## GO, SLOW, WHOA: EVALUATION OF A NUTRITION EDUCATION PROGRAM IN A K-5 SETTING

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## Healthy People 2010



- "Schools have more influence on the lives of youth than any other social institution except the family, and provide a setting in which, friendship networks develop, socialization occurs and norms that govern behavior are developed and reinforced."


## Background



- $65 \%$ of APS students receive free or reduced price lunch
- School Wellness Policy
- Adopted by Board May 2007

- USDA Food and Nutrition Service
- Partnership with Live Well Colorado
- Local news channel
- Local grocery stores


## 2009-2010

- Piloted in one elementary school, spring of 2009-10 school year
- Information breakfast meetings for parents
- All school assembly program kick off
- 6 weeks program
- Evaluation plan
- Pre/post survey for students
- Parent focus groups
- Food selection measures from nutrition services


## Survey (grades 3-5)

- Modified from CATCH kids club
- Demographics
- Recognition of healthy eating choices
- Food choice behavior
- Knowledge of healthy eating
- Knowledge of GSW labels (post only)


## Pilot Results

- Parents responded positively
- Appreciated school's reinforcement of healthy eating
- Nutrition services
- Offered more "go" selections
- Students
- Increased selection of "go" lunch options
- Small increase in healthy beliefs/behaviors on survey $($ pre $=215$, post $=191)$


## Types of food eaten (Pilot)



| Yesterday, did <br> you eat/drink... | None | Once | Twice | 3 or <br> more | None | Once | Twice | 3 or <br> more |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| French fries or <br> chips? | $55 \%$ | $35 \%$ | $7 \%$ | $3 \%$ | $54 \%$ | $28 \%$ | $11 \%$ | $7 \%$ |
| Vegetables? | $30 \%$ | $24 \%$ | $21 \%$ | $26 \%$ | $25 \%$ | $32 \%$ | $18 \%$ | $25 \%$ |
| Beans? | $68 \%$ | $20 \%$ | $9 \%$ | $2 \%$ | $75 \%$ | $17 \%$ | $5 \%$ | $3 \%$ |
| Fruit? | $15 \%$ | $34 \%$ | $20 \%$ | $32 \%$ | $15 \%$ | $24 \%$ | $29 \%$ | $32 \%$ |
| $100 \%$ Fruit Juice? | $34 \%$ | $32 \%$ | $18 \%$ | $16 \%$ | $36 \%$ | $35 \%$ | $10 \%$ | $20 \%$ |
| Pastries? | $43 \%$ | $40 \%$ | $10 \%$ | $7 \%$ | $48 \%$ | $30 \%$ | $13 \%$ | $9 \%$ |

## Selecting "healthy" foods (Pilot)

19. If you were at the movies, which one would you pick as a snack?

a. popcorn with butter

b. popcorn without butter

- Pre $=48 \%$ selected "without" butter
- Post = 51 \% selected "without" butter

21. Which food would you eat for a snack?

a. candy bar
b. fresh fruit

- Pre = 71\% selected fruit
- Post = 76\% selected fruit


## Nutrition Knowledge (Pilot)



|  |  | Pre | Post |
| :--- | :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Do you ever read the | Almost always or always: | $26 \%$ | $25 \%$ |
| nutrition labels on food | Sometimes: | $54 \%$ | $57 \%$ |
| packages? | Almost never or never: | $20 \%$ | $18 \%$ |
| How many total servings of | At least 2: | $32 \%$ | $32 \%$ |
| fruits and vegetables | At least 5: | $47 \%$ | $47 \%$ |
| should you eat each day? | At least 9: | $5 \%$ | $5 \%$ |
|  | At least 10: | $6 \%$ | $7 \%$ |
| The foods that I eat and | I don't know: | Yes, all of the time: | $20 \%$ |
| drink now are healthy. | Yes, sometimes: | $71 \%$ | $9 \%$ |
|  | No | $9 \%$ | $74 \%$ |





