



# Assessing Food Insecurity in the WHI

WHI Investigator Meeting 2017

Crystal Wiley Cené, MD, MPH

Associate Professor of Medicine

Division of General Internal Medicine

UNC School of Medicine

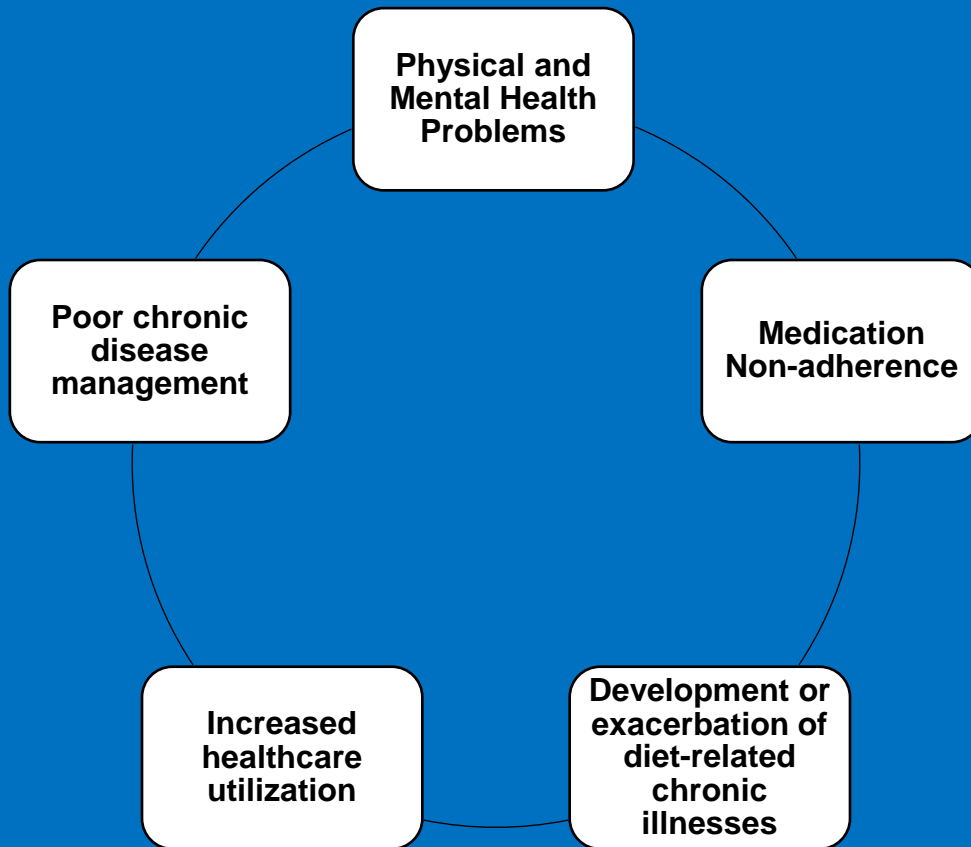
# Food Insecurity and Older Adults: What?

- “Limited or uncertain ability to acquire nutritionally adequate and safe foods in socially acceptable ways”
- Affects 2.5 million (8.4%) of households with older adults in 2011
- Increasing prevalence; since 2007-2010 recession, # affected has increased by 34%
- Differences in prevalence by gender (> female-headed households) and location (>rural)

- Complex, multidimensional



# Food Insecurity and Older Adults: So What?



Health care cost?

- Validated measures exist, including 6- and 2-item measures
- Extant literature focuses on younger populations and inconsistent across age, gender, and race-ethnic groups
- Most currently available national datasets do not provide food insecurity and healthcare cost information

# Food Insecurity and Older Adults: Now What?

- Relevant to topics addressed by multiple SIGs and across clinical disease states
- Effective interventions (at least in short term) exist
- Clear policy implications
- Unique opportunity to understand relationships between food insecurity and outcomes in WHI (including WHI-Medicare linkage).
- Interested??