O23 (continued)

campaign in an all-you-care-to-eat university dining setting.

Study Design and Setting: Consumer plate waste was collected, sorted, and weighed during lunch in two dining halls for a 13-week period in Fall 2016. An education campaign was introduced in the treatment dining facility during week 8 of the data collection effort to assess the impact of the campaign on the quantity and quality of food waste. The education campaign provided messaging on the economic, environmental, and social aspects of food waste and presented diners with feedback on their own waste behavior. The second dining hall served as a comparison.

Outcome Measures and Analysis: Plate waste was sorted into three categories: meat protein, fruits and vegetables, and "other." An average daily waste per student was calculated for each dining hall. Ordinary least squares regression was used to model the impact of the education campaign on the average food waste per student, including controls for dining hall, day of week, and menu week cycle.

Results: Preliminary results reveal that the education campaign had a modest, but insignificant, impact on waste behavior, with waste reductions primarily occurring in the "other" (as opposed to protein or fruit/vegetable) waste category.

Conclusions and Implications: The education campaign worked in the intended direction, yet results suggest education alone may not be an effective intervention strategy for reducing plate waste. Foodservice managers may want to combine education efforts with changes to the dining environment (e.g., pricing strategy, menu size, pre-portioning food items).

Funding: NIFA

O24 It's Easy to Just Toss it Because You Can Get Something Else - Young Adults Perceptions of Wasted Food

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Objective: Consumers are one of the largest sources of preventable wasted food in developed countries, and age is negatively correlated with quantity of wasted food. This study sought to explore the perceptions, beliefs and behaviors related to wasted food among 18-24 year old adults.

Study Design, Setting, Participants: Nine, 75-minute focus groups were conducted with young adults on a university campus. Fifty-eight individuals (63.8% female) with an average age of 20.2 y (± 1.6) who lived in a residence where they had control over some food purchases (excluding co-op or Greek housing or living with parents) participated in focus groups during spring of 2016. Thirty participants lived in dormitories at a

land-grant university and the remaining 28 lived in dwellings off campus.

Outcome Measures and Analysis: Before focus group participation, interested participants completed online questionnaires to provide sociodemographic characteristics and frequency of domestic food behaviors. Focus groups were digitally recorded, transcribed verbatim, reviewed for accuracy, and then analyzed for themes by two investigators using the constant-comparative approach.

Results: Inductive thematic analyses provided insights that were broadly categorized into: knowledge of wasted food, factors that impact food waste behaviors, motivations for addressing wasted food, suggested intervention to reduce wasted food, and challenges to address when working with young adults on this issue. Additionally, results provide evidence of heterogeneity in perceptions, beliefs, and behaviors related to wasted food based on residential dwelling type.

Conclusions and Implications: Insights from the current study may be used to inform and tailor interventions focused on reducing wasted food in young adults.

Funding: USDA

O25 Building Capacity of the South Carolina SNAP-Ed Program to Implement Policy, Systems, and Environmental Strategies for Healthy Eating and Active Living in Conjunction with Delivery Direct Nutrition Education

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Objective: SNAP-Ed Implementing Agencies (IA) have varying levels of capacity to meet federal rules requiring working to change policy, systems, and environments (PSE) for healthy eating and active living in conjunction with delivering nutrition education. This evaluation aimed to identify barriers and opportunities for building capacity of IAs to work with SNAP-Ed partners on PSE strategies.

Study Design, Setting, Participants, Intervention: This study took place in South Carolina and included three components of data collection. Pre- and post-interviews with IA staff (n=19; n=19); interviews with current or potential partners of SNAP-Ed (n=84); and SNAP-eligible participant focus groups (n=165). IA interviews explored knowledge of PSE requirements, and barriers and opportunities for capacity building. Partner interviews explored preferred PSE strategies, and barriers and opportunities for implementation. Focus groups explored barriers to healthy foods and preferred PSE strategies.

Outcome Measures and Analysis: Interviews and focus groups were analyzed using NVIVO11 software, focused on

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