

HER NOPREN COVID-19 School Nutrition Implications Working Group



Healthy
Eating
Research



HER NOPREN COVID-19 School Nutrition Implications Working Group Leadership Team



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Healthy Eating Research (HER)

A national program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Duke University



NOPREN Food Insecurity & School Wellness Working Groups

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity (DNPAO)

COVID-19 School Nutrition Implications Working Group

400+ researchers, advocacy organization representatives and practitioners, and 185+ students

Practice, Policy Implementation Collaborators

- Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
- American Heart Association – Voices for Healthy Kids
- American Public Health Services Association
- American Society for Nutrition
- Association of SNAP Nutrition Education Administrators
- Center for Ecoliteracy
- Center for Science in the Public Interest
- Federal Nutrition Research Coalition
- Feeding America
- Food Research & Action Center
- Healthy Schools Campaign
- Hunger Free America
- Lunch Assist
- National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
- National Conference of State Legislatures
- National Farm to School Network
- National WIC Association
- School Nutrition Association (SNA)
- Share Our Strength's No Kid Hungry Campaign
- Society for Nutrition Education and Behavior
- Trust for America's Health
- Urban School Food Alliance
- Other NOPREN Working Groups & PAPREN (CDC-sponsored Physical Activity Policy Research and Evaluation Network)

Sub-Groups

Shared Data Collection Methods

- Survey
- Qualitative
- Implementation processes

Special Impact Topics

- Accelerated weight gain
- Innovations in meal service
- Pandemic/summer EBT
- Meals during instructional breaks
- Financial/operational health
- Early childhood
- Summer meal programs
- School/early childhood reopening
- State responses assessment

Case Studies

- Large urban district responses

Products *(as of September 5, 2020)*

- Website
- Supported fellowship and co-chairs
- Student internship matchmaking tool
- Student summer seminar series and virtual poster session
- Resource manager, listserv, weekly resource digest
- 2 data collection repositories
- 17 peer-reviewed research articles - accepted, under review or development
- 2 HER research briefs (+ one under development)
- 3 fact sheets
- 4 Op-Eds
- 2 News article features
- 9 presentations and webinars

Lane H, Turner L, Dunn CG, Hager ER, Fleischhacker S. Leveraging implementation science in the public health response to COVID-19: Child food insecurity and federal nutrition assistance programs. *Public Health Reports*. 2020;135(6):Forthcoming

Progress to Date

March 13th
Meeting #1

- Assembled NOPREN Food Security & School Wellness Working Group leaders (n=~8), after initial discussions at HER NOPREN annual meeting in early March
- Outlined project ideas & preliminary hypotheses

March 20th
Meeting #2

- ~20 members
- School Nutrition Association (SNA) shares national survey findings
- Sub-group projects start to take shape
- Developed website, resource manager, list serv, among other infrastructure components

March 27th
Meeting #3

- 50+ members and growing list of collaborators
- Announce Fellow – Caroline Dunn
- Initial commentaries published & preliminary findings shared on a growing number of projects

May 22nd
Meeting #8

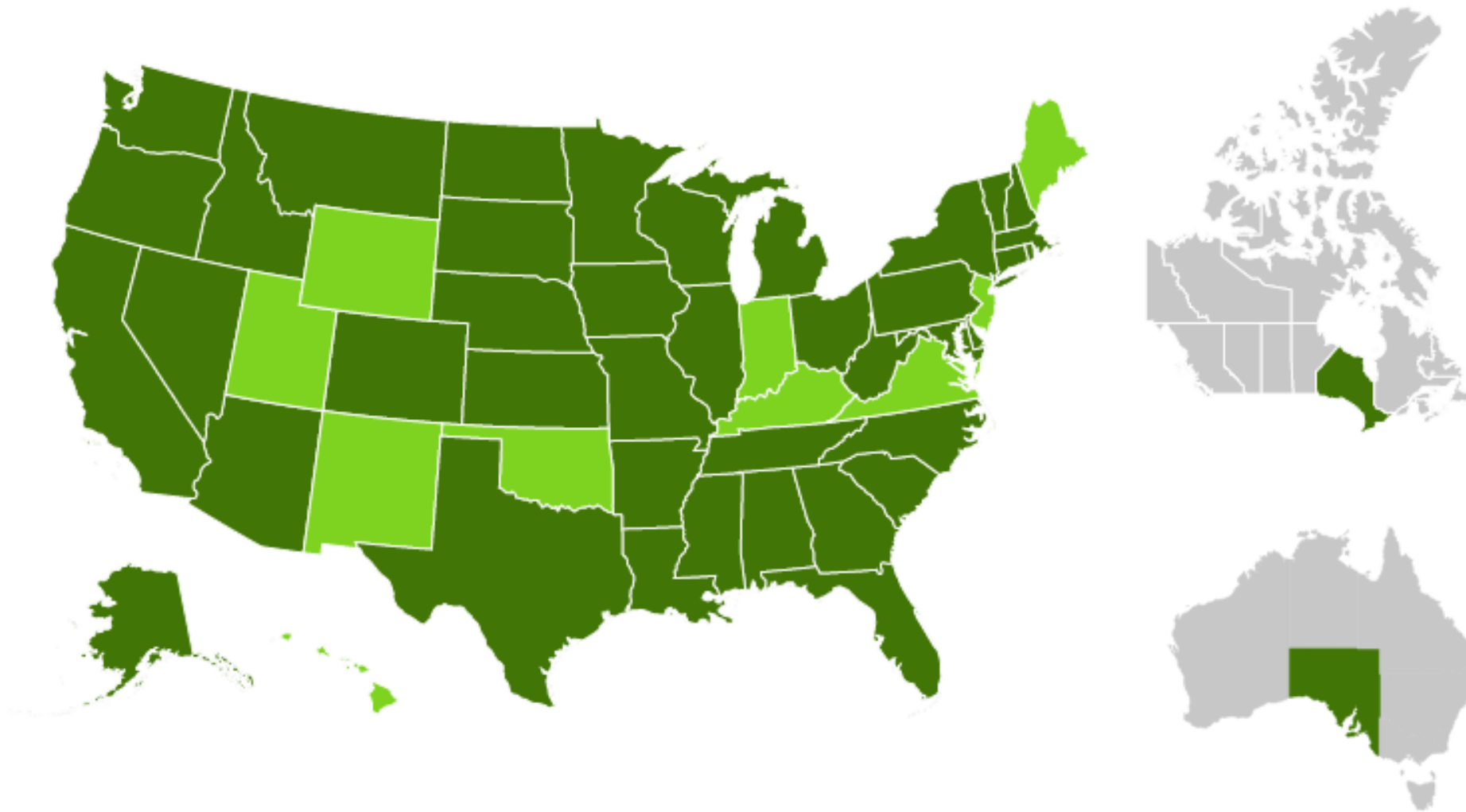
- 100+ members
- Solidifying group infrastructure - HER call for proposals
- Launch student activities & weekly digests
- Additional products finalized & preliminary findings shared

Sept 11th
Meeting #13

- More than 400 members (~185 students and junior investigators)
- More than 20 collaborating organizations
- 17 peer-reviewed research articles, perspectives or legislative updates– accepted, under review or under development plus additional other products

Meeting recordings & resources available at [nopren/covid19/](https://nopren.org/covid19/)

HER NOPREN COVID-19 Members & Collaborators



20+ National Advocacy Organizations

10+ Academic Affiliates

20+ K-12 School Districts

5+ State/Federal Organizations

400+ Members

180+ Student Affiliates

40+ States

3 Countries

Join US!

Working Group Fellow
Caroline Dunn, PhD, RDN
Research Associate
Department of Health Policy
and Management
Harvard TH Chan School of
Public Health
cdunn@hsph.harvard.edu

- **Calendar Invites & Agenda**
- **Group and Sub-Group Member Management**

Friday April 10, 2020
3:30-5 PM EST

<https://ucsf.zoom.us/j/616829588?pwd=TWt2OXNFeXZpbWpEenJpYjYjZz09>
Password: 675301

NOPREN Working Group: COVID-19 Nutrition Response
List serv: nutritionresponsetaskforce@duke.edu

I. Welcome (Erin) (~5 minutes)

II. Member Introductions (name/organization) (~10 minutes)
i. ~70 joining

III. Group Logistic Updates (Caroline) (~5 minutes)
i. Agenda/future meetings
1. Trying to keep us at ~60
2. Could/should we move to biweekly full group meetings?
3. OPTION: If we are moving to bi-weekly, we may stick with 90 minute meetings
4. Does Friday 3:30 still work?
ii. Listserv (email kirsten.arm@duke.edu to be added)
iii. Google Drive
1. i COVID-19 HER Resource Manager is saved in the google folder. Feel free to share with others through this link:
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1V8CK091R9y7qmQUzk89xIWp6sw3ZNOxN3nAIBI-0IAM/edit?usp=sharing>
iv. Contact Sheet
1. Subgroup leaders should have access to contact list at all times; let Caroline know if you don't (cdunn@hsph.harvard.edu)
2. Contact list will be open for editing during meetings and for 30 minutes after - please indicate your interest areas/add yourself if you are not already included

