Data Driven Decisions Made Simple: Indiana SNAP-Ed's Success

Purdue University's SNAP-Ed program, part of the university's Extension service, faced significant challenges managing data efficiently. The program previously used an internally developed data management system tailored for Indiana's specific needs. Although functional, the system required extensive resources for development and maintenance. As program demands grew, maintaining the system became increasingly difficult and time-consuming. Seeking a modern, more sustainable solution, Purdue learned about the potential national adoption of PEARS by the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) and decided to make the switch.

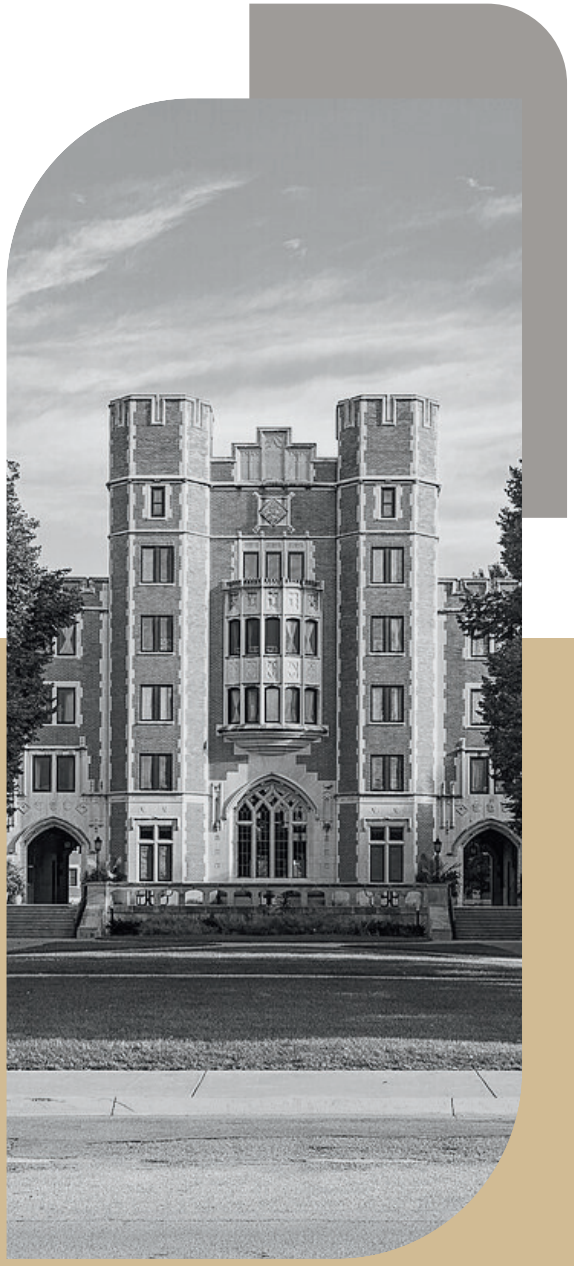
Why PEARS Was the Right Choice

PEARS stood out as the ideal choice for several reasons:

- **Expert Support:** The Canopy team provided consistent guidance throughout the transition, ensuring staff were well-trained and the system was customized to Purdue's workflow.
- **Customizable and Scalable:** PEARS offered a flexible system that adapted to changing data collection and reporting needs.
- **Integrated Reporting Tools:** Purdue consolidated survey evaluations and data tracking into PEARS, creating a centralized management hub.
- **Data-Driven Decisions:** Built-in reporting features enabled deeper analysis, supporting strategic decision-making.
- **Efficient N-PEARS Reporting:** Automated data exports minimized manual work, reducing staff workload and improving accuracy.

Implementation and Impact

The transition to PEARS was smooth, largely due to the proactive support from the Canopy team. The platform's intuitive design and comprehensive training ensured that staff adapted quickly. The incorporation of survey evaluations into PEARS allowed for comprehensive data management within a single system, eliminating redundancies and manual data entry errors.



Key Outcomes:

- **Improved Data Accuracy:** Automated data entry and integrated reporting tools minimized human errors.
- **Reduced Administrative Burden:** Centralized data management freed up time for staff to focus on program delivery.
- **Enhanced Program Impact:** The ability to analyze data in-depth led to better-informed decisions and more targeted educational initiatives.
- **Positive User Experience:** Staff reported greater ease in managing data and appreciated the continuous support from the Canopy team.

A User's Perspective

Blake Connolly, Assistant Director of SNAP-Ed & EFNEP at Purdue University, recommends PEARS to other SNAP-Ed teams:

"For any SNAP-Ed teams not using PEARS, I would ask: why not? The system has fundamentally transformed our reporting processes, making data more accessible and usable. The ability to import directly into N-PEARS and utilize built-in reporting tools has significantly enhanced our data-driven strategies."

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