

EMERGING DATA ISSUES IN APPLIED FOOD DEMAND ANALYSIS

Proceedings of a Workshop Held by the S216, Food Demand
and Consumption Behavior Regional Committee

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David Eastwood and Benjamin Senauer, Editors,
Department of Agricultural Economics, The University of Tennessee
and
Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, The University of Minnesota

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Characteristics of Supermarket Scan Data and Their Implications for Applied Demand Analysis. David B. Eastwood.....	1
Uses of Supermarket Scan Data in Demand Analysis. Oral Capps, Jr.	21
Pooled Time-Series and Cross-Section Data from the Consumer Expenditure Survey. Wen S. Chern and Ben Senauer.....	46
Current Issues in Consumption Data: Food Away From Home Data. Vickie A. McCracken, David W. Price, and Dorothy Z. Price.....	64
Food Safety/Food Quality Data. Helen H. Jensen and Peter Basiotis.....	91
CSFII and HFCS Data: Issues, Problems and Needs. Mary Y. Hama.....	111
Federal Food and Nutrition Program Data Sources. Margared S. Andrews and David Smallwood.....	122

AUTHOR AFFILIATIONS

Margaret Andrews is an Economist in the Food and Nutrition Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Peter Basiotis is an Economist/Chief Diet Appraisal Research Branch in the Human Nutrition Information Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Oral Capps, Jr. is a Professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics, Texas A and M University.

Wen Chern is a Professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, Ohio State University.

David Eastwood is a Professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, University of Tennessee.

Mary Hama is an Economist in the Food Consumption Research Branch, Human Nutrition Information Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Helen Jensen is an Associate Professor in the Department of Economics, Iowa State University.

Vickie McCracken is an Associate Professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics, Washington State University.

David Price is a Professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics, Washington State University.

Dorothy Price is a Professor in the Department of Human Development, Washington State University.

David Smallwood is an Economist in the Economic Research Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

EDITORS' NOTE

This Tennessee Experiment Station Bulletin is the edited collection of seven papers presented by members of the Changing Patterns of Food Consumption (S216 Regional Committee) at a 1993 Workshop held by the Regional Committee. They focus on a variety of emerging issues associated with data sets used in applied demand analysis. These pertain to topics that are not discussed in the extant literature but are quite germane to the extension of empirical models of food consumption.

FEDERAL FOOD AND NUTRITION PROGRAM DATA SOURCES

Margaret S. Andrews and David Smallwood¹

The Federal government is a major source of data for analyzing the effectiveness of domestic food assistance programs and related food demand issues for the general population and subgroups. The data are generated through two basic mechanisms: (1) program monitoring and evaluation and (2) nutrition monitoring of population groups. The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is the primary source for domestic food assistance program data. A number of other government agencies contribute data to the National Nutrition Monitoring System (NNMS). These agencies include the National Center for Health Statistics of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Human Nutrition Research Service (now part of the Agricultural Research Service), the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and the National Center for Health Statistics.

Of the two categories of data, data generated through program monitoring and evaluation are the most difficult for researchers to find out about and obtain. Therefore, attention initially focuses on the kinds of program data available from the domestic food assistance programs and procedures for obtaining access. This is followed by a brief description of food consumption related data available from the NNMS. Information on data in the NNMS is readily available to the public, and most can be easily accessed for nongovernment research purposes.

FNS Food Program Data

The food assistance programs administered by the Food and Nutrition Service are extensive and represent an important component of aggregate U.S. food demand. One in ten Americans now receives food stamps in any given month. Almost 99 percent of public schools and 83 percent of private schools participate in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), and USDA subsidized lunches are available to 92 percent of students in the country. Many other Americans also receive food or food assistance through the other food

¹Margaret S. Andrews is an Economist in the Food and Nutrition Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture and David Smallwood is an Economist in the Economic Research Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

assistance programs administered by FNS.

Programs administered by FNS include the Food Stamp Program; National School Lunch Program (NSLP); Special Supplemental Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC); Child/Adult Care Food Program (CACFP); Summer Food Service Program; Commodity Supplemental Food Program; Food Distribution Program for Indian Reservations (FDPIR) and Disaster Feeding Program; Nutrition Program for Elderly; Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP); Charitable Institutions; Soup Kitchens and Food Banks; and Summer Camps.

