

Ethical Dilemmas in Meeting Health Needs of Migrant Youth and Mothers During COVID-19 in New York City*

Name of Investigator(s)

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How has the COVID-19 pandemic impacted food access among migrant teens and mothers in New York City? What ethical dilemmas has this raised for us as researchers and in our partnership with Community- Based Organizations (CBOs)?

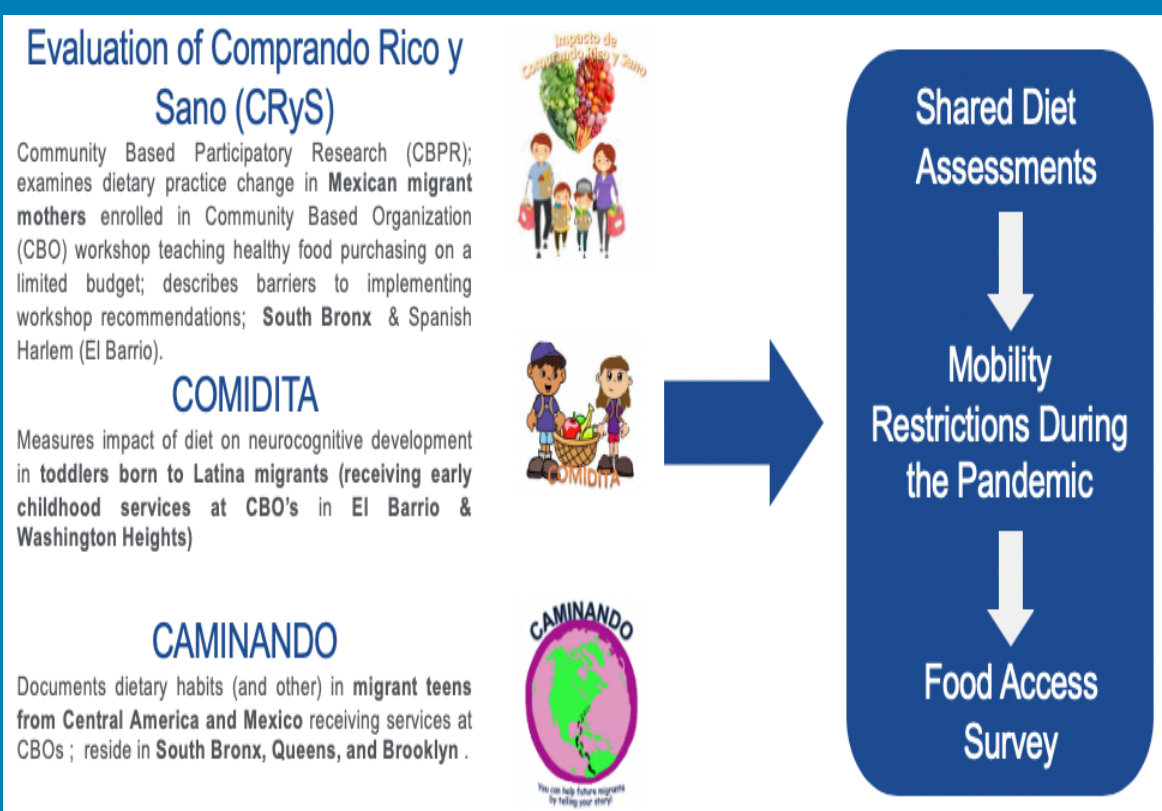
BACKGROUND

The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted the lives of New York City residents. This study investigates how food access has changed and the ethical significance of these changes among migrant youth and mothers.

