



# RNECE

Regional Nutrition Education and  
Obesity Prevention Centers of Excellence  
North Central Region at Purdue University

## Leadership

- Dennis Savaiano, Purdue University
  - Director and Research Coordinator
- Marci Scott, Michigan Fitness Foundation,
  - Associate Director-Implementation
- Jo Britt-Rankin, University of Missouri
  - Associate Director-Communications
- Dawn Contreras, Michigan State University
  - Associate Director- Center Assessment



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- Priorities for research:
  - Address the policy, systems and/or environmental aspects of the **rural** communities of the North Central region
  - Address the specific needs of immigrant, minority and/or other at-risk populations in this region
  - Strengthen the evidence base on effective nutrition-education/obesity-prevention programs for diverse groups, notably SNAP-Ed and EFNEP



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- Funded research
  - University of Missouri Photo Voice project
  - University of Illinois Network Assessment project
  - University of Illinois/Michigan Network project II
  - Ohio State University Summer camp PSE for SNAP-Ed children
  - Purdue University SNAP-Ed and rural and urban food insecurity and obesity
  - Michigan State PSE in low income rural and urban childcare settings
  - Purdue/North Central States collaboration on PSE perspective of SNAP-Ed/EFNEP participants

# Food and Activity Environment Perceptions Among SNAP-Ed and EFNEP Participants in the North Central region

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Melissa Maulding, MS RD

Dennis Savaiano, PhD

and the North Central Steering Committee



# Goals

- To develop a system/tool to assess individuals' perception of their surrounding food and physical activity environment and their health behavior, health choices and health outcome.
- To assess participants' current perception of their food and physical activity environment.
- To evaluate the relationship between individuals' present perception of environment and their health behaviors and outcomes.



1. Please answer the following questions about food availability in your neighborhood.  
(Using a 5 point Likert Scale from Strongly Agree to Strongly Disagree)

- a. A large selection of affordable fresh fruit and vegetables is available.
- b. There are many opportunities to purchase fast foods (fast foods include hamburgers, tacos, fried chicken, and take-out pizza places.)
- c. There are many opportunities to purchase a healthy meal.
- d. The selection of food stores is satisfactory (e.g. supermarket or large superstore, small grocery stores, delis, convenience store).
- e. Lack of public transportation limits my food store choices.
- f. Healthy snack choices are readily available to purchase in my neighborhood.
- g. There is affordable healthy food in my neighborhood.





# Progress and Timeline

- Literature reviewed and survey developed based on validated questions
- Focus group evaluation conducted
- IN pilot data collected for further validation
- Survey instrument reviewed by NCNECE Steering Committee
- Current data collection in NC States (n=3000)
- April/May NC meeting to review data

