P55 (continued)

Conclusions and Implications: Other attempts to measure community readiness for change have been explored, but no quantitative research methods for assessing a community's readiness for health and wellness change have been developed. A psychometrically sound and validated survey offers the possibility of accurate measuring community readiness for supporting successful institution of health and wellness interventions.

Funding: USDA

P56 Development of the FoodCorps Healthy School Progress Report to Measure School Food Programming and Environment

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Objective: To develop a comprehensive tool to measure nutrition education, school garden experiences, healthy school meals, and schoolwide culture of health by revising a less comprehensive one.

Study Design, Setting, Participants: Collect process and outcome data and revise for 5 total versions. FoodCorps schools across United States (2014-15 and 2015-16 school years). FoodCorps service members, service site supervisors, school personnel, and stakeholders.

Outcome Measures and Analysis: Version 1: informed by literature review, interviews with 7 service members, and feedback from FoodCorps staff and board. Version 2: informed by 3 focus group phone calls and written comments from 35 stakeholders, including 6 school-based nutrition education researchers. Version 3: showed 11 high implementation schools had high HSPR scores and 9 "emerging" schools had low HSPR scores. Version 4: showed change scores for 298 FoodCorps schools completing the HSPR (Fall 2015 and Spring 2016). Conducted cognitive testing and process interviews with 9 FoodCorps Schools (3 people from each), analyzed for emerging themes. Version 5 & Final HSPR: Incorporated results from prior versions.

Results: The HSPR is evidence-informed, has content and construct validity, and is sensitive to change. The tool measures FoodCorps programming in three areas of service: Hands-on Learning, Healthy School Meals, and Schoolwide Culture of Health. Average baseline scores were 42.7 (out of 100) and increased eight points over one year. Schools that started with lower scores had bigger change scores.

Conclusions and Implications: The HSPR is a comprehensive measure of a healthy school environment and can be used by FoodCorps and other school-based nutrition education programs to assess levels of programming.

Funding: FoodCorps Inc.

P57 Environmental Barriers to Healthful Dietary and Physical Activity Behaviors in the EFNEP Participant Population

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Objective: Direct education programs, including the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP), target personal barriers to enable behavior change. However, an opportunity exists to pursue a holistic policy, systems, and environment approach by targeting some environmental barriers (limited availability, high cost, safety, lack of transportation, and challenges caused by poor weather). The Western Regional Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention Center of Excellence initiated a study to gather perspectives of EFNEP paraprofessional educators on how environmental barriers affect EFNEP participants and environmental changes which could be made to encourage more healthful participant behaviors.

Study Design, Setting, Participants: Ten telephone focus groups were held with fifty EFNEP educators from ten states during April and May of 2016.

Outcome Measures and Analysis: Focus groups were audio-recorded, transcribed, and independently coded by two reviewers to identify recurring themes.

Results: Educators provided valuable anecdotal evidence regarding environmental barriers and generated potential solutions for specific barriers based on examples from their communities. For example, potential solutions to the availability barrier include creating mobile farmers' markets, partnering with volunteer groups to provide free food delivery from food banks or retailers to areas with limited access, working with alternative retailers to offer produce in urban areas, providing seeds to encourage home gardening, or facilitating development of or participation in community gardens.

Conclusions and Implications: Results will guide additional research and inform development of environmental support activities for direct education programs reaching low-income participants. Activities will aim to empower participants to change environmental barriers in their micro-environments.

Funding: None

P58 Good Choice Healthier Retail Initiative: Increasing Access and Appeal of Healthy Items in Rural Alabama

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Objective: The purpose of this experimental study was to increase access and appeal of healthy items in seven convenience stores in Marengo and Washington Counties in Alabama. People with limited access to supermarkets suffer disproportionately high rates of diet-related diseases. Every county in Alabama has at least one neighborhood with limited access to a grocer, leaving 1.8 million Alabamians to rely on small food stores (e.g. convenience stores) for grocery shopping. Since convenience stores typically sell high fat, high sugar processed foods and offer few healthy options, interventions in this setting may reduce food access barriers and promote healthy eating.

