



PSE Program Enhancing Food Pantry Experiences

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Roadmap

- Share about a couple of unique food access projects happening in Minnesota
- Dive deeper into one program
- Share forthcoming data



Statewide Food Shelf Survey



- Initiated through a collaborative including: university, healthcare, and hunger relief sectors in 2017
- Funding provided through: SuperShelf research grants, TEFAP (The Emergency Food Assistance Program) and SNAP-Ed
- Focused on shopper priorities
 - Most important foods
 - Most important experiences



Methods & Engagement



- Survey design
 - Advisory council
 - Think alouds
 - Message testing & pilots
 - Statewide target sample goal and food shelf target sample goals
 - 5 languages
- Mobilizing volunteers and stakeholders for survey implementation
 - online and paper surveys



Important Foods & Experiences

MOST IMPORTANT FOODS



Fresh fruits
and
vegetables



Meat,
poultry, and
fish



Dairy



Eggs

MOST IMPORTANT EXPERIENCES



I can choose
my own
food



Selection
process is
easy



Plenty of
different
food options

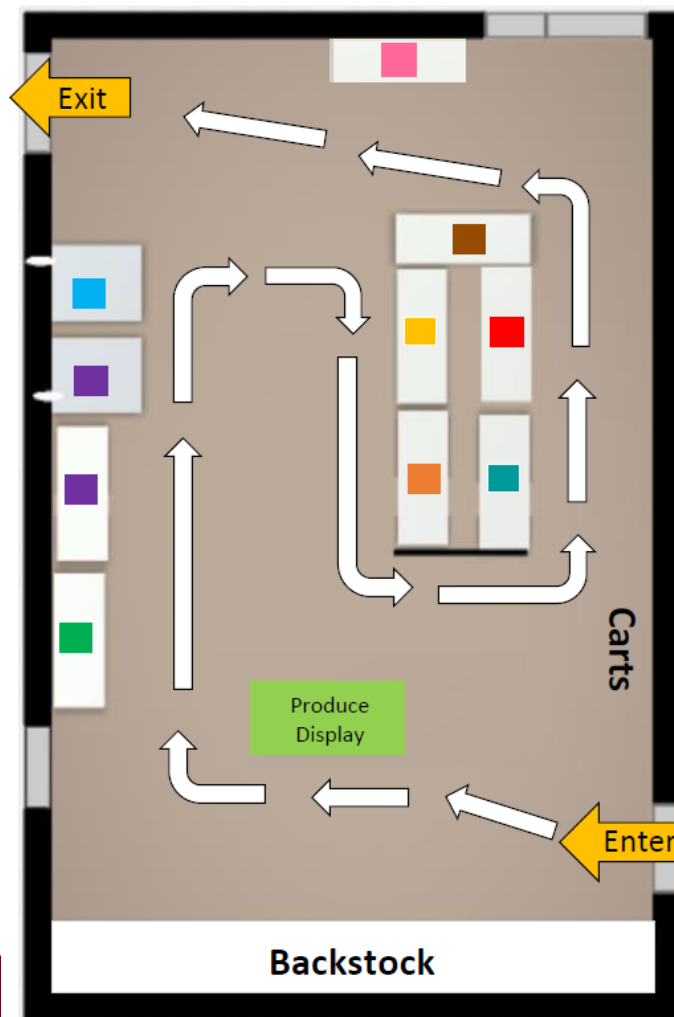


Staff &
volunteers are
welcoming



Food looks
fresh and
appealing





Food Categories

	Fruits/Vegetables
	Grains/Bread
	Protein
	Dairy
	Cooking & Baking
	Boxed/Canned Meals
	Snacks/Beverages
	Household/Personal Care
	Bread/Bakery



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EXTENSION

Layout Design:
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SuperShelf Program

- Collaborative, grassroots model
 - multiple research studies
 - informed by survey data
- Shopper choice model, retail-like experience
- Broad food categories
 - prioritizing top foods'
 - enhancing choice
- Strategic layout and merchandising
- Signage and wayfinding

SuperShelf Program

Engagement:

Connect w/SNAP-Ed consultant

Assess space

Engage volunteers

Program Development:

Assess food sourcing strategies

Shift sourcing to top foods

Plan layout changes

Implementation:

Reorganize food shelf

Recategorize foods

Paint, signage, service

Maintain for 3-6 months

Troubleshooting

Maintain & Sustain:

Certification tool completed by SNAP-Ed

Receive official Pineapple

On-going TA & support









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Objective

To assess how environmental indicators, including pantry user experience/satisfaction and reported food availability, differed by shoppers who visited PSE intervention sites vs. non-PSE intervention sites.

