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.

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.”
“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)

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<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100%</td>
<td>$24,300</td>
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<tr>
<td>150%</td>
<td>$36,450</td>
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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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Adult Bacc</th>
<th>Associates</th>
<th>RN→BS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>41%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>17%</td>
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