FNS' food assistance programs are federally funded, but partially administered through state and local agencies. For the Food Stamp Program (FSP), there are uniform national standards for determining eligibility and benefit levels, but the client application, certification, and food stamp issuance processes are administered through state and local welfare offices. The National School Lunch Program (NSLP) is administered by local school food authorities (generally comparable to school districts), and there are thousands of widely varying (and often small) local agencies that deliver WIC services across the country. Other FNS programs also rely on cooperation with state, local or Indian Tribal agencies. In addition to the national headquarters office, FNS maintains eight regional and field offices throughout the country that perform various administrative functions.

This complicated administrative structure requires extensive record keeping and reporting among the various levels of administration. Much information is generated in the process. Due to FNS's recent support for automation of management information systems, these data have become increasingly available to federal agency analysts and other interested parties. Detailed descriptions of several administrative data are provided in Appendix A.

These programs generate substantial data which, although primarily intended for program use, can also be used for analyses that are not directly program-related. Program data have not been extensively used in the past, in part, because the data are not readily accessible through public libraries or

commercial data providers. Privacy issues also sometimes restrict release. The purpose of this and the following sections are to inform interested researchers regarding the availability of potential data sources and provide basic guidelines for accessing the data. The discussion will first consider administrative data that are generated through the various management information systems that monitor budgetary outlays and assess compliance with program regulations. Then special data collected for specific studies or evaluations will be discussed.

National Data Bank

The National Data Bank (NDB) is maintained and monitored by the Public Information Division at the FNS national office. This is an on-line, menu driven database designed to integrate the most commonly used FNS program and financial data into one centralized, easily accessible database. The system contains over 1,200 variables collected from routine program report files. The data originate from state and local administrative units. At FNS regional offices they are entered into the FNS mainframe parent system from terminals at the regional offices. Twice a week the FNS Program Information Division loads the data into a Quality Assurance Database where the data are checked for validity and accuracy. Data are then loaded into the NDB where the database is checked for accuracy again. The database is downloaded once a month to an FNS local-area-network (LAN) file server and is available through a menu driven system. The data are also shipped monthly by tape to regional offices.

Data on most variables are available by month or FY since October 1988 and can be accessed at the state, regional or national level. Basic participation and cost data on all FNS programs are included. Key data items can be obtained in hard copy from the annual Food Program Update reports and other special reports produced at FNS headquarters.

Measures of interest to food demand researchers include: numbers of household and/or individual participants by target group; PA/NPA (public assistance or non-public assistance); and racial and ethnic backgrounds in

programs; amounts of benefit dollars, federal administrative expenses and federal contribution to state administrative expenses; dollar value of entitlement and bonus commodities supplied to school lunch and other commodity programs; and quantity and value of milk supplied through the Special Milk Program.

Annual Food Stamp Program Quality Control Sample

The most comprehensive data source on the characteristics of Food Stamp Program participants is an annual database compiled from individual quality control (QC) reviews. These reviews are intended to measure accuracy in the certification process (i.e. determination of eligibility and computation of benefit levels). Program regulations require a two-tier QC process with reviews occurring at both the state and federal levels. At the state level the minimum sample size is based on caseloads and annual sample sizes range from a minimum of 150 to a maximum of 2,600 reviews. Reviews at the state level include examination of case file records and, in some cases, a field investigation. Results of the QC review include a description of error findings, dollar amount of the error, and whether the client or agency was responsible for the error. A second round of reviews is undertaken by federal staff at FNS regional office. The results of the federal rereview are combined with state results to determine an official QC error rate. States can receive financial incentives or liabilities based on the outcome of the QC review process.

Data from QC reviews are edited and compiled by an FNS contractor into an analysis file which is used to produce an annual report on characteristics of food stamp households. The data are also used for ad hoc analyses and modeling of FSP policy questions. The FY 1991 QC database is a SAS file with 63,692 observations from 12 sample months. The data can be weighted to be representative of the national food stamp caseload.

Measures of interest to food demand researchers include: household composition and demographics including age, sex, education, employment status, citizenship status and relationship to head of household, employment status,

work registration status, citizenship status, affiliation with Food Stamp case of each household member, urbanization and state of residence for household; income by category (e.g. wages and salaries, self employment income, workmen's compensation, unemployment compensation, veteran's compensation, AFDC and other public assistance, Social Security, earned income tax credit and unearned income) and by household member receiving the income; liquid and nonliquid assets (including vehicle holdings and real property); and shelter costs, medical expenses, and dependent care costs.

Biennial Report of WIC Participant and Program Characteristics

Legislation enacted in 1986 requires FNS to submit to Congress a biennial report on WIC participant and program characteristics. In the earlier studies, contractor staff sampled data from participant records. For the 1990 report, participant records were selected using a four-stage, stratified clustered sampling design. The first stage included a sample of WIC state agencies. The second stage selected WIC agencies within sampled states. The third stage included selection of certification sites, and finally within each site records were drawn for four participant categories pregnant women; breastfeeding and postpartum women; infants and children. The final data analysis file included records for approximately 600 individuals from each group.