IV. Policy, Advocacy, and Field Updates (Sheila) (~15 minutes)
i. If people are missing in the policy/advocacy area, please extend invites (or send them to group)
ii. Funding opportunities
1. SBIR grant
2. Others?
iii. Organizational updates
1. NAACP (Francesca Weeks)
1. Advocacy: pushing for racial data to be released, these reports are coming out now, increase in incidence and death rates among African American community - NAACP is pushing for more work in communities
2. Policy - advocating with congressional leaders through stimulus package (racial data being released will help organization advocate for resources)
3. Test work: Testing, access to care, community engagement

Listserv Manager (HER)
Kirsten Arm, MPH, RDN
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Notable Articles of 2019
1 exclusive collection



PERSPECTIVE

Universal Masking in Hospitals
in the Covid-19 Era

IMAGES IN CLINICAL
MEDICINE

Orbital Hydatid Cyst



EDIT

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Perspective

Feeding Low-Income Children during the Covid-19 Pandemic

Caroline G. Dunn, Ph.D., R.D., Erica Kenney, Sc.D., M.P.H., Sheila E. Fleischhacker, J.D., Ph.D., and Sara N. Bleich, Ph.D.



Article



5 References



AS COVID-19 SPREADS THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES, SCHOOLS AND child care facilities are balancing their role of helping to prevent disease transmission while ensuring access to food for children who rely on the federal nutrition safety

Metrics ⓘ

Page Views



71,384

Citations



27

PRELIMINARY SUGGESTED APPROACHES TO ADDRESSING FOOD INSECURITY IN U.S. CHILDREN DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

Centralize and widely distribute information about schools and school districts offering meals during school closure

Decrease social exposures and reduce the time and transportation burden for families by providing multiple days' worth of meals, allowing for drive-through meal pickup (when reasonable), or coordinating meal delivery

Extend emergency benefits to caregivers of children in child care facilities participating in the Child and Adult Care Food Program, and authorize use into periods beyond the Covid-19 response, such as summer months or other emergencies

Codify efforts to expand Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program access and benefits during future pandemics

Examine and amend policies that reduce or deter participation in the nutrition safety net (e.g., the public charge rule)

The Impact of Increasing SNAP Benefits on Stabilizing the Economy, Reducing Poverty and Food Insecurity amid COVID-19 Pandemic

Healthy Eating
Research

Research Brief, April 2020

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is responsible for administering the [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program \(SNAP\)](#), which provides participants with monthly financial assistance to purchase food. SNAP is by far the largest federal nutrition safety net program serving [38 million people](#) in the United States—nearly half of whom are children. SNAP is proven to [reduce](#) poverty and food insecurity. With [unemployment currently at a record high](#) as a result of COVID-19—an unprecedented public health crisis with significant economic effects—SNAP participation is expected to increase significantly.

This brief provides evidence regarding the potential positive impact of a SNAP benefit increase on the economy and on SNAP households in the context of the current SNAP benefit allotment. We also discuss the SNAP provisions in the three congressional COVID-19 aid bills that have already been enacted.

Recent COVID-19 Stimulus Bills

To date, Congress has passed three COVID-19 stimulus bills ([PL 116-123](#); [PL 116-127](#); [PL 116-136](#)) including SNAP provisions, such as funding for emergency benefits and increased program operating flexibilities as a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency ([Table 1](#)). Individually and collectively, these SNAP provisions should help families during COVID-19. However, due to the fact that SNAP is administered at the state level, [waivers will need to be submitted and approved by USDA](#) on a state-by-state basis. This will likely result in large variation in state use of these provisions, producing a patchwork of state emergency allotments and implementation practices across the country. Such a patchwork approach is unlikely to be successful in meeting the needs of all eligible program participants across the United States and will limit the ability of these additional investments to effectively boost and stabilize the economy.

In addition, these supplemental benefits and program flexibilities are time limited by the federal public health emergency declaration for COVID-19. They are not currently tied to the resulting economic impacts, such as rising unemployment rates, which may take years to reverse. With the United States potentially entering one of [the deepest recessions](#) in its history, Congress is expected to pass additional stimulus bills. As a result, advocacy groups (e.g., the [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities](#) and the [Food Research & Action Center \(FRAC\)](#)) are calling on Congress to [increase the SNAP maximum benefit 15 percent](#) (\$100 per month for a family of four).



Leveraging SNAP to alleviate poverty — a proven policy approach needed now

thehill.com

Bleich S, Dunn C, Fleischhacker S. March 29, 2020



COVID-19–Related School Closings and Risk of Weight Gain Among Children

Andrew G. Rundle✉, Yoosun Park, Julie B. Herbstman, Eliza W. Kinsey, Y. Claire Wang

First published: 30 March 2020 | <https://doi.org/10.1002/oby.22813> | Citations: 33

SECTIONS

PDF TOOLS SHARE

The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic is causing substantial morbidity and mortality, straining health care systems, shutting down economies, and closing school districts. While it is a priority to mitigate its immediate impact, we want to call attention to the pandemic's longer-term effect on children's health; COVID-19, via these school closures, may exacerbate the epidemic of childhood obesity and increase disparities in obesity risk. In many areas of the United States, the COVID-19 pandemic has closed schools, and some of these school systems are not expected to reopen this school year. The experiences in Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Singapore suggest that social distancing orders, if lifted after short periods, will have to be periodically reinstated to control COVID-19 flare-ups ((1)). In short, we anticipate that the COVID-19 pandemic will likely double out-of-school time this year for many children in the United States and will exacerbate the risk factors for weight gain associated with summer recess.

While much has been written regarding the poor food and physical activity environments in schools, the data show that children experience unhealthy weight gain not during the school year but rather primarily during the summer months when they are out of school ((2–4)). Von Hippel et al. ((2)) documented increases in student weight and the prevalence of obesity and overweight across 3 school years, with increases in obesity and overweight prevalence occurring only during summer recess. This and subsequent work have found that weight gain over the summer school recess is particularly apparent for Hispanic and African American youth as well as children already experiencing overweight ((3)). Importantly, the



References

Metrics

Citations: 33



Details

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Funding Information

- National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute of National Institutes of Health. Grant Number: R01HL128000
- NIH ECHO Program. Grant Number: UH3OD023290
- Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health & Human Development. Grant Number: K99HD101657

[Volume 28, Issue 6](#)

June 2020

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Endless Summer Puts Homebound Kids at Risk for Weight Gain

With schools shuttered, the inactivity and snacking typical of summer breaks puts more students at risk of obesity and health ills.



