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Resources, Community, and
Economic Development Division

B-279005

January 29, 1998

The Honorable Charles W. Stenholm
Ranking Minority Member
Committee on Agriculture
House of Representatives

Subject: Food Assistance: Information on USDA's Research Activities

Dear Mr. Stenholm:

The Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 1998 (P.L.105-86) effectively transferred primary responsibility for research on food assistance and nutrition programs from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) to the Department's Economic Research Service (ERS). Previously, ERS had conducted some research on issues related to nutrition and food assistance, but the bulk of the work was performed by FNS. To provide some baseline information that can be used to monitor the effects of this transfer, you asked us to list the food assistance-related research projects conducted by FNS and ERS during the past 3 fiscal years.

In developing this information, we met with FNS and ERS officials to discuss their research activities over the past 3 fiscal years and obtained a description of each research project dealing with nutrition and food assistance. According to these officials, the agencies differed in the type of research they performed and the way they conducted it. Specifically, FNS generally contracted with third parties, such as consulting firms, to collect and evaluate original data. In contrast, ERS used its own staff to analyze data collected by others, including FNS. Because of these differences, the descriptive information each agency provided on its research projects differs somewhat.

With respect to FNS, we obtained information on each research project that was ongoing during any portion of each of the past 3 fiscal years. For each of

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these projects, we obtained (1) a brief description of the project's objectives and scope; (2) the name of the vendor or government entity that performed the research for FNS; (3) the project's contract cost; (4) when the project started; and (5) the project's actual or expected date of completion. In addition to the contract cost, FNS reported that it expended approximately 40, 38, and 37 staff years in fiscal years 1995, 1996, and 1997, respectively, on various activities associated with conducting research and analysis.

With respect to ERS, we obtained information on each research project for which the results had been published during the past 3 fiscal years. For each of these projects, we obtained (1) a description of the objectives/scope; (2) the names of the ERS staff who conducted the research; and (3) the publication in which the research results were presented. ERS could not provide information on the cost of each project but did report that approximately 4 staff years were spent conducting food assistance and nutrition research during each fiscal year from 1995 through 1997.

The information we obtained on 113 FNS and 23 ERS nutrition and food assistance-related projects is presented in enclosures I and II, respectively.

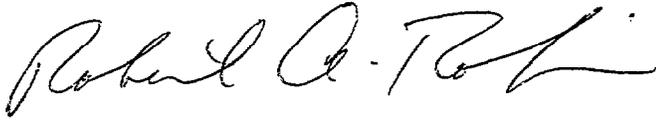
We performed our work from November 1997 through January 1998 in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards. However, we did not independently verify the data that FNS and ERS provided on their research projects.

We provided a draft of this report to USDA for its review and comment. We discussed the report with FNS officials, including the Acting Director of the Office of Analysis and Evaluation, and ERS officials, including the Associate Director of the Food and Rural Economics Division. FNS and ERS concurred with the accuracy of the report.

As arranged with your office, unless you publicly announce its contents earlier, we plan no further distribution of this report until 14 days from the date of this letter. At that time, we will send copies of the report to the Chairman and the Ranking Minority Member, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry; the Chairman, House Committee on Agriculture; and the Secretary of Agriculture. We will also make copies available to others upon request.

Major contributors to this report were Thomas Slomba and Kathy R. Alexander. Please contact me at (202) 512-5138 if you or your staff have any questions.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert A. Robinson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "R" and a long, sweeping underline.

