

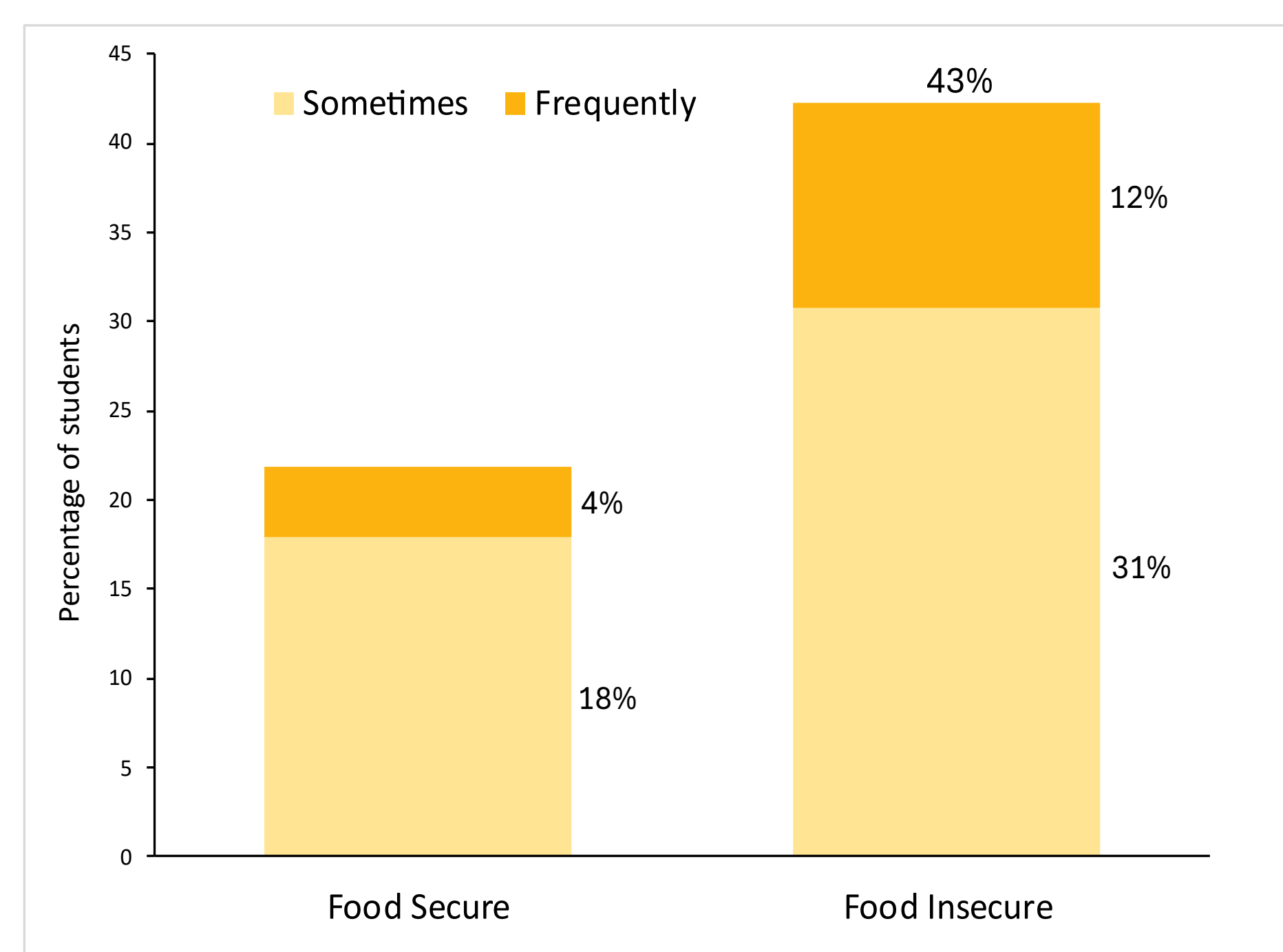
Effective Practice for Using SNAP to Address Food Insecurity on College Campuses

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SNAP for college student success

SNAP can be a tool to combat the growing problem of food insecurity among college students. Campuses are deploying varied programs to connect qualifying students to benefits. This study gained insight into effective campus-based programs and recommendations to effectively use SNAP to help students. Results inform institutional leadership and practice, SNAP administration, and policy to help students succeed.



