UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

HEALTHY EATING RESEARCH
SPECIAL SOLICITATION
NEW CONNECTIONS GRANTS AWARDED THROUGH
THE HEALTHY EATING RESEARCH PROGRAM
Awards to 2 sites on 9-1-2007, totaling $200,000

SUMMARY

Program Purpose: *Healthy Eating Research* is a national program that supports research on environmental and policy strategies to promote healthy eating among children to prevent childhood obesity, especially among low-income and racial and ethnic populations at highest risk. New Connections grants awarded through the Healthy Eating Research program are for early-career investigators from historically disadvantaged and underrepresented communities who bring special experience and expertise regarding the racial and ethnic minority and low-income populations and communities targeted by the Healthy Eating Research program.

Studying spatial associations between the density of schools and the density of fast food outlets
Columbia University, New York, NY
P.I.: Naa Oyo Kwate, Ph.D.
The overall objectives of this project are to study inequality in New York City's food environment, and more specifically, the distribution of fast food restaurants. Specifically, this project will study spatial associations between school density and fast food density, investigate environmental determinants of fast food density, and explore the circumstances in which fast food restaurateurs open and operate their businesses. Particular emphasis will be on low-income and predominantly Black and Latino neighborhoods, which have high rates of obesity. This study focuses on children in grades K through 12, in an urban setting with a large number of racial/ethnic mintority and low socioeconomic status groups.

Assessing the impact of school vending machine policies on rural adolescent beverage consumption
Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH
P.I.: Anna Adachi-Mejia, Ph.D.
The goal of this study is to analyze the impact of school vending machine policies on adolescent beverage consumption in predominantly rural high schools across New Hampshire and Vermont. Using data from an ongoing study, this project will specifically seek to compare school beverage vending machine guidelines, restrictions, implementation, and content; and to evaluate the influence of the school beverage vending machine environment on adolescent beverage consumption. Investigators will also work with school officials to evaluate how school policy is developed and what impact it has on food and beverage options at school. This project's target population includes children from 38 schools, predominantly rural, with an average of 18% of students eligible for free and reduced price lunch.