Getty Images

Healthy Eating Research

A Robert Wood Johnson Foundation program



COVID-19 HER Resource Manager ☆

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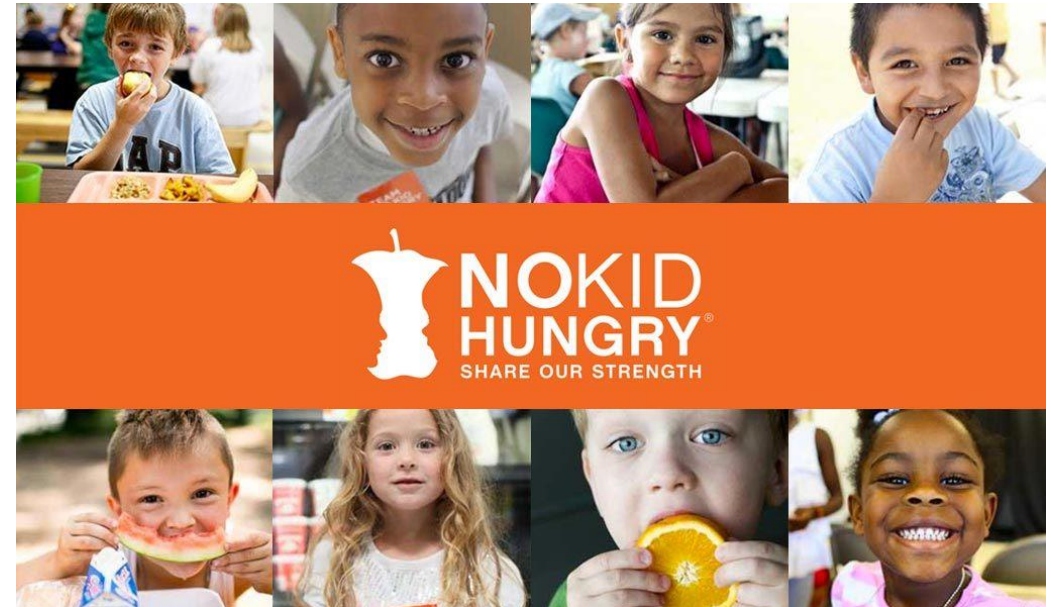
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Title	Authors	Journal/Source	Publish Date	Topic area (i.e., WIC, SNAP, ECE, Schools)	Brief Description	Link
2	Leveraging SNAP to alleviate poverty — a proven policy approach needed now	Sara Bleich, Caroline Dunn, Sheila Fleischhacker	The Hill	03/29/2020	SNAP		https://thehill.com/opinion/finance/490072-leveraging-snap-to-alleviate-poverty-a-proven-policy-approach-needed-now?amp
3	Feeding Low-Income Children during the Covid-19 Pandemic	Caroline Dunn, Erica Kenney, Sheila Fleischhacker, Sara Bleich	The New England Journal of Medicine	03/30/2020			https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp2005638?ery=featured_home
4	New Review: US Coronavirus Relief Package: Update on Food and Nutrition Provisions, Editorial Board, Nutrition Today.	Sheila Fleischhacker, PhD, JD				Sheila Fleischhacker PhD, JD at Georgetown University Law School provides a review of the U.S. Coronavirus Relief Package, and how food and nutrition workers can ensure the food and nutrition needs of all people are met during the COVID-19 situation. This review also provides an overview of a NOPRFN	https://files.constantcontact.com/a5fe4565601/becce3d4bed-4aa0-b50e-9feb484f84f8.pdf
5	COVID-19 Related School Closings and Risk of Weight Gain Among Children	Rundle A, Park Y, Herbstman J, Kinsey E, Wang Y.	Obesity	03/30/2020	Schools		https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/32227671
6	Stress and Parenting During the Coronavirus Pandemic (Research Brief)	Shawna Lee and Kaitlin Ward	Parenting in Context Research Lab	3/26/2020	ECE	Describes parental concerns and how parental practices may have changed since COVID-19.	https://www.parentingincontext.org/uploads/8/1/3/1/813622/research_brief_stress_and_parenting_during_the_coronavirus_pandemic_final.pdf
7	Quick COVID-19 Publishing Resource: COVID-19 Science Backed Research Portal		Mary Ann Liebert, Inc. Publishers			The editorial team behind Health Security was approached by the CDC to publish several fast-moving papers that specifically pertain to COVID-19.	They have already collected published content relevant to pandemics, viral immunology, telemedicine, public health. They are free and available here: https://home.liebertpub.com/pages/-coronavirus-science-backed-research/250/?utm_source=sfmc&utm_medium=mail&utm_campaign=PB%20COVID19%20ANN%200320&d=3/27/2020&mcid=168078035
8	US Public Concerns About the COVID-19 Pandemic From Results of a Survey Given via Social Media	Lorene M. Nelson, Julia F. Simard, Abiodun Oluyomi, Vanessa Nava, Lisa G. Rosas, Melissa Bondy, Eleni Linos	JAMA Internal Medicine	4/7/20	Consumers stockpiling food, difficulty getting food	This study discusses an online cross-sectional survey on 3 social media platforms from 3/13-3/16/20. Responses were captured from 9009 individuals, with 26.1% of US counties having at least one respondent. Lifestyle changes were evaluated, and participants reported stockpiling food and supplies (6686 [74.7%]). Concerns were also captured, and 2154 (32.2%) of participants reported difficulty getting food.	https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamainternalmedicine/article/2764368
9	As Child Hunger Soars Across USA, National Poll Finds Nearly One in Four Parents Reducing Food for Children	Hunger Free America	Published online	04/13/2020	Food Insecurity; Child Hunger	Discusses: increase in child hunger rate since onset of crisis; implications of financial difficulties on adult hunger; call for SNAP increase in response to new polling data.	https://www.hungerfreeamerica.org/blog/child-hunger-soars-across-usa-national-poll-finds-nearly-one-four-parents-reducing-food
						Report providing information on food insecurity in the United States. Responses are based on a representative, post-strata weighted national sample (n=10,368) of U.S. adults collected in the last week of March 2020. The descriptive	

Feeding Students During COVID-19 Related School Closures: 57 US Jurisdictions' Initial Responses

Objective: To examine how US states, the District of Columbia, US territories, and the US Department of Interior Bureau of Indian Education responded to school-based federal nutrition assistance meal service provision during COVID-19 related school closures

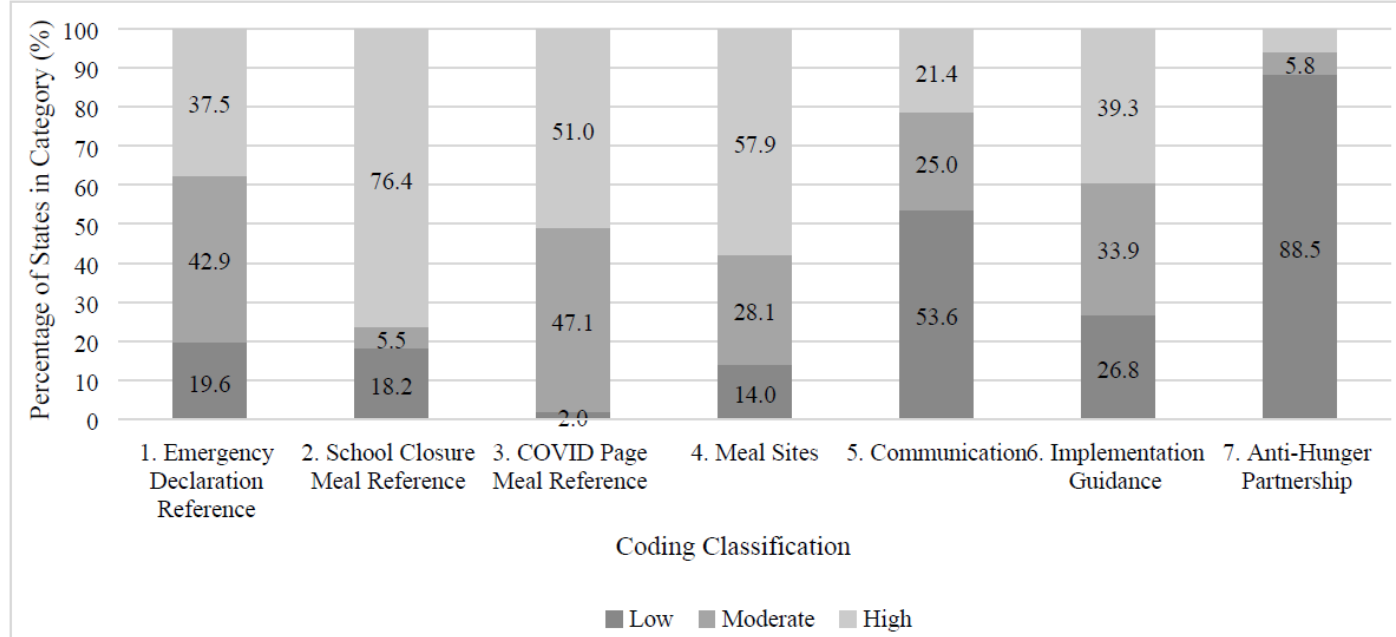
Collaborative Highlights

- Multidisciplinary team
- Rapid review of evolving information
- Share Our Strength insights
 - Federal waiver tracking
 - State administrative agency responses
 - School, family and student needs



Feeding Students During COVID-19 Related School Closures: 57 US Jurisdictions' Initial Responses

Figure 1. Percentage of jurisdictions scoring low, medium or high according to seven criteria in crisis communication



Note: Sample sizes differ depending on usage of data. Emergency Declaration Reference of School Closures (n=56 states/territories); School Closure Meal Reference (n=53); Education COVID Page Reference (n=51); Meal Sites (n=56); Communication/Outreach (n=56); Implementation Guidance (n=56); Anti-Hunger Partnership (n=51).

