing insecure in prior 12 months
- 23% Homeless in prior 12 months
Childcare Preferences

- Full Day: 40%
- Half Day: 18%
- After School: 21%
- None: 13%
- Sick Care: 4%
- Childcare for Children with Special Needs: 3%
Mental Health

Basic Needs Secure
- 14% experienced at least moderate depression
- 12% experienced at least moderate anxiety

Basic Needs Insecure
- 36% experienced at least moderate depression
- 32% experienced at least moderate anxiety
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Parenting Students</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students with any BNI using any gov’t assistance</td>
<td>75%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Students with any BNI using any campus support</td>
<td>28%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Students with any BNI using any campus emergency aid</td>
<td>6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Food insecure students using SNAP</td>
<td>39%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Food insecure students using campus food pantry</td>
<td>19%</td>
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Parenting Student Webinar
Our Mission & History

Generation Hope surrounds motivated teen parents and their children with the mentors, emotional support, and financial resources that they need to thrive in college and kindergarten, thereby driving a two-generation solution to poverty.
TEEN PARENTS

College degrees

Early childhood support

THEIR CHILDREN

Educational Success • Economic Mobility • Thriving Families
Scholar Program Demographics

100 mothers & fathers
20 two and four-year schools
81%+ low income
51% Hispanic/Latinx
34% Black

100% Scholars are in DC, MD, and VA
74% first generation college students

Challenges: Scholars have experienced domestic violence, food insecurity, homelessness, foster care, and more.
Generation Hope’s graduation rate:

- Exceeds the national average for all college students
- Almost double the national average for low-income college students
- Almost eight times the national average for single mothers

Student parents succeed with support
92% of Scholars stay in college and in our program, or graduate, year-to-year

100% of Generation Hope’s 2018 and 2019 graduates were living above the poverty line within six months of graduation

Over 30% of 2018 graduates went directly on to graduate school
National Survey

- **Student parents’ higher-ed experience**
  - Hurdles to degree attainment
  - Gaps in institutional support
  - Recommendations

- **259 respondents, 147+ institutions**
  - 23% at community colleges, 47% at four-year colleges, 17% at graduate schools
  - 76% female, 22% male, 2% prefer to self describe/prefer not to say
  - 23% Northeast, 34% South, 12% Midwest, 31% West
  - 52% White, 20% Hispanic/Latino, 18% African American/Black, 7% Asian, American Indian/Alaskan Native, and Pacific Islander
Major Findings

40% felt isolated as a parenting student on campus

20% felt unwelcome on campus

More than 60% missed at least one day of class due to lack of childcare

75% were unaware their financial aid could be increased to cover childcare costs

More than 1 in 3 did not see family-friendly characteristics on campus
Recommendations for Higher Ed

- Collect and track the parenting status of students. Few institutions collect data on how many students are parents.
- Apply a parenting-student lens to your campus Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) work.
- Designate a staff position to champion the needs of parenting students.
- Prioritize the creation of family-friendly policies and ensure they are clearly communicated to students.
- Identify ways to better include parenting students in campus life.
- Incorporate student parent needs into government relations work.
THE hope CENTER
For College, Community, and Justice

HOPE4COLLEGE.COM
From Personal Experience to Practice

1996: Welfare reform

1997: Mom at 17

2000: First community college class

2011: Bachelor’s degree

2016: Grad School

2020: Hope Center
Key Points

• How did we get here?
• Disproportionate outcomes
• Restrictions on education
• What can be done?
Policies that Restrict Education are the **REAL** Poverty Trap

**Stigma & Narrative**
- Poverty is a synonym for trauma
- Bootstraps are a myth

**Restrictions in Basic Needs Supports**
- emphasize work and de-emphasize education

**Systemic Racism**

**Higher Education**
- Culture of the “right” path to career and family and the systems built around those ideas

**Work without Postsecondary**
- Overrepresented by people of color
- Limited advancement opportunities
Family income affects opportunities and access for children, but the racial wealth gap has limited family resources within across generations, negatively impacting intergenerational mobility.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disproportionate Outcomes</th>
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<tr>
<td>Systemic Racism</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stifled wealth building</td>
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<td>Racial wealth gap</td>
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<tr>
<td>Limited generational wealth transfer</td>
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<td>Less successful outcomes</td>
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## Primary Federal Public Benefits and Student Criteria

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income-based federal assistance programs</th>
<th>Student Eligibility Criteria</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition Assistance</td>
<td>Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)</td>
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<td>Cash Assistance</td>
<td>Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Healthcare</td>
<td>Medicaid &amp; the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP)</td>
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<td>Child Care Assistance</td>
<td>Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tax Credits</td>
<td>Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit (CTC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Housing Assistance</td>
<td>Income based Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8)</td>
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Policy Improvements

1. Treat education greater than or equal to work
2. Expand student eligibility
3. Expand state programs that provide supportive services to students
Upcoming Opportunities

• Find out more about your students and their experiences, field the Hope Center’s basic needs survey this fall.

  Sign up by July 17: tinyurl.com/RealCollegeSurvey

• We want to know how COVID-19 is affecting all of Higher Ed students, staff, and faculty. Share your story with us: tinyurl.com/RealCollegeBearsWitness

• **May 21st 10 am EST**: Webinar on State of Food Insecurity at CUNY in 2020, with The CUNY Urban Food Policy Institute and Healthy CUNY: tinyurl.com/CUNYFoodInsecurity

• **May 21st 2 pm EST**: Webinar on why addressing hunger and homelessness is in everyone’s interest, with AFT: tinyurl.com/BasicNeedsSolidarity
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