

Forging new frontiers in Public Health Research and Development with the Nutrition Care Process

New developments within the Nutrition Care Process (NCP) and standardized terminology (NCPT) have focused on incorporating the public health perspective and adding terminology relevant to nutrition programs directed to populations, and Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Health Informatics Infrastructure (ANDHII) is currently being tested in community settings. The NCP and NCPT were originally intended for broad use with individuals, groups and populations; nevertheless, they previously had a distinct bias toward individual clinical care.

More dietitians are becoming engaged in public health and population level interventions where the aim is changing environmental, organizational and policy factors that affect food access and choice and ultimately the nutritional well-being of the population. Adaptation of NCP and NCPT for population impact will be described. Steps of the NCP (assessment, problem diagnosis, intervention, and monitoring & evaluation) will be examined with respect to the nuances of public health practice.

New population level terms added to the NCPT will be introduced. Similar to utilization of the NCP/NCPT, ANDHII has traditionally been used by dietitians in the clinical context. Expanding ANDHII to community and public health nutrition settings has been a powerful data collection tool for assessment, program planning, evaluation and research. An overview of ANDHII use for data collection in one US and one international community site will be shared.

The data collected will be utilized by the local communities to inform interventions related to food security and dietary diversity.