P48 (continued)

National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, NIH, NIFA, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Oklahoma State Department of Education Child Nutrition Programs.

P49 Integrating Nutrition Education and Media Literacy Into the Common Core Curriculum

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Objective: Develop and test curricula for elementary teachers to use in the classroom to fulfill requirements of school wellness policies.

Target Audience: Elementary school teachers.

Theory, Prior Research, Rationale: Information Processing Model, Media Literacy Theory.

Description: “Making Media for a Healthier U” is a compendium of resources and curriculum that supports the Common Core, which could be used to fulfill school wellness policy’s nutrition education requirement. The materials were based on MyPlate curriculum, media literacy theory, and Information Processing Models. Six lessons with supporting materials (e.g., student booklets, Power-Point slides) were provided to third-grade teachers. A field experiment with a control and implementation group assessed the effectiveness of the Nutrition and Media literacy lessons.

Evaluation: Ten classes (intervention = 6 classes, N = 144; control = 4 classes, N = 86) in a high-poverty Chicago suburb participated in the field study. Pre and posttests measured knowledge of food groups and food attitudes and beliefs. Qualitative information was gathered from classroom observations and feedback from teachers for program improvement.

Conclusions and Implications: The intervention group demonstrated a significant increase in knowledge of the food groups and the knowledge positively correlated with favorable food attitudes and beliefs. Children demonstrated media literacy through advertising analysis and production of advertising for carrots. Five of the intervention classes completed 6 hours of nutrition and media literacy in two weeks that engaged the children’s reading, math, art and language skills. Based on teacher feedback and classroom observation, teacher-training workshops are planned for curriculum expansion, refinement and testing.

Funding: None.

P50 Active Engagement: Teaching Cooking Skills to Young Adults With Autism

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Objective: The objective of the research was to test the feasibility of a community-based nutritional intervention, called Active Engagement, for young adults (18–25 years of age) with autism to improve their variety of diet, and enhance fruit and vegetable consumption.

Target Audience: Professionals working with special needs populations; public health professionals; community nutritionists.

Theory, Prior Research, Rationale: Autism is a broadly defined disorder of communication and social development of neurobiological origin; rates in the U.S. have been increasing steadily over the last several decades. Adults with autism are generally invisible in the national public health surveys and few nutrition programs have been developed and evaluated for this at-risk and underserved population.

Description: Over the course of 25 weeks, 20 young adults with autism were brought together weekly in a community-based center and taught the necessary skills to produce individualized salads. One group, pre/post-test design was used.

Evaluation: Data analysis was done via an ethnography of the overall course progression, a case study (using thematic analysis) that addressed the content of interviews with parents, and a case study of one participant and his trajectory through Active Engagement. Visual materials, adapted tools, songs and activities were also collected during the course progression.

Conclusions and Implications: Active Engagement was found to be feasible for involving young adults with autism in the food preparation process. The program follows a new trend in nutrition that emphasizes the therapeutic value of cooking and the ways that it can enhance nutritional status and change the individual relationship with food.

Funding: None.

P51 EFNEP and SNAP-Ed Collaborate to Encourage Faithful Families to Eat Smart, Move More, and Take Control of Their Health

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Objective: To provide a fifteen-week, multi-level nutrition education program in faith communities through a collaboration between the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – Education (SNAP-Ed), while developing strategies to guide future partnerships.

Target Audience: Faith communities in low-income areas.

Theory, Prior Research, Rationale: This pilot initiative encompasses and expands upon Faithful Families Eating Smart and Moving More, a practice-tested intervention for nutrition education in faith settings that utilizes the socio-ecological model to address multiple levels of influence. On the individual level, it uses the theory of planned behavior to inform, empower, and motivate

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