

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION FORM

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SEX + GENDER

Exploring the role of sex and gender on health research



CHR D 2020: Abstract Submission Form

Submitter Name

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Title

Changes in food-related costs among food allergic families following the COVID-19 pandemic

Background

Efforts to combat the spread of COVID-19 have disrupted food supply chains and shifted consumption patterns leading to increased food prices and shortages of some products.

Objective

Consequently, the current study aimed to determine how these changes have impacted food-related costs among food allergic households.

Methods

Between 1 May and 30 June 2020, 203 participants completed an online questionnaire that assessed food-related costs before and after the outbreak of COVID-19. Of these respondents, 81 had at least one child with a physician-diagnosed food allergy, 88 had a food allergic adult/s, but no children with food allergy, and 34 households reported no food allergic members. Logistic regression analyses were used to assess changes in food-related costs among these three categories of participants. Pandemic duration and the prevalence of COVID-19 in each participant's province were included as covariates.

Results

Relative to households without a food allergic member, households with a food allergic child were 3.16 times more likely to report increased spending on food following the outbreak of COVID-19 (95%CI=1.34, 4.38, $p<.01$). An analysis of these families revealed that monthly spending on food increased by an average of 28% (e.g., \$246.51 CAD, SD=41.69) following the pandemic. In contrast, households with only food allergic adults did not report increased food spending following the outbreak of the pandemic. Similarly, food allergy status did not significantly predict increased food shopping or food preparation.

Conclusion

Results from the current study suggest that families with a food allergic child are particularly affected by the

changes in food supply and consumption that have followed the COVID-19 pandemic. Policy makers should consider this increased burden when developing policies aimed at lessening the financial impact of COVID-19 on families.

Theme:

Community Health / Policy

Do you have a table/figure to upload?

No

Are you willing to participate in Goodbear's Den?

Yes

Presenter Status:

Non-Trainee

What was your role in the project?

Analyze Data

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