Outcome Effectiveness of the Widely Adopted EFNEP Curriculum: Eating Smart • Being Active









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Pragmatic Considerations

- Eating Smart Being Active (ESBA) had been adopted by >37 programs/states
- Limited resources to do the research
- ► Was ESBA as effective as "previous curricula?"



### **Practical Considerations**

- Access to multiple years of EFNEP data from 5 states
- Same Evaluation Tools
  - ► EFNEP 10 item Behavior checklist (BCL)
  - ► 24 hr dietary recall



### **Practical Considerations**

#### Define "pre-ESBA"

- Prior curricula = "non ESBA"
- Multiple curricula used prior to ESBA

### Allowed time for educators to become proficient

### at teaching ESBA

Only include data from exclusive use of ESBA



**Practical Considerations** 

Use all data from a 6 month interval before ESBA

- Everyone who started (pre) and finished (post) within the 6 months
- Broader representativeness
  - Colorado, New York, Ohio, Arkansas, California
  - ►4 NIFA regions



### Data Collection and Analysis

Data required significant cleaning & confirming consistent coding over multiple years

► Variables chosen:

- BCL scales: nutrition, food safety, food resource management
- 2 Physical Activity (only 1 asked by all states)
- >24HR food groups only



#### **Research Questions**

- How effective was ESBA at changing selfreported behavior (pre to post)?
- How did ESBA behavior changes compare to behavior changes from prior curricula?



# Participant Demographics (n = 7231)

- ▶ 89% female
- ► 57% Hispanic
- ► 22% < high school or GED; 20% HS
- Mean age 33.9
- California 65%; Ohio 22%; Arkansas –5%; Colorado –5%; New York – 3%



# ESBA – Behavior Check List (BCL)

Changes Pre to Post on BCL and Physical Activity Items



### ESBA – 24 hour recall food groups



### ESBA vs non-ESBA – BCL

Post Scores on BCL and Physical Activity Items



# ESBA vs non-ESBA – 24 hr recall food groups

Post Scores on 24 hr Recalls



Conclusions When compared pre to post:

Eating Smart •Being Active led to significant increases in:

- ►all BCL scales
- physical activity items
- ▶ intakes of fruit
- intake of vegetables
- ▶ intake of dairy



# Conclusions

Eating Smart •Being Active was as good or better than prior curricula in changing selfreported behaviors in:

- nutrition
- physical activity
- ▶ intakes of fruit
- intake of vegetables



# Pros/Cons of Methodology



Access large numbers at low cost

Cons

When using data collected by others retrospectively, lack of control on data collection methods and fidelity in program delivery and assessment



### Implications

Compare and contrast effectiveness when there are major program changes such as:

- New training approaches
- New or revised curriculum
- Multiple curricula
- New evaluation tools