The findings may be applied to improve food pantry transformations and client experiences by staff and volunteers in other states/regions to better serve client needs.

Previous Evaluation on Diet Quality

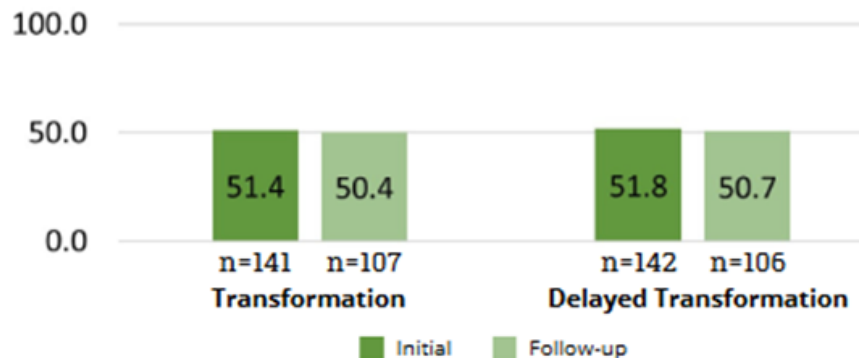
SuperShelf did not change diet-quality scores

- Diet quality is hard to change + measure
- Food environment in food shelves already high!

Is this the key metric of intervention efficacy?

Healthy Eating Index Scores

Food Consumed by Clients



Caspi, et al 2023



Study Population Characteristics

42 Supershelf Sites (SS) vs. **235** Non-SuperShelf Sites (NSS)

Total number of shoppers who completed the survey: 6,977 (SS = 1,855; NSS = 5,122)

Regardless of SS status, most participants were female and identified as White

- 58% SS and 65% at NSS were female
- 55% SS and 54% NSS study participants identified as white

SS sites: Greater % were Hispanic/Latinx vs. Black/African American: 11% vs. 9%

NSS sites: Equal distribution of Hispanic/Latinx and Black/African American (9%)

A greater proportion of total SS sites were urban vs. rural compared to NSS sites (94% vs. 82%)

Probability of agreeing "Often/Always" for shoppers at SuperShelf sites vs. Non SuperShelf sites

How often do you experience the following at this food shelf? (Responses: Often/Always vs. Sometimes/Rarely/Never)	Odds Ratio (95% CI)	p-val
<i>I can choose my own food</i>	2.8 (1.5 - 5.5)	<0.01 
<i>Volunteers or staff greet me and make me feel welcome</i>	1.9 (1.2 - 2.8)	<0.01 
<i>The process to select my food is easy</i>	1.8 (1.1 - 3.1)	0.03 
<i>Plenty of different varieties of foods is available</i>	1.1 (0.9 - 1.5)	0.39
<i>Food looks fresh & appealing</i>	1.0 (0.8 - 1.4)	0.77



Differences in availability of foods for shoppers at Supershelf sites vs. Non SuperShelf sites

How often are the following foods available at this food shelf? Responses: Often/Always vs. Sometimes/Rarely/Never	Odds Ratio (95% CI)	p-val
<i>Meat, poultry, and fish</i>	1.5 (1.0 - 2.3)	0.03 
<i>Fresh Fruits and Vegetables</i>	2.0 (1.4 - 3.1)	<0.001 
<i>Dairy</i>	1.4 (1.0 - 2.0)	0.07
<i>Eggs</i>	1.5 (0.9 - 2.5)	0.09
<i>Cooking items (e.g., spices, oils)</i>	2.2 (1.4 - 3.4)	<0.001 



Differences in Food Preferences for shoppers at Supershelf sites vs. Non SuperShelf sites



Q. What foods are important for you to have every time you visit? (Check all that apply)

SuperShelf shoppers were **more likely** to choose the following foods compared to NonSuperShelf shoppers:

- Fruits/Vegetables

SuperShelf shoppers were **less likely** to choose the following foods compared to NonSuperShelf shoppers:

- White Bread
- Canned or Boxed Meals
- Chips

Limitations

- Disproportionately urban sample
 - food sourcing strategies
- The food shelf survey wasn't designed to compare sites vs non-sites
- Generalizability??



Insights and Implications



- Key experience metrics and important foods being met
- Appears to be sustainable
- End-user feedback as important eval metric for PSE
- Implementation requires buy-in from stakeholders at every level
 - policy, state, food bank, food shelves

Questions & Contact Info

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