P36 (continued)

food insecurity was associated with barriers to using nutrition assistance, including difficulty traveling to apply/recertify ($r = 0.24$; $P < 0.001$) and frequency of experiencing food access challenges during COVID-19 ($r = 0.16$ – 0.33 ; $P \leq 0.002$).

Conclusion: Challenges with food access and barriers to utilizing nutrition assistance during COVID-19 are associated with food insecurity among SNAP-eligible individuals, potentially resulting in reliance upon more compensatory food affordability strategies. Efforts should be taken to minimize these barriers to ensure adequate food quantity and quality among food insecurity individuals.

Funding: Utah State University Extension.

P37 Theory of Planned Behavior Describes Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Educators' Intent to Use PSE Approaches

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Background: A nation-wide focus on Policy, Systems, and Environmental (PSE) strategies has emerged as a complementary approach to individual based strategies for obesity prevention. PSE changes are community-based and aim to create environments that facilitate healthy eating and physical activity to support prevention of obesity and related chronic disease. Efforts are often planned and implemented through collaborative efforts with agencies, such as Cooperative Extension and community partners.

Objective: Use a previously established survey to determine factors affecting Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Educators' (OCEE) intentions to use PSE strategies as an approach to address public health issues in local communities.

Study Design, Setting, Participants: The cross-sectional study used a 66-item online survey administered to OCEE working in the areas of Family and Consumer Sciences, SNAP-Ed/EFNEP, 4-H and Agriculture.

Analysis: Principal component factor analysis with oblique rotation analyzed 52 items describing factors related to use of PSE strategies. Factor loadings >0.05 were retained. Cronbach alpha ≥ 0.70 was used to determine internal consistency. Frequency analysis of the remaining 14 items described beliefs related to obesity and related chronic disease, demographic and employment characteristics of the responding OCEE.

Results: Obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease were identified as community health issues of concern. Extension resources, outcome expectancies of PSE strategies, and networking with community agencies and

organizations were the 3 components describing OCEEs' intention to use PSE to address obesity and related chronic disease (Cronbach alpha >0.88).

Conclusion: Findings from this study provide insight to factors related to OCEEs' intent to use PSE approaches and reflect Theory of Planned Behavior constructs. The findings will be used to develop a second survey specific to OCEE to identify if intentions differ between groups of educators and providing context for development of PSE training and technical assistance specific to OCEE addressing public health issues using PSE approaches.

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P38 Understanding Food Insecurity in a College Student Population

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Background: The prevalence of food insecurity on college campuses has been found to be higher than reported in U.S. households. Despite the prevalence and negative health and academic consequences associated with food insecurity in college students, barriers exist in food access resource utilization, especially in the wake of COVID-19.

Objective: The purpose of this study is to determine the prevalence of food insecurity at Mississippi State University and explore college students' perceptions of food access resources and resource utilization.

Study Design, Setting, Participants: This study employed a mixed methods design. Quantitative data was gathered from an online survey to assess the prevalence, demographics, and food insecurity status from undergraduate students at Mississippi State University. The 1157 survey respondents then provided the recruitment pool for qualitative data collection, which was obtained via focus groups and open-ended questionnaires to explore student perspectives of food insecurity and food access resources.

Measurable Outcomes/Analysis: SPSS 27 was used to determine food security status based on the USDA's Household Food Security Survey Module 6-item short form. NVivo 12 was used for coding and thematic analyses to examine college student perspectives of food insecurity and food access resources.

Results: The prevalence of food insecurity among college students was 34.1%. Key influencers emerged as the major theme associated with students' views about food insecurity, and the resources available to address the issue. These influencers were personal beliefs, life skills, and the university. Student perceptions of what it means to need food access resources and the value of a resource were interconnected.