



STUDENT HEALTH & SAFETY

A 2021 MINNESOTA MEASURES REPORT

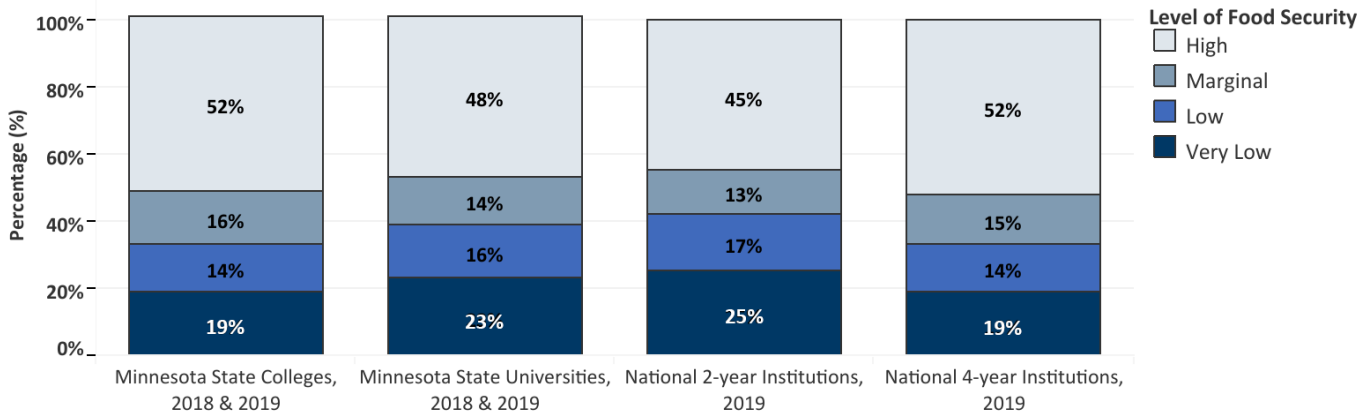
TO VIEW THE FULL REPORT, VISIT
mnmeasures.highered.mn.gov

BASIC NEEDS INSECURITY ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES

Over the past few years, basic needs insecurity has quickly become an issue of great discussion and concern on college and university campuses. State and national data from the Hope Center #RealCollege survey help contextualize the issue of basic needs insecurity among college students, and illuminate the need for on-campus services and supports that cater to students' basic needs.

In the 2018 and 2019 #RealCollege survey administration, over 9,800 students from 24 Minnesota State Colleges (two-year) and three Minnesota State Universities (four-year) participated in the survey. While basic needs insecurity captures more than just food and housing, this report focuses on three main outcomes: food insecurity, housing insecurity, and homelessness.

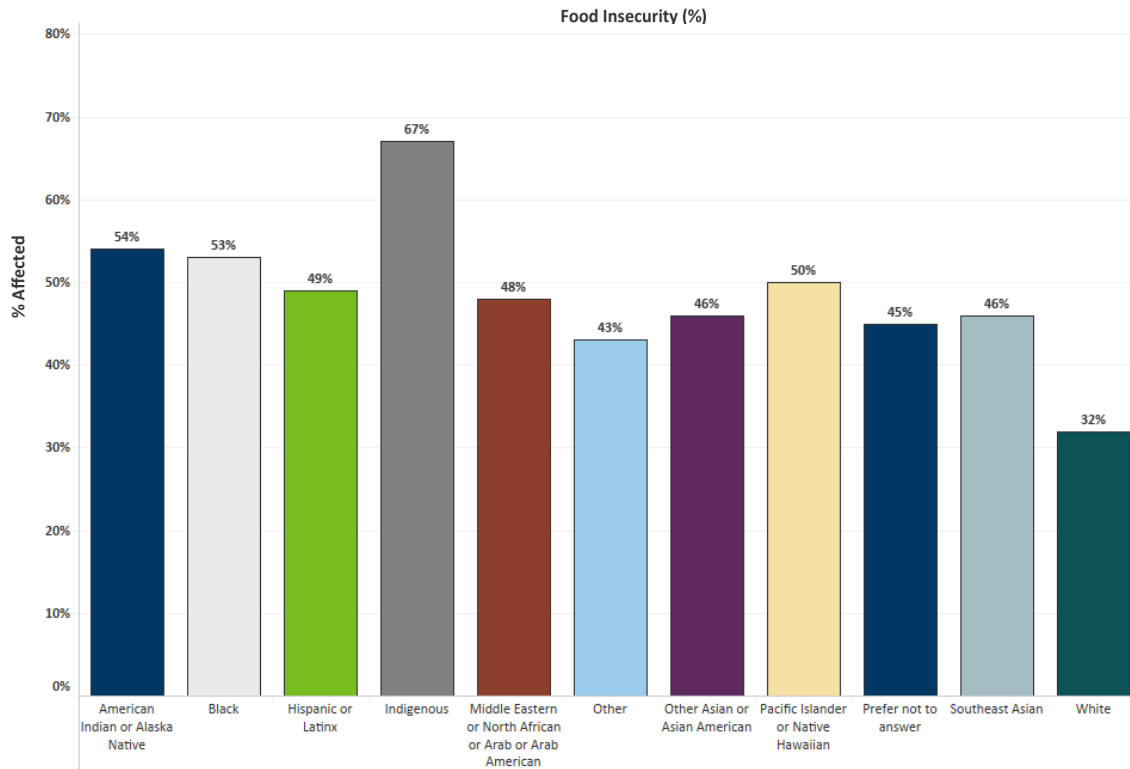
Figure 1: Levels of food security among Minnesota postsecondary students mirror national trends



