





Nourishing Minds: The Connection Between Food Insecurity & Youth Mental Health in SBHCs

March 6, 2025



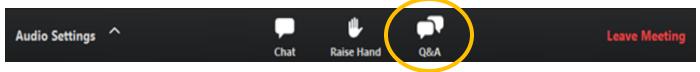


REMINDERS

All attendees are in listen-only mode.

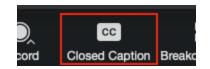
To ask a question during the session, use the "Q&A" icon that appears on the

bottom your Zoom control panel.



Chat is disabled for participants during this event.

To turn on closed captioning, click on the "CC" button



Deliver Please complete evaluation poll questions at the end of the presentation.



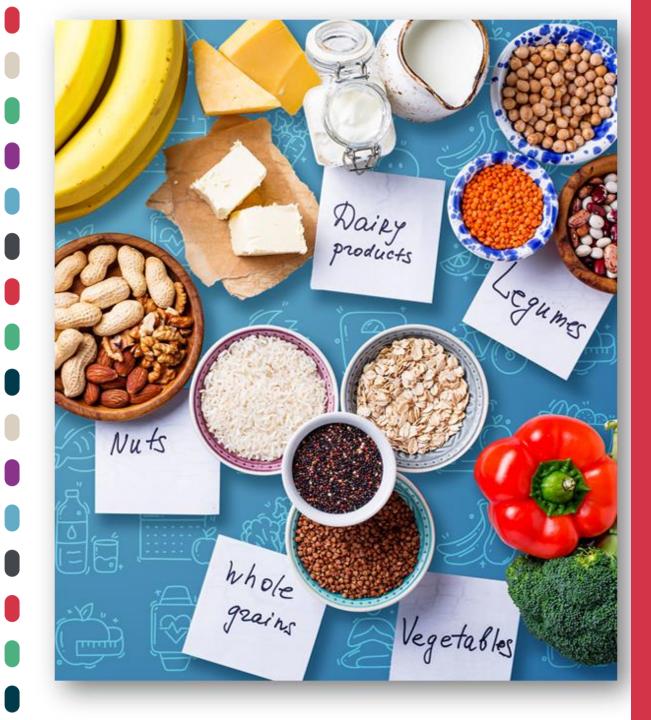
OBJECTIVES

Attendees will...

- 1. Understand the connection between food insecurity and its impact on mental health for youth and their families.
- 2. Learn about unique initiatives in healthcare settings that are addressing both food and behavioral health needs.
- 3. Explore opportunities for youth-led food and behavioral health initiatives in your SBHC.









TODAY'S FACILITATORS





Addie Van Zwoll (she/her), Director, School-Based Health Alliance



Sarah Mills (she/her), Senior Manager Health Systems, Share Our Strength



Harper Byers (she/her), Coordinator, School-Based Health Alliance







TODAY'S PRESENTERS

- **Cindy Leung, ScD, MPH,** Assistant Professor of Public Health Nutrition, Department of Nutrition, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health
- Nicole M. Casbarro, DNP, MSN, APRN, FNP-c, Clinical Assistant Professor of Nursing, School of Nursing, Quinnipiac University
- Rachael Jones, Executive Director, Farm to School of Park County
- Celeste Mascari, Education Manager, Farm to School of Park County





Who We Are



School-Based Health Alliance

The National Voice for School-Based Health Care

Working to improve the health of children and youth by advancing and advocating for school-based health care. When health and education come together, great things happen.

Learn more: www.sbh4all.org



No Kid Hungry

A Campaign by **Share our Strength**

An organization dedicated to ending hunger and poverty. Through proven, effective campaigns, that connect people who care to ideas that work.

Learn more: www.nokidhungry.org





NKH and SBHA Continued Partnership

2024-2025

- Continuing to work with the Ohio School-Based Health Alliance and Youth Healthcare
 Alliance to expand their work with a focus on evaluation and sustainability
- Launching a National Survey to learn more about what SBHCs are doing across the country about food security—More details coming soon!
- Webinar Series:
 - **Webinar 1 (In SBHA Archive):** "Bridging Health and Nutrition: Food Assistance Strategies for School-Based Health Centers"
 - **Webinar 2: (In SBHA Archive)** "Hunger Ends Here: Exploring the Continuum of Food Security Programs in SBHCs"
 - **Webinar 3**: Today! "Nourishing Minds: The Connection Between Food Insecurity & Youth Mental Health in SBHCs"







Understanding the Links Between Food Insecurity and Children's Health



Cindy Leung, ScD, MPH March 6, 2025

Defining food security

Availability at all times of adequate world food supplies of basic foodstuffs to sustain a steady expansion of food consumption and to offset fluctuations in production and prices."

SOURCE: 1974 World Food Conference



Defining food security

Food security exists when *all* people, at *all* times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life."

SOURCE: World Food Summit 1996



11

What is food insecurity?

- Worrying about food running out
- Not being able to afford a balanced meal
- Eating less because there wasn't enough money for food
- Skipping meals because there wasn't enough money for food
- Hungry but didn't eat because there wasn't enough money for food
- Losing weight because there wasn't enough money for food
- Not eating for a whole day because there wasn't enough money for food

Who experiences food insecurity?



