

【 P1-7 】

Availability of Food Venues at Middle and High Schools in the U.S.

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The purpose of the study was to investigate availability of various food venues and their management at middle and high schools in the U.S. The study population was middle and high schools participating in Child Nutrition Program in four states: Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska. A stratified random sampling technique was used. A third of the school districts were randomly selected in each state and the school foodservice directors/authorities of the selected districts were asked to forward questionnaires to foodservice managers of one middle and one high schools in their districts. After excluding responses that had significant missing data, a final usable response rate was 10.5%(161 responses). Statistical analyses were conducted using Statistical Package for Social Science for Windows 10. Forty-three percent(83) of the responding school foodservice programs(SFP) were located in Kansas and half of the programs(55.6%) were located in rural areas with a population less than 2,500. Most of the programs were self-operated(93.7%). Majority of the SFP provided lunches(99%) and breakfasts(84%) but less than 15% had After School Snack Program and Summer Food Service Program. Various food venues other than school meals programs were available at middle and high schools. Sixty-seven percent of the schools had more than one vending machines available for students. The prevalence of the vending machines was significantly higher in the high schools than in the middle schools($p < .001$). A la carte lines during meal times(59.2%), concession stands(34.4%), and school stores(25.5%) offered various foods to students at schools. More high schools offered a la carte service and had concession stands than the middle schools. At more than half(61.5%) of the schools that had school stores, canteens, and snack bars, SFPs were in charge of managing them. The percentages of SFPs managing vending machines and concession stands were 28.7% and 7.7%, respectively. The proportions of SFPs that had been involved in selecting food items to be sold at the food venues were similar to the results of management, except that SFPs with concession stands participated more in the selection process of food items than management. Profits from the vending machines were used for student councils(45%), school/districts(17.6%), activity funds(14.7%), sport teams(11.8%), and SFP(9.8%). Revenues from school stores, canteens, and snack bars went to SFP(45.2%), schools/districts(19.3%), and student councils(16.1%). In summary, despite the wide prevalence of the food venues that compete against SFP and influence students' food consumption, school foodservice professionals did not have control on types of foods to be sold and/or management of the food venues.