Percentage of students who sometimes and frequently considered dropping out of school by food insecurity status

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Study Team

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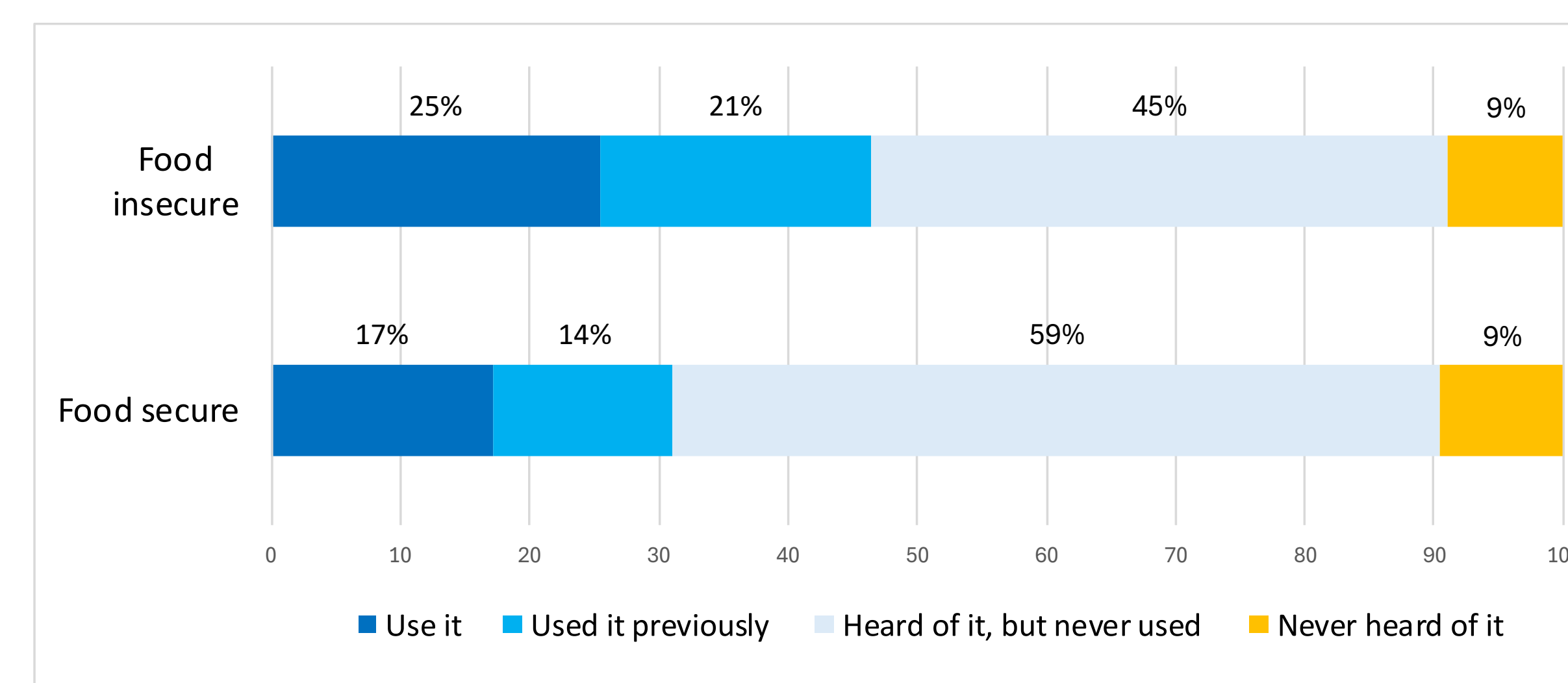
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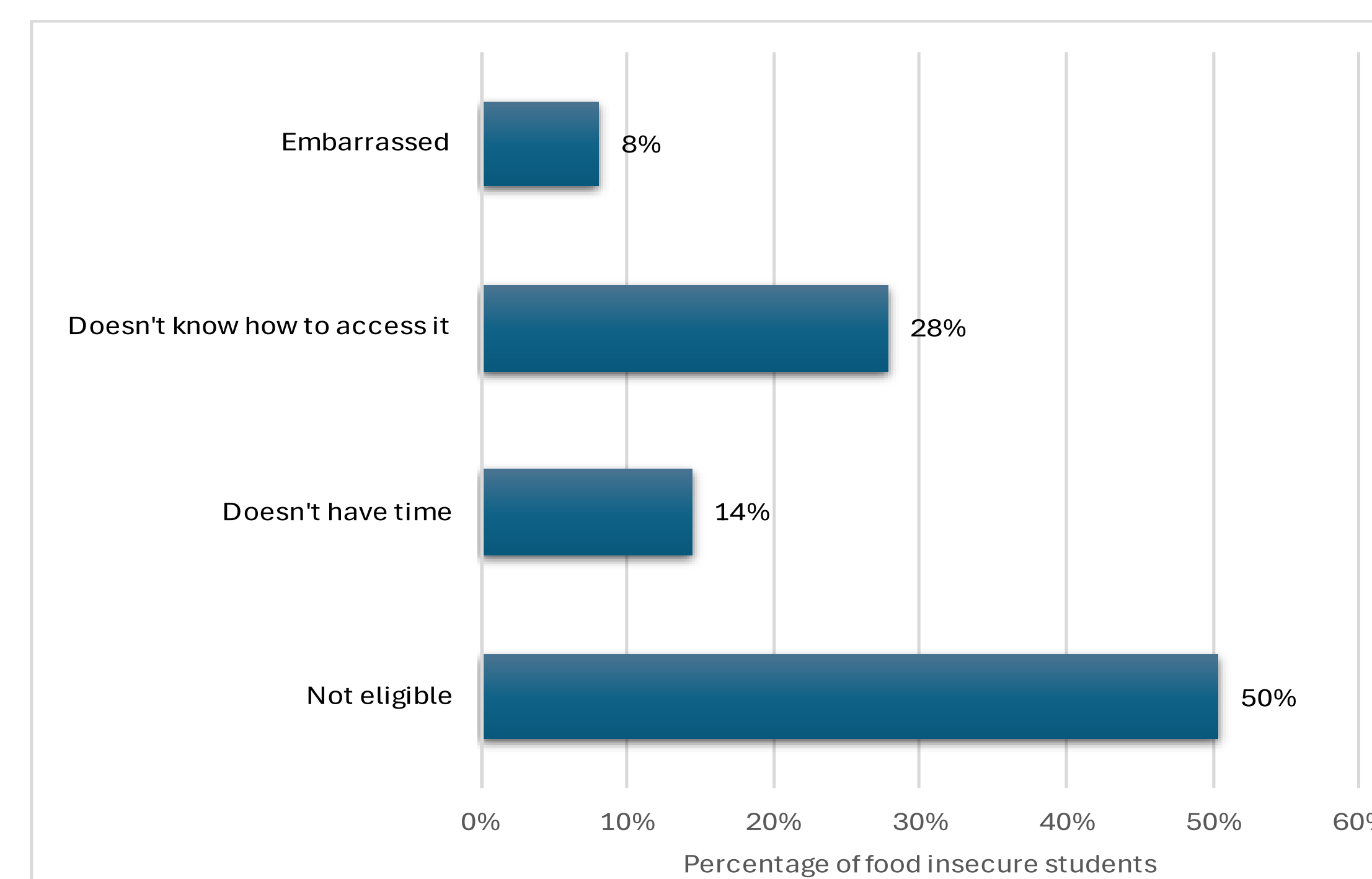
Voices from the front lines