Household composition

- Households with children
- Households with young children
- Female headed household
- Male headed household

Race/ethnicity

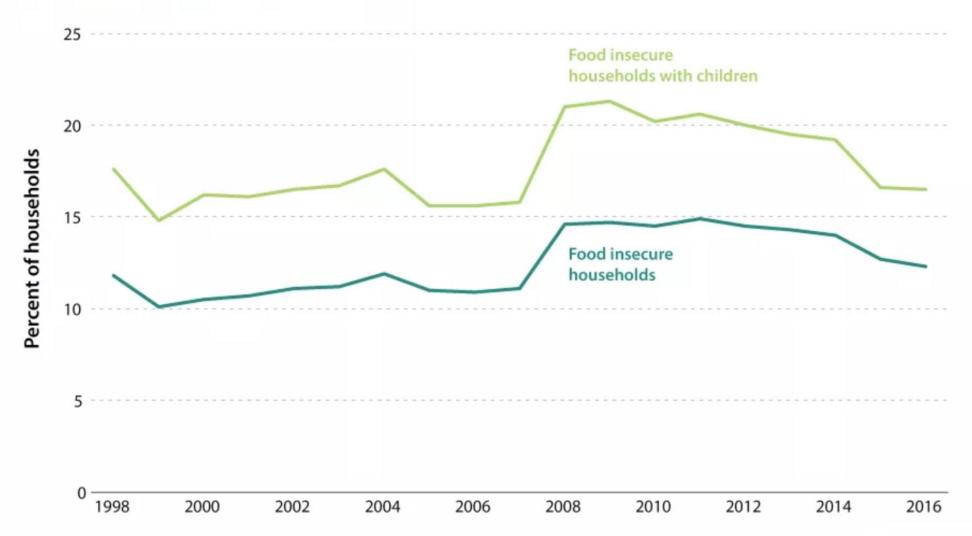
- Black, non-Hispanic household
- Hispanic household

Income to poverty ratio

- Under 1.00
- Under 1.30
- Under 1.85

FIGURE 1.

Percent of All Households and Households with Children That Were Food Insecure, 1998–2016





Courses Colomon Janean et al. 2017

Goal #1:

Reduce HH food insecurity and hunger

Target: 6.0%

Current: 13.5%

Status: Getting worse

Learn more about our data release schedule

Goal #2:

Eliminate very low food security in children

Target: 0.0%

Current: 1.0%

Status: Getting worse

Consequences of Adult Food Insecurity

- Micronutrient deficiencies
- Lower diet quality
- Poorer sleep outcomes
- Lower physical activity
- Smoking
- Lower overall health status
- Poorer physical health

- Poorer mental health
- Greater mental distress
- Lower cognitive function
- Depression
- Obesity
- Hyperlipidemia
- Hypertension
- Diabetes
- Poorer glycemic control

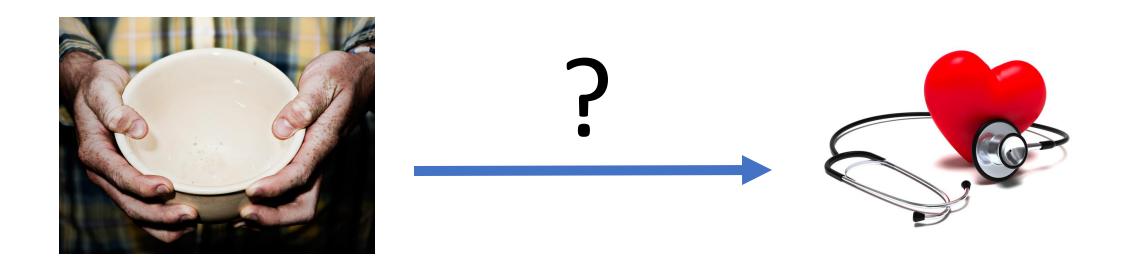
Consequences of Child Food Insecurity

- Increased developmental risk
- Lower physical function
- Lower psychosocial function
- Lower motor development
- Lower mental development
- Lower maternal attachment
- Hyperactivity

- Absence from school
- Aggression and anxiety
- Internalizing disorders
- Externalizing disorders
- Mood disorders
- Behavior disorders
- Depression
- Asthma
- Mental health problems

- Behavioral problems
- Substance abuse problems
- Lack of concentration
- Difficulty getting along with peers
- Suspension from school
- Thoughts of death, suicide attempts

Why do these associations exist?



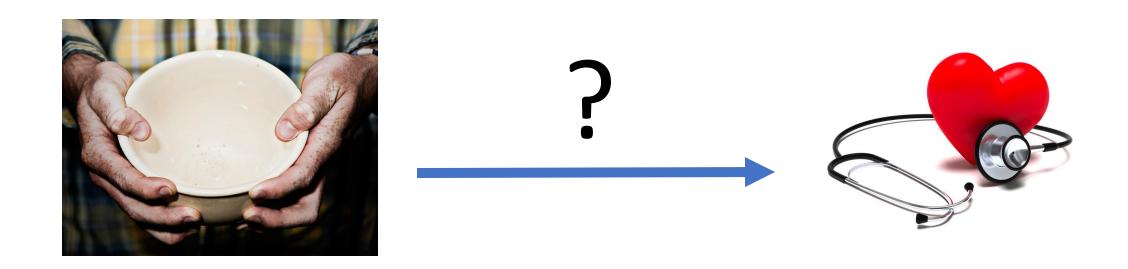
The environment nudges us towards the foods that do not support health.







