

Factsheet

December 2016



Background and Purpose

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) implemented the Education and Administrative Reporting System (EARS) in 2007. The online EARS Form provides uniform data and information for all States conducting Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed) activities.

Following the implementation of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, SNAP-Ed became a grant program and was expanded to include obesity prevention efforts in addition to nutrition education and physical activity activities. Emphasis is placed on ensuring that interventions and strategies are evidence-based, while being delivered through a variety of approaches. Policy, systems, and environmental change (PSE) interventions and the use of partnerships are increasingly encouraged. Given the new directions of SNAP-Ed, FNS updated the EARS Form in 2016 to reflect changes in the program and improve the Form. FNS removed an item on expenditures since SNAP-Ed is now 100% Federally-funded.

EARS is one of several means by which FNS enhances the public's understanding of State and local SNAP-Ed activities. The Form will not encompass every aspect of SNAP-Ed programs, but it is meant to capture enough information to inform management decisions; support policy initiatives; provide data for legislative, budget, and other requests; and support planning functions.

Content

Today, data is collected on the following:

- Demographic characteristics (age, sex, race, and ethnicity) of SNAP-Ed participants
- Details for three intervention types:
 - 1) Direct education
 - 2) Social marketing
 - 3) PSE interventions

Indirect education is captured through intervention channels.

- Settings where SNAP-Ed takes place
- Topics covered in SNAP-Ed
- Partnerships involved in SNAP-Ed efforts

<u>EARS Implementation Timeline</u>	<u>Details</u>
EARS available for access by Federal Fiscal Year 2018	Ongoing webinars provided by the Food and Nutrition Service
Reporting on Federal Fiscal Year 2017 data	Ongoing until December 31, 2017

SNAP-Ed Connection Resources

Refer to <https://snaped.fns.usda.gov/national-snap-ed/education-and-administrative-reporting-system> for more information on EARS as well as helpful materials.