Beginning with the 1992 report, however, data are captured directly by states from ongoing management information systems. WIC state agencies will provide a minimum data set on a census or a representative state sample of WIC participants using data routinely collected by local clinics as a component of WIC certification. The data allow state-by-state estimates of key participant features for all participants and small groups within the WIC population, e.g. migrants, teens, or Native Americans, as well as state and local agency characteristics and administrative procedures.

Measures of interest to food demand researchers include: state level numbers of WIC participants by participant category; average cost of food packages by state and participant category; socioeconomic and demographic

characteristics and program participation data for WIC clients; and nutritional risks, infant feeding practices, and health information for individual WIC participants.

Food Stamp Program Store Tracking and Redemption Subsystem (STARS) Database

This database is a recently upgraded management information system for monitoring the authorization and participation of food retailers and banks in food stamp redemption. Since the system became operative earlier this year, staff at FNS headquarters, regional, and field offices are able to access and enter (with proper authorization) information into the central database which resides at the FNS Minneapolis Computer Support Center.

The system includes identifying information on all food stores that are authorized to accept food stamps. Within the past two years all, stores have been required to apply for reauthorization and to update all information on store location, ownership, and operational features. On a monthly basis the database is updated to append to each store record the total amount of food stamp coupons redeemed. Similar data are tracked for financial institutions that accepted deposits of food coupons from authorized food stores.

Data of interest to food demand researchers include: address and store characteristics (e.g. type of ownership, operating hours, number of employees, number of cash registers, WIC authorization, types of food staples and non-food inventory) of authorized food stores by geographical area; and reported annual gross sales and food sales (at time of application or reauthorization), food stamp redemptions by month.

Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) Systems Transaction Databases

Increasingly, electronic databases on food program benefit use are being generated through the operation of electronic benefit transfer (EBT) systems. In the most common systems, recipients receive a plastic card similar to an ATM debit card. Every month benefits are posted to an account at a central database. When shopping for food, clients indicate to store clerks that they wish to pay for part of their orders with food stamps; then swipe their cards through a point-of-sale (POS) card reader device and enter a personal

identification number(PIN). Store clerks determine the amount of an order eligible for payment by food stamps, enter that amount into the POS device, clients verify the amount, and the transaction is then authorized against the benefit account at the central database. At the end of each day settlement occurs.

The EBT system calculates the reimbursements due to each retailer, transmits those through a concentrator bank that uses an automated clearing house service to credit retailers' bank accounts, and draws down the necessary funds to pay retailers from a Food Stamp Program account. EBT systems record only that information specific to the payment transaction. Detailed quantity and price information on individual items that is captured by bar code scanners is not linked with the EBT payment data. However, FNS is supporting the development of an EBT system for the WIC program that will capture product level information using UPC codes and post that information against a client's authorization for individual food items in their WIC food prescription.

Food Stamp Program regulations require that, in the process of operating electronic benefit transfer systems, transactions level data be maintained on-line for a period of 90 days after the transaction. Currently, each state or local agency involved in developing and operating an EBT system specifies the parameters under which EBT transaction data can be accessed and utilized. Nongovernmental use of such data are restricted by FNS regulations to safeguard the confidentiality of personal information. The FSP EBT regulations also include an explicit provision stating that state agencies must ensure that the EBT system is able to ensure the privacy of household data. However, special requests for use of EBT data that are stripped of identifiers and aggregated or collected by randomly sampling unidentified individuals and retailers may be less likely to raise privacy concerns.

Data of interest to food demand researchers include: Food Stamp issuances by date, type of benefit, and household case code and Food Stamp redemptions by transaction amount (i.e. amount of purchase paid with benefits), case code, store code, time, and date.

FNS Program Evaluations and Special Studies

Each year the FNS Office of Analysis and Evaluation (OAE) organizes and contracts research projects that support operational and policy making functions. For FY 1993, FNS spent \$19.8 million dollars on demonstration and evaluation studies. These funds supported Congressionally-mandated projects, as well as FNS initiated studies and evaluations. The content of each year's research and evaluation plan is determined through an interactive process that incorporates suggestions and requests from FNS headquarters and regional staff, other public and private agencies, and individuals interested in the FNS mission.

