

Translational Behavioral Medicine Special Issue Call for Abstracts: *Food Access Among Low-Income Populations: Understanding the Potential Intersect of Diet, Obesity, Food Insecurity, and Hunger*

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This special issue of *Translational Behavioral Medicine* (TBM) solicits papers focusing on the intersect of diet/obesity and poverty. Papers should examine some aspect of each of these areas from a behavioral science perspective. Within these topic areas, we are also interested in papers that include results demonstrating the role that various social determinants of health play in food access among low-income populations. For example, food insecurity is a phenomenon defined as the absence of access to adequate food in order to support an active and healthy life.¹ Closely related to this concept is the experience of hunger and obesity, all of which relate to access to healthy foods (e.g., fruits and vegetables).² The intersect of obesity and food insecurity is of interest, which can include the nexus of food insecurity in relation to variables such as body mass index, dietary behaviors or intake, and comorbidities. Further, dietary quality is a contributing factor to obesity and the association with food insecurity, in particular for those living in environments containing an abundance of inexpensive, energy-dense, nutrient-poor foods.³ Given the relationship between food security and health related outcomes, we are also interested in studies assessing clinical linkages, such as programs that include food security screening in medical settings and food prescription programs.

Although we acknowledge diet, obesity, poverty, food insecurity, and hunger are important on a global scale, given the nuances with regard to policy, programs, and research within the United States, this special issue is limited to research conducted within the United States. We are seeking to publish high-impact translational behavioral medicine research describing findings from original, empirical research as well as literature reviews. Studies with an econometric approach are welcome, but it will be important to provide behavioral interpretations of the data and implications for the field from a translational behavioral science perspective. Quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-methods papers are also welcomed. With this special issue, we want to draw attention to diet, obesity, food insecurity, poverty, and hunger as important factors influencing behavioral medicine in low-income populations. Please note: Papers DO NOT necessarily need to include measures of food insecurity, as long as the focus is on low-income populations.

TBM is especially interested in reports of research of diet/obesity and poverty that fall within the following categories:

Food access and other issues impacting the intersect of obesity and food insecurity and/or poverty

- Factors that impact dietary behaviors and patterns among low-income populations.
- Aspects of the food environment that impact the experience of food insecurity and/or obesity.
- Food shopping/procurement patterns and the relationship to diet, obesity, food insecurity, and/or hunger.
- Consideration of food access at varying levels: individual, environmental (e.g., household, community), and policy.

Correlates among specific sub-populations

- Studies focusing on populations not typically represented in research (e.g., homeless, refugees, recent immigrants).
- Studies exploring the linkages between diet, obesity, food insecurity, hunger, and/or related factors in health care settings.
- Upstream social determinants of health among low-income populations.

Evaluation of programming

- Interventions targeting low-income populations using innovative approaches, especially those that are sustainable and replicable.
- Evaluation of programs that foster connections between clinical linkages and the community (e.g., fruit/vegetable Rx programs).
- Multisector community initiatives to improve outcomes for low-income populations.

Measurement and/or models and frameworks

- Psychometric testing of new/modified scales relevant to diet, obesity, food insecurity, or hunger among low-income populations.
- Measurement variables such as food availability/access, hunger, coping behaviors, knowledge/attitudes, and food procurement patterns.
- Models and frameworks that help guide future research in this area.
- Measurement of risk for diet, obesity, food insecurity, and/or hunger and related social determinants of health.

Policy, systems, and environmental approaches

- Research investigating aspects of federal level policies/regulations, including those related to federal food assistance programs (i.e., Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; Women, Infants, and Children; National School Lunch Program).
- Research investigating state, local, school, and/or workplace level policies/regulations that impact diet, obesity, food insecurity, hunger, and/or related factors among low-income/at-risk populations.
- Interventions targeting systems and/or environmental changes to influence food security and related outcomes.

Potential authors are asked to submit an abstract of 350 words or less to the guest editors. Each abstract will be reviewed and, if approved, invited to submit a full manuscript for consideration under a rigorous peer review process. Abstracts and all questions should be directed to the guest editors: Drs. Pinard (cpinard@centerfornutrition.org), Calloway (ecalloway@centerfornutrition.org), and Yaroch (ayaroch@centerfornutrition.org). Manuscripts must follow the TBM Instructions to Authors and be submitted via the online submission system: <https://academic.oup.com/tbm>.

Abstract Submission Deadline: September 1, 2018



¹ Coleman-Jensen, Alisha et al., "Household Food Security in the United States in 2015," Economic Research Report (United States Department of Agriculture, September 2016).

² Brandt Franklin et al., "Exploring Mediators of Food Insecurity and Obesity: A Review of Recent Literature," *Journal of Community Health* 37, no. 1 (2012): 253–64, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10900-011-9420-4>.

³ Binh T Nguyen et al., "The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Food Insecurity, Dietary Quality, and Obesity among US Adults," *American Journal of Public Health* 105, no. 7 (2015): 1453–59.