Dissemination to Date

- 5 presentations
 - SNA
 - FRAC staff
 - 3 HER NOPREN WGs
 - COVID-19
 - School Wellness
 - P-EBT
- Paper under review
- Issue brief under development

Estimate of Missed Breakfasts & Lunches

Objective: To estimate the number of missed breakfasts and lunches per week from March 2 – May 1, 2020 using school closure reports from *Education Week* and state-level free and reduced-price participation in NSLP and SBP for 2019

Collaborative Highlights

- Multidisciplinary team
- Rapid review of evolving information
- Share Our Strength insights

Date	Weekly Meals	Cumulative Meals
Mar 2-6	36,802	36,802
Mar 9-13	2,598,526	2,635,328
Mar 16-20	124,824,223	127,459,551
Mar 23-27	169,479,514	296,939,064
Mar 30 - Apr 3	169,619,512	466,558,576
Apr 6-10	169,619,512	636,178,088
Apr 13-17	169,619,512	805,797,601
Apr 20-24	169,619,512	975,417,113
Apr 27 - May 1	169,619,512	1,145,036,625

Meal Service Innovations

Where

- SFSP/SSO sites
- Bus routes
- Home delivery
- Outdoor distribution

How

- Multiple meals, multiple days
- Bulk items
- Drive-through, touchless delivery
- Pre-ordering

To Whom

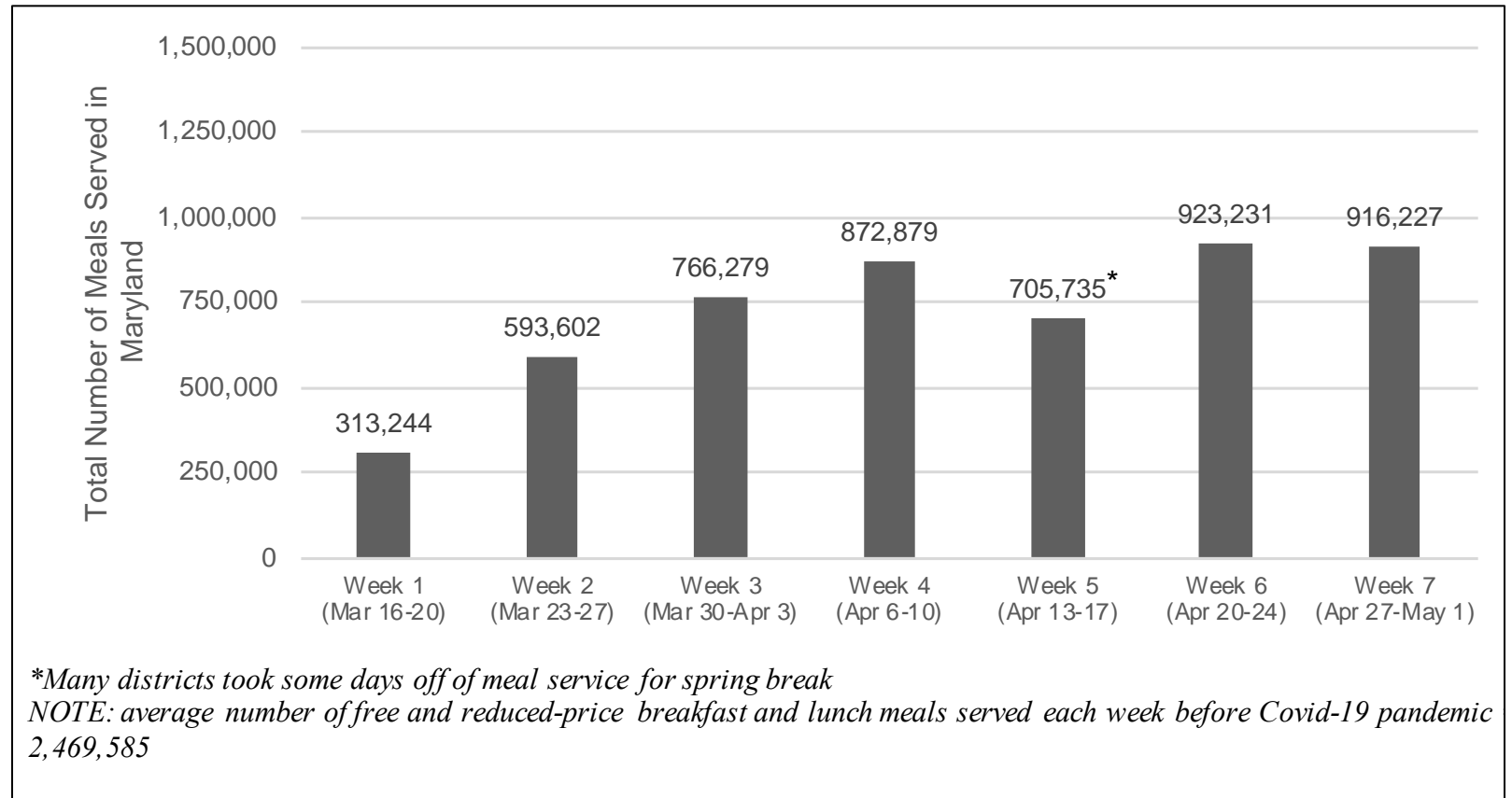
- Open to community members (separate times)
- Food bank/pantry partnerships
- Care for children or essential workers



Case Study – Maryland

- Maryland statewide school closures announced on Thursday, March 12 with replacement meals beginning Monday, March 16
- Maryland Department of Education collaborated with state's 24 school districts to develop a plan
- State applied for and was granted 6 USDA waivers within first 3 weeks of shutdowns

Figure 2. Number of breakfast & lunch meals served per week in Maryland during COVID-19 school closures, March 16 – May 3, 2020



School Closures During COVID-19: Opportunities for Innovation in Meal Service

In 2019, the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program served approximately 15 million breakfasts and 30 million lunches daily at low or no cost to students.

Access to these meals has been disrupted as a result of long-term school closures related to the COVID-19 pandemic, potentially decreasing both student nutrient intake and household food security. By the week of March 23, 2020, all states had mandated statewide school closures as a result of the pandemic, and the number of weekly missed breakfasts and lunches served at school reached a peak of approximately 169.6 million; this weekly estimate remained steady through the final week of April.

We highlight strategies that states and school districts are using to replace these missed meals, including a case study from Maryland and the US Department of Agriculture waivers that, in many cases, have introduced flexibility to allow for innovation. Also, we explore lessons learned from the pandemic with the goal of informing and strengthening future school nutrition policies for out-of-school time, such as over the summer. (*Am J Public Health*. Published online ahead of print September 17, 2020: e1–e9. <https://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.2020.305875>)

Eliza W. Kinsey, PhD, Amelie A. Hecht, PhD, Caroline Glagola Dunn, PhD, Ronli Levi, MPH, Margaret A. Read, MA, Courtney Smith, MPP, Pamela Niesen, Hilary K. Seligman, MD, MAS, and Erin R. Hager, PhD

As COVID-19 disrupts regular access to food assistance resources and creates growing economic uncertainty, low-income families are being disproportionately burdened. Long-term school closures mean that millions of students no longer have access to the free or reduced-price meals they rely on to meet their nutritional needs. As social distancing recommendations continue, with no clear end date in many places, children and their families must be protected from the unintended nutritional consequences of school closures.

School meals are a vital component of the US social safety net. The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) National School Lunch Program (NSLP) is the largest antihunger program in the nation other than the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.¹ In 2019, the NSLP and the School Breakfast Program (SBP) served approximately 15 million breakfasts and 30 million lunches daily at low or no cost to students.¹ More than three quarters of all students participating in school meal programs qualify for free or reduced-price meals because they live in a household with an income below 185% of the federal poverty level.²

Loss of access to school meals puts millions of households at increased risk of food insecurity, a household-level economic and

social condition wherein, at times, 1 or more household members are unable to acquire adequate food because of insufficient money or other resources.³ In 2018, nearly 1 in 7 children (about 11 million) lived in a food-insecure household, with higher rates in Black and Hispanic households.⁴ Food insecurity rates are rising as millions of people in the United States experience job losses related to COVID-19. Recent estimates show that as many as 33% of households with children, including 40% of Black and Hispanic households, were food insecure in April 2020.⁵

Federal school meal programs reduce household food insecurity.⁶ Among households with at least 1 child receiving free or reduced-price meals, NSLP participation is associated with a 14% reduction in food insufficiency (an alternate measure of food hardship closest to the most severe form of food insecurity).⁷ Access to the SBP reduces the risk

of marginal food insecurity and the likelihood of skipping breakfast, especially among low-income children.⁸ A rise in food insecurity during the summer months, particularly among NSLP participants, further suggests that school meals reduce food insecurity.⁹ In addition, school meals provide critical economic support to low-income families. The NSLP lifts 1.3 million people out of poverty.¹⁰

School meals significantly contribute to students' dietary intake and are generally more nutritious than meals from other sources, including home-packed meals.¹¹ This is especially true for children in low-income households who rely on school meals as a substantial source of nutrition. The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act, passed by Congress in 2010, increased access to nutritious meals and had a positive impact on diet quality by updating school meal nutrition standards.¹² Its effects are

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Eliza W. Kinsey is with the Department of Epidemiology, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University, New York, NY. Amelie A. Hecht is with the Department of Health Policy and Management, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore, MD. Caroline Glagola Dunn is with the Department of Health Policy and Management, Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health, Boston, MA. Ronli Levi and Hilary K. Seligman are with the Department of Medicine and the Center for Vulnerable Populations, University of California, San Francisco. Margaret A. Read, Courtney Smith, and Pamela Niesen are with Share Our Strength, No Kid Hungry Campaign, Washington, DC. Erin R. Hager is with the Department of Pediatrics and the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, University of Maryland School of Medicine, Baltimore.

