



**School of Public Health
Department of Environmental and Occupational Health**

In partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of
Doctor of Philosophy in Public Health

Lisa M. Segler
will defend her dissertation:



FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH FOOD INSECURITY AMONG INDIVIDUALS, AGED SIXTY AND OLDER, IN CLARK COUNTY, NV



Abstract

Food insecurity is defined as a lack of consistent access to enough food for an active, healthy life. In Nevada, an estimated 80,000 individuals, aged 60 years or older, were food insecure in 2016. The primary aim of this study was to identify factors that are associated with food insecurity in older adults, aged sixty and older, in Clark County, NV. The secondary aim of this study was to identify which factors interact with each other to explain food insecurity among individuals aged sixty and older, in Clark County, NV. A secondary data analysis was conducted using data collected by Three Square Food Bank in Las Vegas, NV. Based on chi-square statistics, logistic regression models were calculated based on the levels of influence from the Social Ecological Model. Three regression models were calculated: Intrapersonal, Interpersonal, and Community. In the Intrapersonal model ($\chi^2 = 119.839$, $df = 12$, $n = 409$, $p < 0.001$), the statistically significant variables were ambulatory disability ($p = 0.043$), total unhealthy days due to poor physical and/or mental within the past thirty days ($p = 0.017$), age group 60-64 ($p = 0.042$), money being the greatest barrier to accessing food on a regular basis ($p = < 0.001$), and being single ($p = 0.014$). In the Interpersonal model ($\chi^2 = 42.281$, $df = 6$, $n = 277$, $p < 0.001$), the statistically significant variables were participants that responded affirmatively to having to choose between paying for food versus medicine or medical care at least one or two times during the year ($p = 0.040$) and having to choose between paying for food versus rent or mortgage at least one or two times during the year ($p = 0.033$). In the Community model ($\chi^2 = 17.612$, $df = 4$, $n = 408$, $p < 0.001$), the statistically significant variables were participants that reported an easy walk to a transit (bus) stop near their home ($p = 0.028$) and safe, well maintained sidewalks in their community ($p = 0.025$). The findings in this study suggest developing food interventions based on factors related to health, finances, and the built environment to reduce food insecurity in individuals, ages 60 and older, in Clark County, NV.

Date: **Wednesday, April 24, 2019**
Time: **11:30 a.m.**

Location: BHS 131

Faculty, students, and the general public are invited.

Committee In Charge:

Dr. Melva Thompson-Robinson, Advisory Committee Chair

Dr. Jennifer Pharr, Advisory Committee Member

Dr. Timothy Bungum, Advisory Committee Member

Dr. Howard Gordon, Graduate College Representative