

Barriers to SNAP Enrollment

Gabriela A. Gallegos



The University of Texas
Health Science Center at Houston

School of Public Health
El Paso

Center for Community
Health Impact

COVID-19 Impact in El Paso

- Unemployment in El Paso County
 - January 2020: 4%
 - July 2020: 8.7%
- Food Insecurity in El Paso County
 - 2018: 15%
 - 2020: 20.4% (projected)
- SNAP Payments in El Paso County
 - January 2020: \$16,599,410
 - July 2020: \$18,687,099

SNAP Gap in El Paso County

- Texas SNAP Utilization Rate: 73%
- SNAP Payments in El Paso County
 - Average SNAP Payment: **\$242/month (per case)**
 - January 2020: \$16,599,410 → **\$6,139,508 underutilized**
 - January to June 2020 → **\$38,825,866 underutilized**

Barriers to SNAP Enrollment

Low SNAP enrollment at the individual level has been associated with multiple factors, including:

- Age, particularly the elderly
- Race/ethnicity, in particular Hispanic
- Perceived stigma
- Working full-time during nontraditional hours
- Working more than one job
- Lack of knowledge, motivation, or confidence in how to apply
- Lack of citizenship

Pinard et al. (2017), What Factors Influence SNAP Participation?,
Journal of Hunger & Environmental Nutrition.

Proposed Project – Phase 1

Conduct a short-term survey of SNAP-eligible El Paso residents to answer three critical questions:

1. Why aren't eligible El Pasoans applying for SNAP benefits?
2. How do eligible El Pasoans want to get enrollment information and assistance?
3. What is the best way to reach eligible El Pasoans who are not enrolled in SNAP?

Proposed Project – Phase 2

Based on results from the Phase 1 survey analysis:

- Design and execute an outreach campaign to address the barriers to SNAP enrollment; and,
- Increase capacity for SNAP enrollment of eligible residents of El Paso County.

Phase 1: Budget

Total Cost for Phase 1: \$35,038

- In-kind from UTHealth Center for Community Health Impact:
 - Survey design, coordination, analysis & report
 - 12 tablets for data collection
- 12 Students (15 hours/week for 5 weeks)
- Research Assistant (20 hours/week)
- Program Manager (coordinate and manage site schedule)
- Supplies (PPE, 4 internet hotspots, etc.)

Phase 1: Timeline

DATE	PURPOSE/DETAIL
10/5/20	Select sites and times for data collection. Submit survey design for IRB approval.
10/12/20	Hire and train 12 students to collect data at designated sites. Finalize on-site data collection schedule.
10/26/20	Begin on-site data collection.
11/20/20	Conclude on-site data collection.
11/30/20	Compile and analyze collected data.
12/30/20	Submit draft report, analysis, and recommendations.
Ongoing	Collect information on current SNAP enrollment assistance offered by 10 Community Partners in El Paso County. Manage scheduling for data collection. Research regarding outreach campaigns for SNAP enrollment in high-utilization states.

Questions

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