Assessing access to healthy foods for children and families in Zane Avenue Corridor

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Background

Access to Brooklyn Park's rich collection of domestic and ethnic food markets has not been assessed based on multiple factors including financial and transit limitations. Along with being designated a Racially Concentrated Area of Poverty (RCAP), two census tracts along the Zane Avenue Corridor are also identified as food deserts by the USDA[1], making it critical that the City identify ways to increase access and consumption of healthy food for the long-term health of the community.
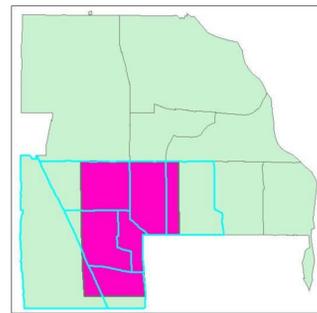
Tasks

PUBH 7696: Field Experience: Maternal and Child Health, School of Public Health

Goal:
•Gather information about the knowledge, beliefs, practices, and barriers to nutrition and healthy activity in the community, with a focus on the child population and families with children

Description:
•Work within city Brooklyn Park Racially Concentrated Area of Poverty to determine the disparities in a specified population (children and families with children)
•Review existing local data sources
•Use knowledge and philosophies learned in the classroom (such as class "Maternal and Child Health Leadership") to develop project improvement and presentation as well as connect classroom learning to field experience
•Conduct a literature review to determine if interventions have been done in similar areas
•Final report that includes a program description, logic model, proposed evaluation plan, and data collection instrument

Data

Table 1. Age breakdown in Zane Avenue Corridor (2016 Esri Demographics)[3]

Age	Population	Proportion
0-17	8521	29.94%
18-24	3091	10.86%
25-45	9035	31.75%
46-64	5391	18.94%
65+	2420	8.50%
Total	**28458**	**100.00%**

Table 2. Percent change in obesity rates of children age 2 to 5 years old in Brooklyn Park v. Minnesota from 2012 to 2015 (Hennepin County WIC)[2]

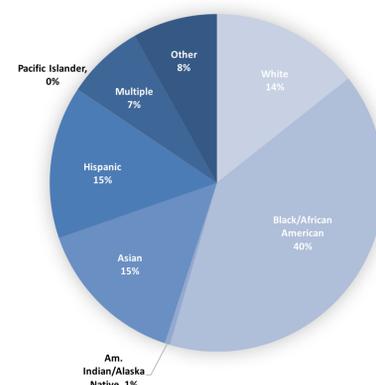|	Minnesota			Brooklyn Park		
	2012	2015	% change	2012	2015	% change
Overweight and Obese (≥85th percentile)	28.70%	27.90%	-2.79%	24.50%	28.40%	15.92%
Obese (≥95th percentile)	12.70%	12.20%	-4.10%	10.70%	11.90%	11.21%

Figure 1. Race and gender distribution of 0-14 year olds in Zane Avenue Corridor[3]

Literature Review

•In all articles reviewed, researchers suggested, in some form, a focus on changing policies, systems, and environments to prevent obesity by promoting healthful eating and active living
•Though interventions varied greatly between policy, environmental, and system changes, themes emerged from this review
 – (1) advertising and marketing
 – (2) youth engagement
 – (3) community and academic partnerships
•The success of an implementation to increase food access depends largely on the location of the issue, social determinants of health, and demographics in that area
•Each community should assess current interventions to determine how they can change and model the intervention to fit their community

Logic Model
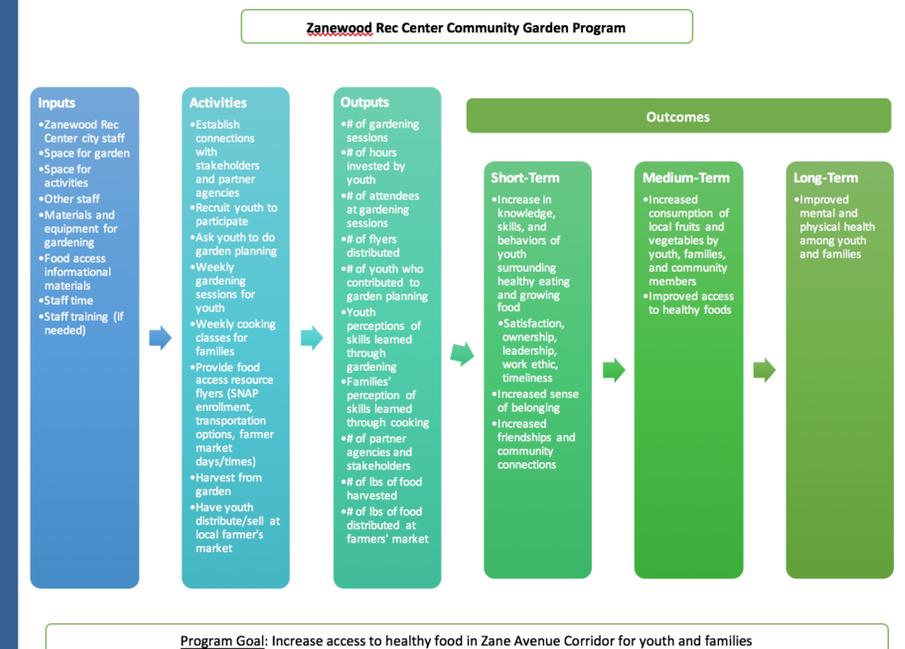
References

[1] United States Department of Agriculture. 2017. Received from: https://www.ers.usda.gov/

[2] Hennepin County. WIC: Women, Infants, and Children. Received from: http://www.hennepin.us/residents/health-medical/wic-women-infants-children.

[3] Natalie Loots and Yun Taek Oh. Students in PA 5271: GIS: Applications in Planning and Policy Analysis. Instructor: Geoff Maas. Resilient Community Project Report, Fall 2016.

Acknowledgements