



EARS Helps ENP Collect Information on ENP Participants and Classes

The Situation

The Extension Nutrition Program (ENP) is Idaho's Food Stamp Nutrition Education (FSNE) program. It is administered through the University of Idaho Extension. There are FSNE programs in each state plus the District of Columbia, Guam, and the Virgin Islands.

USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) oversees all FSNE programs. In FY2006 each FSNE program was notified that a new reporting system, called the Education and Administrative Reporting System (EARS), was being developed to collect uniform data and information about the nutrition education activities of all participating States.

FNS wants a more accurate picture of the food stamp population that attends our classes via the EARS. This will be done by collecting the following unduplicated information on participants attending ENP classes: age, gender, race, ethnicity, and if they are receiving food stamps. In the past ENP was only required to report participant numbers through the number of direct contacts, e.g. every time they attended a class.

Our Response

In order to collect this type of data from a large number of ENP participants, it was necessary to develop forms that were easy for participants to complete and have an easy way to collect and analyze the data. ENP solved this problem by using a software program and a scanner. Using the software program called Remark©, we converted

regular forms into a bubble format and the completed forms were then fed into a scanner that recorded the responses and imported them into an Access database.

District III ENP (Rhea Lanting and Cammie Jayo) piloted the forms for six months during FY2006 and Marty Denham and Nickie Bell piloted using the scanner and setting up a data collection and analysis process. All ENP personnel were trained on the revised forms in September 2006 and they were used during FY2007.

Program Outcomes

Outcomes were collected on ENP participants and the ENP classes.

ENP Participants: Table 1 shows that the majority of ENP participants were:

- Female (75% of adults and 54% of youth)
- Youth (78%)
- White (87% of adults and 93% of youth)
- Receiving food stamps *65% of adults)

Table 1. ENP participants

Gender	Adults (%)	Youth (%)
Male	416 (25%)	2701 (46%)
Female	1259 (75%)	3225 (54%)
Blank (not completed)	3(0.1%)	
Total	1678 (22%)	5926 (78%)
Grand Total		7604

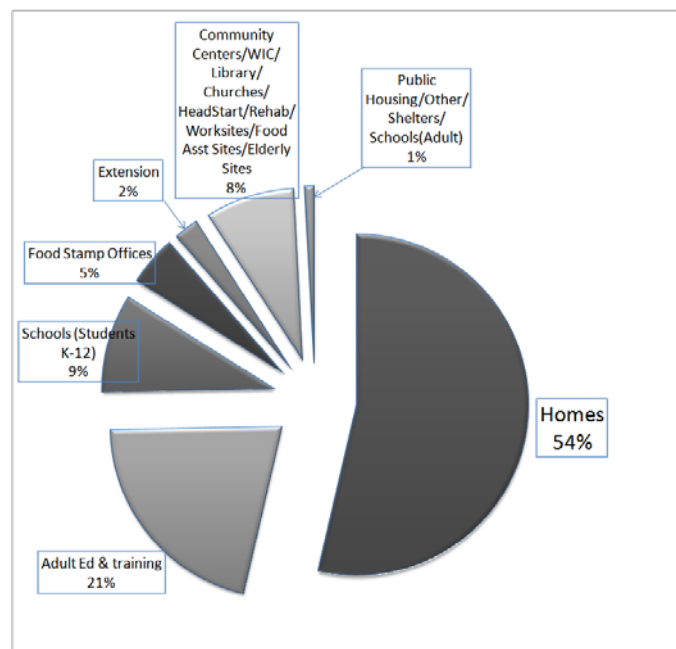
Age group	Number	%
< 5 years	1131	15
5-17 years	4870	64
18-59 years	1516	20
60 or more years	84	1
Blank (Not completed)	3	0.000
Total	7604	100%
Race	Adult (%)	Youth (%)
American Indian	179 (11%)	346 (6%)
Asian	14 (0.8%)	18 (0.3%)
Black or African American	9 (0.5%)	47 (.8%)
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	4 (0.2%)	11 (0.2%)
White	1397 (87%)	5488 (93%)
Multiple races	10 (0.6%)	
Total	1613	5910
Ethnicity		
Hispanic	217	1395
Receiving food stamps (Adults)	Number	%
Yes	1098 (65.4%)	
No	573 (34.2%)	
Blank (not completed)	7 (0.4%)	
	7604	

ENP Classes: The majority of ENP classes taught to adults (71%) and youth (84%) focused on nutrition (Table 2). Most of these classes were taught in homes (54%), followed by Adult Education & Training Centers (21%), and Schools (9%) (Figure 1).

Table 2. Type and number of ENP classes taught.

Type of class	# of adult classes	# of youth classes
Nutrition	1181 (71%)	401 (84%)
Food Safety	164 (10%)	76 (16%)
Food Resource Management	303 (18%)	
Physical Activity	22 (1%)	
Total	1670	477
Grand total	2147	

Figure 1. Location of ENP classes



The data that has been collected for EARS can be compiled into a national report that could provide data for programming policy decisions and documentation for legislative and budgetary decisions. The data collected on the ENP classes helps us make sure the program is focused on nutrition and focus on locations where ENP turnout is low.

Contributors

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For More Information

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