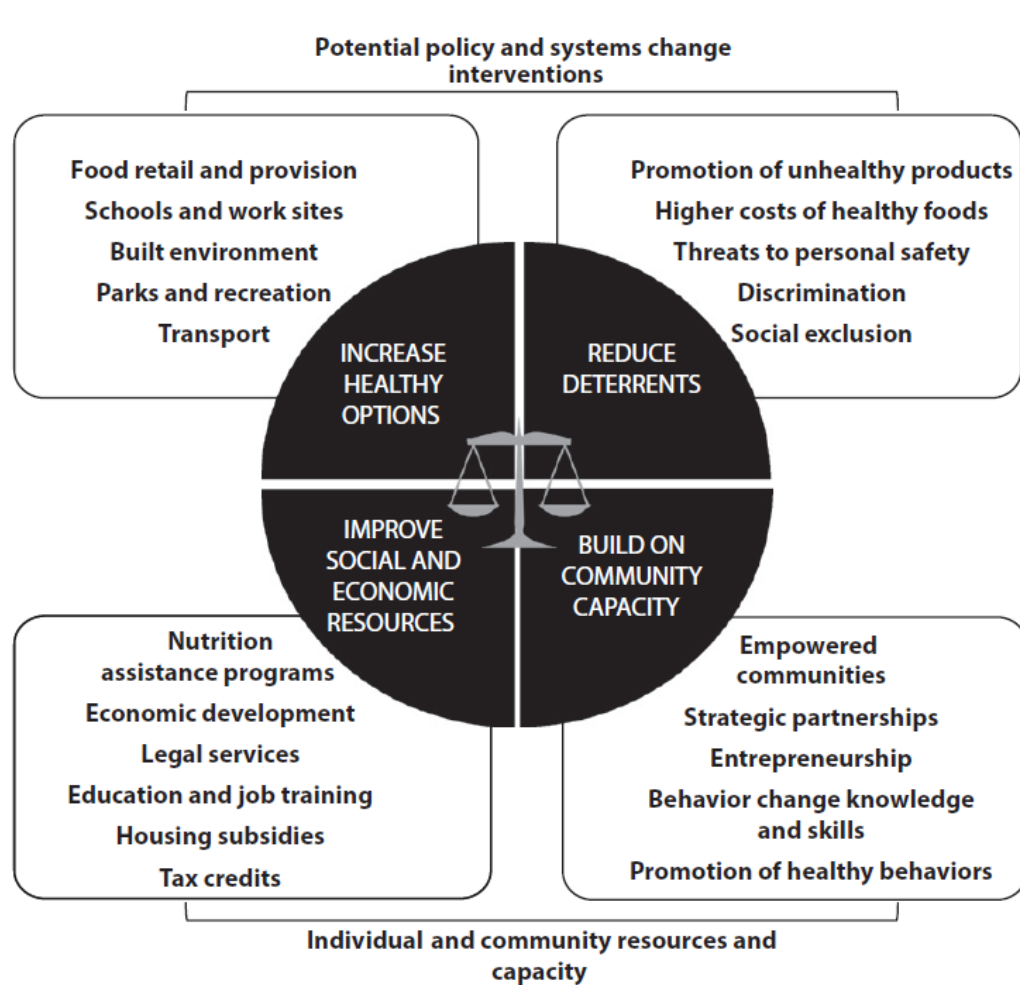
Correspondence should be sent to Eliza W. Kinsey, PhD, 722 W 168th St, New York, NY 10032 (e-mail: elw2143@cumc.columbia.edu). Reprints can be ordered at <http://www.ajph.org> by clicking the "Reprints" link.

This article was accepted July 9, 2020.

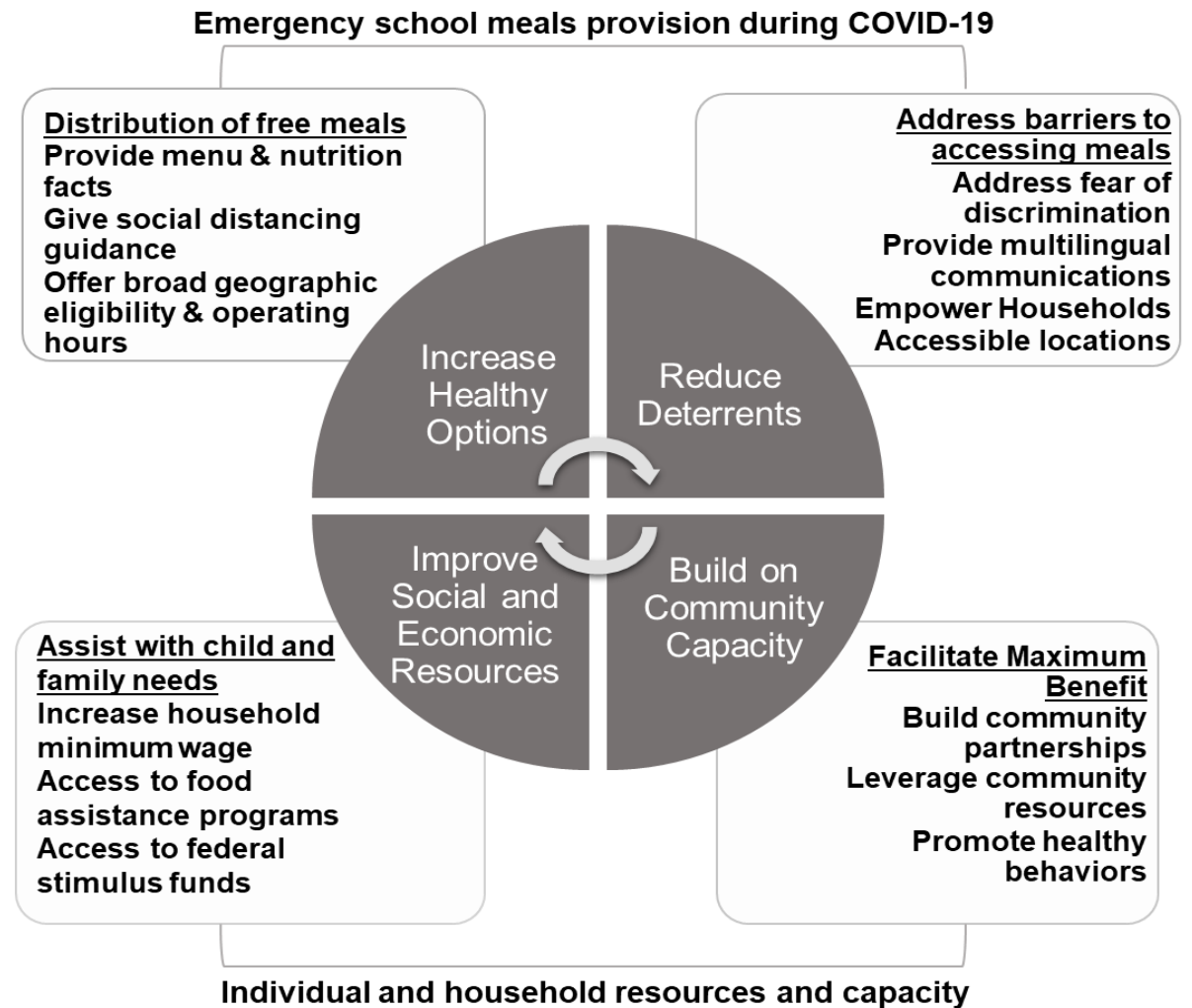
<https://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.2020.305875>

- Paper forthcoming in *American Journal of Public Health* on 9/17
- Presentations to:
 - NOPREN School Wellness Working Group
 - USDA FNS Office of Policy Support
- Follow-up paper on replacement meals in progress