Why do these associations exist?



Food insecurity is stressful

Food insecurity and stress in families



Study Design

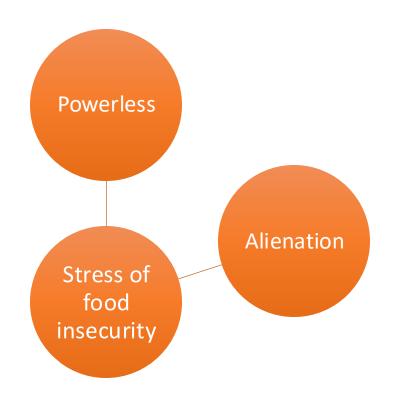
- 48 parent-child (7-14 y) dyads recruited from the San Francisco Bay Area
- Parent reported experiences of food insecurity during past year
- Semi-structured interviews conducted with parent and child separately

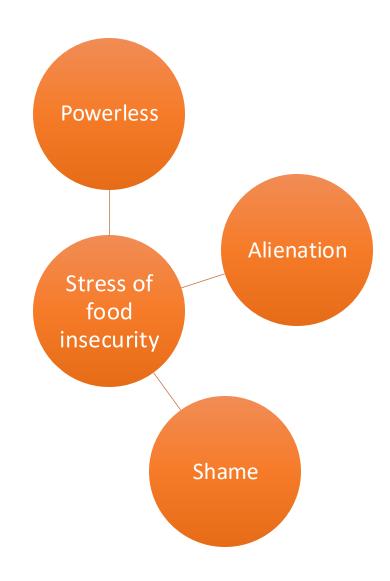
Study Analysis

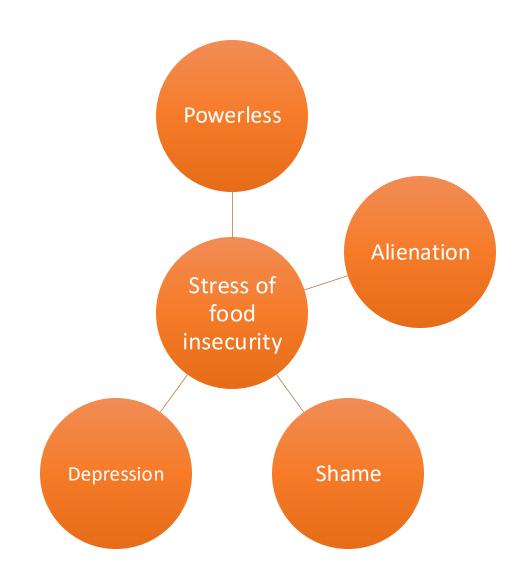
- Interviews transcribed and checked for accuracy
- Iterative analysis using coding of independent themes and sub-themes (grounded theory approach)

"We get tired of eating the same thing over and over, but what can I do? Canned chili and rice, sort of healthy, but it's something we eat all the time. Hot dogs. Again, all this processed food. We don't have a choice. I have to buy what we can make the most out of, what we can make last, always the unhealthy stuff that we are stuck buying."

Stress of food insecurity







"It's just the feeling of not being able to care for the kids the way that you feel like you should. It's a lousy feeling not being able to give your kids the life that you think they deserve."

Powerless Guilt Alienation Stress of food insecurity

"We have a couple at church that we always go out and eat with them. I think they know that we're struggling because they always offer to pay...They're probably like, 'This couple loves to go out because we always pay for them'...But, I don't want to feel like the church charity case."

"It's every month that you have to go through that, so you kind of feel down and depressed...It's like, when payday comes, 'it's like, am I gonna pay for bills or food?'"

Depression Shame

"I think the shame is that he asks me, 'Dad, can we afford it?'
That makes me cry, because I don't want to be a loser. I don't want to say, "No, we can't."

Children's awareness of food insecurity

Sometimes, my mom didn't eat because we had to eat. She sacrificed eating her meal for us to eat our meal... She never tells me. She just lets us eat and she eats the leftovers that we didn't eat."

(10 y boy)

Children's awareness of food insecurity

Sometimes, my mom didn't eat because we had to eat. She sacrificed eating her meal for us to eat our meal... She never tells me. She just lets us eat and she eats the leftovers that we didn't eat."

(10 y boy)

Sometimes we don't have enough of something that all of us want. If it's egg or toast, and we don't have enough for my dad or my mom, they will eat cereal while we get eggs...[I feel] bad because we're not getting enough food for the whole family."

(12 y boy)

Children's awareness of food insecurity

Sometimes, my mom didn't eat because we had to eat. She sacrificed eating her meal for us to eat our meal... She never tells me. She just lets us eat and she eats the leftovers that we didn't eat."

(10 y boy)

We get money from my grandmother, my auntie, or we have this program and people donate money."

