Title:
Geographic Distribution of SNAP-Ed Eligible Population and Direct Education Participation in Arizona

Abstract:
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed) is a nationwide program targeted at providing “evidence-based nutrition education and obesity prevention interventions and projects for persons eligible for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) through complementary direct education, multi-level interventions, and community and public health approaches to improve nutrition” (NIFA, 2018). SNAP-Ed is a federally funded program, with states receiving funding and in turn awarding it to local implementing agencies (LIAs) for provision of programming in qualified areas of their state. LIAs are oftentimes land grant institutions via Cooperative Extension Services (CES), but also include local governments, public health service providers, and other sub-contractors. Direct education interventions target SNAP-eligible individuals in a variety of settings, including schools, childcare centers, community activity centers, and government and non-profit social service providers, providing face-to-face education on nutrition and physical activity. Intervention sites are selected based upon the local share of the population which is SNAP-Ed-eligible. This analysis examines the geographic distribution of SNAP-Ed eligible population in Arizona by zip code tabulation area in 2011, 2012, and 2013, comparing that with actual SNAP-Ed direct education participation levels. This method provides an opportunity to identify geographic areas (and their characteristics) where program efforts could better serve eligible populations.