Urban Deep Dive



Kumanyika S. *Am J Public Health*. 2019;109(10):1350-1357

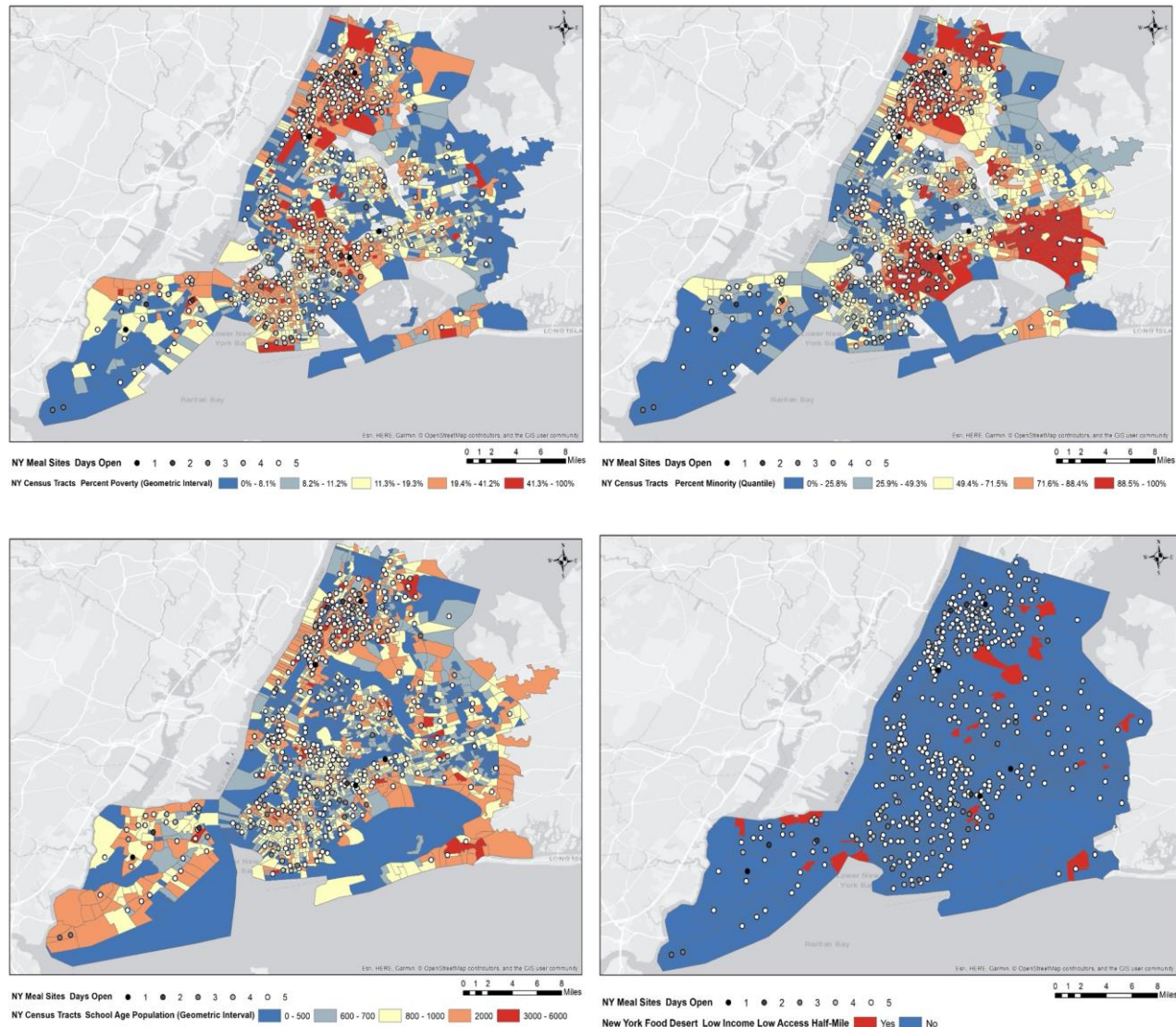


McLoughlin GM, McCarthy JA, McGuirt J, Singleton C, Dunn CG, Gadhoke P. Addressing food insecurity through a health equity lens: A case study of large urban school districts during the COVID-19 pandemic. *J Urban Health*. [Accepted]

Meal Site Placement

	LAUSD (n of sites= 63)	HISD (n=26)	NYCDOE (n=447)	CPS (n=297)
Median Percent Minority	46.7%	36.0%	59.0%	46.8%
Below median	22 (35%)	6 (24%)	179 (40%)	181 (60%)
Above median	41 (65%)	19 (76%)	268 (60%)	119 (40%)
Median % Poverty	16.3%	19.6%	14.4%	18.1%
Below median	21 (33%)	8 (32%)	146 (33%)	113 (38%)
Above median	42 (67%)	17 (68%)	301 (67%)	187 (62%)
Median Population 5-19 years old	920	1121	779	727
Below median	23 (37%)	12 (48%)	151 (34%)	88 (29%)
Above median	40 (63%)	13 (52%)	296 (66%)	212 (71%)
Food Desert Classification				
Meal sites in food desert (½ mile)	21(33.3%)	21(80.7%)	5(1.1%)	87(29.2%)
Meal sites in non-food desert	42(66.6%)	4(19.3%)	442(98.9%)	211(71.8%)

Figure 14: New York Public School District Meal Distribution and Census Tracts characteristics (a) Percent Poverty, (b) Percent Minority, (c) School Age Population, and (d) Prevalence of Food Deserts (1/2 mile)





Journal of Urban Health



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The *Journal of Urban Health* is the premier and authoritative source of rigorous analyses to advance the health and well-being of people in cities. The *Journal* provides a platform for interdisciplinary exploration of the evidence base for the broader determinants of health and health inequities needed to strengthen policies, programs, and governance for urban health. — [show all](#)

Food insecurity and schools during the pandemic

By [Neil Schoenherr](#) • August 31, 2020



The coronavirus pandemic has brought a number of challenges to schools, which were forced to close in the spring to help slow the spread of infection. One major challenge for schools was ensuring that students' nutritional supplementation needs were met when they were not attending school in person.

As schools across the country begin to welcome students back in person or for virtual learning, equity must be at the forefront of decisions pertaining to school emergency food services, finds a new study from the Brown School at Washington University in St. Louis.

"Ensuring access to food during these critical times is of paramount importance to meeting the public health needs of vulnerable populations at greatest risk for food security. Further, as schools contemplate re-opening plans, a greater emphasis should be placed on ways to maintain practices



McLoughlin

POPULAR STORIES



Obituary: Natalie Sorenson, engineering student, 18



Washington University develops COVID-19 saliva test



Itching for no reason? Immune system may be at fault



Nasal vaccine against COVID-19 prevents infection in mice

Brown School

brownschool.wustl.edu

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Question Bank for Organizational Stakeholders in COVID-19 Nutrition Response

- **Objective:** Understand policy-relevant implementation processes for school meal programs during COVID-19, including challenges and innovations, from the perspective of child nutrition directors across the country
- **Development Timeline**
 - **March – April 2020:** Identified overlapping concepts/questions of interest related to implementation processes
 - **May – June 2020:** Collaborated with organizational partners (School Nutrition Association, Lunch Assist) to compile a concept list and create definitions and sample questions
 - **June 2020 – ??:** Ongoing data collection (~4 state-specific studies, 2 national studies, 1 social media project); potential replication for other organizational stakeholders
- **Data Analysis**
 - **Mapped concepts of interest to existing frameworks (e.g., Social Ecological Model, Consolidated Framework for Implementation Research) for within-study analysis**
 - **Cross-case analysis to identify patterns/trends/opportunities across states, sponsor types, regions, etc.**

Qualitative Question Bank - Example Uses

SNA Social Media Project

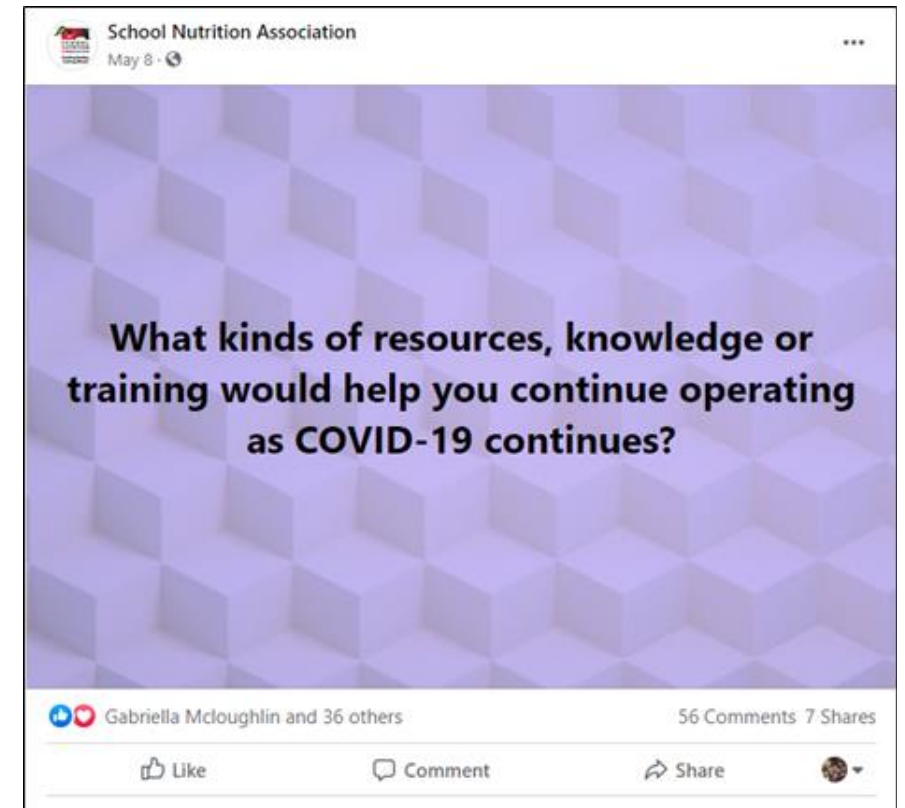
- Weekly open-ended questions on Facebook page

Pandemic EBT Subgroup

- Created P-EBT specific questions for question bank
- Adapted sponsor-level questions for state administrators, SNAP families, and non-SNAP families

Studies in Maryland, North Carolina, California, nationally

- Adapted based on state policies, state and local stakeholder interest, organizational priorities, time period of data collection





School Nutrition Association

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COVID-19's Impact on School Nutrition: Emerging Best Practices and Preliminary Research Findings

COVID-19 Webinar Series

COVID-19's Impact on School Nutrition: Emerging Best Practices and Preliminary Research Findings

May 20, 2020

All COVID-19 related webinars are available to both members and non-members.

