O3 (continued)

Target Audience: Professionals in waste reduction, public health, and charitable food.

Theory, Prior Research, Rationale: California has progressive regulations to curb greenhouse gas emissions. This includes a reduction in food waste deposited into landfills. One reduction strategy is to increase the amount of edible food recovered, which also supports food security. As the charitable food network has moved from emergency food to a regular source of calories, there has been increased attention on the nutrition of distributed foods. Better coordinated food donations, though welcomed, have also taxed the capacity of pantries to receive perishable foods. Waste reduction efforts provide an opportunity for funding to increase food pantry capacity, but only collaborative work can ensure that greenhouse gas reduction targets are not at odds with public health nutrition efforts.

Description: In collaboration with the San Diego Food Systems Alliance Food Waste Reduction Working Group, Leah's Pantry has worked with pantries to distribute recovered, edible, nutritious foods to battle food security. We have leveraged funded capacity building efforts with the implementation of the Nutrition Pantry Program. By educating the food waste reduction community and providing voice and support to the food pantries, we are creating success stories that combine environmental stewardship with nutrition security.

Evaluation: Using the Healthy Food Pantry Assessment Toolkit/Nutrition Pantry Program framework, assess impact of capacity building and technical assistance efforts on the quality and variety of food distributed, as well as holistic indicators of a client-centered distribution.

Conclusions and Implications: Collaboration and translation of principles into practice are required. County agencies and food waste generators are not necessarily aware of the complexities of the charitable food network. Layering public health objectives with environmental goals results in creative solutions and increased impact for both the charitable food network and the food waste reduction network.

Funding: Private family foundation; Anonymous donors.

O4 Challenges and Successes of Operating a Farm-to-Consumer Retail Outlet in an African American Community: A Qualitative Study

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Background (Background, Rationale, Prior Research, and/or Theory): Farm-to-consumer (FTC) retail outlets (i.e. farmers markets, farm stands) are considered a promising strategy to expand healthy food retail in underserved communities. However, previous studies have

reported that under-utilization is an issue in communities with a high percentage of low-income minority residents. **Objective:** This research aimed to assess the challenges and successes of operating a FTC retail outlet, in a predominately African American community, to better understand how market operations may be related to usage among community residents.

Study Design, Setting, Participants, Intervention: In 2016, semi-structured interviews were conducted with 11 individuals who manage a FTC retail outlet in Chicago, IL located in a census tract with $\geq 50\%$ African American residents.

Outcome Measures and Analysis: Interviews were audio-recorded and transcribed verbatim. Qualitative content analysis was used to analyze the data.

Results: Managers were, on average, 47.5 (± 14.5) years old and predominately female (91%), African American (55%), and college-educated (82%). All managers reported that their FTC retail outlet was authorized to accept Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits. Key challenges identified include recruiting new vendors, retaining reliable vendors, identifying viable marketing strategies, and maintaining financial stability over time. Key successes identified include becoming authorized to accept benefits from various food assistance programs and developing mutually-beneficial partnerships with local community organizations.

Conclusions and Implications: Challenges exist that affect FTC retail outlet operation in Chicago's predominately African American communities. More research is needed on this topic to better understand the impact FTC retail outlets have on healthy food purchasing and consumption in underserved communities.

Funding: USDA.

O5 Empowered Eaters: Analyzing the Landscape of Federal, State, and Local Nutrition Education Policies and Programs

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Background (Background, Rationale, Prior Research, and/or Theory): Despite significant government involvement in nutrition education, there is a research gap in understanding the landscape of federal, state, and local policies, programs, and funding that can support nutrition education. This study fills this gap, with New York State and City as case studies.

Study Design, Setting, Participants, Intervention: Mixed methods. Federal, New York State, New York City public policies and programs. State and city agency officials, local nutrition education providers, researchers, advocates.

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