Recent research topics that may be of interest to food demand researchers include: 1) impacts of alternative food stamp issuance systems (cash and, to a lesser extent, EBT); and 2) assessment of nutritional impacts of food assistance provided by school lunch and CACFP programs. Also of interest may be operational studies (e.g. a survey of the characteristics of retail food stores authorized to accept food stamps and a study of the characteristics of food service management companies involved in the school lunch program). A more detailed description of the research and data collection in these areas is included below. Additional material on the range of research topics examined by OAE is provided in Appendix B.

Impacts of Alternative FSP Issuance Systems

There is little disagreement that the food stamp coupon system is costly and administratively burdensome. Finding a workable alternative has always been of high priority. In the late 1980s, FNS authorized a number of demonstrations to experiment with using checks rather than coupons to issue food stamp benefits. However, a major concern of these cash-out demonstrations was that FSP recipients' food spending and nutritional status would be negatively impacted. Unlike coupons, food benefits issued by checks cannot be easily restricted for use on eligible food items, and it was feared that "cash" food benefits would be less effective in increasing recipients food expenditures and nutritional status.

For these reasons, the evaluations collected extensive data on food spending and household food use. For three of the demonstrations---those in San Diego, Alabama, and Washington State---a common data collection instrument was used to collect detailed enumeration of household food use (including individual food item quantities and prices) following a protocol similar to that used by the Nationwide Food Consumption Survey. For a second evaluation, in those Alabama counties participating in a larger "Assets" welfare reform demonstration that included food stamp cash-out, data were collected only on aggregate categories of household food expenditures---amounts spent for food at supermarkets, grocery and convenience stores, carry-outs, and specialty food stores. Although the demonstration sites are not nationally representative, they do provide a range of different regional and geographic characteristics. Sample sizes for the evaluation surveys ranged from 800 to 2,400. Analysis files were created from the raw survey data that allow consideration of the nutrient content of household food use for three of the evaluations. Tabulations of the data are available in the evaluations' final reports, and the public use data files of the analysis files are available to interested researchers.

The other major issuance system being considered for the Food Stamp Program is electronic benefits transfer (EBT). Unlike cash-out, evaluations of EBT demonstrations have not included components to measure impacts of the systems on nutrient availability. With EBT the benefit is restricted to eligible food items in the same manner as food stamp coupons. However, to address the possibility that food spending patterns might change due to other factors (e.g., the increased security of EBT benefits and additional difficulty in exchanging EBT benefits for cash), the most recent evaluation of the statewide EBT demonstration in Maryland collected data on at-home food expenditures, for both the previous week and previous month, using the less detailed format of Alabama Assets questionnaire. Data were collected in two waves approximately one year apart on samples of 900 food stamp recipients. Public use files are available from FNS.

Dietary Impact Assessments

A continuing information need for FNS relates to the nutritional effectiveness of its various food assistance programs. To address these needs dietary assessments of program participants are needed. For example, a recently completed survey of the school lunch and breakfast programs collected data on the nutrients and foods offered and consumed by children in the NSLP and SBP and documented the dietary intakes of the nation's students on a typical school day.

The study collected information from a nationally representative sample of 545 schools and 3,350 students attending those schools. Schools provided information about all meals served during a one-week period between February and May 1992, as well as information about school food service operations. Students in grades 1 through 12 provided detailed information about the foods and beverages they consumed during a 24-hour period that included a school day. Of the schools providing information for the study, 290 offered a SBP breakfast. Schools provided information about all meals offered during a one-week period in 1992. Basic sociodemographic data and dietary intakes for children 8 years of age and under were provided by the sampled students' parents or guardians. These data are available to researchers on a public use file. Similar studies are underway for the Child and Adult Care Food Program, and similar data sets should become available in the near future.

Operational Studies

Although no data on household or individual food consumption are collected in the various FNS studies related to operational issues, these efforts have sometimes resulted in collection of information that is not readily available from other sources and could potentially be useful in food consumption analysis. For example, in order to review comprehensively and potentially reform store authorization policies, a nationally representative sample of 2,500 FNS authorized retailers has recently been surveyed to collect information on store characteristics (e.g. quality, variety and prices of food stamp eligible merchandise, store layout, and use of electronic equipment,

practices for redeeming coupons). The data were collected in the spring and summer of 1994 through interviews with store managers and a sometimes lengthy store observation. Not only were store characteristics assessed by data collectors, but shelf checks of approximately 140 types of food merchandise with data recorded on relative availability by different food forms (fresh, frozen, canned, dried) of different brands where applicable, and of the quality of merchandise. Prices were collected on a subset of the merchandise examined. Survey data are currently being analyzed and should be available for public use by late 1995.

