Medical Nutrition Therapy for the Treatment of Obesity in WV-Changes and Challenges

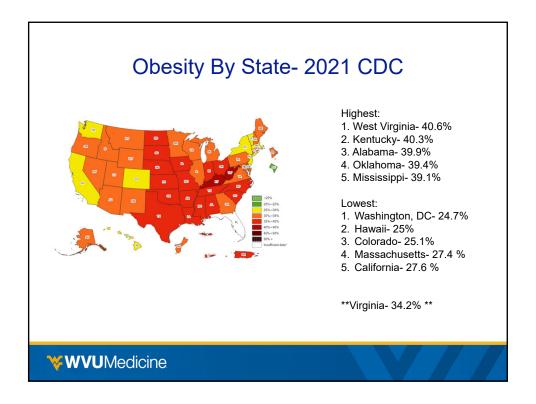
Rachel Allio, MS, RD, LDN
WVU Medicine
Division of Metabolic and Weight Loss Surgery

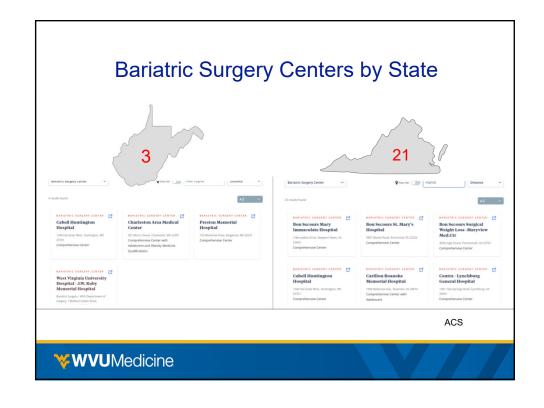


CME Disclosures

No disclosures.







Registered Dietitians Nutritionists by State

West Virginia- (392) 1:1,827 Kentucky- (1,354) 1:1,344 Alabama- (1,508) 1:1,349 Oklahoma- (1,175) 1:1,347 Mississippi- (814) 1:1,407 Washington, DC- (234) 1:712 Hawaii- (441) 1:812 Colorado- (2,794) 1:526 Massachusetts- (3,093) 1:617 California- (11,554) 1:961

*Virginia- (2,569) 1:1,159

CDR



West Virginia

- Highest rate of Obesity in the US at 40.6% in 2021
- Relatively few options for surgical intervention within the state
- Limited access to nutrition care



Changes that Impact RDN Practice in WV

- RDN shortages
- Increased volume of cases
- Increased need for follow up
- COVID
- New medications



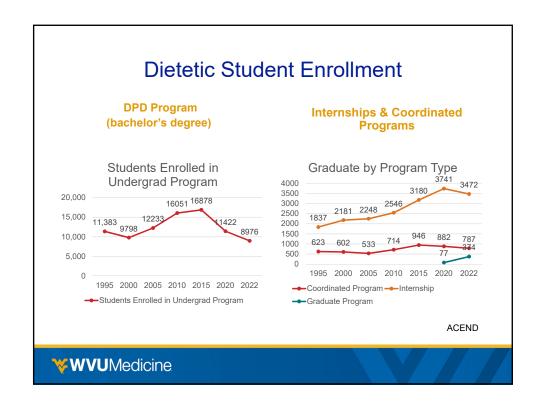
RDN Shortage?

- · Degree in dietetics from accredited University or College
- Complete an accredited supervised practice program with 1000+ hours clinical, community & other rotations
- Pass a national examination administered by CDR

Changes:

- Effective January of 2024, must have a minimum of Master's degree to sit for exam
- General shortage of Health Care workers after COVID





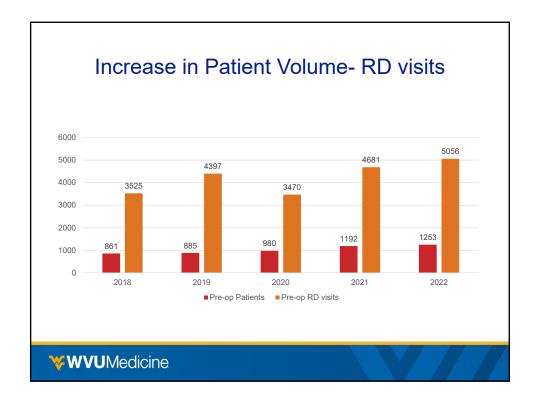
What Does the Future Hold?