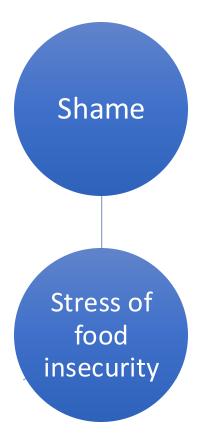
(9 y boy)

Sometimes we don't have enough of something that all of us want. If it's egg or toast, and we don't have enough for my dad or my mom, they will eat cereal while we get eggs...[I feel] bad because we're not getting enough food for the whole family."

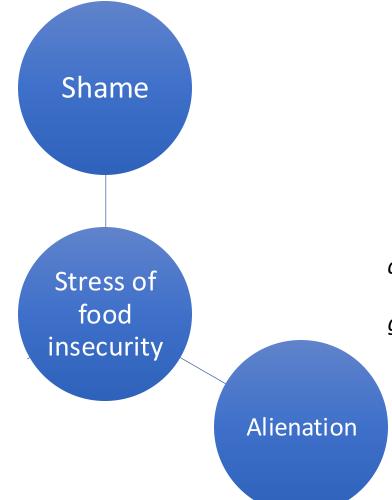
(12 y boy)

"It's really expensive to live here. I know [my mom] has to pay bills and that always has to come first to have a roof over our heads. I know we should be grateful for what we have, but sometimes, I wish we didn't have to worry about [getting food]."

Stress of food insecurity



"One times my friends came over. There wasn't anything in the refrigerator or the pantry. Their parents make money, their parents have a good education, their fridge is always full. And they came over, and there was nothing in the fridge."



"There's not a lot of people who are going through similar things around there. I don't feel like I can talk to my mom or dad about this because they're probably going through much worse than I am. I consider myself a little bit lonely in this situation."

Shame Stress of food insecurity Sadness/ Alienation Depression

"If the food runs out, I get sad a bit. Just sad. The kind of sad where you want to try to be happy, but you know inside, you're sad about it."

Coping with or adapting to food insecurity

[My imaginary friend] is the one who gives me the imaginary food, because he works at a place where you could get any food you want. I just imagine I have food. I imagine I have food, then eat the imaginary food." (7 y boy)

Coping with or adapting to food insecurity

[My imaginary friend] is the one who gives me the imaginary food, because he works at a place where you could get any food you want. I just imagine I have food. I imagine I have food, then eat the imaginary food." (7 y boy)

I don't care if I don't eat for a day. If I didn't eat for a week, that's when I would start saying stuff, but 2-3 days is fine...

We're been in rough times, but it's okay. If it wasn't for my mom saving up food, I wouldn't be here. I would probably be in a grave."

(10 y boy)



Instead of treating food insecurity as a nutritional concern, we should ALSO treat food insecurity as a toxic stressor

Final thoughts

Food insecurity...

- disproportionately affects structurally marginalized groups.
- is associated with adverse health outcomes in childhood and across the life course.
- contributes to toxic stress in children and their parents.
- requires multi-pronged solutions to dismantle structural inequities across diverse demographic groups.

Questions?

For additional information, please contact Dr. Cindy Leung at cleung@hsph.harvard.edu

Therapeutic Greenhouse Program







Nicole Casbarro, DNP, MSN, APRN, FNP-C, AHNP-BC

Community Health Center, Inc., Middletown, CT Quinnipiac University, North Haven, CT







A Successful Garden...

"Creates community, is an inviting space, is resourced and supported, is thriving and used,"

— Kate Burt, et al, 2018







School Gardens Through The SBHC

Why Gardens?







School Gardens Have Been Shown To...

- Reduce food insecurity through increased access to fresh produce, especially in underserved communities (Caruso et al., 2022)
- Improve students' mental health outcomes including reduced anxiety and depression symptoms (Davis & Martin, 2023)
- Enhance ecological awareness and environmental stewardship behaviors among students (Lam et al., 2021)
- Strengthen community resilience during crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic (Thompson et al., 2021)
- Increase consumption of vegetables by 1.2 servings per day among participating students (Williams et al., 2022)
- Improve academic performance in science subjects with 15% higher test scores for garden program participants (Morgan et al., 2020)
- Foster improved social-emotional learning outcomes and peer relationships (Hernandez et al., 2023)

How does a school garden help?





- A hyperlocal response to Food Insecurity through education & sometimes food production
- A way to build equity in public schools
- A vehicle for interdisciplinary outreach between medical / nursing, behavioral health and the school
- Expanded behavioral health services



Greenhouses & Social Justice





Creating Equity

- Increase access to green spaces
- Opportunity for hands-on, experiential learning
- Enrichment activities (i.e. cooking classes, summer volunteering)
- Cultural connection (Greer, 2019)



Food Justice

- Food Insecurity has increased since COVID-19 pandemic (Mangundu, R, Wilde, S 2020) (Lal, R. 2020)
- Acknowledgement of colonial land stealing (Orozco, AA, Ward, A., Grady-Lovelace, G., 2018)
- Recognizing racism in the antiobesity movement (AAP, 2023)
- Empowering communities through education & access (Huelskamp, AC. (2018)

Food Literacy







Food literacy is the holistic story of our food

- Where food comes from
- Who produces it
- How it is shipped
- How it is grown & prepared
- How food affects our bodies and minds
- How food connects us to our past

