

Across-agency partnerships and within-agency capacities facilitate holistic, tailored approaches to addressing food insecurity: a qualitative study



<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jand.2023.07.024>

OUR STUDY



Objective

To identify multi-level capacities in San Diego County, CA that diverse food- and nutrition-related stakeholder agencies perceived to be helping to address food insecurity.



Methods

Face-to-face, semi-structured interviews with 23 key informants at 16 stakeholder agencies in San Diego County, CA.



Results

Within-agency capacities and across-agency partnerships collectively influenced each individual agency's ability to provide holistic, tailored care to their clients, and, thus, expanded each agency's reach and impact to address the 4 domains of food security.

WITHIN-AGENCY CAPACITIES

- Human capital (e.g., volunteers, staff knowledge and skills)
- Social capital (e.g., caring relationships with clients)
- Cultural capital (e.g., culturally competent services)

ACROSS-AGENCY PARTNERSHIPS

- Attributes of partnerships included coordination, trust, mutuality, communication, and open-mindedness
- Partnerships had multi-level, mutually beneficial impact

4 DOMAINS OF FOOD SECURITY

- Quantity (sufficiency of food)
- Quality (healthy, nutritious, culturally appropriate food)
- Psychological (mitigating stress and anxiety)
- Social (reducing stigma)

STAKEHOLDER AGENCIES

- Local nonprofit agencies
- Chapters of nationwide nonprofit agencies
- Local government agencies

Here's what we found CONCLUSIONS



In San Diego County, CA, within-agency capacities and across-agency partnerships allowed diverse food- and nutrition-related stakeholder agencies to implement both federal and local food and social assistance programs within the local community context to address food insecurity.

