

**HER NOPREN Summer Speaker Series for Students
US Food System Overview
Recorded August 12, 2020**

[Link to Call Recording](#)
[Link to Slides](#)

About Our US Food System Panelists

[Heidi Blanck, PhD](#), Obesity Prevention and Control Branch Chief, CDC Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity. She has more than 15 years of CDC experience as a United States Public Health Service Officer and has authored over 90 epidemiologic papers and reports in the areas of nutrition, physical activity, obesity and environmental exposures. Dr. Blanck is the creator and Senior Advisor to the agency's Nutrition and Obesity Policy Research and Evaluation Network (NOPREN) and an active member of the National Collaborative on Childhood Obesity Research (NCCOR).

[Emily Engelhard, MA](#), Managing Director of Thought Leadership in the Research Department at Feeding America, the nation's largest domestic hunger-relief organization. In this role, Emily sets the strategic direction and vision for translating and disseminating research insights to drive action and guide evidence-based solutions. She is also responsible for Feeding America's external research partnerships and thought leadership investments to guide and advance research on food insecurity, poverty, and related social and public health matters more broadly. Emily holds a master's degree in the Social Sciences from the University of Chicago where she specialized in urban sociology and poverty studies.

[Beth Racine, DrPH, RDN](#), Professor, Department of Public Health Sciences, University of North Carolina at Charlotte and HER NOPREN WIC Learning Collaborative Co-Chair. Elizabeth is interested in understanding the incentives and barriers to healthy eating and physical activity among different populations in the Charlotte region, the US, and in other countries. Locally, she has evaluated a number of programs such as the Latino Food and Fun Program, Achieve 225—a purposeful play intervention in Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, and Building Healthy Lifestyles in All Directions—a nutrition and physical activity intervention in Cabarrus County Childcare Centers. Nationally, she has evaluated the impact of food assistance programs on diet quality and food security. She has evaluated elements of the WIC program, the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, and SOS—a home delivered feeding program similar to Meals on Wheels. Internationally, she partners with colleagues in India to study the impact of economic development on food security, infant feeding practices, and obesity. She earned her BS in Economics at Boston University, MS in Nutrition at California State University at Los Angeles, MPH in Maternal and Child Health (MCH) at Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, and DrPH in MCH & Health Economics and Finance at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

[Francesca Weaks, MS, MCHES, DrPH \(c\)](#), Health Policy and Research Manager, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), She has been a Community Health Researcher and Health Policy Practitioner for over 10 years focusing

on social determinants of health policies in communities of color. Her areas of research examine the intersection of racism and health in civil rights law & policy, health care reform, and racial bias in community health development. She is currently finishing her Doctorate in Public Health with a focus in Health Policy & Management. As a researcher by training and an advocate & policy practitioner by experience her work at the NAACP is focused on advocating for equitable community health policies by addresses systematic racism and health disparities.

[Amy Yaroch, PhD](#), Executive Director of the Gretchen Swanson Center for Nutrition (GSCN). She also holds a Special Dean's appointment as Professor in the Department of Health Promotion, Social and Behavioral Health at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, as well as an appointment as Adjunct Professor in the Department of Nutrition and Health Sciences at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Dr. Yaroch has over 20 years of experience in leading implementation of public health nutrition programs and evaluation efforts. Prior to joining GSCN, Dr. Yaroch was a Program Director and Behavioral Scientist at the National Cancer Institute where she worked across the areas of nutrition, dietary assessment, survey development, obesity prevention, and skin cancer prevention. Since joining GSCN in 2009, Dr. Yaroch has been leading efforts in childhood obesity prevention, food insecurity, food systems, and program and process evaluation. She is currently the Principal Investigator on a 4-year cooperative agreement with USDA NIFA to lead the GusNIP National Technical Assistance and Evaluation Center, also known as the Nutrition Incentive Hub (www.nutritionincentivehub.org). Dr. Yaroch has authored more than 160 papers, four book chapters, and has been awarded grants and contracts from federal and non-federal sources across a broad range of areas.

Suggested US Food Systems Readings and Resources

Feeding America Resources: Charitable Food Assistance and Food Insecurity during the COVID-19 Pandemic

The Impact of Coronavirus on Food Insecurity

Projections of food insecurity based on expert consensus about unemployment rates and poverty rates for 2020.

- [Reports](#) on the impact at the national, state and local level
- [Interactive map](#)
- [Blog](#)

Feeding America [website](#)

Overarching website with details on what we do and how. Also includes overview of our [research initiatives](#).

Feeding America Action [website](#)

A space for our partners to find resources related to federal nutrition programs and learn more about issues that are critical to helping us ensure families have access to food during this pandemic.

Hunger + Health

Feeding America site focused on the intersection of Hunger and Health with numerous resources, many focused on COVID-19.

- Understanding the [intersection of food insecurity and health](#)
- Resources: <https://hungerandhealth.feedingamerica.org/resources/>
- Blogs: <https://hungerandhealth.feedingamerica.org/blog/>
 - [Our COVID-19 Response: May Update](#)

Additional suggestions:

- [GusNIP](#)
- [Gretchen Swanson Center for Nutrition – What We Do](#)
- [CDC Public Health Law Training and Educational Resources](#)
- [CDC Food and Food System Resources During COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- [CDC Healthy Food Service Guidelines](#)
- [NAACP – Health](#)
- [Scientific Report of the 2020 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee](#)
- [iPES Food – COVID-10 and the crisis in food systems: Symptoms, causes and potential solutions \(April 2020\)](#)
- [CAST Commentary: Economic impacts of COVID-19 on food and agricultural markets \(July 2020\)](#)
- [Rockefeller Foundation. Reset the Table: Meeting the Moment to Transform the U.S. Food System. \(July 28, 2020\)](#)
- [Pollan M. The sickness in our food supply. *New York Review of Books*. June 11, 2020.](#)
- [USDA ERS. COVID-19 Economic Implications for Agriculture, Food & Rural American. August 2020.](#)
- [LitCovid – NCBI – NLM - NIH](#)