P115 Food Security Among Households With Children Improved Following a Nutrition Education Intervention

Rebecca L. Rivera, MPH, rcusack@purdue.edu, Purdue University, 700 West State Street, Stone Hall, West Lafayette, IN 47907; M. Maulding, MS, RD; A. Abbott, MA; H. Eicher-Miller, PhD

Objective: The effects of a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-Education (SNAP-Ed) intervention on the food security of households with children in Indiana were determined.

Design, Setting and Participants: A randomized, controlled, intervention study design using SNAP-Ed as the intervention was implemented throughout 92 Indiana counties from 8/2013 to 2/2014. Five hundred sixty SNAP-Ed eligible participants ≥ 18 years with ≥ 1 child residing in their household were recruited and randomly allocated to receive ≥ 4 SNAP-Ed lessons or not during the 4 to 10 week study period, before and after which they also completed the 18-item US Household Food Security Survey Module to assess food security status and a characteristics questionnaire.

Outcome Measures and Analysis: Analysis of covariance modeling, adjusted for participant and household characteristics, was used to determine changes in household food security status ($p \leq 0.05$).

Results: The mean household food security improvement from before compared with after the study period was greater in the intervention (-1.0 , $SD=3.3$) compared with the control group (-0.4 , $SD=2.7$) in simple ($p=0.04$) and adjusted models ($\beta = -0.7$, $p=0.03$).

Conclusions and Implications: The SNAP-Ed program is an effective intervention to improve food security in households with children in Indiana over a short-term period. The results help build the evidence base to inform stakeholders about the impact of SNAP-Ed.

Funding: USDA, University of Kentucky Center for Poverty Research.

P116 Determining the Need for a Food Pantry on a University Campus

Karla Shelmutt, PhD, RD, kpagan@ufl.edu, University of Florida, 3038 McCarty Hall D, Gainesville, FL 32611

Objective: To determine food insecurity on a large university campus and to obtain input on preferences for a food pantry.

Design, Setting and Participants: An online survey with questions from the US Household Food Security Survey and questions developed by university faculty and staff to inform logistics for a food pantry was developed. All undergraduate and graduate students were invited to participate, and 1,891 students completed most or all of the survey in the fall 2014 semester.

Outcome Measures and Analysis: Descriptive statistics are provided.

Results: Ten percent of total respondents indicated they sometimes or often did not have enough food to eat, indicating food insecurity. Of these food insecure students,

85% worried their food would run out before they got money to buy more, and 79% indicated that the food they bought didn't last and they didn't have the money to get more. As a result of not having enough money for food, 81% cut the size of or skipped meals, 74% had been hungry but didn't eat, and 23% did not eat for a whole day. In addition, 46% indicated that the inability to afford food affected their ability to learn, and 84% avoided dining out with friends because they could not afford the food. Eighty-seven percent of total respondents supported a food pantry and most preferred a hidden but central location on campus.

Conclusions and Implications: These data indicate a need and a desire for a food pantry at a large university campus. University administrators, faculty and staff are now working together to start a sustainable, healthy food pantry.

Funding: None.

P117 Intent to Use WIC Smartphone Application to Promote Breastfeeding, Physical Activity, and Healthy Eating in WIC Participants

Lesli Biediger-Friedman, PhD, RD, MPH, lb47@txstate.edu, Texas State University, 601 University Drive, School of Family Consumer Science, San Marcos, TX 78666; M. Silva, BS; S. Crixell, PhD, RD; B. Friedman, PhD, RD, LDN; K. S. Smith, PhD

Objective: To examine performance expectancy of WIC app prototype usage toward improving health behaviors.

Design, Setting and Participants: A total of 54 WIC mothers in 6 focus groups held in Texas (79% Hispanic, 42% Spanish preferred, 52% rural, 22% breastfeeding) tested a WIC app prototype. Themes based on performance expectancy constructs for technology acceptance were included in the focus group discussion guide. Observations were recorded and transcribed. Comments were identified and coded for themes based on performance expectancy constructs.

Outcome Measures and Analysis: Using Nvivo 10, examined constructs were perceived usefulness, outcome expectation, extrinsic motivation, and relative advantage.

Results: Most participants said they would utilize a WIC app. Some mentioned the app would be useful to them specifically as mothers. Overall outcome expectation was that app use would increase healthy behaviors based on features such as planning, logging, and sharing information. Tracking and sharing progress were themes of extrinsic motivation. Perceived relative advantages were that a single app can promote multiple healthy behaviors and facilitate quick access to information.

Conclusions and Implications: Texas WIC mothers feel that a comprehensive app would facilitate physical activity, healthy eating and breastfeeding duration. Features that facilitated planning, enabled logging information, and provided quick access to resources were identified as especially useful.