

# Longitudinal SNAP-Ed Study of Community Coalition Characteristics in Arizona

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## Today's Agenda



Background: Coalition Research and SNAP-Ed



Objective: Community Coalition Characteristics



Study Design, Setting, Participants



Outcome & How We Analyzed



Results



Conclusions & Implications

I am happy for you to tweet or photograph the slides from my talk. Please mention us on Twitter @SNAP\_Ed\_ **Eval** 

## Background

### We know

#### Community coalitions help

- Accelerate progress toward community-level policy & systems changes
- Reduce health disparities

#### We don't know

Specifically why community coalitions have these effects, especially those with SNAP-Ed involvement

• Is it a function of day-to-day coalition processes, characteristics or structures?

SNAP-Ed: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program—Education, a federal program to support healthy eating and physical activity in lower-resourced populations

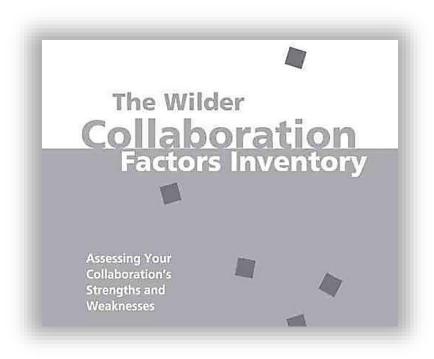
## **Study Objectives**

Measure coalition characteristics for coalitions in Arizona that included a SNAP-Ed staff member

Identify strengths and areas for improvement within each coalition

## **Study Design: The Tool**

#### **Wilder Collaboration Factors Inventory**

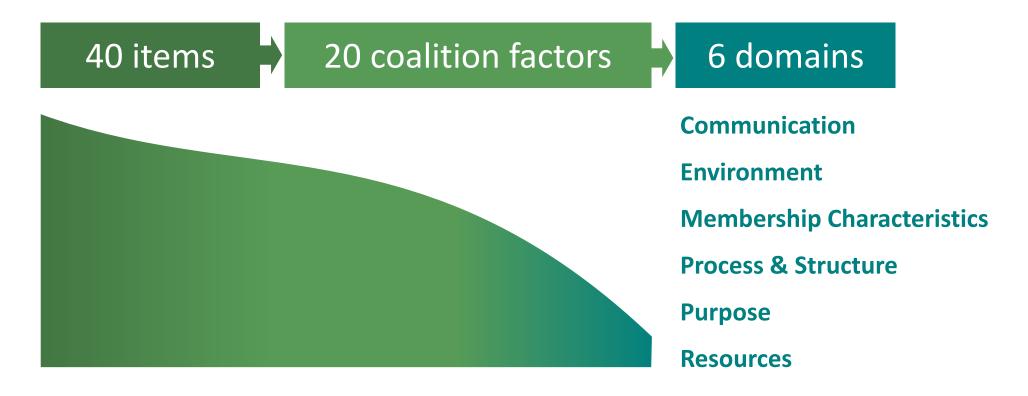


Questionnaire administered to coalition members

Includes 40 items about coalition processes, characteristics & structures, scored from strongly disagree (1.0) to strongly agree (5.0)

## **Study Design: The Tool**

Wilder Collaboration Factors Inventory



## **Study Design: Setting & Participants**

#### **Pre-Post Assessment**

In 2016 (pre) and 2018 (post), trained SNAP-Ed staff administered the **Wilder** with community coalition partners.

#### **Coalition Inclusion Criteria**

- ✓ Established for at least 6 months
- ✓ Work in Food Systems (FS) or Active Living (AL) SNAP-Ed focus areas
- ✓ Include at least 5 organizations, and a SNAP-Ed representative

Participants: 7 coalitions (3 FS, 36 members; 4 AL, 37 members)

## **Outcome and Analysis**

Outcome. Within-group change in Wilder factors over time

**Primary Analysis.** Wilcoxon signed-rank tests to *compare* scores for the 20 factors. Descriptive statistics also used for the % *of respondents* whose scores for individual factors decreased.

#### **Secondary Analyses.**

- 1) Analyzed by focus area (FS and AL)
- 2) Explored urban vs. rural coalition differences

## Results Across Two Years

Scores related to coalition purpose, environment, and resources **increased**.