This webinar will provide an overview of research and best practices on feeding school-aged children and adolescents during COVID-19 school closures as a means to prevent food insecurity. The panelists will present on topics such as the financial impact on school nutrition programs and districts, communication between school districts, parents, and students, how large urban districts are providing meals and ensuring safety, and the impact of COVID-19 school closures on food security. All panelists are members of a Nutrition and Obesity Policy Research and Evaluation Network (NOPREN) ad hoc working group that includes academic institutions, advocacy and trade groups such as SNA, and liaisons from CDC and Healthy Eating Research (HER). Learn more here: <https://nopren.org/covid19/>.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Understand the role research and evaluation can play in the short and long term regarding improving meal provision during COVID-19.
2. Discuss best practices for communicating with school districts, parents, and students about meals provided during COVID-19 and the special precautions necessary to help mitigate the spread of this disease.
3. Learn ways to engage in ongoing and future research and evaluation efforts focused on the role of school foodservice personnel in responding to COVID-19 and the likely lingering economic effects of this pandemic on households and school foodservice operations.

EARNING CEUs

SNA CEUs: 1.0

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Maryland Project

Working with MSDE and Maryland LEAs, during state-wide school closures, to examine:

- (1) Reach of meal distribution;**
- (2) Effectiveness of USDA waiver implementation and communication strategies on meals served;**
- (3) Barriers and facilitators of implementation of meal delivery;**
- (4) The financial impact on LEAs; and,**
- (5) Lessons learned for the future.**

COLLABORATION WITH **COVID-19 WORK GROUP**

- **Survey (School Nutrition Association)**
- **Communication Coding (Dr. McLoughlin)**
- **Qualitative Interviews (Dr. Lane)**
- **Mapping/Spatial Analysis (Dr. McGuirt)**
- **Financial Analysis (Dr. Zafari)**

Pandemic EBT Projects

Nationwide or Multiple States

- CBPP (Neurberger) & FRAC (Melcher Philbin) – Deep dive analysis of 10 states, plus nationwide survey
- Columbia (Tettamani & Abiola)/U-Miami (Zaw) – Legal mapping tool of USDA SNAP Waivers
- Kruger, Jones-Smith, Kennedy, Bleich, Fleischhacker – Comparing P-EBT and School Meals-to-Go
- Fleischhacker, Bleich, Dunn, Lusson – Assessment of P-EBT state-level communication and outreach

Selected State and District Level Deep Dives

- Patel, Hecht (CA)
 - Coding of CA school district websites/social media, including P-EBT participation/outreach
 - Conducting semi-structured interviews with school district officials and community partners and focus groups with parents/caregivers to understand the strengths and weaknesses of school-based nutrition assistance programs (e.g.. school meal program, P-EBT) in addressing food insecurity in four rural communities
- Bleich, Dunn (MA)
 - Working with the state agency to determine available data and key research questions
- Harper (MD)
 - Exploring the effect of three federal food assistance programs (P-EBT, emergency EBT, and the Summer SNAP pilot) on food security status, diet quality, and food acquisition behaviors in adolescents (ages 14-18) living in Baltimore, MD

Pandemic Child Hunger Prevention Act Aims to Expand Access to Nutritious Meals During COVID-19 National Emergency

07/30/2020 - Today, Rep. Bobby Scott (Va.) introduced the [Pandemic Child Hunger Prevention Act](#), a bill intended to expand access to free school meals for all children during the COVID-19 pandemic and to prevent the collapse of school nutrition programs.

Skyrocketing unemployment rates due to the COVID-19 pandemic have left families wondering how they will continue to make ends meet, including providing healthful meals to their children. This is particularly concerning for the communities of color who have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and are far more likely to experience food insecurity. These unprecedented levels of economic hardship will likely result in increased enrollment in school-based federal nutrition assistance programs.

This coupled with the uncertainty and inconsistency of school reopening in the fall has made the need for a universal school meal program imperative. This legislation will:

- All students will temporarily be made eligible for free school meals during the 2020-2021 school year through the School Breakfast Program and the National School Lunch Program;
- Due to the flexibility granted to the U.S. Department of Agriculture under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, free school meals will be available to students during remote learning through "grab and go" or meal delivery;
- All school districts, including those operating off-site meal services, can serve all children without having to certify the eligibility of each individual child;
- Under the Summer Food Service Programs and the Summer Seamless Option, schools and nonprofit community partners can operate off-site meal services anywhere in the country,

Issue Brief

COVID-19 School Reopening: Supporting School Meals and Students' Health in School Year 2020-2021

July 2020



Prepared by:



Nutrition Policy Institute



Back-to-School: We'll Keep Feeding Those Kids!

The COVID-19 pandemic has school districts across the nation preparing for a variety of learning models. School meals will continue to be an indispensable contribution to children's lives, maintaining their food security and supporting learning and a healthy weight. This resource builds upon the learnings from spring and summer 2020 and provides tools and tips for providing students with nutritious meals and running successful and sustainable nutrition programs when moving "back-to-school."

Best Practices Moving into SY 20-21

COVID-19 planning templates, reopening protocols, and additional resources that support school nutrition programs in return-to-school planning efforts.

Back-to-School Planning Tools

Center for Ecoliteracy [COVID-19 Return to School Planning Resources](#)
LunchAssist [Reopening Checklist](#)
LunchAssist [Waiver Toolkit](#)

Resources for Food Service

LunchAssist [Sample 5-Day Meal Kit Tip Sheet](#)
USDA [Providing Multiple Meals During Coronavirus](#)

Note: this is aimed at SSO operations but pages 4-12 provide information that applies to all "bulk meal" provision, including distribution amounts.

Farm to School Network [Local Food in COVID-19 Response and Recovery](#)

What are top-of-mind issues for schools as they shift back to operating NSLP?

- Establishing safe point-of-sale payments for children purchasing school meals
- Ensuring meals provided at drive-through/grab-n-go pick-up sites are distributed only to students enrolled in the school or district
- Providing enough staffing for non-congregate, on-site school meal service
- Keeping employees safe from COVID-19 exposure
- Maintaining quality and innovation in menus despite ongoing challenges and disruptions
- Distributing some foods in bulk – or re-packaging foods – when individually-wrapped items are unavailable or undesirable
- Managing additional costs related to operating during COVID-19 despite potential reductions in revenue
- Navigating regulatory uncertainties on USDA waivers



Photos: North Monterey County Unified School District (CA) weekly meal kit distribution

COVID-19 Return to School Planning Resources | ecoliteracy.org
ecoliteracy.org


spreadsheets/d/1WUdeekpog7ypMGTF7yLzlkY5RWkxEzFHGLbhmyq4PgE/edit#gid=0

Return to School Planning Resources

File Edit View Insert Format Data Tools Add-ons Help

100% View only

Meal Service Scenarios

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	 CALIFORNIA FOOD FOR CALIFORNIA KIDS Meal Service Scenarios							
2	SCENARIOS	MEAL SERVICE MODIFICATIONS <i>Examples: classroom, cafeteria, grab n go, outdoor dining, mobile cart</i>	MENU <i>Examples: hot, cold, cycle</i>	HOT FOOD PREPARATION AND SERVICE	COLD FOOD PREPARATION AND SERVICE	NUTRITION SERVICES STAFFING	NUTRITION SERVICES STAFF TRAINING NEEDS	SUPPORTING STAFF <i>Examples: custodial, food service staff, campus supervision, teachers</i>
3	Distance Learning All school sites closed							
4	Hybrid Learning Students come to school once or a few times per week (can include mobile food, cart/pick up stations, reduced capacity cafeteria)							
5	School Staggered Shifts All school sites open, AM and PM schedule (can include mobile food, cart/pick up stations, reduced capacity cafeteria)							
6	All Schools Open All school sites are open daily							
7	All Schools Open, Sudden Closure (1 Site) All school sites are open, but one closes suddenly							
8	All Schools Open, Sudden Closure (All Sites) All school sites are open, but then all close suddenly							

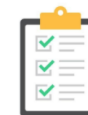


COVID-19 Membership AR Prep Consulting

Reopening Guidances

Want to read the official Child Nutrition Responses? Click on one of the links below. Prefer to see it all at a glance? Check out our **Waiver Summary Chart**. Want to check that you've done everything you need to be in compliance? Download our **Waiver Checklist**. Tools and resources to keep you on track throughout the Emergency Feeding period.