Useful of operational data for food demand researchers include surveys of the characteristics of food service management companies that participate in school nutrition program and a database on the operational characteristics and administrative practices of state agencies that participate in administration of the Food Stamp Program.

FNS Clearance

Before any special study or evaluation data can be released, an agency clearance process is required. Generally, this occurs only when the final report for a contract is completed. The process requires that senior executives in all relevant agency divisions review findings and formally concur with release of the material. Once agency clearance is obtained, results of research studies and evaluations and public-use data sets are available on request. Agency contacts for the studies described here in detail are included in Appendix A.

Food and Nutrition Data Available from Other Federal Agencies

The federal government generates vast amounts of data on food consumption, nutrition, expenditures, prices, and related components of food demand and consumption behavior. Many different agencies participate in these activities. Fortunately, there is a bureaucracy that coordinates and facilitates coordination, documentation, and access to these data. The National Nutrition Monitoring and Related Research Act of 1990 mandated that these many activities be coordinated across government agencies. This

coordination includes research, data collection, and information dissemination. The coordination is directed by the Interagency Board for Nutrition Monitoring and Related Research (IBNMRR) and guided by the 10 Year Plan for Nutrition Monitoring and Related Research. The committee is co-chaired by Assistant Secretaries from DHHS and USDA and includes participation of 22 Federal Agencies.

One product of the IBNMRR is the Directory of Federal and State Nutrition Monitoring Activities. The Directory is a guide to Federal and State survey, surveillance, and research activities that are a part of the National Nutrition Monitoring and Related Research Program. The Directory is organized into five measurement component areas. These are: 1) nutrition and related health measurements; 2) food and nutrient consumption; 3) knowledge, attitudes, and behavioral assessments; 4) food composition and nutrient data bases; and 5) food supply determinations.

The directory is part of an ongoing effort by the federal government to improve the dissemination of nutrition monitoring data. It contains input from each of the federal agencies that participate in the monitoring system. All government agencies participating in Southern Regional Committee S-216 are represented in the monitoring system including the Economic Research Service, the Human Nutrition Information Service (now part of the Agricultural Research Service), the Food and Nutrition Service, the Cooperative State Research Service, and the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The current directory documents over 50 surveys and data sources. These include surveys widely used by researchers in S-216 such as the Nationwide Food Consumption Surveys, the Consumer Expenditure Surveys, the Continuing Survey of Food Intake of Individuals, and the U.S. Food Supply Series. Each entry in the directory includes information on the sponsoring agency, purpose, time period, target population, sample size, design methods, descriptive variables, contact persons, and selected key publications. This is an excellent reference source for food demand economists. The directory is updated and published every

three years. The reference is Interagency Board for Nutrition Monitoring and Related Research. Wright, J., ed. Nutrition Monitoring in the United States: The Directory of Federal and State Nutrition Monitoring Activities. Hyattsville, MD: Public Health Service. 1992.

APPENDIX A

**CONTACTS FOR ACCESSING RESEARCH DATA AND REPORTS
FROM THE FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE**

FNS ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

National Data Bank	Gar Forsht, Branch Chief Program Information Division, Data Base Monitoring Branch Tel: 703:305-2104
Food Stamp Program Quality Control Database	Jenny Genser Office of Analysis and Evaluation Tel: 703-305-2152
WIC Participant and Program Characteristics	Julie Kresge Office of Analysis and Evaluation Tel: 703-305-2149
Store Redemption and Tracking System (STARS)	Jordan Benderly Food Stamp Program, Benefit Redemption Division Tel: 703-305-2419
Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) Systems Data For state and local agency EBT administrators contact:	David Barnhart Food Stamp Program, Program Design and Development Division Tel: 703-305-2517

FNS SPECIAL STUDIES AND EVALUATIONS DATA

San Diego and Alabama Cash-out Evaluation Data	Pat McKinney Office of Analysis and Evaluation Tel: 703-305-2126
Alabama Assets Evaluation Data	Kilolo Bingham Office of Analysis and Evaluation Tel: 703-305-2123
Maryland EBT Evaluation Data	Margaret Andrews Office of Analysis and Evaluation Tel: 703-305-2129
School Nutrition Dietary Assessment Data	Pat McKinney Office of Analysis and Evaluation Tel: 703-305-2126
Adult-Day Care Program Dietary Assessment Data	Leslie Christovich Office of Analysis and Evaluation Tel: 703-305-2120
Authorized Retailers Characteristics Study	Ken Offerman Office of Analysis and Evaluation Tel: 703-305-2124