47

Behavioral Health





- The garden is used for individual therapy
- group therapy
- provides a positive environment for taste, touch and smell
- Provide a hands-on learning experience

Cultural Connections





Gardens can have significant cultural relevance in immigrant communities, many of whom report a recent history of gardening in their country of origin and a desire to grow their own food, (Greer, 2019)

Behavioral Health Visits



- Sprouting Seeds to instill confidence, empowerment
- Connecting to cultural origin and family roots
- Relating back to present moment, i.e. what's going on for them now
- Community building we all take part in this greenhouse, no role is too small

Where to Start





- After meeting with your Principal and deciding which grades, days & times work best, you can go ahead and send out those permission slips!
- Be sure to attach your enrollment form & a photo consent with permission slip.
- Confirming all new patient charts are entered correctly as they come in.
- Make sure your lesson plans & supplies are ready to go for the first day



GARDEN WELLNESS CLASSES at John Barry Elementary School

through the School Based Health Center Starting March 2, 2021

Dear Parents,

You child has the opportunity to participate in a Garden Wellness Program at the School Based Health Center at John Barry Elementary School! The class will be taught by the health center staff, Nicole Casbarro, nurse practitioner and certified Yoga instructor.

To participate your child must be signed up for the health center and in good academic standing. If your child is signed up for the health center, simply return the signed portion of this slip below. If your child is not signed up and would like to participate, please fill out an enrollment form either on-line at www.sbhc1.com or have your child get one at the nurses' station and return it along with the permission

We will be working in the new Barry Garden Greenhouse. We will learn about, grow and harvest fresh fruit and vegetables! Classes will discuss nutrition education and will be hands-on and project based. We will adhere to social distancing, masks will be worn and cohorts will be maintained.

Please call the SBHC with questions: 203-237-8831 x2219					
I give permission for my child					
to participate in the SBHC Garden Wellnes	s Class at John Barry Elementary School.				
Teacher					
Parent Name	Signature				



Our Permission Slip



Increasing Visits & Enrollment





- Six-week sessions with a 30-minute billable visit each week
- Can run multiple cohorts at a time with 5-8 students per cohort
- Expanded enrollment
- Increased familiarity with SBHC services

Numbers from Spring 2022 To Spring 2024







- 34 New enrollments to our School Based Health Center because of the interest in the Garden Program
- 13 Existing SBHC patients who enrolled in our program from learning about it over time
- Over 240 billable garden visits in one year!

How To Bill & Chart - Medical







- DX code Z71.3 Dietary Counseling
- If Pt. BMI >85%, add Z68.53 or >95% add Z68.54
- CPT 99411 Group Health Education
- >50% of this visit was spent in counseling.
- Continue to reinforce Healthy Eating and Activity.

How To Bill & Chart – Behavioral Health





- Bill same as individual diagnosis code.
- Bill groups same as usual.

Record-Journal



ow hith are replaced the his part of the second park man

Students learn science, math via gardening in school greenhouse

MARKET - By phylocological march exp first to red finalling. security to hear of test discountries.

series commend to be a proper from the comment principled, showing of tregisticand the second the best-law a generalisate that strain for marriaged of table from

diseaseing behalf the positions - basing of the previous politic. and recorded words recolored, before ex-otroping place. Durwitten elic will focus fails grown tree and engineers, its to drap haronine. ness pice, carlifferent transfer-Americal color received includes

The best of the place and it is colored facilities (fact) gires;" seek fileperfection mintage on the perfect

and out which takes perfored

Non-effect to reprint the officials from According a 4 Marganian greenthy and goods is a new indi-American Services (Se University) Brazillo Robonia pani Commonwello.

ringly flowards; a patient, real Notestin and Construents: Implies Control Balance of the progress. Obstacle with Commission, South Enther with ham the affect based chinal at Busine Steeler also restored the Carbon more first to any handle

cat, becarried between to began leave, he being lead measure and distributed streets. The greatment is an information

own and what let's transferages. form found from a " I well-stee harts" and there. I are other through and one more from board treatmen complete because age of reducin lines. common directs could have at its general. The places also most places of two and formated and from a proposi-II. BY plots was transmissing how Account for well-to determine the control from the factor of deposit has been mindelses."

The program is provided as the committees became a three below. and the bed in the state of the same of Distributed to Article State of Contracting particing against Section to Acquire, 474 possess

the field ago company this is coming. cod force revel, which words, to our will ... show we conditional the grown Health Corpora "No exactly of from ... the physics it mouth have that in TO ANY THE RESIDENCE AND ASSESSED. actively sating places frust, eyel or and "pulsarie replaced reads giving". Into he give from our impossible. of products who want to the product whole the broken prices and the personne has person the feethe others.

