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Holiday Hunger, Summer Learning Loss and the importance of Summer Clubs in tackling these phenomena

Professor Greta Defeyter
Format of Talk

• Poverty
  – Child Poverty
• Study 1: National Mapping of Holiday Provision
• Study 2: Holiday Provision
• Study 3: Summer Learning Loss
• Conclusions
More than 93% adults skipped meals (Poverty & Social Exclusion, UK, 2013)

54% increase in Food Bank 2012-2014

Ashton & Lang (2014) Food prices risen by 12% and wages fallen by 7.6% since 2007

Coe (2014) Increase in fat, salt and sugar consumption
TRUSSEL TRUST FOOD PARCEL DISTRIBUTION BY REGION

TOTAL: 913,138
Adults: 582,933
Children: 330,205

Northern Ireland
Adults: 6,473
Children: 5,224
Total: 11,697

North West
Adults: 87,561
Children: 51,083
Total: 138,644

Wales
Adults: 51,148
Children: 27,901
Total: 79,049

West Midlands
Adults: 58,036
Children: 35,425
Total: 93,461

South West
Adults: 68,958
Children: 36,563
Total: 105,521

London
Adults: 58,315
Children: 37,324
Total: 95,639

Scotland
Adults: 49,041
Children: 22,387
Total: 71,428

North East
Adults: 36,273
Children: 22,873
Total: 59,146

Yorks & Humber
Adults: 25,167
Children: 12,236
Total: 37,403

East Midlands
Adults: 24,039
Children: 13,717
Total: 37,756

East
Adults: 59,827
Children: 31,593
Total: 91,420

South East
Adults: 58,095
Children: 33,879
Total: 91,974
SCANDAL OF 1/4 MILLION SURVIVING ON FOOD HANDOUTS

Even people in work are on breadline.
Poverty

• Individuals, families and groups in the population can be said to be in poverty when they lack resources to obtain the type of diet, participate in the activities and have the living conditions and amenities which are customary, or at least widely encouraged and approved, in the societies in which they belong (Townsend, 1979)
Causes of Poverty

• Worklessness...personal and structural

• Low Pay/No Pay (zero hour contracts)
  – In 2009/10 58% families below the Poverty line contained at least one working member

• Inadequate Benefits (JSA...only 65% money required to live above the poverty line)

• Benefit Sanctions
Child Poverty Myths

• Drugs and alcohol dependency (6.6%)
• Family Breakdown (63% children in poverty lived in two parent households)
• Benefit Dependency (67% Jobseekers Allowance find work within 6 months)

2. See ONS website for up to date claimant count figures
3. DWP, Beliefs About Work: An Attitudinal Segmentation of Out-of-work People in Great Britain, Research Report 1, DWP Customer Insight Team 2011
Child Poverty in UK

- Lack Capital (Townsend, 2014)
- Lack Human Capital

- 3.7M children living in poverty in UK (costing £29bl PA)
- IFS projects CP will be in region of 30.5% by 2020 (4.3M)
- Cost of child care 2008-14 - Child care up 42%
- CB cut, tax credits slashed
- Rise in child poverty within working families
Child Poverty: Human Capital

• Education: FSM 3 terms lag behind affluent peers in terms of educational attainment but age 14 this gap grows to over five terms (DfE)
• Health: low birthweight; premature death, Type II Diabetes, dental carries (Hirsch, 2013)
• Housing (x2): Poor Housing, multiple occupancy
• Fuel Poverty (Hills, 2011)
Challenges for Families in Holidays

• **FSM unavailable (1.7 million in UK)**
• **Pressure on household budget**
• **Benefit delays, sanctions**
• **Safeguarding risk elevated**
• **Access/availability to food**
• **Social contact diminished**
• **Family Stress**
  (Extra £30 - £40 per week)

*Children’s Society Fair and Square*
Holidays in Poverty (Graham & Defeyter, 2015)

Clip via @ChildhoodTrust London

https://vimeo.com/128382783
USA

Rural provision to outlying sites

8 million meals delivered in New York City
Examples of Provision

ASPE Snapshot Survey Feb 2014, 120 responses in first 24 hours 72% stated holiday hunger is an issue in their area (Defeyter & Stretesky, 2014)
Study 1: Mann, Defeyter & Stretesky (under review)

Mapping of holiday provision programmes by childhood deprivation across local authorities
428 Organisations
Figure 2: Priority needs for families and children in the communities

- Food Provision
- Safe Place to Play
- Childcare Provision
- Social Activities
- Enrichment Activities
- Physical Activities
- Wellbeing
- Educational Activities
- Health
- Crime Prevention
- School Readiness
- Other
Study 2: Holiday Breakfast Clubs (Graham & Defeyter, 2016)

• Aims:
  – Evaluate the impact of summer breakfast clubs
  – Health, Social and Educational outcomes

Design:
Mixed methods approach (self-report questionnaires and semi-structured interviews)

Data collected from parents, children and staff

*Ethical Approval for this project was granted from Northumbria University’s Faculty of Health and Life Sciences Ethics Board.*
(Szajewska & Ruszczynski, 2010; Hoyland et al., 2009; Haire-Joshu et al., 2011; Graham et al., 2014; 2015)
(FRAC, 2012; Early Childhood Longitudinal Study (von Hippel et al., 2007))
Participating Clubs

Oldham Community Building (40-50 attendees/day)

Trafford Community Building (50-70 attendees/day)

Coventry Community Church Building (30 attendees/day)

Strabane Trussell Trust Food Bank (30 attendees/day)

Liverpool Trussel Trust Food Bank (only 1 attendee)

Coventry Trussell Trust Food Bank (4-6 attendees/day)
Questionnaire Part A: Summer Circumstances
(N = 256)

Q1. “It’s harder to make ends meet during the summer than during the school year”

71% of parents agreed that it’s harder to make ends meet during the summer holidays
Q2. “We spend more on food during the summer than during the school year”

94% of parents agreed that their family spend more money on food during the summer than during the school year.
Q3. “We sometimes find ourselves without enough money for food during the summer”

62% of parents agreed that they sometimes find themselves without enough money for food during the summer
Q4. "What changes, if any, does your family make to deal with increased food costs and/or tighter budgets during the summer?"
1) What are holiday breakfast clubs utilised for?

