Implementing Sustainable Meal Planning Practices Through Meal Mentoring at an East Texas Food Bank Sponsored Location

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What is Food Insecurity?

- The USDA defines food insecurity as a state in which “consistent access to adequate food is limited by a lack of money and other resources at times during the year.”
- How many Texans are food insecure?
  - According to the latest USDA report, 17% of Texas households (one in six) experienced food insecurity in the years 2012-2014. Texas was one of just fourteen states with higher food insecurity than the nation during this period. In raw numbers, 1.7 million Texas households were food insecure, more than any other state except California.
- How many Nacogdoches County residence are food insecure?
  - According to feedingamerica.org in 2013 there were 14,940 food insecure households within Nacogdoches County. Approximately 23% of households.

Objectives

- Participants being able to identify key terms on a food label.
- That the participants will have an awareness of healthful portion sizes.
- That the participants will be able to demonstrate this knowledge.
- This was accomplished by an initial assessment, a review and a post-assessment.
- Each interview period had a discussion time and nutrition information was disseminated. Each participant received a one on one mentoring with the researcher covering basic nutrition content of foods during each interview.

Methods

- The target population consisted of 8 to 10 adults over the age of 21 who were either male or female of any ethnic origin and of any civil status, receiving donated food items from Helping Other People Eat (HOPE; an East Texas Food Bank sponsored location and a Nacogdoches Area United Way (NAUW) supported agency).
- Participants were selected based on the first ten individuals to voluntarily submit their application forms and who met the above listed criteria.
- Participant’s level of knowledge was assessed using pre/post questionnaire
- Three mentoring sessions were conducted with participants – topics included serving sizes, healthful quantities of sodium, protein, sugar, and fiber.
- Nutrition information was disseminated and MyPlate activities were completed.

Sample of Pre/post Questions

- Can you locate the sodium content on these labels?
- Which item has the most sodium?
- Is this amount of sodium considered high, moderate, or low in comparison to the Recommended Daily Allowance (RDI) for sodium?

Results

- Respondents gained new knowledge in reading food labels and provided research feedback as to what additional information they would like to learn.
- Statements from participants included:
  - “I actually learned how to look for ingredients such as sugars, and fiber and pay attention to serving sizes.”
  - “I learned about portion control”.
  - “Wish we had covered gram/mg compares and why companies don’t use one unit of measure.”

Implications

Nutrition Education and Community support bridge the gap of Food Insecurity

Local Food Banks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Agency Hours</th>
<th>Agency Service</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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<td>Nacogdoches</td>
<td>Azleway Pantry</td>
<td>2100 E. Main</td>
<td>Monday &amp; Tuesday 9:30am - 1:00pm, Wednesday - 9:30am - 5:00pm</td>
<td>Pantry</td>
<td>(936) 584-2712</td>
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<td>Sacred Heart</td>
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<td>Pantry</td>
<td>(936) 584-2712</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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References

http://www.feedingtexas.org/learn/food-insecurity/
http://easttexasfoodbank.org/NeedFood/Nacogdoches

Food Secure

Food Insecure

23% Food Secure

14,940 Food Insecure

References

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