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| **Foodservice manager perspectives on the feasibility of sustainable food in healthcare institutions in Quebec (Canada)** |
| **Background/Objectives**In many countries, there is increased organizational and governmental involvement towards sustainable food systems. In healthcare institutions, food sustainability calls for exploring other qualities in food beyond its nutritional and therapeutic dimensions, namely its quality, its social value, its environmental impact, its economic dimension, and governance. Compared to other countries, these initiatives are only emerging in Canada, making the country’s participation long overdue. Actions that foodservices take to align themselves with these sustainable dimensions are termed sustainable menu practices (SMPs). This research aims to analyse the feasibility of adopting SMPs in healthcare institutions in Quebec, Canada.**Methods**An integrated knowledge-translation study is carried out in close partnership with a national initiative on the future of food in healthcare to allow the production of a practical sustainability tool for foodservice managers. Using a qualitative phenomenological approach, purposeful sampling is used to recruit foodservice managers to participate in a semi-structured interview. Main components of the Diffusion of Innovations theory are used as a conceptual framework for structuring data collection and analysis. These help construct an understanding of perceived barriers and facilitators, as well as organizational readiness and will to adopt SMPs. Data collection is on going, with 6 interviews completed from an expected sample of 15 participants by the end of October 2018.**Results**Preliminary analysis shows variable perspectives on SMP feasibility, contingent on specific context. Key barriers include political constraints, inadequate infrastructure, and tight budgets. Better food procurement logistics and employee involvement may facilitate SMP adoption. Motivations for adoption align with ecological values and desire for quality service. Enhanced directorial support is vital for proper implementation. Further data collection and analysis will present the influence of organization structure in SMP adoption.**Discussion**This research will contribute to in-depth understanding of managerial experience in SMP adoption, in various regional and institutional settings. Results will offer strategies to orient the development of an online sustainable menu guide to support Canadian institutions in adopting SMPs, providing benefits from changed practices.**Keywords****nutrition, public health, sustainable food, foodservice, qualitative** |