Distribution the statement between should read our day by highway The contractors before evadorable business. Transferred to contract what have made than also focus the basis and property of growing family

The Author Court Burn decision is for expectation. Bits a whole in teather-content classes," Business and They give be youther total in a grow's flammer and flammer than an including pages religionship for the Alect and to be home of all the final ... Then have on more damps to having a suit, is a constitute proving an about breen a longe

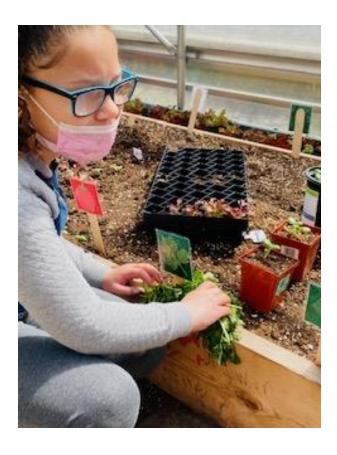
garenteesiar best print hop letter da.

paties back of below flowly bank throws made . Through a stood process of Sizes, Alternative behavior for the best for the behalf been on only directly don stational and turning a incombable shortegang rooms with a region state for conting words acting the ballow possessible floriding modifying programme of other readments and straintenance of the state is dependent weeks for rating hours; policy of the (Separate half based to be set the processor of the set



The greenhouse "is a hands-on, hyperlocal response to larger issues such as food insecurity and childhood obesity"

Summer Volunteers 2021 - 2024



Seedling Sale May 2022, 2023, 2024





58

Farm to School Grant



- John Barry Elementary School in Meriden
- Create a connection from farms to schools
- Visits from farmers, 3 field trips to farms, adopt a cow program
- School-wide Garden Advisory Committee
- 3 new raised beds



UConn is offering FREE Nutrition classes for you and your child



6 weeks of classes in the Barry Cafe

Date	Time		
December 14th	5:30-6:30 p.m.		
January 4th	5:30-6:30 p.m.		
January 18th	5:30-6:30 p.m.		
February 1st	5:30-6:30 p.m.		
February 15th	5:30-6:30 p.m.		
March 1st	5:30-6:30 p.m.		

Space is limited to 20 families, sign your child up today! If interested, please respond to this post and an application will be sent home with vour child.



Family Nutrition Classes With UCONN EFNEP (Expanded Food & **Nutrition Program)**







Collaboration with Lyman Hall Agricultural Program

Sample Curriculum



Week One- Establish guidelines, tour the greenhouse. Discuss what helps plants grow and related it to our own health.	Week Four - Today we introduced My Plate. We gave the kids cut-outs of food from magazines and had them construct a meal according to My Plate
Week Two- Where food comes from and the difference between processed and fresh food. Asked students to think about where each item on their lunch tray comes from. (it's origin)	Week Five – Today we discuss the five senses and sight, taste, touch, sound and smell. We talked about how our whole senses are involved in the food we eat, not just taste.
Week Three – Reviewed the four food groups. Dissected favorite meals and discussed what food groups are in those meals.	Week Six- Memory, culture and food. What foods do you like? What foods do you not like? Is there a food that reminds you of a special time or person? Is there a food your family eats that is special to you.

Elements of a successful garden:



A Successful garden "creates community, is an inviting space, is resourced and supported, is thriving and is used," (Burt, et al, 2018).

Staffing	Time	Funding	Curriculum	Space
 Adequate # of volunteers Compensated & Dedicated garden coordinator Community involvement 	 For classes to use the garden To train staff & faculty Garden maintenance Lesson planning 	 Time for grant seeking Adequate distribution & allocation of funds 	 Integrated into the school day Classroom management of students in the garden Positive student 	 To store tools For indoor garden For outside gardening Is inviting & secure Has a water source
 Teacher / Staff interest Supportive administration 	Maintenance during summer months		engagement • Curriculum design	

References



Burt KG, Burgermaster M, Jacquez R. Predictors of School Garden Integration: Factors Critical to Gardening Success in New York City. (2018) *Health Education & Behavior*; 45(6):849-854. doi:10.1177/1090198118760685

Caruso, M. L., Cullen, K. W., Sattler, M., & Leung, C. W. (2022). School gardens as a strategy to address food insecurity and improve dietary intake among children: A systematic review. Journal of Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, 122(4), 664-679.

Davis, J. N., & Martin, A. C. (2023). School garden interventions and adolescent mental health: A longitudinal study of anxiety and depression outcomes. Journal of Environmental Psychology, 85, 101852.

Greer, A. E., Rainville, K., Knausenberger, A., & Sandolo, C. (2019). Opportunities for School Garden-Based Health Education in a Lower-Income, Diverse, Urban School District. *American Journal of Health Education*, 50(4), 257–266. https://doi.org/10.1080/19325037.2019.1616010

