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| Food security programs in urban, semi-urban and rural areas in Quebec, Canada. |
| **Background/Objectives:** Household food insecurity is a serious public health concern in Canada, as in other high-income countries. In the absence of food security policies, charitable food donations (FD) have become the most widespread, yet controversial, community interventions. In response to the controversy, many FD programs have evolved toward capacity-building programs that aim to improve living conditions. Most studies on food security programs take place in urban settings, so that little is known about food security in rural or semi-urban settings. Moreover, studies evaluating FD programs often neglect to consider organizational context or the range of interventions offered. The present study compares food security program availability in community organizations (CO) in urban, semi-urban and rural settings.**Methods:** A census was completed from an inventory of 424 CO validated by community partners in the 4 study regions. From Dec 2017 to Jun 2018, representatives of 406 CO were contacted to participate in a telephone survey. Among these, 246 provided food free-of-charge or at-cost on a regular basis and were eligible for inclusion; 141 (58%) provided in-depth descriptions of programs offered, food assistance provided, and food security networks and partnerships. CO were classified by setting (urban, semi-urban, rural) and program type (FD only; FD with multi-service programs).**Results:** Among respondents, 64 reported FD only and 77 had multi-service programs. CO with multi-service programs outnumbered FD programs only, in all settings. Rural CO were smaller, with fewer volunteers/paid staff. Although the range of services was as varied as in urban and semi-urban settings, rural CO donate food less often and provide services to a smaller number of households each month. Food security networks and partnerships with other CO and public institutions are equally present among CO in all settings, but CO in rural settings have more frequent links with private entities. Milk, eggs, meat, and fresh or minimally processed foods are available most of the time in all CO, with no differences across settings. However, CO with FD programs only offered fruits, vegetables, yogurt and cheese less often than multi-service programs.**Discussion:** Although smaller and serving fewer households, rural CO offer the same range of interventions, possibly because of their partnerships with diverse actors.**Keywords:** Food insecurity, food banks, Canada, community food organizations |