**Background:**

Cost analysis is a tool used to summarize and report on elements of costs to implementing an innovation. We used cost analysis to track and compare costs of provision of two implementation strategies to support an evidence-based nutrition curriculum in the Head Start (HS) setting.

**Objective:**

To compare how much it cost, per classroom per year, to deliver the basic (i.e., training and reminders) and enhanced implementation support (i.e., a package of six additional implementation strategies – formal commitment, blueprint, coaching, incentives, handouts, videos).

**Study Design, Settings, Participants:**

We partnered with an urban HS program in a southern state with 9 sites and 38 classrooms. We used stratified randomization to assign sites to participate in basic or the enhanced implementation of the nutrition curriculum. All sites received the same 6-hour training and implemented the curriculum with either basic or enhanced implementation support.

Measurable Outcome/Analysis:

Cost accounting methods allowed for a comparison of time and materials allocated to each group. Our primary outcome of cost included fixed (e.g., costs of trainings, materials, printing) and variable (e.g., duration of facilitation, number of incentives, travel) costs for both strategies. Facilitators logged activities using a Smart Phone application.

**Results:**

Estimated costs per classroom per year were $35 for basic and $261 for enhanced support. This reflects average delivery of 4 incentives and 2 resources per classroom, a total of 39.2 in-person and 20.4 virtual facilitation hours to enhanced classrooms (average of 3.3 hours of support/classroom). In-person facilitation accounted for 25% of the enhanced costs (See Figure 2). Enhanced group had significantly higher fidelity scores than the basic implementation group for the EBPs of role modeling ($t_{34} = -2.80, p < 0.01), use of the mascot ($t_{34} = -4.01, p < .001), and hands on exposure ($t_{34} = 2.45, p = 0.02) by the final data collection point despite non-significant differences at the first data collection point. See Figure 3.

**Conclusions:**

These data help understand the relative cost in improving implementation outcomes (e.g., fidelity, acceptability) between groups. Key stakeholders (e.g., agency administrators, policy makers) can provide information on the appropriate levels of costs to achieve improved fidelity. Investments in implementation will impact scalability and sustainability efforts for future uptake of the intervention.

**Enhanced facilitation cost $261 per classroom and outperformed basic implementation for 3 of 4 fidelity practices.**