O22 (continued)

Interviews were audio recorded, transcribed verbatim, and analyzed using the constant comparison method and Atlas.ti.

Results: Four key themes emerged: 1) hunger-mitigating resources exist but don't necessarily lessen food insecurity; 2) multiple layers of challenges present barriers to healthy nutrition for AI elders; 3) unique facilitators rooted in AI culture can help decrease food insecurity; and 4) there are many clinic-based opportunities for programs to improve food insecurity.

Conclusion: These findings provide a foundation for urban-serving AI clinics to develop and implement food insecurity resources for their elders. Resources should build on cultural strengths and be specific to the challenges faced by elders. Some challenges are not unique to AIs and similar resources could be developed for other urban organizations serving elders.

Funding: NIH.

O23 Community Stakeholders Perspectives on Food Security of Families with Children Ages 0 to 3 Years Before and During COVID-19

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Background: Children living in food-insecure households have poorer overall health than children in food-secure households. While emergency food and nutrition assistance programs provide supplemental food and education resources to eligible families, they cannot consistently provide adequate age-appropriate food for young children. Since the onset of COVID-19, families have experienced higher food insecurity rates, impacting access to nutritious food items for young children.

Objective: To explore community stakeholders' perceptions about obtaining nutritious and age-appropriate foods for children ages 0-3 years prior and as a result of COVID-19.

Study Design, Setting, Participants: Stakeholders (n = 15) with a vested interest or currently working with families with infants or toddlers in Florida participated in a 60-minute interview via Zoom by trained researchers using a semi-structured script.

Measurable Outcome/Analysis: The PRECEDE component of the PRECEDE-PROCEED model was used to inform the interview questions. Interviews were transcribed verbatim and coded by 2 researchers using an inductive approach.

Results: Before COVID-19, stakeholders perceived that families of infants and toddlers were not aware of available resources related to food security in the community. Stakeholders' stated resources such as baby foods and nutrition education were limited. Since COVID-19, resources related to food security have become even more restricted due to the increased demand, lack of transportation, and new safety protocols (ie, limited hours, social distancing, etc.). Moreover, the stigma associated with

applying for supplemental assistance was noted as a barrier to food security prior to and as a result of COVID-19. Stakeholders suggested these families have become more aware of supplemental assistance eligibility requirements and other available opportunities through social media and referrals since COVID-19.

Conclusion: Age-appropriate foods and additional resources are needed in non-stigmatized ways for food-insecure families with young children, especially as a result of COVID-19. Identifying risk factors associated with food insecurity will help determine future interventions for effective ways to safeguard young children's health and well-being.

Funding: None.

O24 Preliminary Evaluation of a University Food Pantry During COVID-19 Using Implementation Science Metrics

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Objective: To conduct a preliminary evaluation of a university food pantry using implementation science (IS) metrics.

Target Audience: Food insecure students at a Midwest university during Fall 2020.

Use of Theory or Research: Previous research has identified a need for IS to be incorporated into nutrition interventions to better address program sustainability at community and institutional levels.

Program Description: A satellite campus food pantry was created in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and is located at the university's recreation center. This food assistance program provides free food for students in need and was open 3 hours a day, twice a week from August to December.

Evaluation Methods: Pantry staff tracked implementation costs, food waste, and student usage. Pantry clients were invited to take an anonymous online survey to assess their satisfaction and acceptability of the pantry using valid and reliable questionnaires.

Results: In 28 service days, there were 353 visits with a total of 475 people served, and 150 different student users. The majority (n = 113, 75.3%) only visited the pantry once or twice, while 24.7% (n = 37) visited the pantry at least once a month. Of students relying on the pantry for monthly visits, only 27% were affected by COVID-19. Thus far, 97% of implementation costs are attributed to staff pay. The majority of landfilled food waste (591.4 pounds) was produce (15.8% fruit, 49.9% vegetables) and 18.2% was from premade items like sandwiches, salads, and pastas. Average student satisfaction (n = 45) was 27.3 out of 30 and acceptability was 13.7 out of 16.