Source: The Hope Center at Temple University, #RealCollege National Surveys

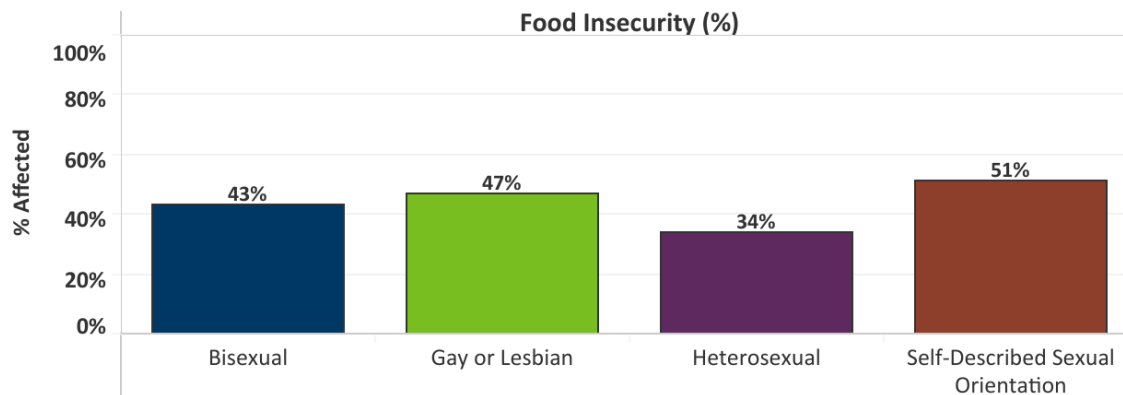
Unfortunately, the experience of basic needs insecurity is very prevalent among college students. However, not all types of students are affected equally by food insecurity, housing insecurity, and homelessness. Effective support services will recognize both the commonality of these crises and the need to implement equitable solutions that serve those most impacted.

Figure 2: Disparities in who experiences basic needs insecurity exist across racial and ethnic lines



Source: The Hope Center at Temple University, #RealCollege National Surveys

Figure 3: Percentage of students experiencing food insecurity by sexual orientation



Source: The Hope Center at Temple University, #RealCollege National Surveys



KEY TAKEAWAY: Basic needs insecurity impacts postsecondary students greatly across the state and country, but disproportionately affects students of color and LGBTQ+ students. Minnesota postsecondary students experience similar rates of food insecurity as students nationwide.

HOUSING INSECURITY REPORT

Key Educational outcomes are impacted by housing insecurity

The Office of Higher Education published a report titled *The Impact of Housing Insecurity on Educational Outcomes* using data from the Statewide Longitudinal Education Data System (SLEDS) in 2018. The report specifically analyzed the educational outcomes for high school students who

were housing secure, housing secure and eligible for free and reduced-price meals, and housing insecure. Results cover seven cohorts of students who attended ninth grade in Minnesota between 2005 and 2011, including 11,770 students who experienced housing insecurity during high school.

