USDA NIFA Poster Abstracts

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UP1 Audience-Driven Curriculum Design to Enhance Youth and Parent Media Skills and Food Behaviors: Year 2 of 5

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Objective: This project aims to equip youth 9-12 and parents with nutrition knowledge and media literacy skills to manage media influence and engage in healthier food behaviors.

Description: Year 1 needs assessment focus groups identified concepts for curriculum development. Year 2 curriculum development employed an audience-driven iterative design modeled on the Strengthening Families Program.

Evaluation: Pilot testing will occur in five counties, followed by field testing and delayed posttests.

Conclusions and Implications: Media use can contribute to childhood obesity risk. The project addresses parents' desire to deconstruct marketing messages and enhance mindful eating, along with youth interest in learning about marketing techniques and nutrition facts.

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UP2 Findings From The Colorado LEAP Study: A Longitudinal Study for Obesity Prevention in Early Childhood

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Objective: This study explores individual, family and environmental factors and their relationship to child weight status over a 3-year timeframe.

Description: Five rural preschool/elementary school pairs (2 treatment; 3 control) participate. Treatment sites receive nutrition and physical activity interventions during preschool and booster programming in kindergarten and 1st grade.

Evaluation: Observational measures assess children's food preferences, food intake, gross motor skills, physical activity, self-competence and height/weight. Parents provide information on feeding and activity practices through surveys.

Conclusions and Implications: This study allows for longitudinal exploration of relationships among eating habits, physical activity patterns, and weight status within and across spheres of the social ecological model.

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UP3 The Pennsylvania State University Childhood Obesity Prevention Graduate Training Transdisciplinary Program

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Objective: This training program prepares pre-doctoral fellows for careers in childhood obesity prevention through transdisciplinary coursework, research, and internships.

Description: This program includes four programmatic areas: Nutritional Sciences, Child Development and Family Studies, Prevention and Intervention, and Research Methodology and Statistics.

Evaluation: Evaluation is accomplished through the following: yearly External Advisory meetings, program evaluation from trainees, ongoing publications and professional accomplishments of trainees, and biweekly meetings of key personnel.

Conclusions and Implications: Ten fellows have produced 38 presentations and 4 publications in the first 3 years of the program. We added 3 more fellows as of January 2014.

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