Increasing Food Access: Evaluation of a Food Buying Club in Philadelphia

Kimberly Hoover
*Thomas Jefferson University*, kimberly.hoover@jefferson.edu

Rickie Brawer, MPH, PhD, MCHES
*Thomas Jefferson University*, rickie.brawer@jefferson.edu

Follow this and additional works at: [https://jdc.jefferson.edu/si_phr_2022_phase1](https://jdc.jefferson.edu/si_phr_2022_phase1)

Part of the Public Health Commons

Let us know how access to this document benefits you

**Recommended Citation**
[https://jdc.jefferson.edu/si_phr_2022_phase1/34](https://jdc.jefferson.edu/si_phr_2022_phase1/34)

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Jefferson Digital Commons. The Jefferson Digital Commons is a service of Thomas Jefferson University's [Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL)](https://ctl.jefferson.edu). The Commons is a showcase for Jefferson books and journals, peer-reviewed scholarly publications, unique historical collections from the University archives, and teaching tools. The Jefferson Digital Commons allows researchers and interested readers anywhere in the world to learn about and keep up to date with Jefferson scholarship. This article has been accepted for inclusion in Phase 1 by an authorized administrator of the Jefferson Digital Commons. For more information, please contact: JeffersonDigitalCommons@jefferson.edu.


**Increasing Food Access: Evaluation of a Food Buying Club in Philadelphia**

Kimberly Hoover; Rickie Brawer*, PhD, MPH, MCHES

**Introduction:** Children living in food insecure homes are at higher risk of developing a variety of negative health outcomes, including cardiovascular disease, obesity, and cognitive, emotional and behavioral problems. In order to combat these outcomes, Mercy Neighborhood Ministries of Philadelphia (MNMOP) established a Food Buying Club to increase accessibility and affordability of fresh produce. However, the satisfaction with this program among participants needs to be determined in order to strengthen the program.

**Objective:** The objective of this quality improvement study was to evaluate parental satisfaction with the MNMOP program, specifically regarding produce options, cost, and variety.

**Methods:** An online survey was emailed to the participants of the July distribution. Satisfaction with the overall program, food variety, food quality, and cost was assessed. Reasons for joining the program, barriers to joining, and suggestions for future changes were also assessed. The survey was adapted to an open-ended format for in-person interviews. 37 in-person interviews were conducted during the October distribution.

**Results:** 4 participants completed the online survey. Participants rated high satisfaction with the quality, variety, and cost of the produce. No barriers to joining were noted. Suggestions for change included better advertising of the program and making the packages larger. Interview analysis is pending.

**Conclusion:** While awaiting further analysis, the Food Buying Club should increase advertising in the community because the fresh produce appears to be satisfactory among participants. However, the small
SI/PHR Abstract

sample size limits these conclusions. Future analysis should include a larger sample and information about motives for both joining and continuing to purchase from the program.