

## 006 (continued)

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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