

O04 (continued)

**Study Design, Setting, Participants:** Trained researchers conducted focus groups and interviews with NEs prior to (n = 97) and during (n = 77) the first two years of the pandemic in Alabama, Kansas, Florida, Georgia, Maine, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, and West Virginia.

**Measurable Outcome/Analysis:** Discussions were audio-recorded, transcribed verbatim, and coded by researchers using inductive thematic analysis. Cross-tabulation analysis was used to compare data pre-and-during COVID-19.

**Results:** NEs' revealed COVID-19 not only exacerbated existing barriers (i.e., lack of access to healthy foods, transportation, nutrition education and information, and physical and mental health resources) but also created new challenges in these communities. NEs stated increased unemployment rates led to financial hardships and greater food insecurity. Participants mentioned COVID-19 restrictions (i.e., social distancing, shutdowns, etc.) and fear of exposure made services and resources more difficult to acquire, and impacted dietary behavior, physical activity patterns, and mental health. Likewise, limited access to technology and connectivity decreased the ability to learn about and access services and resources. Nonetheless, NEs suggested new opportunities were designed to mitigate COVID-related barriers, such as virtual programming, COVID-19 relief programs, food distribution programs, grocery store delivery services, and revised social marketing approaches to increase awareness of available resources/services.

**Conclusions:** Given the onset of new barriers resulting from COVID-19, there is a need to consider these barriers when developing or adapting health promotion strategies to support the healthfulness of communities.

**Funding:** None.

## Measuring and Addressing Food Security

### O05 Assessment of Food Literacy Among Civil Servant Mothers in Ibadan, Nigeria

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**Background:** Food literacy as a term is increasingly used in policy, practice, research and in public arena. Though, there is no shared understanding of its meaning and measurement. Food literacy includes person's knowledge, behavior to plan, ability to select, prepare and eat food healthfully. Previous studies limited their findings on maternal and health literacy with little consideration on food literacy in Nigeria.

**Objective:** To assess food literacy level among civil servants' mothers living in peri-urban, Ibadan. Study aimed to

reduce dearth in literature and inform policies that would scale up food literacy among women in Nigeria.

**Study Design, Setting, Participants:** Study was done in Southwest region among educated mothers given poor food choices regardless of literacy. Descriptive cross-sectional design used, involving 340 civil servants' mothers in Ibadan, using simple random sampling for recruitment.

**Measurable Outcome/Analysis:** Data was collected using self-perceived food literacy (SPFL) scale developed and validated by Poelmann et al., 2018 having 8 constructs: food preparation, healthy snacking, food labelling, food budgeting and dietary resilience and resistance. Scale was adapted to assess food literacy among participants. Pearson correlation used for associations among age, service level, household size, and each construct of scale. Chi-square for level of significance ( $P < 0.05$ ). Ethical approval obtained from Institute of Advanced Medical Research and Training, Ibadan, Nigeria.

**Results:** Mean age  $45.8 \pm 7.9$  years, most women having at least diploma degree. Most (86.7%) women are married. Food budgeting and dietary resilience and resistance constructs had high level of correlation among them. Food preparation skill were 53.8%, Healthy snacking were 51.5%, those who checked food labelling were 41.8% and those who did not budget for healthy foods were 29.2%. No statistical significance observed.

**Conclusions:** Mothers had moderate food literacy, most mothers had low score in dietary resilience and resistance which is relevant as baseline data for further research. Data contributes to interventions for improving food literacy for good diet quality.

**Funding:** None.

### O06 University of North Carolina Charlotte Food Insecurity SNAP Initiative

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**Objective:** To develop a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) eligibility screening and application support system within a large public university

**Use of Theory/Research:** Recent research highlights food insecurity as a barrier to healthy eating and academic success among university students. Research also notes that university students are frequently struggling financially.

**Target Audience:** University students

**Program Description:** A 4-item SNAP Eligibility Screener was developed with input from partners at the University of Minnesota and the local Department of Social Services SNAP Office. Based on screener responses, if a student is deemed "potentially eligible" for SNAP they are provided information on how to apply for benefits. Once pilot testing on the screener was complete, the development team encouraged partners throughout the university to utilize the screener. The screener is now highlighted in instructor syllabi, on the university student

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support services website, and is being utilized by university financial aid officers when counseling students.

**Evaluation Methods:** There is an electronic record when a student completes the screener; therefore, there is a count of the number of students that completed the screener and the number that were determined to be “potentially eligible” for SNAP. When a student applies for SNAP, the university is contacted by the county social services office to verify student status. To evaluate whether “potentially eligible” students actually apply for SNAP benefits, University staff match ‘potentially eligible’ students to those that applied for SNAP.

**Results:** Between October 27, 2021, and January 19th, 2022, approximately 159 students completed the SNAP Eligibility Screener. Of those 159 students, 29 students were ‘potentially eligible’ for SNAP benefits. Among the ‘potentially eligible’ students, 8 students have applied for SNAP benefits.

**Conclusions:** Educating students about SNAP and supporting them throughout the application process is one strategy that may lead to healthy eating and reduced food insecurity.

**Funding:** Center for Disease Control and Prevention; North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services.

### 007 Communicating Program Impact by Congressional District for WSU SNAP-Ed

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**Objective:** To develop program impact briefs using Washington State University (WSU) Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed) data by congressional district.

**Use of Theory or Research:** Geocoding was used to connect county-based program data into congressional districts. Geocoding is a form of spatial analysis that links information to geographic locations. It is often used in nutrition research to identify gaps in programming or assess access to food resources.

**Target Audience:** Washington State Senators, Representatives, and their staff.

**Program Description:** It is critical to communicate the program value of federally funded nutrition education programs to decision makers. However, the WSU SNAP-Ed data management system, Program Evaluation and Reporting System (PEARS), does not divide data by congressional district. Many Washington counties span multiple congressional districts, so traditional county-based reporting does not communicate program impacts by federal or state legislative districts. This project used data from WSU SNAP-Ed reported into PEARS. SNAP-Ed programming ranges from direct education to

statewide policy, systems, and environmental changes. PEARS data included reach (direct and indirect), qualitative impact stories, and descriptions of partnerships and activities.

**Evaluation Methods:** We used a freely available online geocoding platform to add congressional district information to street addresses associated with WSU SNAP-Ed PEARS Data.

**Results:** Ninety-nine percent of WSU SNAP-Ed evaluation data had an associated address and was successfully linked to a federal legislative district. Broad social media-based projects could not be linked to districts. We compiled data by federal district for number of participants reached by direct education; number of participants reached by policy, systems, and environment initiatives; number of indirect activities with nutrition messages; list of community partners; examples of program activities, and quotes and impact stories.

**Conclusions:** Geocoding software is effective for translating county-based program data into reports by congressional district. Reports showcase positive impacts on communities, particularly historically marginalized communities.

**Funding:** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program - Education.

### 008 A Mixed Method Study of Whether Appalachian Ohioans Conceptualize Food Security in Alignment with the Prevailing Measure

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**Background:** In the US, food security is monitored annually via the Household Food Security Survey Module (HFSSM). The measure focuses primarily on a household’s monetary means. There is heightened interest in developing food security measures that embody more nuanced conceptualizations of household food security.

**Objective:** To explore whether current conceptualizations of food insecurity among a rural Appalachian sample diverge from HFSSM constructs.

**Study Design, Setting, Participants:** A study recruitment postcard was mailed to all residential addresses in the Athens County region of Appalachian Ohio in late

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