



**TULANE PREVENTION
RESEARCH CENTER**

April 28, 2017

UPenn Prevention Research Center Symposium

Tulane Prevention Research Center

- Tulane PRC funded since 1998
- First funding cycle focused on child exposure to lead and asthma
- Since 2004 focus has been obesity, physical activity, diet

<http://www.prc.Tulane.edu>



TULANE PREVENTION RESEARCH CENTER

Tulane PRC Mission Statement

- **To prevent or reduce overweight and obesity in the Greater New Orleans area by addressing the physical and social environmental factors that influence physical activity and diet – accomplished through**
 - ▣ **Infrastructure**
 - ▣ **Community Engagement**
 - ▣ **Communications and Dissemination**
 - ▣ **Training**
 - ▣ **Policy research**
 - ▣ **Research**

POLICY IN ACTION

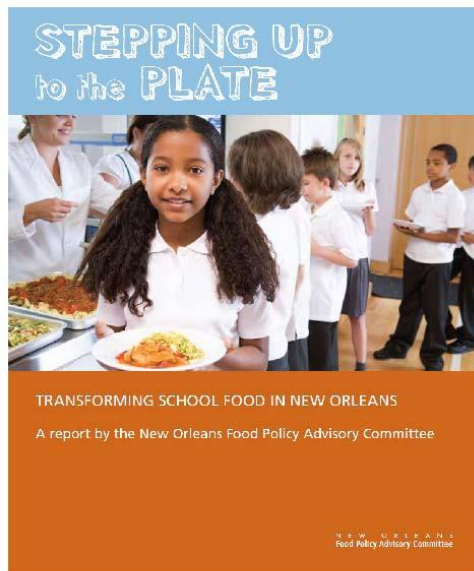
Policy change affects a large number of people with the stroke of a pen

New Orleans Food Policy Advisory Committee (FPAC)

- Requested by New Orleans City Council to identify policies by which city and state could support equitable access to fresh, healthy food
- Tulane PRC originating and founding member
- Committee included a diverse group of leaders from the public, private, and civic sectors
- After researching the food climate in the city, FPAC published two reports

FPAC Reports to the City

- Reports provided recommendations to expand access to fresh, healthy foods within the city and to improve school lunch offerings
- Fresh Food Retail Initiative direct result of FPAC reports



New Orleans Fresh Food Retailer Initiative (FFRI)

- Funding for this initiative
 - ▣ State of LA approved \$7 million in Disaster Recovery funds for FFRI
 - ▣ HOPE Enterprise (a CDFI) matched 1:1 for a total of \$14 million
- Initiative signed by Mayor in Spring 2011
 - DaFresh Seafood and Produce
 - Circle Food Store
 - ReFresh Project
 - Aeren's Supermarket
 - Jack and Jake's/Dryades Market
 - Robert's
 - Corner Store Initiative



City Policy Research – Food Access

Supermarket Access Increases across New Orleans 10 Yrs after Katrina



Mundorf AR, Willits-Smith A, Rose D. 10 Years Later: Changes in Food Access Disparities in New Orleans since Hurricane Katrina. *Journal of Urban Health*. 2015;92(4): 605-610.

Policy Research at State Level

- State Senator David Heitmier, Chair, Health & Welfare Committee
- Requested PRC conduct policy research with funds provided by United Health Foundation
- Result: 10 pieces of health legislation – 9 passed

Proposed & Enacted Legislation-2004

- Worksite lactation support
- Food assistance at farmers' markets (WIC CVV)
- Farm to School
- Joint-use agreements
- Smoke-free school zones
- Drinking water in schools
- Complete streets
- Menu labeling
- State obesity coordination

Louisiana Obesity Prevention & Management Commission

- 8-member organization, with 2 rotating community-based members, headed by the Louisiana Department of Health & Hospitals
- Enacted by State Legislation Act 580 for one year
- Reinstated by Act 186 on August 1, 2016 for one year with second year pending
- Tulane PRC Director sits as member of commission

Work of LA Obesity Commission in response to Act 580 (2014-2015)

- Identified and reviewed all legislation enacted by the State since 2000 related to obesity, physical activity, diet
- Conducted a statewide survey to assess current programs/activities/research related to obesity, PA, diet
- Responses represented every parish in the state & report submitted to Legislature February 2016 in which recommendations made

Work of LA Obesity Commission in Response to Act 186 (2016-2018)

- Report submitted February 2017
 - ▣ Collaboration with State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP)
 - ▣ Recommendations
 - Collaboration
 - Community engagement
 - Setting priorities

Physical Activity Policy Collaboration with the City of New Orleans

- Tulane PRC entered into agreement with the City to collaborate on policies that expanded opportunities for residents to be physically active.
- First collaborative project was the St. Roch Walking Path, a joint project funded by the Tulane PRC and the City

ST. ROCH WALKING PATH

- PRC built 6-block walking path in St. Roch neighborhood of New Orleans
- Walking path constructed behind the St. Roch Market, an historic but derelict building
- Proportion of residents observed active outdoors increased significantly in walking path neighborhood when compared with a demographically similar neighborhood without walking path.



Policy Initiatives in which PRC Involved

□ Joint Use Agreements

- ▣ Formal agreement between 2 or more entities to share use of space; can increase opportunities for residents to be more physically active
- ▣ Tulane PRC facilitated first JUA between City & Arthur Ashe Charter School (2011-2015)
- ▣ Conducted evaluation study of JUA with inner-city elementary school

□ Complete Streets

- ▣ Goal to increase active transportation
- ▣ Conducted evaluation of new bike lanes after Katrina

Presenter Contact Info



Carolyn, Johnson, PhD, MS, cjohnso5@tulane.edu

Website: prc.tulane.edu

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