2) What are the perceived impacts of holiday breakfast clubs?

3) What factors need to be considered in the development of holiday breakfast clubs in the future?
Materials

Three separate interview schedules were designed to guide discussions with parents, children and staff.

Thematic Analysis (Braun & Clarke, 2006)

Orthographically transcribed
Each transcript was repeatedly read and pertinent points relevant to the research questions were highlighted.
Main themes and subthemes were developed to summarise the data
Staff Views on Holiday Breakfast Clubs

What are the perceived impacts of holiday breakfast clubs?

“What brings you there is the food but that’s the smallest part of it, it’s whatever else you offer then and whatever comes with it” (Strabane)
“Some people are quite lonely I mean as a young mum I found you know if you don’t sort of get out there and mix you can be isolated I think that would have been an advantage to a lot of mums” (Liverpool)

“It's given them the social event every day when they're mixed with children they might not normally mix with er there's friendships forming that wouldn't have formed otherwise they'd all stay in their little cliques er but they're not they're integrating with each other a lot better” (Oldham)
Familial Impacts

“It’s seeing families enjoy it together you know sitting down just enjoying time together” (Coventry)

We were able to sign post that parent on for help because that parent wasn’t getting any help so we were able to find what we call here Social Services Gateway the gateway team so that’s that just started instantly within a week they were able to go and get support” (Strabane)
Children’s Views on Holiday Breakfast Clubs

What are holiday breakfast clubs utilised for?

“It’s somewhere that you can just come, be with your friends and have a healthy breakfast”
What are the perceived impacts of holiday breakfast clubs?

Breakfast Habits

I don’t have that much cereal at home but I’ll have some so I’ve been having much more cereal here

At home we like we just rush around a bit and we don’t really eat it

Social Time

Well I didn’t have friends the first time it started and then when people started coming I joined friends with them

I’ve got one friend who usually just sits at home playing on his XBox but he’s been coming
Adult’s Views on Holiday Breakfast Clubs

What are holiday breakfast clubs utilised for?

“To have something to eat firstly and to join in” (Parent. Oldham)

“To be honest for me it mainly is the social side  
urm 'cause obviously they're not seeing their  
school friends during the holidays so it's sort of  
helping them to sort of create other friendships  
with children they probably wouldn't  
necessarily normally urm socialise with urm  
with various ages too” (Parent. Church-Based  
Club, Coventry)
What are the perceived impacts of holiday breakfast clubs?

“The day before pay day can be tough as you know and it’s- they don't run out, they don't run out of cereal or they don't run out of milk or they don't run out of bread and so they've got the choice there all the time whereas they wouldn't necessarily at home” (Parent. Church-Based Club. Coventry)

“I’ve been able to get to know some of the other mum’s a bit more especially some that are going- whose children are going into school with [child] so it’s been nice and numbers have been exchanged and things” (Trafford)
Study 3: Summer Learning Loss (Shinwell & Defeyter, 2017)

- Prior research in USA ...1 month’s instruction (Cooper, 1987)

- Aim
  - Investigation of the phenomenon of “Summer Learning Loss”

- Study Design
  - 1 x 3 mixed factorial design
  - Time - Three levels: Time 1 - end of summer term; T2 – start of autumn term & T3 - 7 weeks later

- Dependent Measures
  - Scores in WRAT 4 literacy test (Reading and Spelling)
Study 3: Summer Learning Loss

- Participants
  - N = 121 (6-8 year olds)

- Data Analysis
  - Repeated Measures ANOVA
  - Post-hoc Analyses
## Results: Spelling

### Estimated Marginal Means of MEASURE_1

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Pair</th>
<th></th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>Std. Deviation</th>
<th>Std. Error Mean</th>
<th>95% Confidence Interval of the Difference</th>
<th>t</th>
<th>df</th>
<th>Sig. (2-tailed)</th>
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</table>
Results: Reading

Estimated Marginal Means of MEASURE_1

Hol club attendance
1=Y 2=N

- Line 1
- Line 2
Children’s BMI Scores & Food Diaries

(FRAC, 2012; Early Childhood Longitudinal Study (von Hippel et al., 2007)
5. What did you do when you got home from holiday club yesterday? (Please draw a circle around the correct answer – if you did more than one thing, put a circle around everything you did)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Played on the computer</th>
<th>Listened to music</th>
<th>Went out</th>
<th>Played out</th>
<th>Arts and crafts</th>
<th>Watched TV</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Or did you do something else? What else did you do?</td>
<td>Watched TV</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6. Did you eat or drink anything when you got home but before your evening meal yesterday? Please tick (✓) Yes or No:

Yes [✓] No

If you said yes, please write and draw what you had:

I had:

[Image of a drawing with text: cup and snack]

I drank:

If you had something to eat after you got home but before your evening meal, draw it here.
Results: Club 2 BMI Scores
Conclusion

• Need for holiday food provision
• Provision for ethnic populations and special needs requires careful consideration
• Widespread provision but piecemeal, unregulated
• Potential to help combat obesity
• Evidence of Summer Learning Loss (spelling, but trend for gain in reading)
• Food and Physical Activity (MVPA)
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