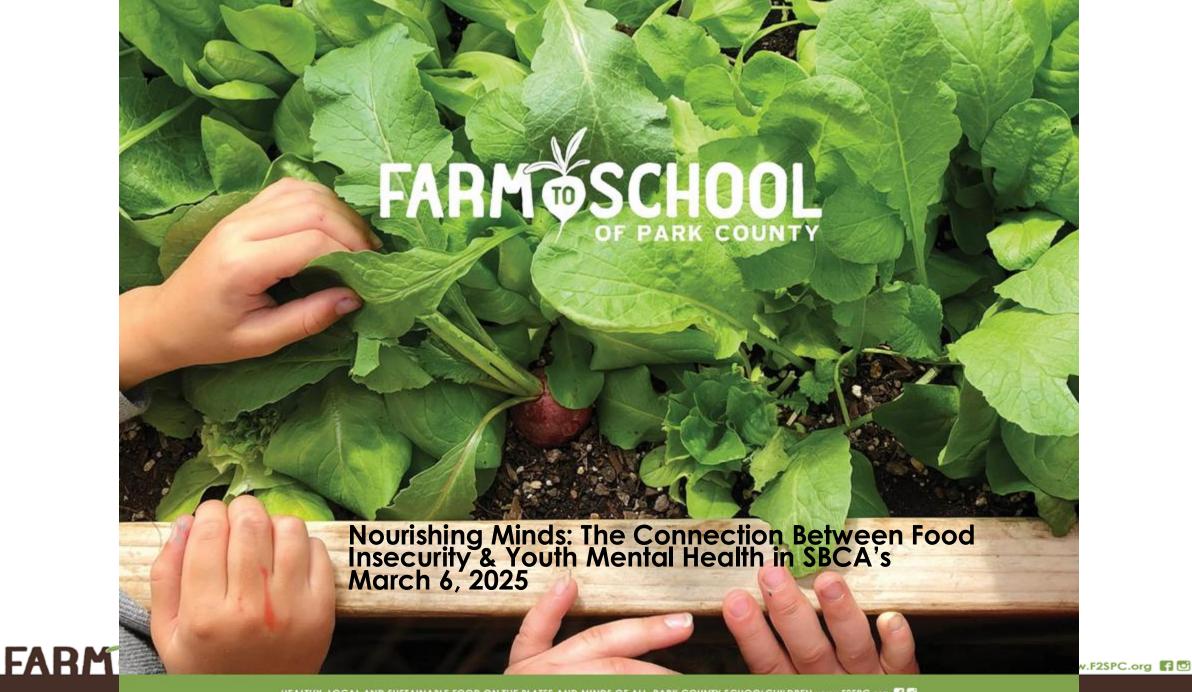
Hernandez, K., Wilson, D. K., & Thompson, R. (2023). Social-emotional learning through garden-based education: A mixed-methods analysis of peer relationships and collaboration skills. Applied Developmental Science, 27(2), 215-231.

Lam, V., Romero, M. Y., & Ellis, J. D. (2021). Growing environmental stewards: The impact of school gardens on children's environmental attitudes and behaviors. Environmental Education Research, 27(9), 1360-1378.

Morgan, P. J., Collins, C. E., Plotnikoff, R. C., & Lubans, D. R. (2020). The impact of school garden-based learning on academic achievement: A cluster randomized controlled trial. Health Education Research, 35(5), 452-466.

Thompson, H. R., Gosliner, W., Ritchie, L., & Madsen, K. A. (2021). School gardens in the time of COVID-19: Responding to critical needs for food security and community resilience. American Journal of Public Health, 111(5), 815-817.

Williams, D. R., Brule, H., Kelley, S. S., & Skinner, E. A. (2022). School gardens and children's dietary behaviors: A random ized controlled trial. American Journal of Preventive Medicine, 62(3), 367-377.



Our Team

Rachael Jones, **Executive Director**



Megan Randall, Farm Manager



Celeste Mascari, **Education Manager**



Anna Elam, Operations Manager



Leah Gibson, AmeriCorps VISTA Service Member





Greater Yellowstone Country



North boundary of Yellowstone National Park

23 miles east of Bozeman

County Population 17,000

City Population 7,000



Farm to School is...





Vision & Mission

We see a future where all Park County communities have a deep and meaningful connection to food and where it comes from.

Guiding schools and communities in building a prosperous local food culture that places healthy food on the plates and in the minds of all Park County children and their families



Program Pillars

Teach: We educate public school children on the connection between their diet, the environment and their lifelong health.

Grow: We cultivate learning gardens where we grow food with children, for their school meals.



Eat: We improve the quality of school meals.

Repeat: We pursue opportunities and relationships to advance our mission throughout Park County and beyond.



The Need for "Food & Mood"

2015 MSN Money reported that Livingston was the poorest city in Montana

2015 and 2019 USDA Food Access Research Atlas, Park County classifies as a Low Income and Low Access

2015-2020 cluster of local youth deaths by suicide

2018 Montana had the highest suicide rate in the U.S. and Park County ranked 28th in all counties nationwide.

2018 Collective Impact Initiative deepens Farm to School partnerships in schools

2020 First virtual Food & Mood Townhall





Food and Mood Coalition



VISION

• All children, youth, and their families are nourished and thriving, with their nutritional, emotional health, and wellness needs prioritized and met throughout their communities.

MISSION

• Provide leadership, partnership, data, effective interventions, and resources that improve the emotional health and wellbeing of children, youth and their families.

GOALS

• Promote emotional health and wellness and reduce the impact of mental health and substance use on children and youth by identifying and implementing community-based strategies that address food/nutrition security/cultural food /school gardens.



Why is Nutrition Security so Important to Behavioral Health?

Diet *quality* is the #1 risk factor for death in the US.

Behavioral health and physical health are often interwoven, having significant influence over one another throughout the lifespan.

Diet and nutrition status, as well as food insecurity are understood to further influence the relationship between physical and behavioral health conditions.

The growing Food as Medicine movement recognizes the connection between nutrition and health.

