

**State Agency
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Annotated Bibliography**



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The University of Mississippi
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**National Food Service Management Institute
The University of Mississippi**

Building the Future Through Child Nutrition

The National Food Service Management Institute was authorized by Congress in 1989 and established in 1990 at The University of Mississippi in Oxford and is operated in collaboration with The University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg. The Institute operates under a grant agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the National Food Service Management Institute is to improve the operation of child nutrition programs through research, education and training, and information dissemination.

MISSION

The mission of the National Food Service Management Institute is to provide information and services that promote the continuous improvement of child nutrition programs.

VISION

The vision of the National Food Service Management Institute is to be the leader in providing education, research, and resources to promote excellence in child nutrition programs.

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INTRODUCTION

The National Food Service Management Institute, Applied Research Division (NFSMI, ARD), routinely collects information on state agency-funded research related to Child Nutrition Programs (CNP). In the fall of 2011, state agency representatives responsible for overseeing CNPs were contacted via e-mail to provide ARD researchers information regarding state-funded research utilizing an electronic survey. The electronic survey was developed by ARD researchers in order to collect information regarding any finished, unpublished research funded by the state agency since 2009. Sixty state agencies, representing the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), and Child and Adult Care Program (CACFP), were sent e-mails. Of the 60 state agencies, 58 e-mails were delivered, and two e-mails were undeliverable. Seven said yes, five provided the requested information for a total of 5 research projects, four reported yes but in development, 16 replied that their state had no current research, and 31 did not respond. This report contains summaries of state agency-funded research during 2009-2010.

We appreciate the response from state agency representatives and their willingness to share the results of their research with others. For more information about these studies, a state agency contact is included with each project summary.

ARIZONA

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM RESEARCH REPORT

Overview of the Study

This study had the following goals:

1. To gain an understanding of current awareness & participation levels for the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP);
2. To discover which message delivery tactics would be most trusted target to receive SFSP messages;
3. To understand what messaging would generate the most interest in the SFSP;
4. To uncover what marketing approaches would increase participation in the SFSP; and
5. To capture information on the effectiveness of previous SFSP messaging, familiarity with the SFSP, locations where current SFSP participants get their information, barriers to participating in the SFSP, and messages that would convince targets to utilize the SFSP.

Methodology

1. Interviews were conducted with 411 women with children and with income equal to or less than 130% of federal poverty level.
2. Four focus group discussions were held with the same target population.

Major Study Findings

1. Perceived barriers to participating in the SFSP far outweigh perceived benefits.
2. There is a lack of knowledge regarding SFSP specifics and misperceptions about the SFSP.
3. Other barriers identified were transportation, summer schedule, embarrassment, food quality, a lack of activities at the SFSP sites, lack of supervision, and "legal status"/citizenship.
4. There was only 63% awareness of the SFSP, compared to other feeding assistance programs (WIC - 94%, SNAP = 92%, NSLP = 84%).
5. Awareness of previous SFSP message = 45%. Women most likely to have first heard of the SFSP through their children's school.
6. It is recommended to make the SFSP a "cool, fun place for kids to go" to remove embarrassment factor.

State Agency Contact:
Cara Peczkowski
School Nutrition Programs Director
Arizona Department of Education

CALIFORNIA

STARTING RIGHT IN THE CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM: THE PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION OF FRONT-LINE PERSONNEL (PHASE I)

Overview of the Study

During Phase I (2007-2008) NFSMI trainers conducted a train the trainer course for five California school districts and their partner community colleges on the Healthy Cuisine for Kids (HCK). These district trainers in turn conducted regional HCK trainings for front-line school nutrition personnel. In Phase II (2012-2013), new districts will be added to the cadre, along with two additional courses: "Beginning Recordkeeping" and "Child Nutrition Program Overview." The partnering colleges will have the three courses adopted by their curriculum committees for one college unit each to form the nucleus of a certificate program. The purpose is to ensure a highly skilled school nutrition workforce, to improve the quality and integrity of meals served in school nutrition programs, and to better enable districts to meet the more stringent standards.