Study Design, Setting, Participants: This one group, pretest posttest design focused on changes in inventory, product placement and point-of-purchase prompts. Convenience stores were selected based on convenience sampling and location in towns with high rates of residents living below 185% of the federal poverty level.

Outcome Measures and Analysis: Trained SNAP-Ed Extension educators used the Alabama Department of Public Health's Good Choice Checklist to assess the food environment based on availability and promotion of healthy foods and beverages. For the Good Choice Healthier Retail Initiative, Extension educators collaborated with convenience store owners to discuss assessment findings and determine priorities for implementation.

Results: This initiative reached an average of 4,100 customers per day. The convenience stores increased their healthy item inventory from an average 10 to 34 healthy items.

Conclusions and Implications: Based on these results, convenience store interventions are a feasible option for increasing access and appeal of healthy items in underserved communities.

Funding: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program - Education

P59 Good Food: The Importance of “Healthy,” “Green,” “Fair,” and “Affordable” Attributes to Food Shoppers Across Three Sites

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Objective: Food experts in national and state food and agricultural initiatives have defined “good food” as “healthy, green, fair, and affordable.” The terms have been adopted by other organizations promoting sustainable food systems. To what extent does the public's understanding of these terms, and their perceived importance, correspond with original expert definitions?

Study Design, Setting, Participants: A mixed methods approach was used. Convenience samples of grocery shoppers (n= 166) were surveyed at three different sites: food pantry, supermarket, farmers market. Participants defined terms “good food,” “healthy,” “green,”

“fair,” “affordable” and then rated the importance of each using a Likert-type scale. A framework based on symbolic interactionism was used.

Outcome Measures and Analysis: Four one-way analyses of variance (ANOVAs) were conducted to investigate differences across the three sites in reported importance of healthy food, green food, fair food, and affordable food. Pearson Chi square tests evaluated the likelihood of differences among those at each site who defined terms using expert definitions for “green,” “fair,” and “affordable,” vs. those who did not.

Results: No significant differences were found between sites for any of the four variables regarding importance of healthy, green, fair, and affordable food to shoppers. Those defining “green” and “fair” using expert definitions (environmentally friendly; food justice) varied significantly at Sites A and C. This complemented qualitative findings.

Conclusions and Implications: Food movements focused on “good food” must be mindful to increase understanding and awareness by the public of connections between food and the environment (“green”) and social justice (“fair”), values that extend beyond personal health and affordability.

Funding: Western Michigan University

P60 Initial Development of a Scored Food Pantry Environmental Assessment E-scan

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Objective: Develop a scored environmental assessment tool (e-scan) for the food assistance environment. Specific objectives are conducting a literature review; establishing best practices and drafting and cognitively testing an e-scan.

Study Design, Settings, Participants: Formative, semi-structured phone interviews were conducted with food pantries (n=13), food banks (n=20), food banks anti-hunger advocates (n=1), and SNAP-Ed/EFNEP food pantry partners (n=7) in the USDA NIFA Western region. A comprehensive review of current healthy food pantry practices was conducted. Pilot tests of a draft e-scan were conducted by one researcher and at least one food pantry representative at each pantry site (n=15). Representatives provided additional feedback through cognitive debriefing interviews.

Outcome Measures and Analysis: Interview data were analyzed with Atlas.ti 7 qualitative software using content analysis theory to identify emerging themes.

Results: Three main themes were identified from the formative interviews: food procurement strategies, promotion of healthier environments, food assistance efforts outside of pantry settings. Respondents defined “healthy food pantries” as those with regular access to fresh fruits and vegetables, and those giving prominence to the respect and dignity of their clients. A preliminary e-scan (55 scored and 7 unscored questions) was created; each pantry assessment item was supported by research evidence

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