

2016

# Poverty at St. Catherine University

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# Poverty at SCU

Measuring rates of homelessness, food insecurity and low-income students at St Catherine University, 2016

# U.S. Congressional Definition of Homelessness:

- Individuals and families who lack a **fixed**, adequate night-time residence, which includes persons who stay in the following:
  - In a shelter, motel, vehicle, campground.**
  - On the street**
  - In an abandoned building, trailer or other inadequate accommodation.**
  - With friends or relatives because they cannot find or afford housing.**
- McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act. 2009

# SCU Community Survey, Voices of Homelessness Project

October 2012

**Methodology:** **2,102 Surveys** were sent to **all faculty and staff and a sample of students** to assess experiences of housing insecurity and homelessness among our campus community.

**587 people responded.**

- **16% reported a personal experience of homelessness.**

-Of those, **50%** were homeless for under 60 days

**30%** were homeless for 2-12 months

- 31% experienced homelessness since joining the SCU community.
- **45% reported knowing someone at St. Kate's with housing insecurity**

SCU Community Survey October 2012, 69 of 587 responded to the prompt:

Please use the space below for any comments you have on this issue.

- *“I presently have a brother who is homeless.”*
- *“I have gone through a mortgage problem because my parents divorced.”*
- *“St. Kate’s is an expensive private school. I do not see anyone attending here having been homeless because they can afford the 30,000 dollar education, Normandale would be more like it.”*
- *“Does a newly-wedded couple apply in this context if they are living with the spouse’s parents and not living on their own?”*
- *“I would have more interest if I knew that it was a significant problem in our community. Now I prefer to focus my efforts on the obvious homelessness problem in... the Twin Cities.”*
- *“I think that this is a dirty little secret that people don’t like to talk about nor do they want to share this because it causes shame.”*

Kayla Guerrero, 2016 Honors Project in Nutrition at St. Kates,  
advisor Dr. Teri Burgess-Champoux

*“Assessment of prevalence, knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors of food insecurity in students attending a private university”*

Accepted for publication in a scholarly journal.

***From the Abstract:*** The objective of this study was to assess the prevalence and perceptions of **food insecurity among students attending a private, all-women’s university**. A survey instrument was developed using validated questions from the literature and themes identified from individual interviews during the first phase of the study.

Of the **84 respondents, 7.1% were classified as food insecure**. The majority of students (90.3%) reported food insecurity can be an issue for college students, and **many (59.0%) reported knowing someone experiencing food insecurity**. However, participants lacked knowledge about food assistance programs. **These data support the need for education and interventions to reduce food insecurity among the college student population.**

# 2015 Pell Grant Recipients at St. Kate's

Federal student grant program to aid low-income students, based on need. FAFSA form helps determine eligibility. Typically, student annual household income cannot exceed 150% of the federal poverty level.

**Family of 4 Income 100% and 150% Poverty Level: (2016)**

**\$24,300**

**\$36,450**

**Pell Grant maximum award (2015): \$5775**

**Full-price tuition, books and fees at St. Kate's: over \$40,000**

# 2015 Pell Grant Recipients at St. Kate's

- **St. Kate's Students receiving Pell Grants in 2015, by program**

<u>Day</u>	<u>Adult Bacc</u>	<u>Associates</u>	<u>RN→BS</u>
<b>41%</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>17%</b>

SCU Voices of Homelessness digital archive:

<http://sophia.stkate.edu/scuvoh/>