School Nutrition
Programs Food Service
Management Study Data

Carol Kelley
Office of Analysis and Evaluation
Tel: 703-305-2132

Profiles of States'
FSP Program Operations:
Update

Sharron Cristofar
Office of Analysis and Evaluation
Tel: 703-305-2131

Other FSP Studies

Bob Dalrymple, Carol Olander or Ted Macaluso
Office of Analysis and Evaluation
Tel: 703-305-2115

Other School Lunch,
WIC or Special
Nutrition Studies

Leslie Christovich, Jay Hirschman, or Matt McKearn
Office of Analysis and Evaluation
Tel: 703-305-2116

For Additional Information:

Office of Analysis and Evaluation
Food and Nutrition Service, USDA
3101 Park Center Drive
Alexandria, VA 22302
Tel: 703-305-2017

APPENDIX B

**RECENTLY COMPLETED AND ON-GOING RESEARCH PROJECTS
OFFICE OF ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION
FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE**

FOOD STAMP PROGRAM RESEARCH**SELECTED REPORTS: January, 1988 - January, 1994**

Analyses of the 1985 Continuing Survey of Food Intakes by Individuals---March, 1990.

Profile of the Asset Holdings of Food Stamp Participants---January, 1994.

Analysis of the Quality of SIPP as it Pertains to the Food Stamp Program---June, 1990.

Characteristics of Food Stamp Households---Summer 1991, Summer 1990, Summer 1989, Summer 1988.

Costs and Benefits of the National Disqualification Reporting Network---November, 1989.

Determinants of Participation in the Food Stamp Program: A Review of the Literature---November, 1989.

Effects of Food Stamps on Food Consumption: A Review of the Literature---October, 1990.

Electronic Benefit Transfer in the FSP: The 1st Decade---April, 1992 .

Estimating Rates of Participation in the Food Stamp Program: A Review of the Literature.

Evaluation of the Alabama Food Stamp Cash-Out Demonstrations, Vol I & II---September, 1992.

Evaluation of the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations Volume I: Final Report---June, 1990.

Evaluation of the Food Stamp Employment and Training Program, Volume I: Final Report---June, 1990.

Feasibility of an Off-Line Electronic Benefit Transfer System for the Food Stamp Program---September, 1987.

Feasibility of a Nationwide EBT System for the Stamp Program---April, 1990.

Feasibility Study of a Combined EBT System for the Food Stamp Program and the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)---May, 1993.

Feeding the Homeless: Does the Prepared Meals Provision Help? Report to Congress on the Prepared Meal Provision, Volume I---March, 1989.

Evaluation of the Food Assistance Needs of the Low---Income Elderly & Their Participation in USDA Programs: Final Report---January, 1990.

Food Stamp Application Process: Office Operations and Client Experiences---April, 1992.

Food Stamp Program Participation Rates---January, 1988.

Food Stamp Program Participation Rates---January, 1989.

Food Stamp Program Participation and Benefits---August, 1991.

Forecasting Food Stamp Program Participation and Benefits---August, 1991.

Impacts of the State-Initiated EBT Demonstrations on the FSP---June, 1993.

Impacts of the State-Operated Electronic Benefit Transfer System in Reading, Pennsylvania---February, 1990.

Increase in Food Stamp Program Participation Between 1989 and 1990: A Report to Congress---August, 1991.

Long Term Participation in the Food Stamp Program by Work Registrants, Volume I & II---September, 1989.

Participation in the Food Stamp Program: A Multivariate Analysis---March, 1992.

Profile of the Asset Holdings of Food Stamp Participants and Nonparticipants---January, 1994.

Profiles of States Food Stamp Program Operations---November, 1989.

Profiles of States' FSP Operations: Update, Vols. I & II---January, 1992.

Recent Trends in Food Stamp Program Participation---July, 1990.

State and Local Claims Collection Operations ---November, 1990.

State-Initiated EBT Demonstrations; Their Design, Development and Implementation---April, 1993.

Stratification and Estimation in Food Stamp Quality Control---June, 1989.

The Effects of Cash-Out on Food Use by Food Stamp Participants in San Diego---December, 1992.

The Effects of Food Stamp Cash-Out on Participants and Food Retailers in the Alabama Assets Demonstration---April, 1993.

Trends in Food Stamp Program Participation Rates: 1976 to 1990---July, 1992.

ONGOING STUDIES

Evaluation of the Expanded Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) Demonstration in Maryland.

Evaluation of the Off-Line EBT Demonstration for the Food Stamp Program.

Evaluation of the Ohio Expanded Food Stamp Program Off-Line Electronic Benefits Transfer System.

