

Obesity: The Poor Have the Most to Lose

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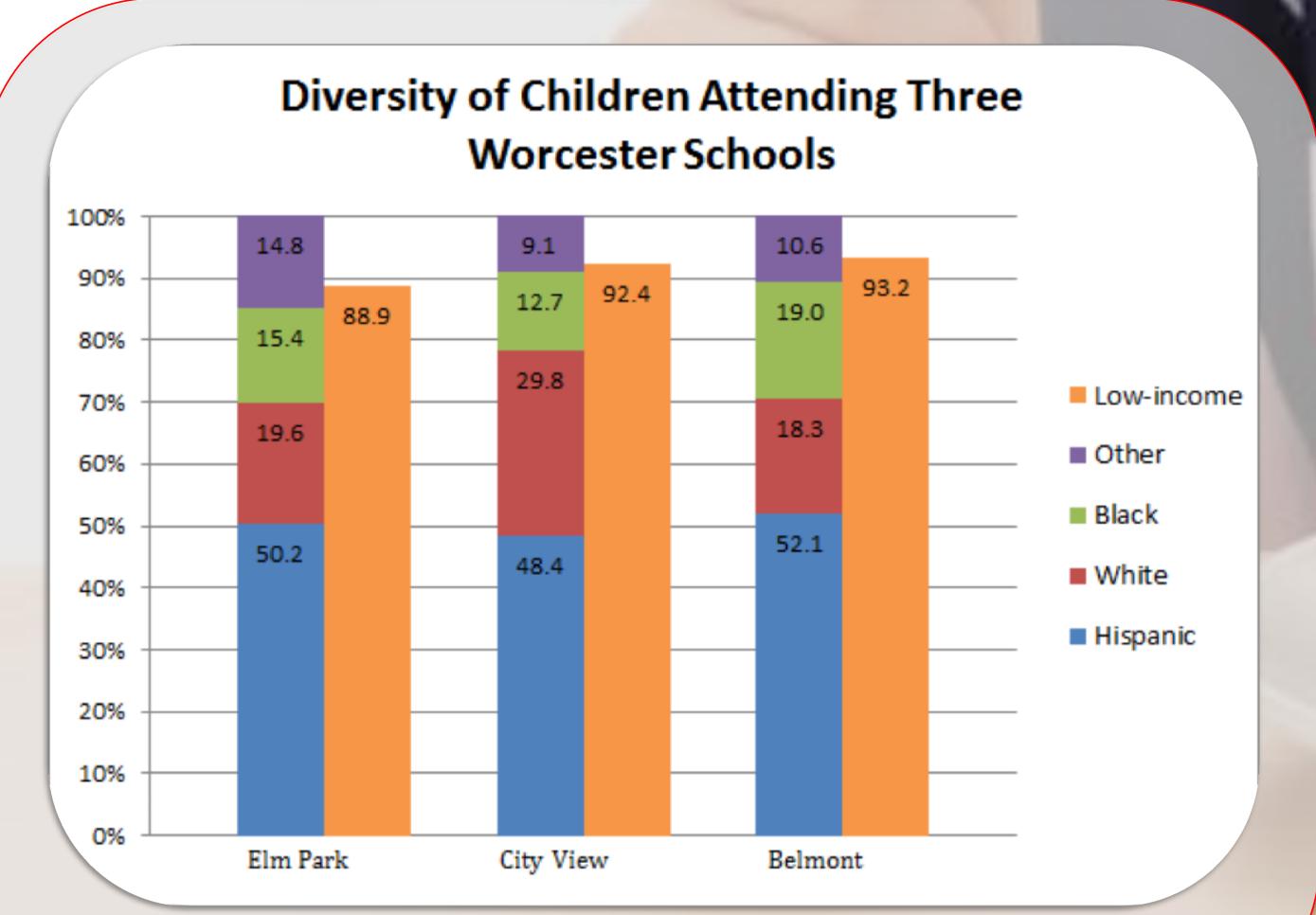
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Problem Statement

Low income families suffer most from inadequate food education

Data

- Low-income families are prevalent in Worcester
- Median household income in Worcester ~\$42,000(2011)
- Healthy food is often more expensive, whereas refined grains, added sugars, and fats are generally inexpensive
- 18% of children enter school being obese in Worcester



Graph of the racial diversity and percentage of low income students in three Worcester Elementary schools

Our Solution

3-prong nutritional program in three elementary schools located in Worcester low income areas.

