P67 Assessing Low-Income Clients' Views About Retail and Food Pantry Environments

Catalina Aragon, MS, c.aragon@wsu.edu, Washington State University, 2606 West Pioneer, Puyallup, WA 98371; A. Bush-Kaufman, MPH, RD; J. Armstrong Shultz, PhD; K. Barale, MS, RD, FADA

Objective: To identify low-income clients' perceptions about their local grocery retail and food pantry environments that potentially influence access to fruits and vegetables (FV).

Design, Setting, Participants, and Intervention: A cross-sectional self-administered survey was conducted with low-income adult clients from EFNEP and SNAP-Ed class series (n=200). Survey design followed the Model of Community Nutrition Environments. Selected items aligned with current environmental scan assessments for retail and food pantry outlets. Questionnaire construction followed the Tailored Design Method.

Outcomes Measure and Analysis: Perceived availability, access, and affordability of FV in the retail environment were assessed including factors potentially influencing greater purchase of FV. Attitudes toward environmental features of the client's primary retail and food pantry outlets were included.

Results: The survey sample included clients from six Washington counties and diverse ethnic/racial groups; 55% participated in SNAP and 50% were food pantry clients. Location-related factors that clients indicated were 'very important' to their decision to shop at their major retail store included: proximity to where they live (58%), feeling safe shopping at the store (51%), and ability of getting a ride to that store (34%). Factors that clients reported as 'very likely' encouraging them to buy more FV included: in-store sales (69%), attractive displays (37%), free samples (37%) and recipes (27%). Survey respondents valued a variety of factors related to food pantries such as: shopping style, information on other assistance programs, healthier options, and recipes.

Conclusions and Implications: Findings provide guidance to retail and food pantry partners for environmental supports that promote healthier choices in ways meaningful to clients.

Funding: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program - Education

P68 Behavioral Nutrition Interventions in Food Pantries: Lessons and Strategies

Brian Wansink, PhD, foodandbrandlab@cornell.edu, Cornell University, Food and Brand Lab, Warren Hall 112, Ithaca, NY 14850; H. Bhana, MHSc, Columbia University; J. W. Cadenhead, BS; M. Qureshi, BS

Objective: Emerging evidence shows behavioral interventions in food pantries can be promising to improve healthy food selection; however, conducting research in these settings can be challenging. This article provides recommendations of specific actions and methodological considerations that behavioral practitioners and researchers can take to build stronger collaborative and self-sustaining interventions for food pantries.

Target Audience: Researchers and practitioners developing behavioral interventions in food pantries.

Theory, Prior Research, Rationale: Interventions employing behavioral science strategies (adjusting convenience, attractiveness, and social norms of target foods) in school lunchrooms, cafeterias, and grocery stores are able to change eating patterns in scalable and affordable ways. Food pantries would benefit from utilizing these strategies, as they serve at-risk populations and operate within financial constraints.

Description: A series of studies conducted in urban food pantries illustrates common barriers to successful intervention execution and evaluation include: site-specific disruptions; difficulty maintaining fidelity; difficulty ensuring intervention strength; challenges to measuring and collecting data.

Evaluation: Solutions derived from these studies and other literature include: generating key informants and internal advocates of the intervention at all staffing levels; developing logic models and transition plans; considering multi-modal evaluation assessments; conducting needs assessments of the target versus service population; considering competing operation strategies and health service programs provided by the pantry; considering dosage to the intervention with respect to number of exposures and duration of exposure; and providing images/photos to guide staff in the intervention setup.

Conclusions and Implications: Easy changes to methodologies and procedures in food pantries can make research efforts more productive and viable in these complex settings.

Funding: None

P69 Using Choice Architecture to Create Healthy Food Interventions in Food Pantries

Brian Wansink, PhD, foodandbrandlab@cornell.edu, Cornell University, Food and Brand Lab, Warren Hall 112, Ithaca, NY 14850; H. Bhana, MHSc, Columbia University; M. Qureshi, BS; J. W. Cadenhead, BS

Objective: Food pantries offer a wide array of healthy foods which are often bypassed in favor of less healthy items. This study examined whether altering the location of a target healthy food could increase selection of it over competitive and less healthy foods.

Design, Setting, Participants, and Intervention: The study used a quasi-experimental design with an intervention and matched control client-choice pantry (pantries where clients are able to "shop" in a fashion similar to a grocery store). Pantry clients were mostly female, 20-83 years of age, and Hispanic/Latino (63%) and African-American/Black (28%). In this study, the location of a healthy whole grain cereal was altered to two conditions: either located along with all other (less healthy) cereals or ahead of (and separate from) alternative cereals.

Outcome Measures and Analysis: Inventory records of the target cereal and all competing cereals were tracked and pre-post self-report surveys conducted with intervention

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