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NON-COMPETITIVE DIVISION

The Impacts of Post-Disaster Food Insecurity for Responding Organizations

Food security is essential for household and community well-being. In the United States, 16.5% of the population experience food insecurity. Food insecurity prevalence increases for households that have experienced a disruption to housing or economic changes. Yet, little research has been done on the food environment following disasters, which often leads to housing or economic disruptions, in the United States. Research on food insecurity in communities at risk for and recovering from disasters has the potential to strengthen the practice and science of resilience that accounts for social, cultural, environmental, and health factors that influence a community's ability to thrive and recover by identifying interventions to reduce food insecurity and strengthen community capacity.

To address this gap, data were collected in the eastern region of North Carolina following Hurricane Florence to identify impacts on the local food environment. Using a quick response disaster research methodology, data about the local food system were collected beginning five days post-landfall, six weeks, four months, and one-year post-event. Data collection included observations of food and meal distribution, interviews with individuals working in food related response activities, assessments of food and meal distribution sites, interviews with affected individuals, and assessments of the price, quality, and availability of foods in grocery and corner stores. This research poster focuses specifically on the experiences and challenges of retail food stores and non-profit organizations

providing food and meal distribution. Policy recommendations and opportunities for intervention to better meet community food needs after an environmental disruption will be discussed as a means for bolstering community resilience and reducing food insecurity for disaster-impacted households.

Presentation Theme: The presentation theme is on research related to food insecurity impacts on retail stores and responding non-profit organizations following 2018 Hurricane Florence in eastern North Carolina.

Collaborators, Advisor(s) and Department(s) that assisted with this research:

Lauren Clay PhD, MPH - D'Youville College Department of Health Administration and Public Health

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