Conclusion: The pantry is well accepted by students and results suggest it may be needed beyond pandemic times with limited users being affected by COVID-19. Additionally, while advantageous that the pantry receives premade

food from other campus programs, more research is needed to determine if the pantry is the best option for redistributing these food items.

Funding: None.

Food Systems & Food Environment

025 The Impact of Nudges and Healthy Eating Information on Consumer Vegetable Consumption and Food Waste

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Background: Improving Americans' selection and consumption of vegetables without increasing food waste is 1 approach to help meet global health and environmental targets outlined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Objective: To test nudges and educational messaging on consumer vegetable consumption and food waste.

Study Design, Setting, and Participants: A randomized experiment was conducted among Louisiana State University students, faculty, and staff (N = 485). Participants were provided an initial monetary balance and offered a lunch with main course variations at different prices (12 sets of 3 options) including beef meat balls, rice, and broccoli. Meal choices varied by proportion of meat and vegetables (broccoli randomly 25%, 50%, or 62.5% of plate), plate size/type (results not shown), and prominence of vegetable offerings on the menu. Each participant was served a preferred lunch option and kept any remaining balance. One of 2 × 2 information treatments was randomly assigned, including information about food waste versus screen time and information about healthy eating versus financial literacy.

Measurable Outcome/Analysis: Food consumption was calculated as the difference between the weighted amount of served and discarded food. Participants willingness to pay (WTP) was estimated using a mixed logit model based on discrete meal choices among the 12 choice sets.

Results: WTP for a meal decreased as the proportion of broccoli increased. Preference for plates with 50% broccoli increased with random assignment of information about vegetable consumption and improved health; no similar impact occurred for meals with 62.5% broccoli. WTP did not translate to higher broccoli consumption. Only those expressing a higher WTP for a plate with 62.5% broccoli

consumed more broccoli. Information about food waste significantly increased broccoli consumption, likely due to plate cleaning tendencies.

Conclusion: Findings indicate food waste information may be more impactful than healthy eating messages to improve consumer vegetable consumption after menu selection.

Funding: 2020-2021 Louisiana Board of Regents Support Fund, Louisiana State University Agricultural Center; USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Hatch project 1024670. Houghtaling B and Qi D share first authorship equally.

026 Local Farmers and Food Procurement in Mississippi Delta Schools: Fertile Ground

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Background: School food service administrators in the Mississippi Delta are procuring fruits and vegetables (FV) grown mainly outside of the agricultural region. Opportunities for local farmers to increase profits and provide fresh FV to children attending Mississippi Delta schools may be prolific.

Objective: Objectives of this study were to determine and compare FV procurement amounts (weight and cost) in 2 Mississippi Delta school districts, 1 participating in the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) for 2 consecutive years.

Study Design, Setting, Participants: Procurement data from 2 Mississippi Delta school districts, academic years 2018-2019 and 2019-2020, were obtained and compiled. Only foods categorized as FV were included.

Measurable Outcome/Analysis: Amounts of procured FV were calculated as weight in pounds and cost in dollars for each school district and for each academic year.

Results: In the FFVP district, 18 and 16 different fruits were purchased in respective years with apples, oranges, mixed fruit, and either pears or juice representing half of expenditures and by weight. For vegetables 20 and 19 different types were purchased in respective years with potatoes, greens and either corn or tomatoes representing half of expenditures and potatoes, tomatoes, and either greens or legumes representing half by weight. In the non-FFVP district, 12 different fruits were purchased in both years with apples and juice representing half of expenditures and juice alone accounting for 50% by weight. For vegetables 18 and 17 different types were purchased in respective years with potatoes, tomatoes and either corn or juice representing half of expenditures and by weight. Changes in percentage amounts were small except for fruits (increase) for the FFVP school district.

Conclusion: These school districts spend substantial amounts on non-locally sourced produce, much of which

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