Figure 4: Students of color and indigenous students are more likely to be housing insecure in high school

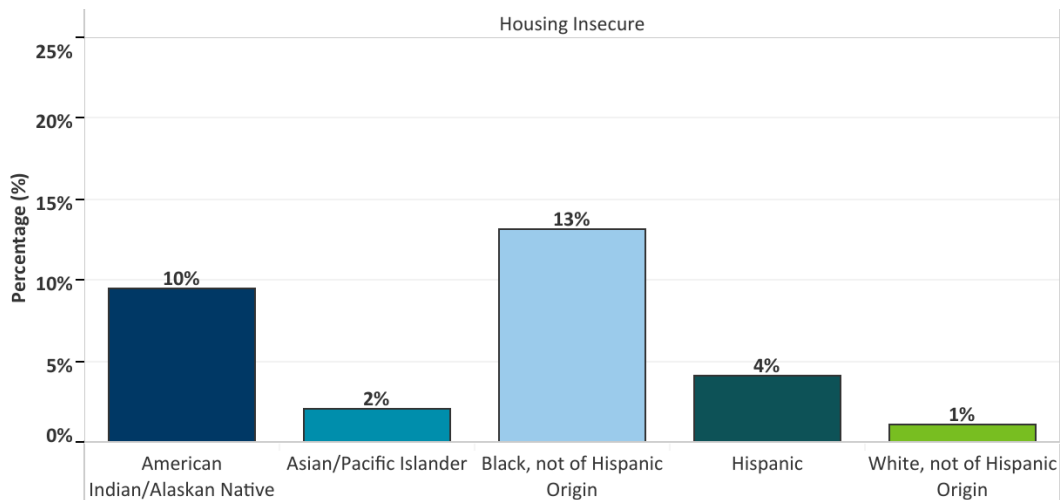
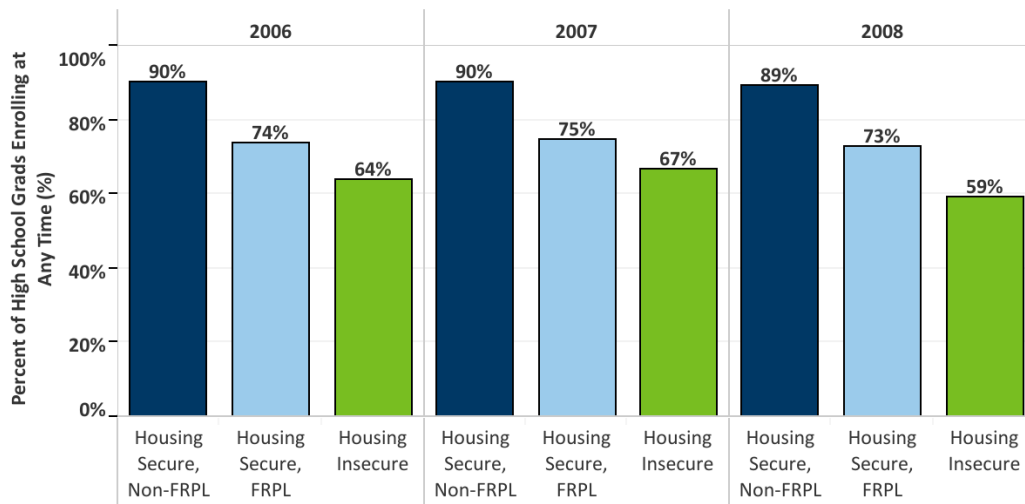
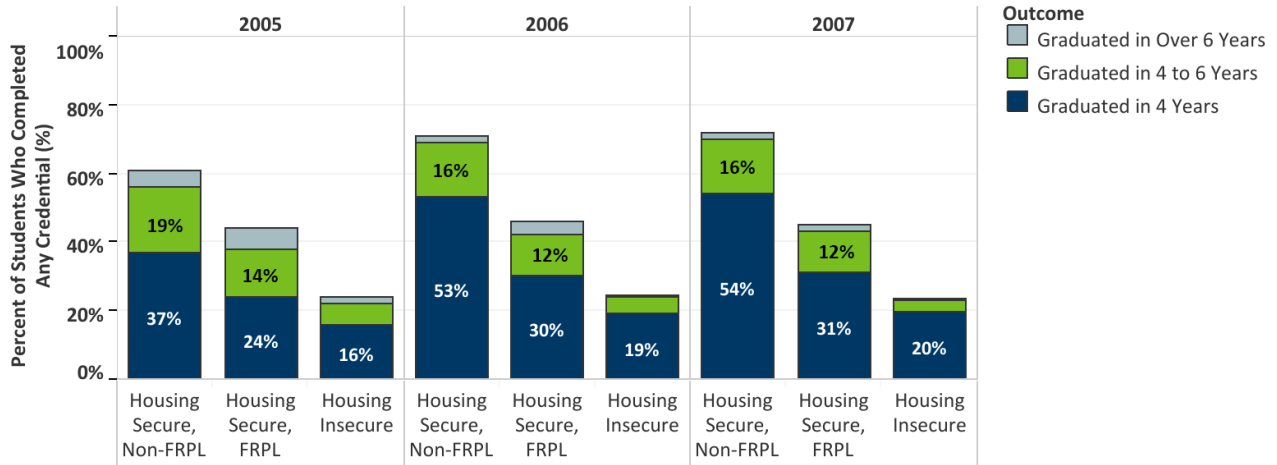