April Match	2015	2020	2021	2022	2023
Openings	2864	3667	3723	3736	3587
Applicants	5192	3848	3676	3482	1984
Matched 1st round(%)	2608 (50%)	2713 (71%)	2675 (73%)	2575 (74%)	1695 (85%)
Unfilled	256	954	1048	1161	1892

- 61% reduction in internship applicants since 2015
- 43% reduction in internship applicants since 2022
- Staffing Issues

ACEND





Higher Volume of Follow Ups

- Scheduled to see RD before post-op d/c & at 3 mo post-op
 - 300 scheduled for 3-mo post-op visits in 2017-2018
 - · 464 in 2022-2023
- Increase in revisions / 2nd procedures
- Weight recurrence
 - · Behavioral Therapy using MI as treatment?
 - goal setting, self monitoring, and stimulus control
 - Frequent, long-term patient-provider contact, following initial weight loss, is
 possibly the most successful method of preventing weight regain wing RR, Hill JO.
 Successful weight loss maintenance. Annu Rev Nutr. 2001;21:323-341.



COVID- Virtual Visits

- Transition to virtual platforms for group nutrition classes vs. in-person sessions
 - + Able to see higher volume of patients
 - + More patient friendly in rural state
 - + Reduced cost of time & travel expenses on patient end
- -Less patient centered care
- -Less patient engagement
- -Multitasking?



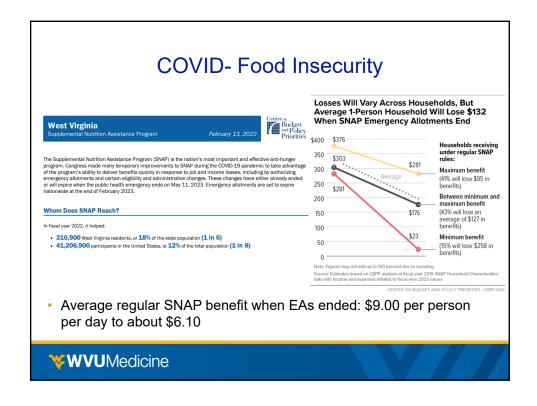
COVID- Weight Gain

- · 2022 Study- 48% of subjects gained weight, 34% neutral, 18% lost.
 - · Gain higher in those who reported depression/anxiety
 - Those who were very overweight prior to pandemic were more likely to gain

WVU Medicine July	Average BMI of patients	Median BMI of patients
2017-2018	47.57	46.49
2022-2023	48.78	47.95

Khubchandani J, et al COVID-19 pandemic and weight gain in American adults: A nationwide population-based study Diabetes Metab Syndr. 2022 Jan;16(1):10239





Medications- GLP-1 Agonists

Benefits:

- · Create a referral to the Medical Weight Management Group
 - · Weight loss prior to surgery for high BMIs
 - · New route for weight recurrence
 - · Allows WLS RD visits to have a surgery focus

Challenges:

- · Long wait list to see Med Weight Group
- Drug Shortages
- · Insurance limitations
 - · No coverage for Medicaid pts unless hx DM
 - Public Employee Insurance only cover if rx'ed by designated providers
 - · Commercial Insurances carve out obesity treatment as a covered benefit



Challenges & Changes in WV

- Are we unique?
 - Increased need with fewer options for surgical treatment
 - Challenges with staffing RDNs
 - COVID
- Adapting to challenges is a work in progress
 - Virtual class visits- interactive homework??
 - Telephone follow-ups
 - Expansion of Med Weight Management Program
 - · Future collaborations with other programs