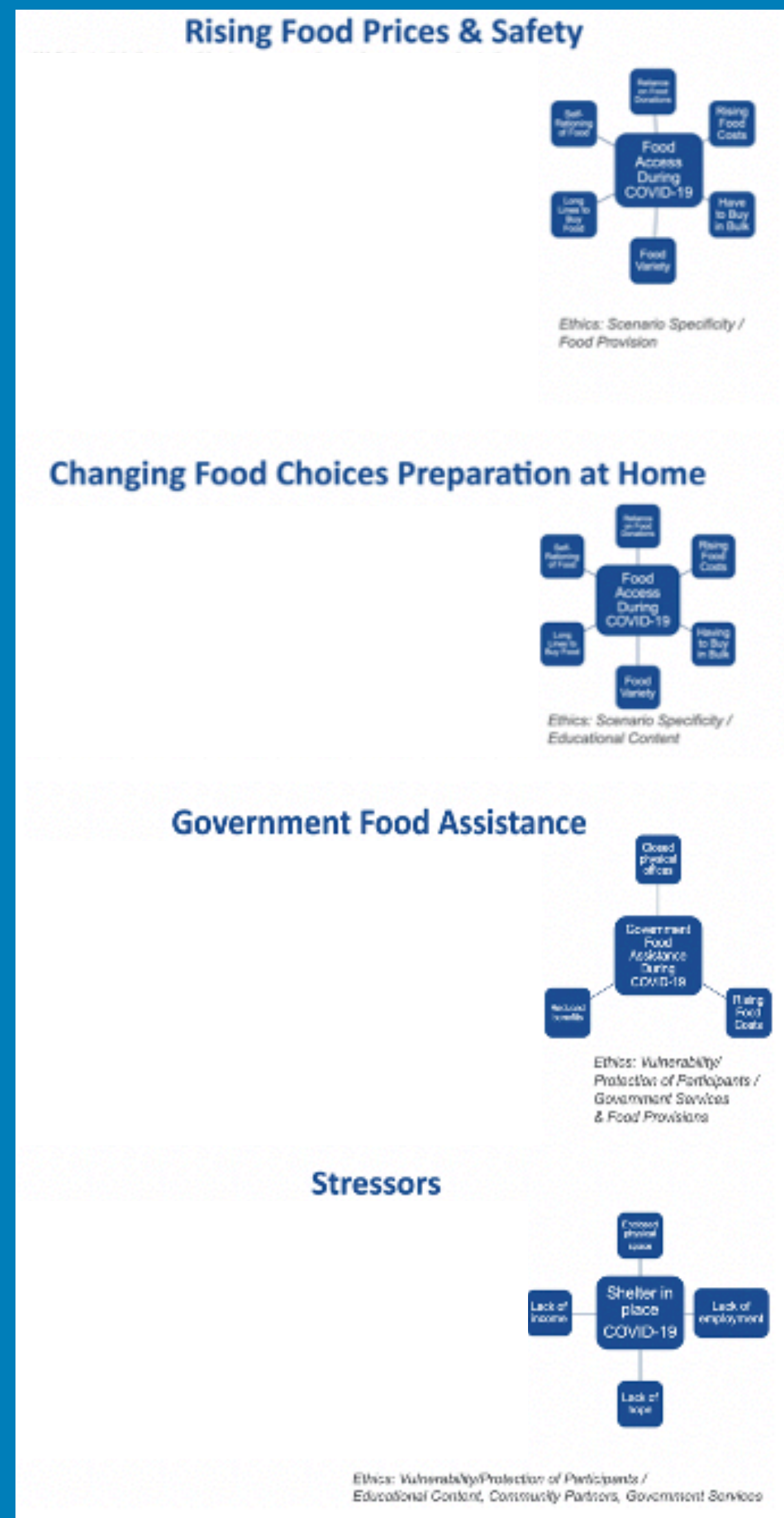


DESCRIPTION OF ORGANIZATION

The Migration and Nutrition Epidemiology (MaNE) Team at Mailman School of Public Health in Columbia University investigate the food-related exposure risk as related to development of chronic disease among Latino populations in Mexico and New York City. The three main studies centered in NYC from which we drew the participants for this study include:



