RNECE: Regional Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention Centers of Excellence

Priorities for research
• Address the policy, systems and/or environmental aspects of the rural communities of the North Central region
• Address the specific needs of immigrant, minority and/or other at-risk populations in this region
• Strengthen the evidence base on effective nutrition-education/obesity-prevention programs for diverse groups, notably SNAP-Ed and EFNEP

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Eat Smart in Parks: Photovoice to Inform Health Food Environments
Sonja Wilhelm Stans; Cindy DeBlauw; Kimberly Keller; Amy Dunaway; Natalie Hampton
University of Missouri
Objectives:
• Strengthen community voices in healthy food decisions for parks
• Include youth voices in food decisions
• Help mobilize youth to improve access to healthy park food in underserved communities

Evaluating a Multi-Modal Community Nutrition Education Model Within SNAP-Ed and EFNEP
Jennifer McCaffrey; Naiman Khan; Ruopeng An; Dawn Contreras; Marci Scott
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Objectives:
• Examine organizational structure and policy dynamics in relation to program effectiveness using social network analysis in Illinois and Michigan
• Examine the impact of the University of Illinois Extension SNAP-Ed and EFNEP on diet-related and physical activity behaviors of participants as well as their home food environment, weight status and adiposity

Does SNAP-Ed Affect Food Security Differentially in Urban and Rural Environments? A Longitudinal, Randomized and Controlled Study
Heather A. Eicher-Miller; Melissa K. Maulding; Bruce A. Craig; Dennis A. Savaiano; Rebecca L. Rivera
Purdue University
Objectives:
• Investigate SNAP-Ed effect on household food security among adults ≥18 years who qualify for SNAP
  - Whether changes are differential in rural/urban counties using a longitudinal (1-year), randomized and controlled study design with SNAP-Ed as the intervention
• Determine how the availability of nutrition-related community resources moderates the effect of SNAP-Ed on food security
  - Whether the effect is dose-dependent
• Determine the individual impact of factors associated with improvements in food security through integration of direct and policy, systems and environmental (PSE) SNAP-Ed approaches

SWEAT: Summer Weight Environmental Assessment Trial
Carolyn Gunther; Laura Hopkins; Christine Penicka; Student; Blake Jones; Carly Evich
Ohio State University/Purdue University
Objectives:
• Hypotheses: Compared to the active control, children randomized to the two types of intervention groups—standard care and enhanced care—will demonstrate:
  - Improved diet
  - Decreased sedentary time
  - Prevention of unhealthy weight gain

The Influence of Policy, System and Environmental Nutrition Education Intervention on Foods and Beverages Served at Diverse, Low-Income Home Child Care Provider Settings
Dawn Earnesty; Lorraine Weatherspoon
Michigan State University
Objectives:
• To improve the nutritional variety and quality of meals and snacks served to 2- to 5-year-old children in diverse, SNAP-Ed child care provider homes
• To strengthen the evidence base of a PSE change intervention for child care providers using a six-month extension coaching model

Food and Activity Environment Perceptions Among SNAP-Ed and EFNEP Participants in the North Central Region
Bhagyashree Katare; Krystal Lynch; Melissa Maulding; Dennis Savaiano; North Central Steering Committee
Objectives:
• To develop a system/tool to assess people’s perceptions of surrounding food and physical activity environment and their health behavior, health choices and health outcome
• To assess participants’ current perception of their food and physical activity environment
• To evaluate the relationship between people’s present perception of environment and their health behaviors and outcomes