

# Food Stamp Nutrition Education Evaluation

## *Where We Are and Where We've Been*



Food Assistance and Nutrition Research Program  
*Research for a Healthy, Well-Nourished America*



# ERS Role in Food Stamp Nutrition Education Evaluation

## Food Assistance and Nutrition Research Program (FANRP)

- Initiated in 1998
- Intramural and extramural research
- Congressional appropriation for extramural studies and evaluations of food assistance programs
- Since 1999 funds shared with FNS
- Current funding level \$5 million



# Where We've Been: FSNE Evaluation Activities To Date



## Journal of Nutrition Education Supplement Evaluation of Nutrition Education With Low-Income Families



# Review of Data Sources

This work grew out of an effort to identify and assess a comprehensive array of national and state data sources that can help individuals involved in nutrition education:

- Understand emerging problems and prioritize needs
- Track progress and community trends
- Inform evaluation strategies
- Currently under review
- Plan to release it as an electronic publication



# Development of Collaborative Partnerships

- **Interagency Working Group on FSNE Evaluation - FNS, CSREES, ERS**
- **Grant to Society for Nutrition Education for Post-Conference Workshop in July, 2003**



# January 2003 FSNE Workshop

- **Small group format, bringing in representatives of Interagency Task Force, SNE, other members of Federal and State agencies and the Research community. Its charge:**

**Identifying Research Needs to Support Program Evaluation**



# Foci Identified at January FSNE Workshop

- **Further Defining Outcomes**
- **Developing Information Systems to Support Research and Evaluation**
- **Developing Meaningful Process Measures**
- **Devising Strategies for Improving Collaborative Efforts in Research and Evaluation**
- **Maintaining Ongoing Dialog and Evaluation Research Process**



# The ERS FSNE Extranet

Created following the January Workshop as a tool for maintaining dialog on FSNE evaluation research

- Site contains all reports and presentations from the workshop
- Ability to view and print the documents
- Discussion thread for information sharing



# FSNE Webpage

## *Under Development*

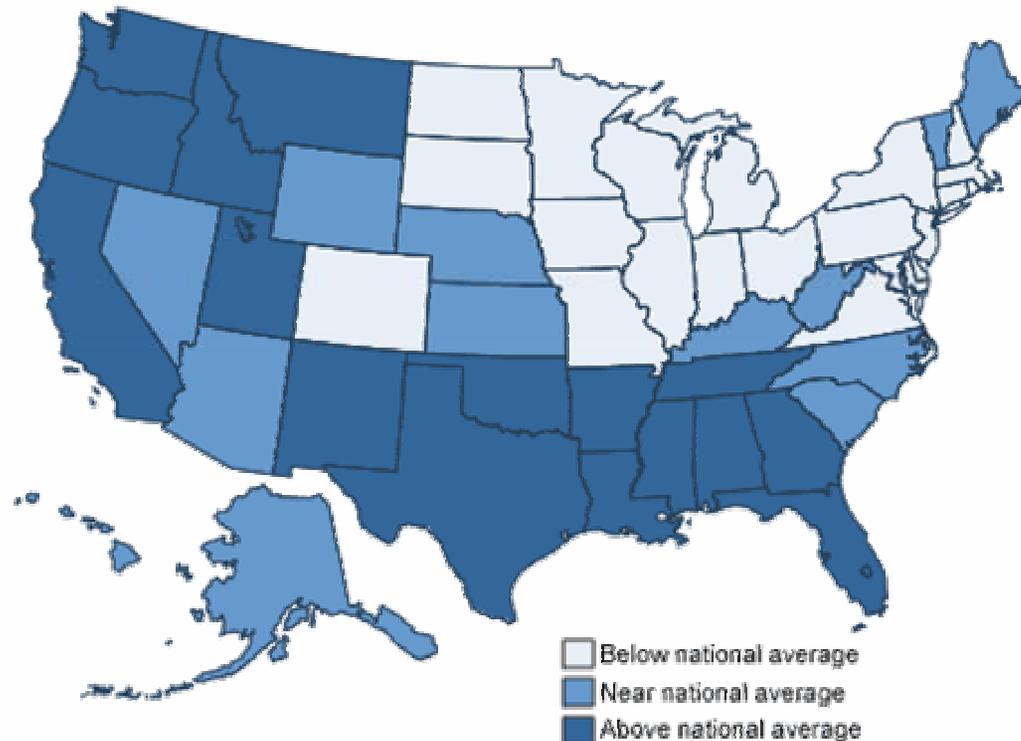
- ERS-FANRP currently has a Food Stamp Program Briefing Room
- FSNE research and evaluation efforts and information will be a chapter within Food Stamp Briefing Room
- Interactive data resource
- Featuring links to ERS data and other relevant Federal data sources



# Example of a Planned ERS Data Link

- **Geographic distribution of food insecurity**

Prevalence of food insecurity, average 1999-2001



Source: Calculated by ERS based on Current Population Survey Food Security Supplements.



# July FSNE Workshop

- **Outcome Measures for Nutrition Education with Low-Income**
- **Automated Web-based Data Collection Systems**
- **How Program Reporting Systems Can Support Evaluation**
- **Linking Process Strategies and Outcomes**



# Where Are We Going?

- **Current interest in nutrition, obesity prevention and health is an opportunity and a challenge for FSNE**
- **Policy decision-makers and program officials will increasingly want to determine the impact of FSNE**
- **Improving evaluation concepts and methods will be necessary to answer them**
- **The partnership nature of FSNE makes collaborative activities such as this workshop an essential part of improving evaluation**



# More Information

- Visit the ERS website, at [www.ers.usda.gov](http://www.ers.usda.gov), for:
  - **more information on relevant topics**
    - Diet and Health
    - Food Security
  - **links to ERS publications on relevant subjects**
  - **a database of all of the projects that FANRP has funded**

