

Promoting Equity Within WA SNAP-Ed Curricula

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INTRODUCTION

WA SNAP-Ed seeks to improve nutrition-related health outcomes among SNAP-eligible individuals and families, including through direct education initiatives.¹

To achieve this goal, program delivery and materials must be culturally relevant to participants from different backgrounds and meet community-identified needs.

Efforts to promote equity within curricula are vital to delivering fair programming and maximizing the impact of education.

BACKGROUND²

- 1.8. million individuals (24%) in WA are eligible for SNAP-Ed (<200% FPL)
- American Indian and Alaska Native, Black, and Hispanic populations have higher rates of eligibility than other races or ethnicities
- Black, Hispanic, American Indian and Alaska Native populations experience higher rates of food insecurity than other races or ethnicities
- Adults with less than a high school education experience higher rates of food insecurity
- Cultural and immigration concerns and language barriers are consistent obstacles to reaching SNAP-eligible populations

PROJECT GOALS

1. Assess currently approved curricula through an equity lens
2. Provide recommendations to better address the cultural and linguistic needs of SNAP-Ed participants
3. Compile resources for educators to implement recommendations in diverse classroom settings

METHODS

- Reviewed 22 WA SNAP-Ed curriculum options and completed rubric evaluations
- Analyzed similarities & differences between WA SNAP-Ed and other states' curricula
- Conducted literature review on best practices for delivering equitable nutrition education
- Identified equity-related gaps in current curriculum options
- Developed an interview guide to garner feedback on the rubric used to evaluate and approve curricula
- Generated recommendations to address gaps and promote equity within curricula



RESULTS

This process led to the development of a supplemental Curriculum Resource Guide, containing:

- 4 main recommendations for promoting equity in the delivery of SNAP-Ed materials and education
- Justifications and contextual information for each recommendation
- Materials and resources to foster implementation of recommendations in classroom settings
- Guidance for educators to share new resources and information over time

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EDUCATORS

1. Teach through an anti-racist lens
2. Incorporate recipes that reflect communities' and individuals' resources and lifestyles
3. Promote participatory planning and a learner-centered approach
4. Use materials that reflect the linguistic and literacy needs of participants

CONCLUSIONS

This project underscores the need for ongoing and continuous assessment of, and adjustments to, WA SNAP-Ed educational materials to

- Maintain relevancy for various communities throughout the state
- Enhance effectiveness of program delivery
- Promote overall health equity through nutrition education

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This project was completed under the supervision of Courtney Schupp, MPH, RD and Terry Perry, RD of the WA SNAP-Ed Curriculum, Training, and Website team (CTW). Many thanks for their support and guidance throughout my internship.

Meetings with Maggie Grate, MS, RD, Jen Moss, RD (WSU Extension Coordinator), and Adrienne Markworth (Leah's Pantry Executive Director) also contributed to this work.



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