Methodology

Develop a network of regional trainers and courses for frontline school nutrition personnel as part of a career ladder.

Major Study Findings

Phase I evaluation indicated a high level of satisfaction among the regional trainers, as well as improved skills. Regional trainers reported improvements in perceived skills and beliefs about the concepts covered in the trainings. Pre/post surveys showed positive outcomes on knowledge and skills. Phase II is currently in development. Many schools reported making changes to improve their nutrition environments including: more whole grains and increasing the number of fruit and vegetable options to the breakfast, lunch, and à la carte lines in all schools.

State Agency Contact:
Grace Huppert, MS, RD
Nutrition Education Consultant
California Department of Education
Nutrition Services Division

**FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES: A CENTERPIECE FOR A
HEALTHY SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT**

Overview of the Study

To design, implement, conduct and assess a two-day training to increase fresh fruits and vegetables on school campuses. This project was funded by a 2008 Team Nutrition Grant.

Methodology

A training partnership was created with the University of California Davis and Santa Cruz, and the Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego. The training was then pilot tested with the original Fresh Fruits and Vegetables grantees. The training was revised, and then trainings were conducted for school teams each semester for two years. (Note: The California Specialty Crop Grant funding to one of the partners augmented the project.)

Major Study Findings

Two additional grants funded continuation of the trainings until 2013. The trainings now include a summer culinary camp. To date, 36 two-day trainings have been given to over 3,000 school personnel and their community partners.

State Agency Contact:
Deborah Beall
Nutrition Education Consultant
California Department of Education

KANSAS

KANSAS FITNESS INFORMATION TRACKING

Overview of the Study

The purpose of this study is to correlate fitness test results with academic progress in Kansas schools.

Methodology

Kansas physical education teachers are trained to do fitness testing using the Fitnessgram Web-based application. Nine-hundred schools will receive Fitnessgram over the three-year project, and will provide data on 5th, 7th, and 9th grade students. This fitness data will be analyzed with the academic data for these students to determine if there is a correlation between physical fitness and academic performance.

Major Study Findings

Project will be complete in 2013.

State Agency Contact:
Cheryl Johnson, MS, RD, LD
Director
Child Nutrition & Wellness
Kansas State Department of Education

KENTUCKY

HEALTHIER KENTUCKY CHALLENGE

Overview of the Study

The Healthier Kentucky Challenge for all four components of the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) was developed, and was modeled after the HealthierUS Schools Challenge.

The goals of this study were to incorporate more fresh fruits/vegetables, whole grains, and lean meats in the diets of all participants; to provide nutrition education to participants and/or parents/guardians/caregivers on a monthly basis; and to provide the opportunity for, and to encourage, structured physical activity each day.

Methodology

This project was based on the same principles of the HealthierUS School Challenge. The premise used is that this model can work at an age level of 3-5 years, and up to the age range for adult day care participants.

Major Study Findings

We continue to encourage participation in the Challenge. Most of our sponsors are already following recommendations to enhance the meal pattern/food offerings that Kentucky encouraged four years ago. Those changes were based on how the USDA envisioned the meal patterns would change for the CACFP. To date, the majority of our sponsors have already complied with most of the planned proposed changes. It seems the biggest barrier that our sponsors have in participating in the challenge is the physical activity portion. Also, a monetary incentive would be beneficial.

State Agency Contact:
Denise Hagan
Director
Kentucky Department of Education
Division of School and Community Nutrition

TEXAS

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE USDA FOOD DISTRIBUTION TO SCHOOLS

Overview of the Study

The purpose of this study was to assess the layout of the distribution areas for commodity products in order to determine the most efficient and effective boundaries for service areas as well as determine the most effective rate structure.

Methodology

Historical operations were evaluated, as well as current Texas demographics, current and relevant pricing structures, and trends and analysis of procurement.

Major Study Findings

Service areas were realigned and reduced from 10 regions to 7. Rate structures were also refined.

Project Coordinator:
Arunachalam Narayanan
Texas A&M University

State Agency Contact:
Angela Olige
Chief Administrator
Texas Department of Agriculture



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