P45 (continued)

Study Design, Setting, Participants: Computer-aided telephone interviews were collected (in February 2020) in a random, representative sample of Vermont residents ($n = 574$).

Measurable Outcomes/Analysis: Respondents were asked about their use of food labels, including whether they used organic and/or natural food labels when evaluating food products. Associations between use of each type of food label and demographic variables (age, gender, income, education, having children in the household) were compared using chi-squares, and logistic regression ($P < 0.01$).

Results: Most respondents indicated that they did use organic (70% of respondents) or natural (64% of respondents) labels when evaluating food products. Use of organic food labels was significantly higher among parents with children in the home (78%), women (77%), and those with a college degree or higher (75%). In contrast, use of natural labels was negatively associated with income, with the highest use (79%) seen in the lowest income category ($< \$25,000/\text{yr}$).

Conclusion: The increasing use of unregulated marketing statements on packaged foods (including “natural,” “raw” and “minimally processed”) could be distracting consumers from using more regulated food labels, especially consumers with limited education or income. Nutrition education programs and federal labeling policies are needed to support consumer use of labels, and to prevent low-income consumers from potentially being deceived by unregulated food labels.

Funding: None.

P46 Farm to School Program Prevalence: Do School Characteristics Matter?

Adam Thompson, BS, a.thompson21x@gmail.com, Arizona State University, 425 N 5th St, Phoenix, AZ, 85004; Punam Ohri-Vachaspati, PhD, RD, Arizona State University

Background: Farm to School programs (FTSP) have been promoted as part of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act (HHFKA) to improve school children’s access of nutritious, local food.

Objective: We investigate the prevalence of FTSP in K-12 schools before and after the implementation of the HHFKA. We also examine differences in prevalence of FTSP by school-level (elementary vs middle/high school), proportion of students enrolled from various race/ethnicity groups and proportion of students eligible for free or reduced-price meals (FRPM).

Study Design, Setting, Participants: A secondary analysis of data collected between 2010–2017 from 148 schools participating in the New Jersey Child Health Study (NJCHS) was analyzed. Schools were located in 4 low-income high minority cities in NJ: Camden, New Brunswick, Newark, and Trenton.

Measurable Outcome/Analysis: Schools’ personnel answered surveys at 3 time points between 2010-2017 and reported on their schools’ participation in the FTSP for the year of the survey and the previous year. Bivariate and

multivariate analyses were conducted to examine FTSP prevalence rates for each year of data collection and for time periods categorized as before and after the implementation of the HHFKA. Differences in prevalence rates were compared by school characteristics.

Results: Across all years, on average significantly ($P < 0.001$) more elementary schools (21%) participated in the FTSP compared to middle/high schools (8%). Based on multivariate logistic regression analysis, compared to 2010, the odds of FTSP participation were 4-5 times higher in 2016 ($P = 0.008$) and 2017 ($P = 0.003$). Adjusted estimates show that across K-12 schools, participation increased from 7% in 2010 to 26% and 27% in 2016 and 2017, respectively. No differences were observed in FTSP participation by other school demographics.

Conclusion: Elementary schools are more likely to participate in FTSP and rates of participation in the program across K-12 schools have increased significantly in recent years.

Funding: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, National Institutes of Health (1R01HD071583-01A1), and the National Heart, Lung, and Blood.

P47 Healthy Meal Kit Program Improved Long-term Food Security Status for African American Families with Low Income

Kaley Mialki, MS, LDN, RDN, kmialki@ufl.edu, University of Florida, PO Box 110310, Gainesville, FL, 32611; Lauren Sweeney, MS, RDN, University of Florida; Karla Shelnett, PhD, RD, University of Florida

Background: Food insecurity is a serious issue in the US, with 10.5% of households experiencing food insecurity in 2019. Food insecurity rates are higher among households with children and those with low income as well as among racial/ethnic minorities. Creative approaches to improving food security status (FSS) are needed. Meal kits have become a popular service for households with higher income and may help improve food access and FSS for households with low income if they are affordable.

Objective: To assess the impact of a healthy meal kit program on long-term FSS of African American families with low income.

Study Design, Setting, Participants: A 6-week pilot study was conducted with African American participants with low income ($n = 36$). Participants were given meal kits, recipe cards, cooking tools, and nutrition handouts. Data were collected at baseline and at long term follow up 6 months post-intervention (LTFU).

Measurable Outcome/Analysis: Sociodemographic characteristics were collected with a demographic survey and computed using descriptive statistics. FSS was characterized with the U.S. Household Food Security Survey Module, and a paired-samples t test was used to determine whether there was a difference between FSS at baseline and LTFU.