Kids Choice Program:

Inexpensive school intervention program during lunch and recess •Encourages consumption of fruits, vegetables, and healthy drinks

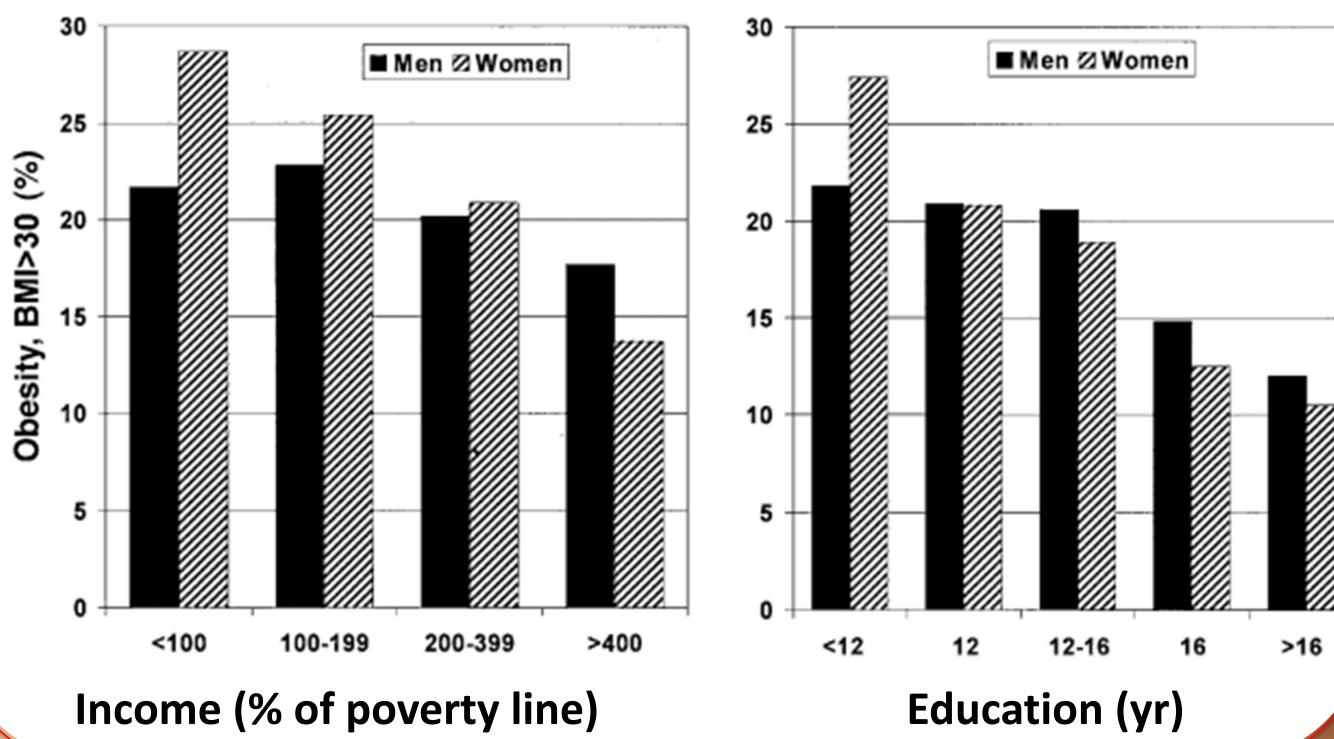
Health Curriculum:

