



HOME AWAY FROM HOME

COMBATting HOUSING INSECURITY AT ASTATE
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ABSTRACT

An individual's first year of college is often the first time that they experience living on their own and being responsible for housing and other necessities, and this makes college campuses uniquely conducive to housing insecurity. Research from the Hope Center finds that "sixty percent of survey respondents at two-year institutions and 48% at four-year institutions experience housing insecurity" (Goldrick-Rab 8). This project analyzes the presence of housing insecurity at A-State and proposes solutions to the different aspects that are causing negative effects to be seen on campus, such as cost burdens, subpar living conditions, and a lack of access to adequate resources. These solutions aim to alleviate the issue and create a healthier living environment on campus that improves student health and success.

THE HARMS

• LOW RETENTION RATES

Research has concluded that "there's a statistically significant relationship between housing-insecure students and college completion rates, persistence, and credit attainment" (Laman) and this issue can "create significant barriers to degree completion for students" (Vogt and Leek 4). We see this affecting Astate, as student retention rates show that less than half of students graduate with a bachelors degree in 6 years or less.

• INCREASED STRESS

Substandard conditions and maintenance issues need to be addressed quickly as "the inability to meet basic needs like having a safe place to sleep creates additional hardship and prolonged stress" (Laman). This especially pertains to AState as multiple students have reported subpar living conditions.

• HEALTH ISSUES

Student health is extremely impacted by this issue as "students facing housing insecurity have lower GPAs, poorer health, and higher rates of depression and anxiety than those who do not face these issues" (Laman). With both physical and mental health impacts being present, this issue needs to be a priority.

WORKS CITED

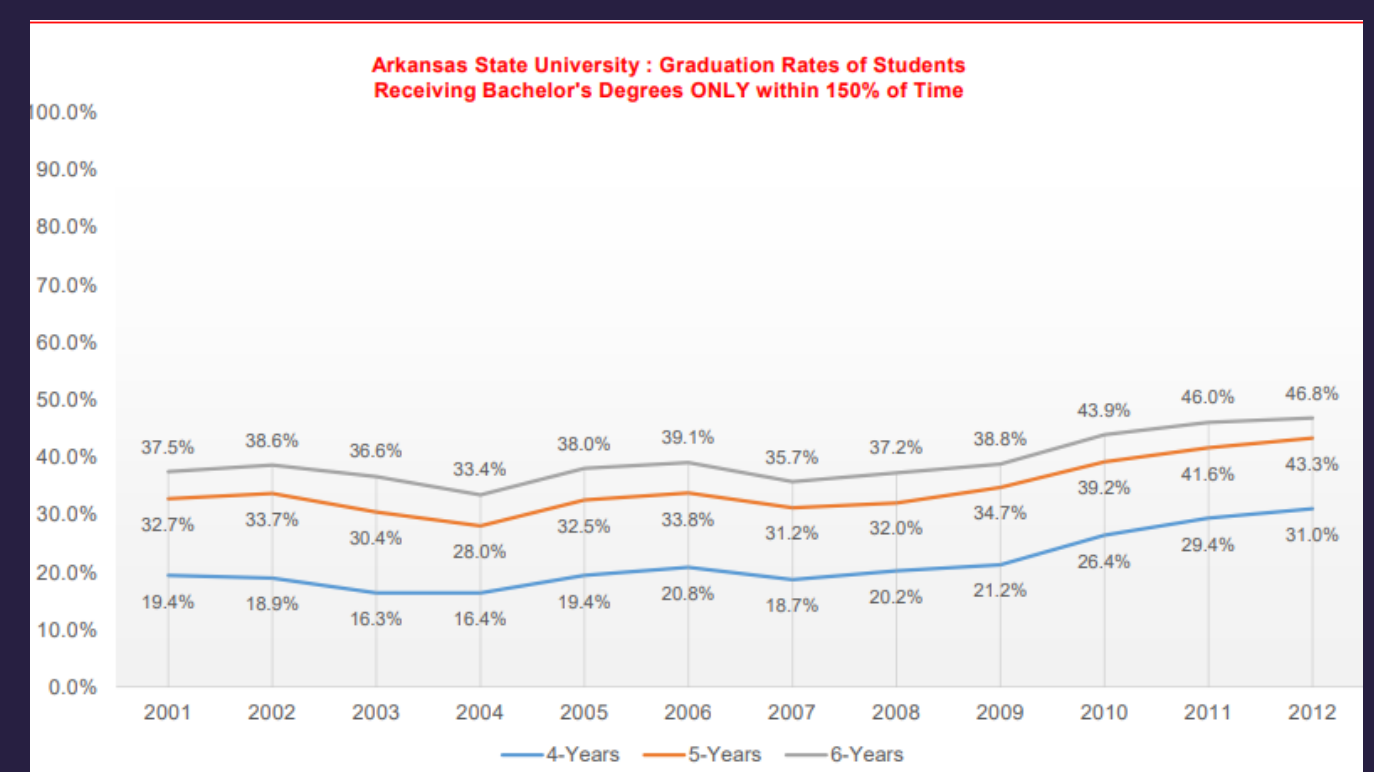
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HERE AT ASTATE

Housing insecurity is a very vast issue, and we see many parts of it here at AState. Arkansas State Students are subject to cost burdens, facing the effects of high living costs due to high rates and low grant or aid accessibility. Many students have also reported on substandard living conditions such as flooding, ventilation issues, black mold, non-functioning outlets, and more. These substandard conditions are only exacerbated by lack of access to adequate maintenance resources. Many students have reported that maintenance issues aren't addressed in a timely manner and have a tendency to be patched over with 'bandaid solutions'.



THE SOLUTION

Through petitions and/or proposals, advocating for these changes will substantially alleviate the issue of housing insecurity on campus. As this is a very large issue and requires extensive solutions, the time period for this project isn't long enough to actually implement the solutions, so the success will be measured through the petitions and/or proposals.

COST BURDENS

1. EXPANDING CURRENT GRANT ELIGIBILITY & OFFERING TIERED AWARD AMOUNTS
2. PARTNERING WITH LOCAL HOUSING AUTHORITY TO OFFER MORE PROGRAMS

LIVING CONDITIONS

1. MANDATE REGULAR MAINTENANCE INSPECTIONS FOR ON CAMPUS RESIDENCES

RESOURCES

1. IMPLEMENT AN ON-CALL MAINTENANCE SERVICE FOR ON CAMPUS RESIDENCES
2. REQUIRE CHECK - INS AFTER WORK ORDERS TO DECREASE 'BANDAID' SOLUTIONS