Review and Summary of Privacy Issues in EBT.

EBT Security Assessment and Implications for EBT.

EFT Commercial Infrastructures and Implications.

Demonstration and Evaluation of the Impact of Regulation E on EBT System Costs.

Food Security Symposium---Food Security Module for the Current Population Survey.

Food Stamp Nutrition Education Initiative Demonstration Grants.

Research Conference on Nutrition Education.

Barriers to Good Nutrition.

Evaluation of the New Hampshire Great Beginnings Program.

Evaluation of the Minnesota Family Investment Plan (MFIP) Demonstration.

Parents' Fair Share Demonstration.

Young Unwed Fathers Demonstration.

Welfare Program Coordination Study.

State Experiments in Welfare Reform. (Task 2 of the Welfare Program Coordination Studies).

Participation in the Child Support Enforcement Program Among Non-AFDC Food Stamp Program Participants.

Effects of the Immigration Reform and Control Act on the Food Stamp Program Grants to Improve Food Stamp Participation.

SSI/Food-Stamp Joint Outreach Demonstration Evaluation.

Grants for Outreach and Assistance to Homeless Persons.

Interagency Agreement Department of Transportation Homeless Outreach/Service Integration Demonstration Projects.

Evaluation of Expedited Service in the Food Stamp Program.

Evaluation of the E&T/JOBS/JTPA Demonstrations.

Authorized Food Retailer Characteristics Study.

State Automation Systems Study.

Income and Eligibility Verification System (IEVS) Study.

Effective State Management of Food Stamp Recipient Claims.

Recipient Food Stamp Trafficking.

Error Reduction Initiative.

Evaluation of the Vehicle Exclusion Limit Demonstration (VELD).

Microsimulation and Related Analyses.

1994 NEW STARTS

Nutrition Media Campaign.

Food Stamp Competitive Nutrition Education Community Challenge Grants.

Enterprise Communities and Supermarkets: Bringing Access to Underserved Areas.

The National Survey of Food Stamp Recipients.

Small Grants for Analytic Research on Hunger and Poverty Research.

Conference on Effective Nutrition Education.

Healthy Eating Indicators.

Demonstration of an On-line WIC/FSP EBT System.

Technical Assistance for Planning and Implementing EBT Systems.

Evaluation of Food Retailer Demonstrations in EBT-Ready States.

Evaluation of the Ohio Expanded Food Stamp Off-line EBT Demonstration.

Demonstration and Evaluation of Resource Tests for Licensed Vehicles.

Demonstration and Evaluation of Resource Accumulation for Food Stamp Recipients.

Farm Bill Outreach Grants II.

FNS Support to SSI Outreach Demonstration Grants Parents Fair Share.

SCHOOL LUNCH AND OTHER CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS RESEARCH

SELECTED REPORTS: January, 1988 - January, 1994

The School Nutrition Dietary Assessment Study, Summary of Findings - (Full Report). Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.---October, 1993.

Study of the Child Nutrition Homeless Demonstration, Final Report - Year 2. Macro International Inc. and Susan Batten, Food and Nutrition Service---October, 1993.

CACFP For-Profit Center Demonstration, Final Report. Macro International Inc. and Susan Batten, Food and Nutrition Service---June, 1993.

Institutional Participation in the NSLP and SBP. Urban Institute---April, 1993.

Low-Income Family Day Care Home Demonstration Final Report. Macro International Inc. and Susan Batten, Food and Nutrition Service---March, 1993.

Child Nutrition Meal Cost Methodology Study: Final Report. Abt Associates, Inc.---May, 1992.

Child Nutrition Meal Cost Methodology Study: Technical Assistance Manual. Abt Associates Inc.---May, 1992.

Commodity Letter of Credit Modification Demonstration Evaluation - Final Report. Abel Daft & Earley---March, 1992.

Homeless Shelter Demonstration Year I Report. Macro International---November, 1991.

Income Levels of Children in Family Day Care Houses - Final Report. Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.---November, 1991.

Study of the Child Care Food Program (CCFP). Abt Associates, Inc.---August, 1988.

An Evaluation of the Summer Food Service Program. Mathematica Policy Research---July, 1988.

Modeling Student Participation in School Nutrition Programs. The Urban Institute---February, 1988.

The Sodium and Macronutrient Content of USDA School Lunches. Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.---January, 1988.

ONGOING STUDIES

Nutrient Standard Menu Planning Demonstration Evaluation.

Early Childhood and Child Care Study.

State Administrative Cost Study.

School Lunch and Breakfast Cost Study.