Original curriculum based on food education, nutrition and consequences of obesity

Informational Pamphlets:

Includes summary of learned material by students and easy-to-make, inexpensive meal recipes

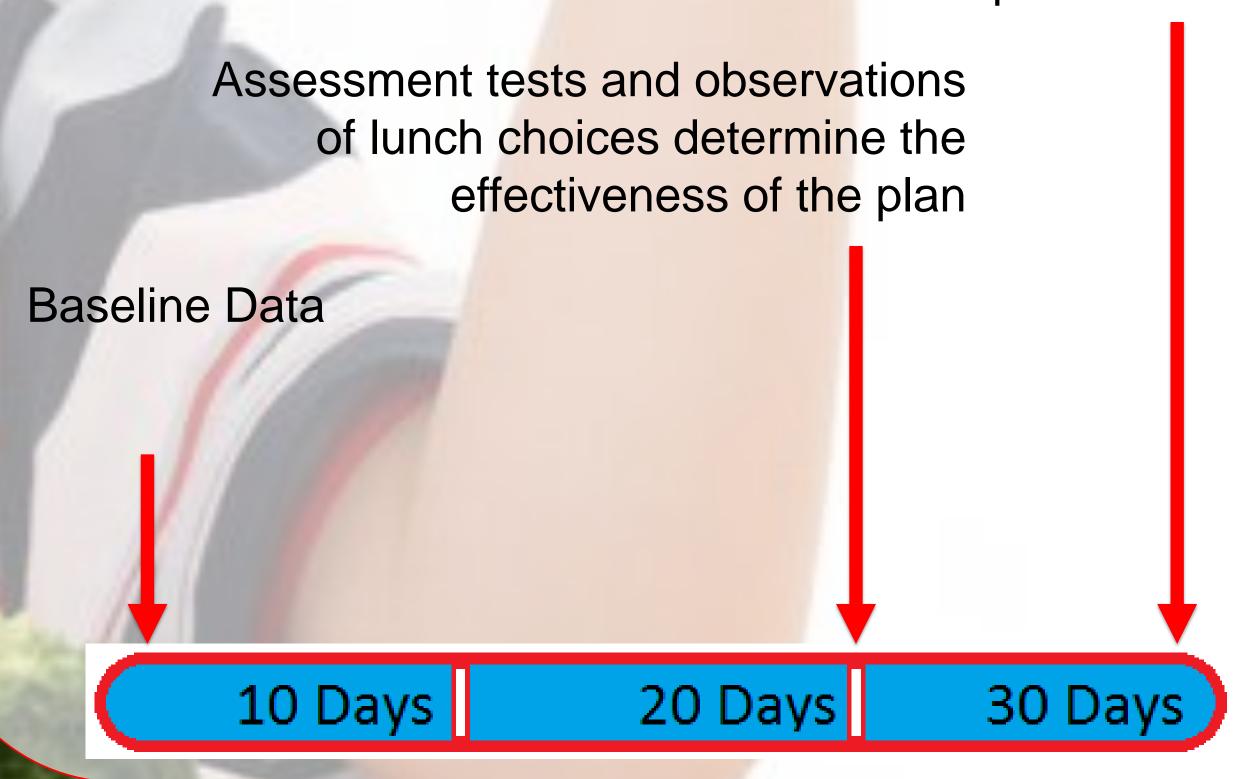
Poverty, Obesity, and Diet Costs



The Prices of Food 2004 dollars 4.0 Grain Protein 3.5 Dairy Fruit 3.0 Vegetable Less healthy 2.5 -2.0 -Notes: The dark areas of each bar represent the price range for the cheaper 1.5 half of the foods in the category, while 1.0 the lighter areas are the price ranges for 0.5 the higher cost foods. Less healthy foods are foods that are high in sodium, added sugars, or saturated fat, \$/100 calories or that do not contain foods from a food group.

Assessment plan

The average weight of students (collected by the school) every 2 years is compared with previous data



References

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