

Environmental and Demographic Characteristics of Schools Participating in the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP)

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Research Question:

What are the demographic, school-level, and surrounding community characteristics of schools participating in FFVP?

Aim:

This study aims to describe the characteristics of schools with 0, 1, or 2 years of FFVP participation, including demographics, as well as the internal and external school food environment.

METHODS:

FFVP Participation:

Data obtained from the New Jersey Department of Agriculture (n =411)

School Food Environment, Participation in Other School Health Initiatives, and Student

Race/Ethnicity:

Information collected from surveys completed by school nurses and foodservice professionals

Proportion of Students Eligible for Free and Reduced-Price Lunch:

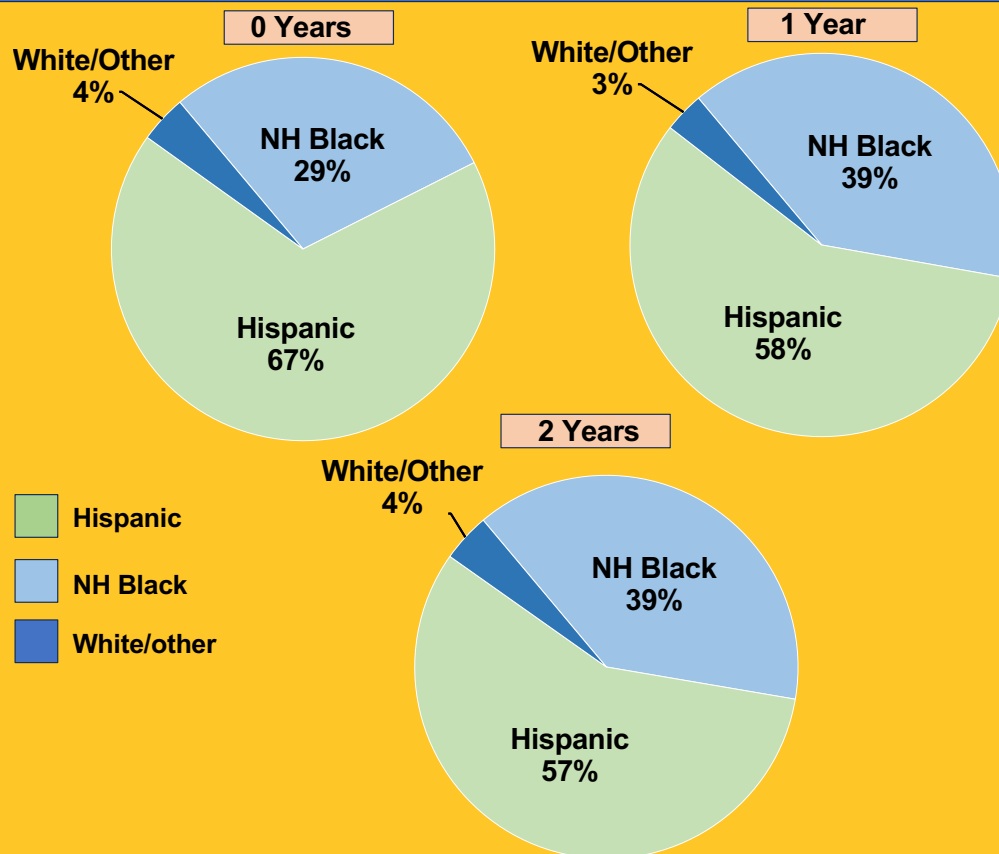
Data gathered from the National Center for Education Statistics

Analysis:

Descriptive analyses examined demographic, school-level, and surrounding community characteristics of schools participating in FFVP, categorized by 0, 1, or 2 consecutive years of participation.

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Race and Ethnicity of Students by FFVP Participation

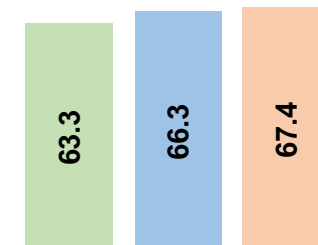


On average, schools with more years of participation (0, 1, and 2 years), demonstrated:

- Higher school-level health promotion initiative scores
- Higher percentages of students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch
- Lower overall student enrollment

Percentage of Schools with Competitive Foods by FFVP Participation

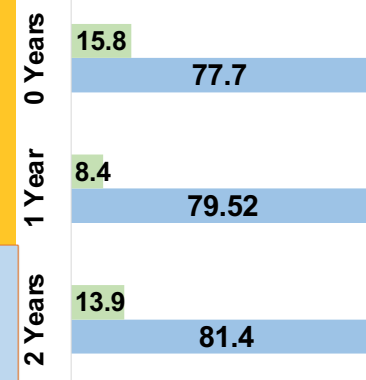
0 Years 1 Year 2 Years



COMPETITIVE FOODS

Percentage of Schools Within a Quarter Mile of ≥ 1 Convenience Store and Supermarket by FFVP Participation

Supermarkets Convenience Stores



Discussion:

These findings indicate that FFVP schools are located in areas with poor access to healthy foods and slightly greater exposure to unhealthy options in schools.