Figure 5: Postsecondary enrollment among high school graduates varies by housing security and eligibility to free and reduced-price meals



High school graduates that are eligible for free and reduced-price meals (FRPL) and/or housing insecure in high school enroll and complete college at lower rates than housing secure students. The impact of housing security for both postsecondary enrollment and completion cannot be ignored; even when students were FRPL-eligible but stably housed, their educational outcomes are markedly higher than housing insecure students.

Figure 6: High school graduates who are FRPL-eligible and/or housing insecure complete postsecondary credentials (any type) at lower rates

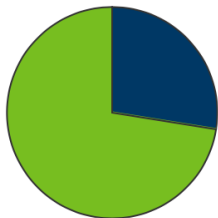


KEY TAKEAWAY: Students that are housing insecure in high school and/or eligible for free and reduced-price meals are less likely to enroll at a postsecondary institution and complete their credential, whether it be a short-term credential program or a bachelor’s degree.

REPORT OUTCOMES ON CAMPUS SEXUAL ASSAULT

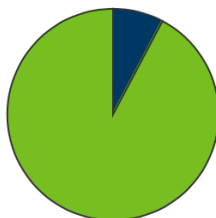
Since 2016, the Office of Higher Education is required by the Minnesota Legislature to publish the Sexual Assault Data Report, which includes annual statistics on the outcomes of sexual assault incidents reported to postsecondary institutions. Below are some highlighted details on reports of sexual assault incidents and the outcomes of institutional investigations, if applicable.

Figure 7a: Percentage of Incidents Investigated



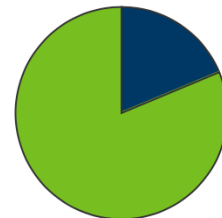
■ Incidents Investigated
■ Incidents Not Investigated

Figure 7b: Percentage of Investigations Where Respondent Was Found Responsible



■ Respondent Found Responsible
■ Respondent Not Found Responsible (Of Those Investigated)

Figure 7c: Reasons Why Investigations Were Not Opened



■ Closed Without Investigation - Other
■ Victim Did Not Participate Pre-Disciplinary Process

The majority of incidents that go uninvestigated are due to the fact that the victim did not wish to proceed with an investigation at their postsecondary institution.

Table 1: Statewide Summary, 2021

Category	Category Definition	State Total
1. Incidents Reported to Institution	The number of incidents of sexual assault reported to the institution during the prior calendar year within the scope defined above (total incidents)	258
2. Investigated	Of incidents reported to the institution (category #1), the number that were investigated by the institution to determine whether the institution's policy was violated	71
3. Referred for Disciplinary Process	Of incidents that were investigated (category #2), the number that were referred for a disciplinary process at the institution	38
4. Reported to Law Enforcement	The number of total incidents (category #1) in which the alleged victim chose to report to local or state law enforcement, to the extent that the institution is aware	28
5. Disciplinary Process Pending	The number for which a campus disciplinary process is pending, but has not reached a final resolution as of fall following the calendar year reported	<10
6. Respondent Found Responsible	The number in which the respondent(s) was/were found responsible for sexual assault by the disciplinary process at the institution	20
7. Action Greater than a Warning	The number that resulted in any action by the institution greater than a warning issued to the respondent	29
8. Closed Without Resolution	The number that resulted in a disciplinary process at the institution that closed without resolution	<10
9. Closed Without Resolution - Respondent Withdrew	Of those that closed without resolution (category #8), the number that resulted in a disciplinary process at the institution that closed without resolution because the respondent withdrew from the institution	<10
10. Closed Without Resolution - Victim Did Not Participate	Of those that closed without resolution (category #8), the number that resulted in a disciplinary process at the institution that closed without resolution because the alleged victim chose not to participate in the process	<10
11. Victim Did Not Participate Pre-Disciplinary Process	The number in which the alleged victim chose not to participate in the institution's process prior to a disciplinary process beginning	152
12. Reports via Online Reporting System	The number of reports made through the online reporting system established in Minn. Stat. § 135A.15, subd. 5, excluding reports submitted anonymously	53

