Food insecure individuals are more likely to have poor diet quality. This can lead to an increased risk of obesity and a multitude of chronic diseases, including type II diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and certain cancers. Utah State University Extension’s Create Better Health (SNAP-Ed) program (formerly known as Food Sense) is in its 22nd year of improving the knowledge and skills of food insecure Utahns. Improved health and wellness behaviors are associated with improved quality of life, longevity, and reduced health care costs. Through comprehensive programming that addresses the needs of both individuals and communities, Create Better Health (SNAP-Ed) makes the healthy choice become the easy choice. Below are some of the highlights of our FY2019 programming.

Sincerely,

Heidi LeBlanc, Director
Casey Coombs, Assistant Director
The Challenge

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Statistic</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<td>1 in 7 Utahns experience food insecurity.</td>
<td>3 in 5 Utah adults are overweight or obese.</td>
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The Solution

Comprehensive programming that gives people the knowledge and skills to make healthy food and physical activity choices, as well as create communities where the healthy choice is the easy choice.

- Create educational experiences that help children develop healthy habits.
- Teach families how to safely prepare healthy meals on a limited budget.
- Make healthy choices easier to make by influencing policies, systems, and environments.
- Engage with multi-sector partners to expand program reach and impact.

Individual Level Impacts

4,669 Adults & 11,637 Youth received direct nutrition education

- 63% reported usually/always stretching food dollars to last the month.
- 60% reported usually/always being physically active for at least 30 minutes, 5 days a week.
- 67% reported usually/always choosing foods based on My Plate recommendations.
- 61% reported usually/always consuming at least 2-3 cups of vegetables daily.
- 62% reported usually/always consuming at least 2 cups of fruit daily.

2,288,250 People reached through the Create an Active Winter Social Marketing Campaign

- >136,500 People of youth usually/always engage in at least 60 minutes of physical activity on most days.
- 75% of youth usually/always request fruits and vegetables.
- 61% of youth usually/always wash their hands prior to preparing and eating food.

Utahns experience food insecurity.

1 in 7

Utah adults are overweight or obese.

3 in 5

Utah youth are overweight or obese.

1 in 6

Utah adults meet physical activity recommendations.

1 in 5

Utah youth meet physical activity recommendations.

Success Stories

- “…there was all of this extra money in my checking account… because my husband has been using the Create Better Health handouts and food he’s found in our pantry or fridge to make dinner every night.”
- “I try to be more conscious of choosing to add more veggies to our meals. I’ve bought more fruits and vegetables and actually used them.”
- “Now I exercise with a group of friends every morning at 6:15, and I also make time to go outside with my baby.”
- “When I make dinner for my family at night I have started thinking about MyPlate and what food groups I am missing. It has been so good for my family.”

Create Better Health (SNAP-Ed) was active in 19 Counties during 2019.

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