This study harnessed the lived experience of students and basic needs staff to gain insight into effective campus-based programs and recommendations to effectively use SNAP to help students. We conducted interviews (n=23), a student survey (n=4,165) and focus groups (n=27) with staff and students on 6 public California college campuses to learn:

1. characteristics of effective college programs to promote SNAP and connect qualifying students to benefits, and
2. recommendations for improving practice and policy.



SNAP participation and awareness by food security status



Top 4 reasons food insecure students who have heard of SNAP do not use it (n=777)

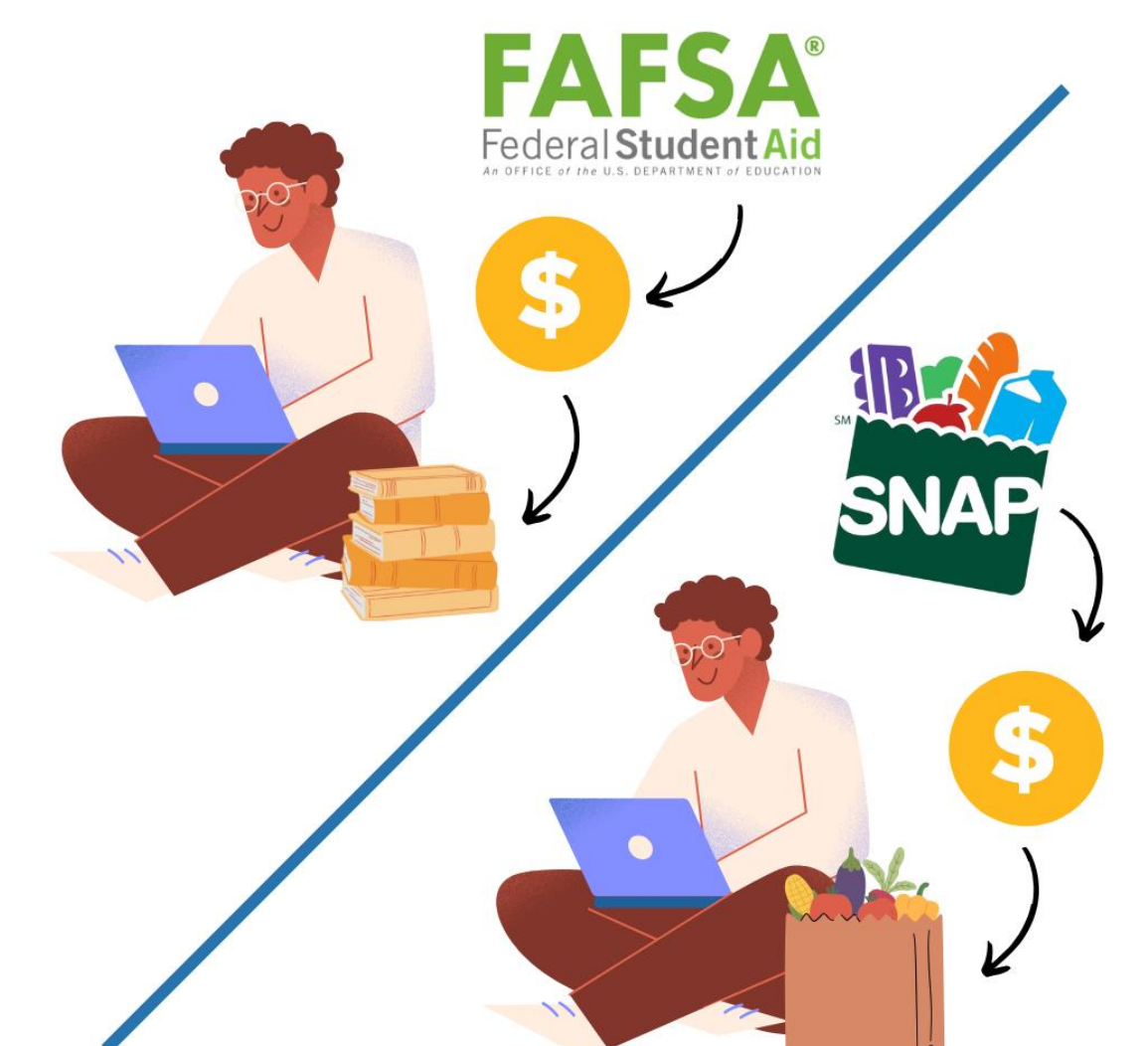


Recommendations for:

Institutional Leaders

- Support Basic Needs staff
- Foster strong connections to SNAP eligibility staff
- Improve data to identify qualifying students
- Stabilize staffing
- Improve promotion and messaging
- Raise awareness of student qualifications
- Use peer-to-peer programs
- Promote Basic Needs services alongside other student benefits such as the health center
- Facilitate EBT acceptance across campus
- Normalize SNAP benefits

Financial Aid for Food!



SNAP Administrators

- Support staff connected to college campuses
- Digitally modernize the application process
- Support campus staff to participate in the student assessment and application process
- Increase transparency on the outcomes of student applications

Policy Makers

- Facilitate identification and verification of student eligibility for SNAP
- Allow for financial aid information to be connected to social service applications
- Provide external support for campus Basic Needs offices