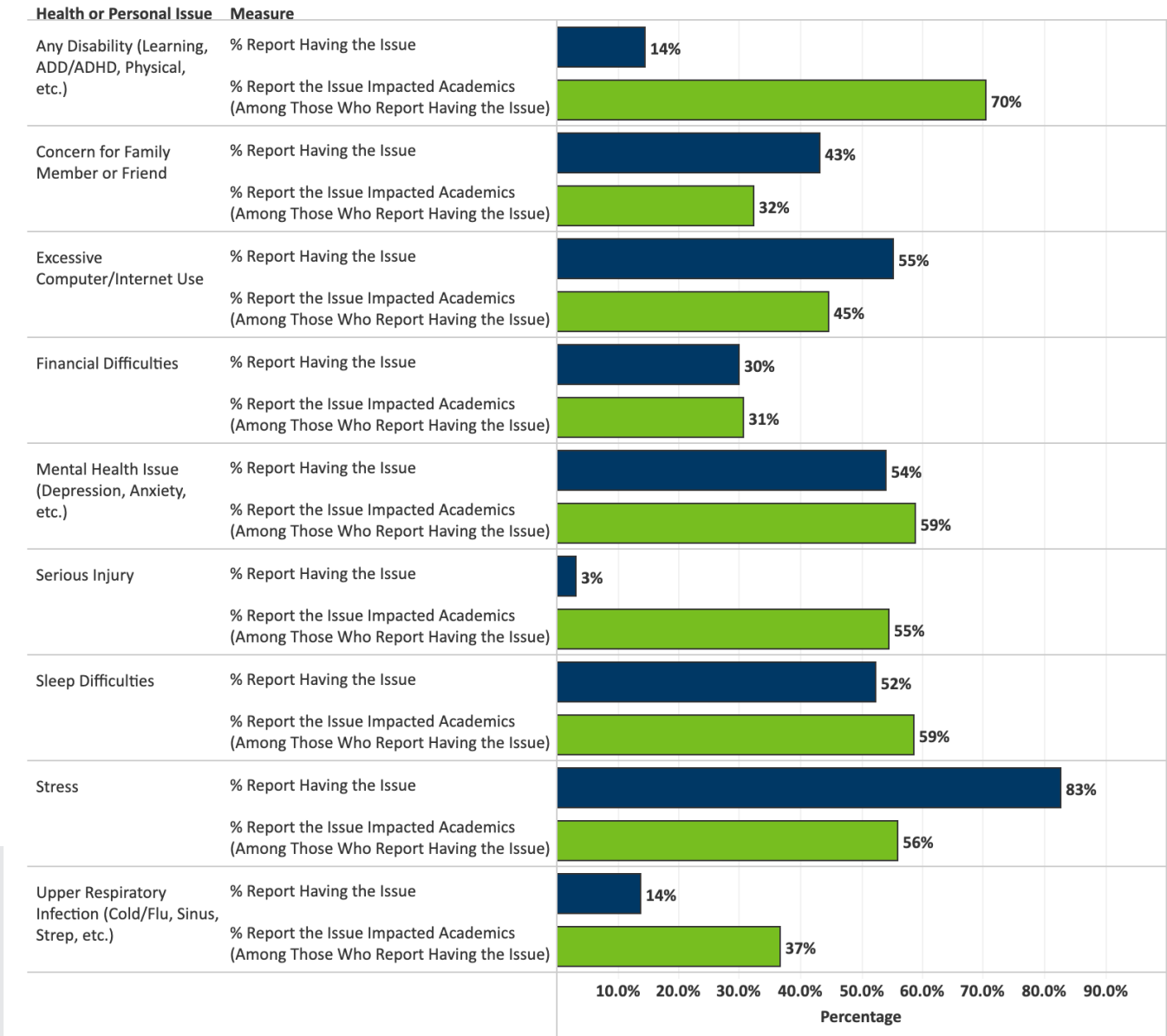


KEY TAKEAWAY: The number of reports of sexual assault incidents decreased in 2020-2021, possibly due to shifting to online classes during the COVID-19 pandemic. Oftentimes, an institutional investigation is not opened because the victim/complainant chose not to participate in the disciplinary process.

EXAMINING STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH & STRESS

The 2021 College Student Health survey was sent to college students at 13 colleges and universities throughout Minnesota, representing both public and private institutions. One of several sections covered questions related to mental health.