Special Nutrition Analysis and Modeling Study-II.

Special Nutrition Analysis and Modeling Study.

Paperwork Reduction Pilot Projects.

Evaluation of the West Virginia Multi-Use Application.

Study of Food Service Management Companies in School Nutrition Programs.

School Lunch Eligible Nonparticipants Study.

School Dropout Study.

In-House Farm Bill Report.

School Breakfast Program Outreach Grant Study.

1994 NEW STARTS

Nutrition Media Campaign.

Competitive Nutrition Education Community Challenge Grants.

Nutrition Education in Schools.

School Health and Nutrition Monitoring Initiative.

WIC PROGRAM RESEARCH**SELECTED REPORTS: January, 1988 - January, 1994**

WIC Estimates: Congressionally Mandated Estimates of Persons Inc. Eligible for WIC from 1990 Census. Sigma One---August, 1993.

Infant Mortality Among Medicaid Newborns in 5 States: The Effects of Prenatal WIC Participation. Mathematica Policy Research Inc.---May, 1993.

WIC Vendor Issues Study, 1991: Final Report. Aspen Systems Corporation, Applied Management Sciences Division, Food and Nutrition Service, Survey Design, Inc.---May, 1993.

Very Low Birthweight Among Medicaid Newborns in Five States: The Effects of Prenatal WIC Participation. Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.---September, 1992.

The WIC Breastfeeding Report: The Relationship of WIC Program Participation to the Initiation and Duration of Breastfeeding. Research Triangle Institute---September, 1992.

Interim Report on the Development of a WIC Inflation Index. Office of Analysis and Evaluation, Food and Nutrition Service, and the Economic Research Service---August, 1992.

Study of the Impact of WIC on the Growth and Development of Children: Field Test. Abt Associates Inc.---March, 1992.

Study of WIC Participant and Program Characteristics, 1990. Abt Associates Inc., and the Office of Analysis and Evaluation and the Supplemental Food Programs Division, Food and Nutrition Service---February, 1992.

Evaluation of the Farmers' Market Coupon Demonstration Project. Price Waterhouse---April, 1991.

WIC Income Verification Study: Final Report. QPC Corporation---December 1990
The Savings in Medicaid Costs for their Mothers from Prenatal Participation in the WIC Program: Volume 1 (main findings) and Volume II (Technical Appendix). Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.---October, 1990.

Impact of the Special Supplemental Food Program on Infants. Pediatrics August 1990 Reaching Pregnant Women Through Benefit Targeting in the WIC Program. Cosmos Corporation---May, 1990.

Study of WIC Participant and Program Characteristics, 1988. Research Triangle Institute and the Office of Analysis and Evaluation, Food and Nutrition Service---April, 1990 .

A Study of Appropriate Methods of Drug Abuse Education for Use in the WIC Program. American Council for Drug Education and Abt Associates Inc.---January, 1990.

Assessing the Impact of the WIC Program on Infants and Children: Design Feasibility Study. School of Public Health, University of North Carolina---February, 1989.

Promoting Breastfeeding in WIC: A Compendium of Practical Approaches. Development Associates---June, 1988.

Targeting Benefits to Pregnant Women in the WIC Program--Phase I. Cosmos Corporation---April, 1988.

ONGOING STUDIES

NAS Scientific Evaluation of WIC Nutritional Risk Criteria.

WIC Eligibility Study II (WESII).

Study of WIC Participant and Program Characteristics 1992.

Study of WIC Participant and Program Characteristics 1994.

WIC Dynamics Study.

WIC Infant Feeding Practices Study.

WIC Services Integration Study.

WIC Nutrition Education Demonstration Study.

WIC Food Use Study.

WIC Nutrition Education Assessment.

1994 NEW STARTS

Nutrition Media Campaign.

Competitive Nutrition Education Community Challenge Grants.

Nutrition Education Demonstrations.

Breastfeeding Promotion.

Head Start/WIC Cooperation Project.

WIC Food Use Study.

Demonstration of an On-line WIC/FSP EBT System.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM RESEARCH**SELECTED REPORTS: January, 1988 - January, 1994**

Effects of the Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Program on Displacement of Commercial Sales. Office of Analysis and Evaluation, Food and Nutrition Service---November, 1989.

Food Bank Demonstrations: Final Report. Office of Analysis and Evaluation, Food and Nutrition Service---November, 1990.

Effects of the Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Program on Displacement of Commercial Sales. Office of Analysis and Evaluation, Food and Nutrition Service---August, 1988.

A Study of the State Commodity Distribution Systems. Abel Daft & Earley---March, 1988.