Aurora Public Schools/Nutrition Services tary/K-8 Breakfast and
English/Spanish Menu

- Six additional schools ( $\mathrm{n}=7$ )
- Beginning of year (September)
- Evaluation
- Only able to continue pre/post survey
- Pre = 1300, Post = 1264


## Types of food eaten



| Yesterday, did <br> you eat/drink... | None | Once | Twice | 3 or <br> more | None | Once | Twice | 3 or <br> more |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| French fries or <br> chips? | $61 \%$ | $30 \%$ | $5 \%$ | $5 \%$ | $58 \%$ | $31 \%$ | $6 \%$ | $4 \%$ |
| Vegetables? | $26 \%$ | $33 \%$ | $20 \%$ | $21 \%$ | $22 \%$ | $28 \%$ | $26 \%$ | $25 \%$ |
| Beans? | $72 \%$ | $19 \%$ | $5 \%$ | $4 \%$ | $70 \%$ | $21 \%$ | $7 \%$ | $3 \%$ |
| Fruit? | $13 \%$ | $34 \%$ | $25 \%$ | $28 \%$ | $12 \%$ | $30 \%$ | $26 \%$ | $32 \%$ |
| $100 \%$ Fruit Juice? | $37 \%$ | $32 \%$ | $16 \%$ | $14 \%$ | $35 \%$ | $35 \%$ | $15 \%$ | $15 \%$ |
| Pastries? | $52 \%$ | $30 \%$ | $10 \%$ | $9 \%$ | $48 \%$ | $36 \%$ | $10 \%$ | $7 \%$ |

## Selecting "healthy" foods


19. If you were at the movies, which one would you pick as a snack?

a. popcorn with butter

b. popcorn without butter
21. Which food would you eat for a snack?

a. candy bar
b. fresh fruit

- Pre = 72\% selected fruit
- Post $=75 \%$ selected fruit

Nutrition Knowledge


|  |  | Pre | Post |
| :--- | :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Do you ever read the | Almost always or always: | $21 \%$ | $24 \%$ |
| nutrition labels on food | Sometimes: | $57 \%$ | $55 \%$ |
| packages? | Almost never or never: | $22 \%$ | $21 \%$ |
| How many total servings of | At least 2: | $36 \%$ | $35 \%$ |
| fruits and vegetables | At least 5: | $33 \%$ | $40 \%$ |
| should you eat each day? | At least 9: | $4 \%$ | $4 \%$ |
|  | At least 10: | $9 \%$ | $6 \%$ |
| The foods that I eat and | I don't know: | Yes, all of the time: | $24 \%$ |
| drink now are healthy. | Yes, sometimes: | $71 \%$ | $21 \%$ |
|  | No | $5 \%$ | $74 \%$ |

Go, Slow, Whoa foods


- Currently in 13 schools
- Goal: All elementary schools by 2014 ( $\mathrm{n}=32$ )
- $\mathrm{P}-5=27$
- $\mathrm{P}-8=5$
- Pre/post survey online
- Sample of students from each school


## General Outcomes

- Increased recognition of and improved attitude toward healthy food choices
- Increased Go food selections at school
- Six schools met USDA Healthier US School Challenge (HUSSC) Bronze award criteria
- Food service managers attended Cook for America® Culinary School Food Boot Camp
- PE teachers were co-coordinators with food service managers


## Challenges

- Lack of funding for full evaluation
- University of Colorado - School of Public Health
- Difficulty attributing change to GSW
- Multiple health initiatives implemented
- Survey is self-report only
- Self-report vs. actual behavior
- Online survey technology access issues
- Difficulty comparing "school" foods with "real world" foods
- Wellness in APS: Healthy Schools \& Community http://wellness.aurorak12.org/
- LiveWell Colorado. http://about.livewellcolorado.org
- CATCH (Coordinated Approach to Child Health). http://www.sph. uth.tmc.edu/catch/
- Healthier US School Challenge http://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/healthierus/index. html