Figure 9: Students report that health and personal issues affect their academic performance



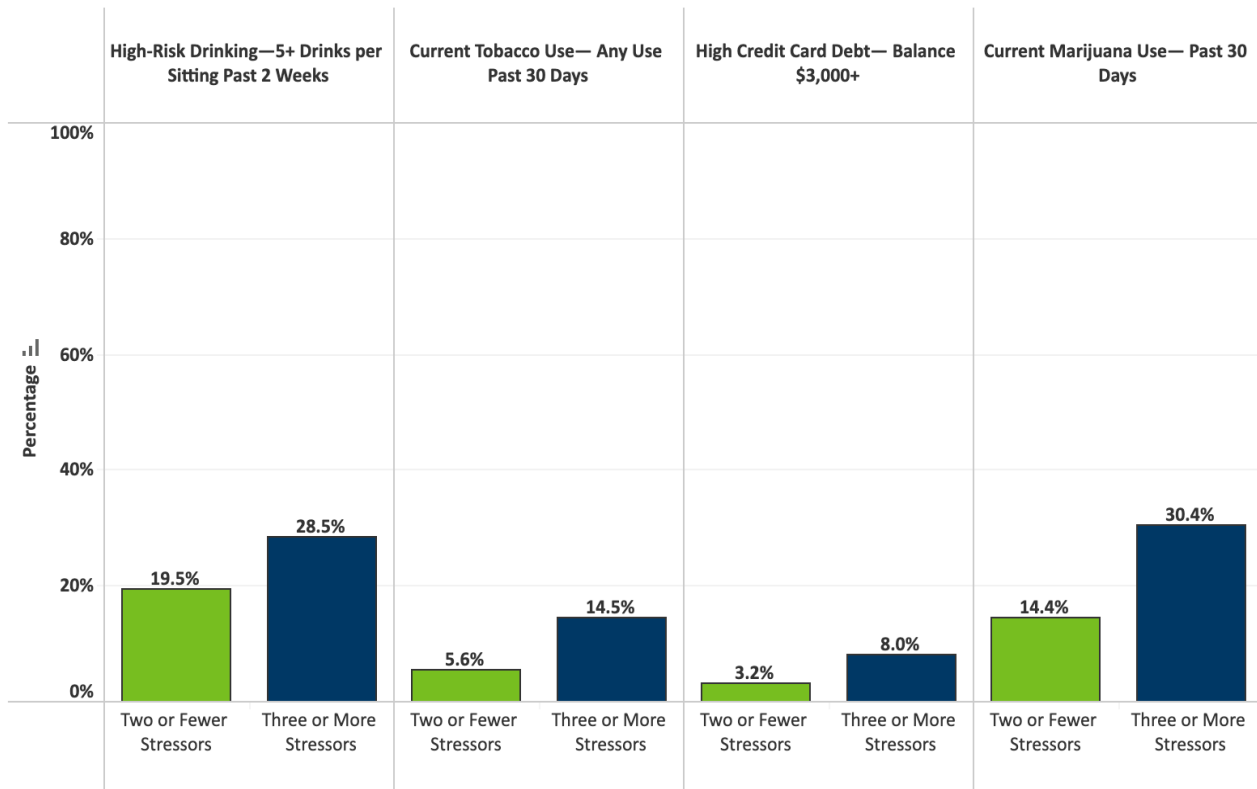
Source: University of Minnesota, 2021 College Student Health Survey

Survey respondents were given a list containing 19 common stressors to indicate which they had experienced within the past 12 months. Of the 19 items, the most commonly experienced in the past 12 months were:

1. Roommate/housemate conflict: 21.8%
2. Serious physical illness of someone close to you: 19.1%
3. Parental conflict: 18.7%
4. Death of someone close to you: 17.4%
5. Termination of personal relationship (not including marriage): 15.8%
6. Diagnosed with a serious mental illness: 13.7%

A total of 40.1% of respondents had experienced one or two of the above stressors within the past year, and 24.6% of respondents experienced three or more stressors. An association between the number of stressors and engaging in risky behaviors can be seen in the graph below.

Figure 10: Risky health behaviors related to mental health stressors



Source: University of Minnesota, 2021 College Student Health Survey



KEY TAKEAWAY: According to the 2021 Minnesota College Student Health Survey, postsecondary students report that health and personal issues impact their academic performance. The majority of students (64.7%) also indicated experiencing at least one significant stressor within the past year, which was associated with a higher likelihood of partaking in risky behaviors.