TABLES

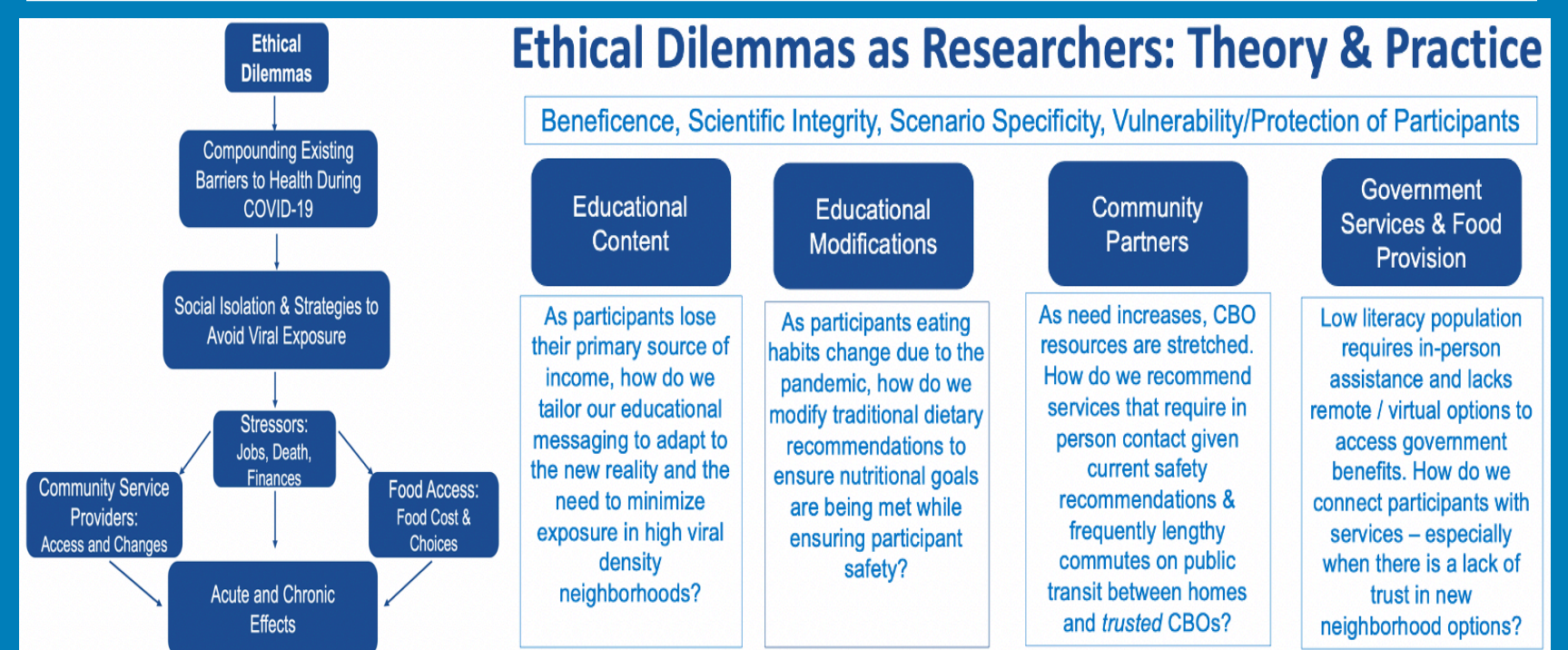


METHODS

- New research participants were not recruited/enrolled for these interviews
 - All study subjects were already participating in short term longitudinal studies
 - IRB modifications
 - Identifiers are not used. All participants have non-identifying study ID's used for all data documentation
 - All 3 research projects have NIH Certificates of Confidentiality
- Telephone interviews with 2-3 interviewers (no in-person contact)
 - One interviewer & one or two detailed notetaker(s)
- Brief, semi-structured interview with closed- and open-ended questions asked *at the time of another study assessment*
 - Food Access interview queries about the pandemic's impact on food preparation, food purchasing habits and effort to acquire foods (*Open-Ended*)
 - Questions about changes in dietary intake as compared to before the pandemic (*Close-Ended*)
- N = 36
 - Women (ages 19-52, n = 30) & Men (ages 22-26, n = 6)
 - Comprando Rico y Sano (n = 19), Comidita (n = 7) and CAMINANDO (n = 10)
- Interviews transcribed and reviewed for themes
 - Reviewed by 4 team members, all bilingual in Spanish.
 - Among themes shared by respondents, focus on those linked to ethical dilemmas¹ posed for us as researchers

The dietary changes are varied and can seem contradictory due to their multifactorial causes. The changes caused by the COVID-19 pandemic mean that we will need to address dietary changes through educational modifications and food focus in CBOS partnerships. These modifications will need to balance the needs of the CBOs and participants. This will all be part of the process of adapting to a “new normal” moving forward.

DISCUSSION



REFERENCES

¹ Leaning J. *Ethics of research in refugee populations*. Lancet. 2001; 357(9266):1432-3. Epub 2001/05/18. doi: 10.1016/S0140-6736(00)04572-4. PubMed PMID: 11356466.

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