**EBS 1 Description: Body & Soul**



### *Description*

Body and Soul is a combination of the effective components from the Black Churches United for Better Health and Eat for Life programs.  The components include church-wide nutrition activities such as: a kick-off event, forming a project committee, conducting at least three nutrition events, plus one additional event involving the pastor, and making at least one policy change (e.g., establishing guidelines for the types of foods served at church functions or changing snacks served at youth camps).  Additional church-wide activities include hosting guest speakers and cooking demonstrations and taste tests, and providing self-help materials such as a cookbook, video, and educational pamphlets.  A Peer Counseling Training DVD product is available, however, it was not included as part of the original study.  Lay church volunteers conduct at least two motivational counseling calls to members as well.

## Time Required

Implementation time of church-wide activities varies.  Volunteer church liaisons used to recruit members and promote the project received 1 to 2 hours of training.  Each church received a copy of an 18-minute video.  Lay counselors received 12-16 hours of training and conducted at least two motivational calls to approximately five church members; each call was roughly 15 minutes long.

## Intended Audience

## Participants were African American church members aged 17 to 89 years living in California, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Delaware, and Virginia; 74% were women, 58% were married or living with a partner, 50% had an annual household income of $50,000 or more, and 67% reported at least some college education.

## Suitable Settings

The intervention is suitable for implementation in the church and home settings.

## Required Resources

## The video, "Forgotten Miracles", the "Eat for Life" cookbook, and the church guidebook, "Body & Soul: A Celebration of Healthy Eating & Living" are required.  A Peer Counseling Training DVD is also available.  Costs associated with program implementation are not provided.

## Key Findings from Study A total of 15 churches, with 1,022 participants from California, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Delaware and Virginia were randomly assigned to the Body and Soul intervention or to a comparison group.  Church-wide events and environmental changes for Body and Soul sites were aimed at the entire congregation and included inviting guest speakers, sponsoring food demonstrations, watching a video, and implementing food policy changes to increase the availability of fruits and vegetables.  Consenting participants received two motivational interviewing calls from lay counselors, a cookbook, and several educational pamphlets.  Fruit and vegetable intake was measured at baseline and 6-month follow-up.



Source: Resnicow K, Kramish Campbell M, Carr C, McCarty F, Wang T, Periasamy S, Rahotep S, Doyle C, Williams A, Stables G. (2004). Body and Soul. A Dietary Intervention Conducted Through African-American Churches. American Journal of Preventive Medicine, 27(2), 97-105.

<https://rtips.cancer.gov/rtips/programDetails.do?programId=257161>