Updated July 7, 2020.



Reopening Considerations Checklist

Successful planning is in the details. We've got you covered, to make sure you don't miss any!

Download



Reopening Planning Matrixes

Developed by the Center for Ecoliteracy and a task force of your peers, including LunchAssist.

Download



Reopening Guidances Resource Tracker

Not sure which guidance(s) you should review? Check out this cheat sheet from No Kid Hungry for a super helpful assist.

Open



Strengthening WIC's Impact During and After the COVID-19 Pandemic

Healthy Eating Research

Research Brief, July 2020

Introduction

Women who are pregnant or postpartum, infants, and young children require nutritional supports critical for healthy development and postpartum recovery. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) was created to supplement essential nutrition to each of these populations and is widely considered to be one of the most successful nutrition intervention policies for improving maternal and child health.¹ Since 1972, this targeted federal nutrition assistance program has safeguarded the health of women who are pregnant, postpartum, and/or lactating; infants; and children up to 5 years old who are at nutritional risk and living in or near poverty ($\leq 185\%$ of the Federal Poverty Level).²⁻⁴ Before the COVID-19 pandemic, WIC assisted more than 6 million income-eligible participants monthly—including roughly half of all infants born in the United States.⁵

Unprecedented increases in unemployment as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic,⁷ which are already larger than those during the Great Recession,⁸ have increased WIC enrollment—a trend that is likely to persist for years to come.⁹ Food insecurity—or lack of reliable access to healthy food—is also increasing.^{10,11} This rapid increase in need requires WIC program flexibilities and contingencies to safely serve eligible program participants. It also provides opportunities to strengthen WIC's impact during and after this pandemic. This brief (1) summarizes evidence on the effectiveness of WIC; (2) discusses key challenges, program adaptations, and needs resulting from COVID-19, including WIC provisions in the federal COVID-19 stimulus packages to date (additional stimulus packages are expected); and (3) identifies critical knowledge gaps and opportunities with the greatest likelihood to shape future WIC policy and practice.

The Effectiveness of WIC: A Summary of the Evidence

WIC plays a crucial role in improving lifetime health^{3,4} and these benefits are well established in the scientific literature for both mothers and children (Table 1). Updates to the WIC package in 2009¹² that increased fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and lower-fat milk, and expanded cultural food options resulted in additional positive changes to health and well-being (Table 2). Evidence is also developing regarding the cost-effectiveness of different facets of the WIC program.¹³ For example, when considering how WIC's programs for prenatal care impact birth outcomes, a \$1 WIC investment is estimated to save about \$2.50 in medical, educational, and worker productivity costs due to WIC's reduction in pre-term births and improved health and development.



About WIC

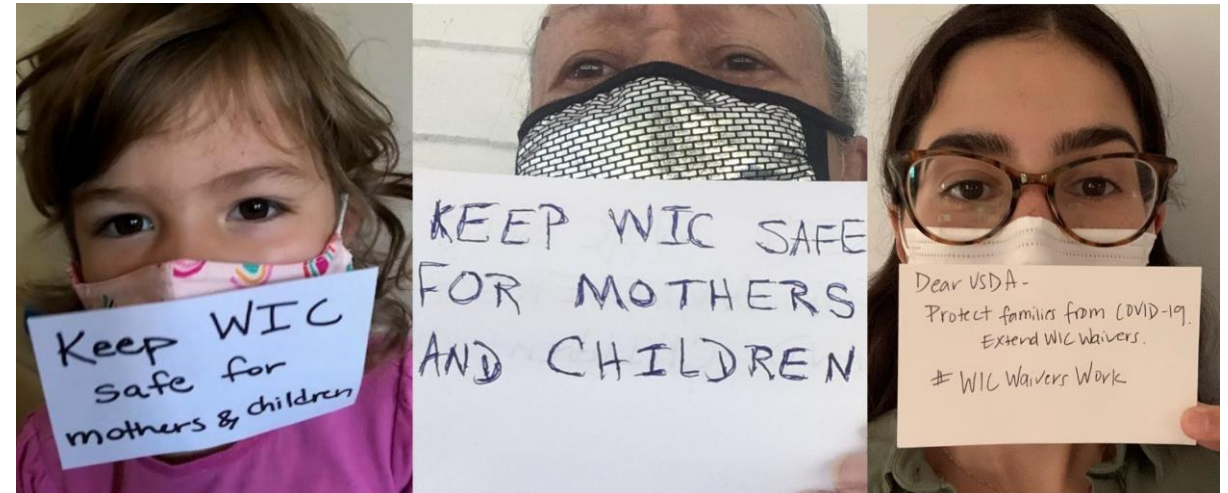
Administered by the USDA, WIC provides federal grants to states (including Indian Tribal Organizations, the District of Columbia, and five territories) for supplemental food and beverages (called a nutrition prescription or the WIC food packages⁶), and to oversee essential WIC activities. States administer the WIC program by:

- Certifying participants' eligibility.
- Managing enrollment and recertification.
- Providing nutrition education (contacts at least every 6 months).
- Providing referrals to healthcare and other social services.
- Providing breastfeeding promotion and support.
- Distributing and tracking benefits.
- Working with certified retailers to provide WIC-eligible foods and beverages.



Academy of Nutrition & Dietetics invited practice paper on the risks of using homemade infant formula

National WIC Association



#WICWaiversWork



Building the Next Generation

- More than 10 students matched with HER NOPREN relevant projects for paid & unpaid summer internship experiences
- Additional students met with Network members throughout this summer for mentoring sessions
- More than 195 students (and faculty) signed up for the HER NOPREN Summer Student Speaker Series
- 16 students presented at the first-of-its-kind HER NOPREN Virtual Student Presentation Session (August 26)

Date Topic	Panelists
June 3 rd Series Overview	<p>Moderator: Sheila Fleischhacker, PhD, JD</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heidi Blanck, PhD, CDC Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity, Obesity Prevention and Control Branch Chief • Amy Lowry Warnock, MPA, CDC Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity, Public Health Policy Analyst • Hilary Seligman, MD, MAS, Professor of Medicine at the University of California at San Francisco and the Nutrition and Obesity Policy Research and Evaluation Network Director • Kirsten Arm, MPH, RD, Research Analyst, Healthy Eating Research, a national program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation at Duke Global Health Institute • Caroline Dunn, PhD, RD, Research Associate, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and HER NOPREN COVID-19 School Nutrition Implications Working Group Fellow • Amanda Samuels Sharfman, MS, MPH, Project Manager for National Collaborative on Childhood Obesity Research, FHI 360
June 17 th USDA Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Overview	<p>Moderator: Angie Tagtow, MS, RD, LD</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sara Bleich, PhD, Professor of Public Health Policy, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health • Wesley Dean, PhD, Senior Analyst, USDA Food and Nutrition Service Office of Policy Support • Tracy Fox, MPH, RD, MBA, Founder and President, Food, Nutrition & Policy Consultants, LLC • Angela Odoms-Young, PhD, Associate Professor of Kinesiology and Nutrition, University of Illinois at Chicago • Maya Sandalow, MPH, Policy Associate, Center for Science in the Public Interest
July 1 st USDA National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), Summer Meals Program (SMP) Overview	<p>Moderator: Christina Hecht, PhD, Senior Policy Advisor, Nutrition Policy Institute, University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erin Hager, PhD, Associate Professor of Pediatrics, University of Maryland and HER NOPREN COVID-19 School Nutrition Implications Working Group Co-Chair • Donna Martin, EdS, RDN, LS, SNS, FAND, Director, School Nutrition Program, Burke County Board of Education and Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Past President • Ashley Powell, PhD, Child Nutrition Director, Auburn City Schools in Auburn, AL & Alabama SNA Past President • Katie Wilson, PhD, SNS, Executive Director, Urban School Food Alliance

6 session recordings, slides, QA responses, and suggested materials available at nopren/covid19/

Next Steps

- Working to disseminate data to date
 - Please invite group / projects to your NOPREN group!
- Complete and disseminate the more than 10 papers under review/development
- Support new projects continuing to emerge, including the new HER grantees
- Strengthening cross Network collaborations
- Expanding our other collaborations
- Responding to other survey suggestions
- Hosting at least 5 more monthly meetings and other sub-group endeavors

Date	Meeting Presentations & Speakers
10/9/2020	<p>HER-Funded COVID-19 Rapid Response Grantees – Brief Overviews of Funded Studies</p> <p>Collaborator Overviews</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• American Public Health Services Association• Feeding America• National Conference of State Legislatures <p>HER NOPREN Working Group Overviews</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• HER NOPREN Early Childhood Working Group• NOPREN School Wellness
11/13/2020	COVID Sub-Group Overviews & Updates

[illegible]