Perception of Resources

Coalition Environment

Coalition Purpose

## Results Across Two Years

Scores related to coalition membership characteristics and coalition processes decreased.

Membership Characteristics

Coalition Processes

## **Results by Domain & Coalition Type**

Process & Structure

Flexibility

Development of Clear Roles & Policies

Multiple Layers of Participation

Pace of Development

Resources

Skilled Leadership

Sufficient Resources Membership Characteristics

Participation Is in Self-Interest

Appropriate Cross Section of Members Purpose

Unique Purpose Communications

Open & Frequent Communication

Environment

High Scoring Factors

Low Scoring Factors **KEY** 

Food Systems
Active Living
Both Coalition Types





% Responses	% Responses stayed	% Responses
improved	the same	worsened

#### **Strongest Improvement**

	Unique Purpose	*p<.05 <b>53</b>	30.5	16.5
History	of Collaboration	53	19	28
	Flexibility	44	28	28

#### **Strongest Decline**

Pace of Development Stake in the Process/Outcome Collaboration in Self Interest

30.5	19.5	50
33.5	16.5	50
25	38	36

## Results for Active Living Coalitions 2

% Responses improved

% Responses stayed the same

% Responses worsened

#### Strongest Improvement



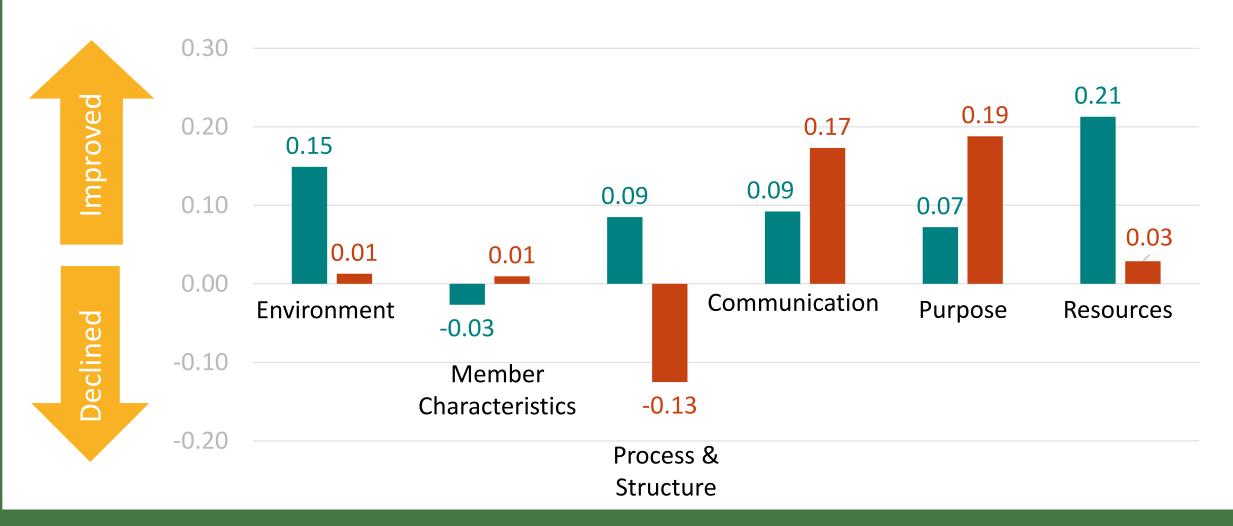
#### **Strongest Decline**

Multiple Layers of Participation
Cross Section of Members
Coalition Seen as Legitimate Leader
Favorable Political/Social Climate

35	19	46
38	19	43
32.5	32.5	35
38	27	35

#### Results for Urban vs. Rural Coalitions

(Scores range from 1.00 to 5.00)



#### **CONCLUSIONS**

Short term changes in coalition outcomes are measurable

Attention to short term outcomes may help longer term goal achievement Coalitions may increase collaboration, purpose & resource security over time

#### **IMPLICATIONS**

There may be FS/AL differences, or rural/urban differences in coalition characteristics

More attention may be needed to internal processes and membership diversity

## QUESTIONS?



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