Leverage Existing Happenings

Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC) Model









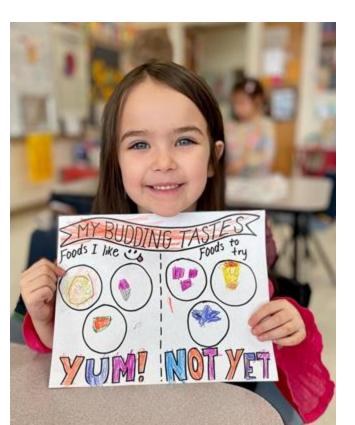


4 Pillars of Food and Mood



- Equitable access to resources
- **Multi-disciplinary community** engagement
- Meaningful and holistic curriculum that is culturally informed
- An inclusive, normalizing public dialogue

Teach Philosophy



A full circle, relationship-based approach

Our curriculum: Instructional time during school day, meets local and state standards

Collaboration: Collaborative with educators and community partners; reflective of community needs

Lessons: Hands on food system, nutrition, agriculture, gardening and cooking lessons, age appropriate





Teach

In Practice



Lead with connection: Begin with an invitation to engage, include time for reflection

Set the tone: Create shared group expectations

Relationship based approach: Cultivate trust and engagement over time

Collaboration, decision making and inclusion: Facilitate small group work, independent choice

Examples: Skill building, reflection wheel, songs, F2S stretch, language: "not for me", whole body listening, small groups





Grow

Philosophy



Our network of school and community gardens and farms are designed to engage community and students in their relationship with food.

Food, ecosystems and education: Growing spaces have diverse roles and create connection across our programs.

Partnerships with Food Services: Crop planning for use in school lunches

Learning gardens at all Livingston schools:

Integrated into K-12 schools in lessons, cafeterias and community interface





Grow

In Practice



10 growing spaces in Livingston area: School gardens, Lincoln School Farm, Community Garden, Deep Creek Green, Pappert Memorial Garden, Plant Growth Center

School learning gardens: Encourage self guided learning and connection with where food comes from

Lincoln School Farm: Food pantry, school meals, educational, volunteers, shared community space

Deep Creek Green: Community partnership, expand food access, potential for educational opportunities





Eat Philosophy



Building a prosperous local food culture:

Food is delicious, nutritious and affordable

Local procurement: Supporting local economies; fresh, healthy foods schools

Scratch cooked meals: Support fresh-foodbased school meals, connection from lessons to cafeteria

Support and elevate Food Services:

Improve the culture and perceived value of preparing and serving school meals.

Kid tested and approved meals: Offer choice and opportunity for students to have say in what they eat.





Eat In Practice



Programs and Partnerships for Equitable Healthy Food Access:

Summer Lunch in the Park

Healthy Food Fund

Harvest of the Month Taste Tests

Classroom Cooking Lessons

Farm Fresh Meals







Repeat

Relentless Collaboration







In case we need a reminder

- Access to natural local food is a beneficial component in the learning environment.
- Food is the foundation to children being able to learn.
- The relationship between mood and food is an important factor in neighborhood revitalization.
- Nutrition security is a crucial element of leading a substance-free life.
- Nutrition is the driving force behind overall health and a productive community.
- Whole health initiatives are imperative for population health.
- Connecting local farmers to local schools is key to a local food initiative and the health of our families.



Putting It Into Practice

How to incorporate Food and Mood principles into your place of work?



Build support: Schools, families, food services, community partners; respond to the needs of your community

Whole Child: Teach to the child and incorporate Whole Child Skill Development practices

Offer choice: Encourage curiosity and ownership around food choices

Build student relationships: Build connection through continued presence in range of settings

Seek out tools: Find tools and encourage research to support understanding how food affects behavior and mood regulation





Visit the Food and Mood webpage for additional resources and information, as well sign up to receive a bi-monthly newsletter on new research, upcoming events, and funding opportunities related to Food and Mood. Food and Mood Project | SAMHSA

Rachael Jones Rachael@F2SPC.org

Celeste Mascari

Celeste@F2SPC.org











QUESTIONS?

Please enter your questions into the "Q&A" box of the Zoom control window.

Toolkit Resource





Emerging Models And Resources To Address Food Insecurity In School-Based Health Centers

No Kid Hungry and School-Based Health Alliance believe that by embracing and building on families' trust in school-based health centers, we can promote federal nutrition programs and nutritious food consumption in support of favorable health outcomes and improved food security for families.

This toolkit highlights promising practices for integrating nutrition and food access into school-based health center (SBHC) services to address social influencers of health, improve food security for families, and support student success and wellness.











2025 National School-Based Health Care Conference and "Be the Change" Youth Training Program

June 29 – July 1, 2025

Westin Washington, DC Downtown Hotel (formerly the Renaissance Downtown Hotel) in Washington, D.C





Stay Connected!

1. Subscribe to our bi-weekly e-newsletter (Digest)

Go to https://bit.ly/SBHAdigest

2. Follow us on social media



https://www.facebook.com/SchoolBasedHealthAlliance



https://twitter.com/sbh4all



https://www.linkedin.com/company/school-based-health-alliance/



https://www.instagram.com/sbh4all/



Scan this QR code to subscribe



