

Progress report

“Evaluation of a feasibility study of a food store-based intervention for low income residents of Baltimore City” (USDA Grant #433AEM480116)

4/1/2005 – 3/30/2006, PI: Joel Gittelsohn

Our previous project update for this grant covered the period of 1/1/2005-3/31/2005

Baseline evaluation of the Baltimore Healthy Stores trial was completed in December 2005. The total sample achieved was 175 consumer respondents in East and West Baltimore, 25 more than the 150 originally planned for. This number of respondents was increased to enhance the sample from consumers at corner stores, so we might more effectively evaluate the feasibility of that component of the intervention. Baseline store impact questionnaires were completed in mid-January 2006. Data from the baseline consumer sample are in the process of being analyzed. These data will be presented by Dr. Gittelsohn as a poster at the 2006 Experimental Biology meetings. Sonali Suratkar is taking the lead in these baseline analyses and is in the process of preparing a paper for publication (Psychosocial and dietary factors associated with food assistance use: Baseline results from the Baltimore Healthy Stores study, Joel Gittelsohn, Sonali Suratkar, Hee-Jung Song, Sangita Sharma, Kira Evans, Kamal Patel, Jean A. Anliker).

Data from the work completed to develop the food frequency questionnaire have been submitted for publication (Sharma S, Cao X, Gittelsohn J, Arcan H, Mattingly M, Jennings S, Song H-J and Caballero B, “Dietary intake and development of a Quantitative Food Frequency Questionnaire (QFFQ) for a nutrition intervention to reduce risk of chronic diseases in an urban African American population,” (Manuscript submitted to Journal of the American Dietetic Association, March 2006)). In addition, Hee-Jung Song has developed an additional instrument which will be used to regularly track sales of promoted foods at the corner stores.

Development of the Baltimore Healthy Stores intervention continued through the fall of 2005. We hired a local muralist (Archie Veale) who did a series of nine attractive posters for the program. Intervention materials for the Korean corner store owners were developed and refined (including a nutrition education booklet, cultural guidelines, store stocking guidelines and other materials in Korean). A local interventionist from East Baltimore has been hired, in addition to several student interventionists who were trained in mid-January 2006. The Baltimore Healthy Stores program was initiated in January 2006. We have completed phase 0 and will complete phase 1 by the end of March 2006. There are four more phases after that, the feasibility trial of the program will be completed in September 2006. This will be followed by the post intervention evaluation from September-December 2006. We will then prepare reports and papers for publication based on the feasibility trial results which will also be used as preliminary study material for a city-wide main trial implementation.

Additional reports and project materials for the Baltimore Healthy Stores program and other healthy stores projects can be found at www.healthystores.org.