

Poster Topical Area: Community and Public Health Nutrition

Location: Auditorium

Poster Board Number: 117

P06-096 - The impact of food assistance programs on the magnitude of food insecurity in Mexico

 Monday, Jun 11  8:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Objective: To assess the effect of food assistance program (FAP) on food insecurity (FI) among Mexican households in the period 2012-2016. **Material and methods:** Based on data from the 2012 and 2016 National Health and Nutrition Surveys (*ENSANUT* by their Spanish initials), our analysis included 40,809 and 9,019 households, respectively. To ensure comparability between the two population samples, we constructed a proneness index of household characteristics regarding available housing, possessions and services. To estimate changes in FI in each survey year and assess the impact of being an FAP beneficiary on FI reduction, we performed a differences-in-difference analysis via generalized linear models (binary and multinomial logistic regressions). Estimates were adjusted for socioeconomic variables listed in the proneness index, region and residential area (urban/rural).

Results: From 2012 to 2016, rural households in Mexico saw an increase in the prevalence of food security (4.2pp), and households benefiting from FAP showed reductions in moderate (2.3pp) and severe (2.1pp) FI.

Conclusion: Regular FI measurements in Mexico have proved a highly useful tool sensitive to changes in social expenditure. This acquires particular relevance in Mexico for efforts towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The results presented in this study provide a tool not only for improving the design and focus of public policy, but also for strengthening food security governance in Mexico.

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