O35 (continued)

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Background: The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted agri-food and health systems, increasing the risk of food insecurity, malnutrition, and related health problems.

Objective: To develop a global pandemic impact picture around agri-food and health systems.

Study Design, Setting, Participants: Cross-sectional web-based survey with closed- and open-ended questions. Food, nutrition, and health researchers/practitioners from an international network were recruited as representatives of populations they serve. Two reminders to complete the survey were sent.

Measurable Outcome/Analysis: Groups vulnerable to food insecurity and government actions were mapped, along with the impact of the pandemic on food production, distribution, and access, and offer of nutrition services. Descriptive statistics and content analysis summarized the data.

Results: Thirty individuals from Africa, America, Asia, Oceania, and Europe responded (11.85%). Most were from nutrition and dietetics (43.3%) or medicine (26.7%), working in research (50%) and with >10 years experience (62.1%). Informal/temporary workers (83.3%), older adults with chronic diseases (73.3%) and children eligible for school meals (53.3%) were found to be vulnerable to food insecurity. Commonly cited government actions were support for hand sanitation (53.3%), assistance to school-aged children (46.7%) and direct food provision (43.3%). About 50% saw community-led actions as important solutions. Only 16.7% mentioned remote delivery of nutrition services in primary care. Open-ended questions revealed that economic shocks, reduced investment, lack of staff/staff illnesses, transit restrictions, markets/stores closure or panic buying contributed to food production/distribution constraints. Reduced food availability, with unemployment/reduced purchasing power, increased food costs, lack of food security programmes or food emergency services contributed to food/nutrition insecurity. Nutrition services were reduced, suspended, or deprioritised.

Conclusion: Several factors contributed to agri-food systems disruption and various government actions were implemented globally. Nutrition services offered in the healthcare context deserves further exploration. As the pandemic continue this provide a blueprint for a nutrition education/awareness programme to mitigate those risks based on knowledge gaps in policy and practice.

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O36 College Students Cope to Achieve Food Security During the COVID-19 Pandemic

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Background: Feeding America estimates an additional 13.2 million people experienced food insecurity in 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. College students have higher risk given their transitional life stage and lack of access to enablers of food security, including federal food assistance programs. This project investigates interpersonal and community-level factors of the social ecological model that affect food choices, self-efficacy, and coping mechanisms among food insecure college students during the pandemic.

Objective: Describe facilitators and barriers to food security among college students during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Study Design, Setting, Participants: After IRB approval was obtained, participants (n = 18) were interviewed via a video-conferencing platform to investigate interpersonal coping mechanisms related to food security. Inclusion criteria encompassed current enrollment, participation in the on-campus food pantry, and age less than 30 years. Interviews focused on students' food acquisition and utilization, experiences with food insecurity before and during the pandemic, and feelings of stress.

Measurable Outcomes/Analysis: Interviews were recorded, transcribed, and themed using a 2-coder method.

Results: Students identified lack of knowledge about food assistance programs, confusion over food assistance qualification, and lack of transportation to food assistance sites as perceived barriers to improving food security during the pandemic. Primary coping mechanisms and facilitators to obtaining food were food pantry utilization, social support through food sharing, participation in the Supplement Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and engagement with community support programs.

Conclusion: COVID-19 has further exacerbated college students' vulnerability to food insecurity. College students have limited access to SNAP and rely on interpersonal relationships and community resources to maintain food security. Findings describe unique coping strategies to access food and identify strategies to improve college student food security during the pandemic.

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Research Methods & Food Systems

O37 Fruit and Vegetable Preparation Changes During and After Cost-Offset Community Supported Agriculture and Nutrition Education

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