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Interview Survey and Propensity Score Matching, we create matched intervention and comparison groups of adults age 60 and over. The treatment group (n=1,717) comprises SNAP participants, and the comparison group (n=3,329) includes eligible non-participants.

Outcome Measures and Analysis: The outcome is a binary variable for engaging in CRN, and the treatment is SNAP participation. Probit regression models are used to determine the impact of SNAP on CRN while controlling for a wide array of sociodemographic and health-related factors.

Results: SNAP participants are 3.1 percentage points less likely to engage in CRN than eligible non-participants (p=0.06). This effect is magnified for the subgroup of older adult SNAP participants at-risk of hunger, who were 5.8 percentage points less likely to engage in CRN than their counterparts (p=0.04).

Conclusions and Implications: Approximately 42 percent of eligible older adults participate in SNAP. Health systems and payers have a vested interest in connecting low-income older adults with food assistance programs given the direct connection between food insecurity and poor health outcomes, and now strong evidence that SNAP participation can help older adults afford their prescription medications.

Funding: None

P187 SNAP-Eligible Families Encounter Multiple Economic, Social, and Environmental Barriers to Fruit and Vegetable Consumption

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Objective: Low-income households devote fewer dollars per person to the purchase of fruits and vegetables (FV). Eating FV in place of more energy-dense foods is associated with body weight management and reduced risk for many chronic diseases. Social marketing (SM) interventions have shown to influence health behavior, thus, Ohio SNAP-Ed is developing a SM campaign to increase FV demand and consumption among the target population. This study's purpose was to explore dietary patterns and motivations/barriers to FV consumption among Ohio SNAP-eligible families to inform campaign development.

Study Design, Setting, Participants: Cross-sectional, mixed methods approach using focus groups and an online survey. Participants were primarily SNAP-eligible adults at or below 185% poverty with children living in the home.

Outcome Measures and Analysis: Family characteristics (e.g., income, ethnicity, number of children in

household); behaviors related to purchasing, preparation, and consumption of FV; motivators and barriers associated with eating FV. Focus groups were recorded, transcribed, and analyzed using thematic analysis techniques in NVivo. Three trained researchers coded survey responses and distilled collective findings into thematic observations.

Results: Thirteen themes emerged, including the prevailing influence of cost, family member taste preferences, and shelf life on food purchases. Nearly half (48.1%) of the target population felt that they eat "enough" fruits and vegetables, despite reporting intake levels well below USDA recommendations.

Conclusions and Implications: The economic, social, and environmental barriers to FV consumption identified by Ohio SNAP-eligible adults justify a need for innovative SM strategies to enhance existing SNAP-Ed programs. Consideration of such barriers will ultimately guide and strengthen the design of a SM campaign.

Funding: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program - Education

P188 Summarizing Common Achievements, Challenges, and Lessons Learned of USDA Farm to School Grantees

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Objective: Farm to school programs involve efforts to bring locally produced foods into school cafeterias; facilitate hands-on learning activities such as school gardening, farm visits, and culinary classes; and integrate food-related education into standards-based classroom curriculum. This research summarizes common achievements, challenges, and lessons learned of USDA Farm to School Program grantees.

Study Design, Setting, Participants, Intervention: USDA's Office of Community Food Systems (OCFS) annually funds school district involvement in farm to school through its Farm to School Grant Program. From 2013 to 2016, USDA funded 300 projects in all 50 states including 152 school districts or charter school programs in 42 states and territories.

Outcome Measures and Analysis: Staff in OCFS performed a qualitative analysis on final reports submitted by 83 school districts that received a USDA Farm to School grant between 2013 and 2015. Themes were grouped by achievements, challenges, and lessons learned using USDA's farm to school curriculum which includes 12 separate planning and implementation modules.

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Results: Initial findings suggest common achievements included developing school gardens and establishing multi-component education programs (such as 'Harvest of the Month') while challenges related to staff turnover and lack of dedicated personnel resources. School districts often described lessons learned in terms of increasing program outreach and sustainability by developing core activity areas.

Conclusions and Implications: Findings from this study inform support services for future grant recipients and enable OCFS to further develop resources for partnering school districts, state and local agencies, tribal organizations, and non-profit entities. Results will also be used to describe effective practices for other schools planning and implementing farm to school activities.

Funding: USDA

P189 Technology Use and Preferences of EFNEP Paraprofessional Educators

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Objective: To understand the usage of technology by paraprofessional educators providing direct nutrition education to low income families/youth in the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP).

Study Design, Settings, Participants: EFNEP paraprofessional educators serving low income communities in Maryland, Illinois and Kansas.

Outcome Measures and Analysis: Data was gathered regarding technology use, frequency of use, location where accessed, preferred platforms, reason for accessing different devices as well as demographic data.

Results: Sixty-two EFNEP educators from three states completed the surveys. Technology use and preferences differed considerably between states and sample size was not representative of the nation. Eighty-eight percent of educators accessed a computer daily from their place of work; 92% used their mobile device for texting and 73% used a Smartphone to download and use applications. A majority (>90%) had access to high-speed internet to access nutrition information about healthy eating, recipes and exercise. Eighty-five of educators also used social media with Facebook, Pinterest and YouTube representing the most popular sites.

Conclusions and Implications: EFNEP has a proven record of cost-effective direct nutrition education in a series

to food insecure communities across all states/territories in the United States using an 'indigenous paraprofessional' model for program delivery. Working families with children face numerous challenges in engaging in repeated face to face education. This study aims to understand technology preferences and use by EFNEP educators in order to improve retention and graduation from EFNEP. This study can inform efforts to examine the feasibility of strategic and limited use of technology to augment EFNEP nutrition education while maintaining the integrity of EFNEP's direct education model.

Funding: None

P190 Telephonic Health Coaching (THC) Promotes Health Behavior Changes Among Participants in SNAP-Ed

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Objective: To develop and test the efficacy of a THC program for the SNAP-Ed population.

Theory, Prior Research, Rationale: THC is a feasible and cost-effective method used to promote a spectrum of health behavior changes. In 2015, we launched a THC program with SNAP-Ed clients to pilot test procedures, methods, and evaluate preliminary outcomes. The current THC protocol employs a Brief Action Planning model; a theory-based approach that incorporates motivational interviewing techniques, building self-efficacy, and setting SMART goals.

Description: The target population is SNAP-Ed attendees from various community sites. Clients signed informed consent and provided contact information. Clients were called for a 15 minute THC session, weekly for 6 weeks. At week 1 and 6 clients completed a 12-item survey on eating and physical activity behaviors based on the Dietary Guidelines (DG). Clients set 1-2 goal per session. Behavior change was measured by self-reported percent attainment (0%-100%) of goals, and survey results.

Evaluation: Fifty-seven clients began THC; 34 (60%) completed week 4, and 27 (47%) completed all 6 weeks. Goals relating to increasing physical activity (37%) and fruit and vegetable intake (25%) dominated. Clients reported attaining 100% of their goals 49% of the time. Ninety-three percent of the clients made a significant positive behavior change in one of the DG. Direct cost of THC was sustainable at \$10/session.

Conclusions and Implications: THC is an innovative mode of promoting healthy behaviors with a subset of highly motivated SNAP-Ed clients. It has the potential to extend resources, impact a broader geographic range, and offer a more client-focused interaction of greater duration to facilitate behavior change.

Funding: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program - Education