Robert A. Robinson
Director, Food and
Agriculture Issues

Enclosures - 2

**FOOD ASSISTANCE AND NUTRITION PROGRAM RESEARCH
CONDUCTED BY THE FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE, ONGOING DURING FISCAL YEARS 1995-97**

Table I.1: Food Stamp Research Studies and Evaluations

Title	Description	Organization(s) conducting the study	Total contract cost ^a	Start	Actual or expected completion
Client Enrollment Assistance Demonstration	Provide small grants to demonstrate Food Stamp Program outreach and assistance to hard-to-reach population groups.	Evaluation: Small Business Administration/ LTG Associates	\$3,693,520	1993	Winter 1998
Demonstration and Evaluation of Resource Accumulation	Evaluate demonstration allowing households to accumulate assets beyond the food stamp resource limit.	Abt Associates, Inc.	\$987,681	1994	Summer 1999
Evaluation of Employment and Training/JOBS Conformance Demonstrations	Demonstrate and test the feasibility and effectiveness of operating the food stamp E&T program under the same legislative and regulatory terms as the JOBS program for AFDC recipients.	Social Policy Research	\$375,836	1992	Winter 1998
Demonstration and Evaluation of Resource Tests for Licensed Vehicles	Demonstrate and evaluate exempting one vehicle per household from countable resources.	Demonstration: North Carolina Evaluation: Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.	\$384,454	1994	Summer 1998

Title	Description	Organization(s) conducting the study	Total contract cost ^a	Start	Actual or expected completion
Feasibility Study of Capturing Food Data at Checkout	Explore the feasibility of using scanner technology to collect data on food items purchased with food stamp benefits	Abt. Associates, Inc.	\$992,965	1996	Fall 1998
Authorized Food Retailer Characteristics Study	Collect and analyze data on characteristics of food retailers authorized by the Food Stamp Program.	Macro International	\$1,403,620	1993	Winter 1997
South Carolina Recipient Integrity Demonstration Evaluation	Evaluate South Carolina's EBT retailer/client program integrity project.	Department of the Treasury/Booz, Allen & Hamilton, Inc.	\$350,000	1995	Spring 1998
Demonstration and Evaluation of Food Retailer Preauthorization Visits	Determine the best way to support preauthorization visits by contractors to food retailers.	Demonstration: 16 FCS field offices in 13 states Evaluation: Abt Associates, Inc.	\$915,595	1996	Winter 1998
Assessment of Biometrics, Finger Imaging and Related Antifraud Tools	Evaluate how states are currently using or planning to use biometric technology to reduce fraud and abuse in their welfare programs.	Small Business Administration/R. Lewis & Co.	\$377,486	1996	Fall 1998

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Title	Description	Organization(s) conducting the study	Total contract cost ^a	Start	Actual or expected completion
Error Reduction Initiative Demonstration and Evaluation	Demonstrate the error-reduction effects of various administrative practices	Demonstration: Illinois and Maryland Evaluation: Small Business Administration/KRA Corp.	\$459,602	1993	Fall 1996
Retailer Database Demonstration	Evaluate a commercial database from Dun & Bradstreet to supplement USDA's data to prevent the authorization of ineligible retailers.	Dun & Bradstreet Information Services	\$23,025	1995	Winter 1996
Evaluation of Food Retailer Demonstrations in EBT-Ready States	Assess whether the function of authorizing food retailers to participate in the Food Stamp Program can be conducted by states that implement EBT.	Demonstration: South Carolina and New Mexico Evaluation: Abt Associates, Inc.	\$741,836	1993 1994	Spring 1997

ENCLOSURE I

ENCLOSURE I

Title	Description	Organization(s) conducting the study	Total contract cost ^a	Start	Actual or expected completion
Evaluation of the Application of Regulation E to EBT Systems	Assess the consequences of applying the existing commercial standards for financial protection and consumer responsibilities to all electronic benefit delivery.	Demonstration: New Jersey New Mexico Evaluation: Abt Associates, Inc.	\$1,660,158	1995	Fall 1997
Recipient Food Stamp Trafficking	Assess participants' motives for engaging in food stamp trafficking to design better prevention strategies.	Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.	\$613,707	1993	Spring 1998
Effective State Management of Food Stamp Recipients' Claims	Determine when it is cost-effective to collect claims for overpayment of food stamp benefits from program participants	Small Business Administration/ TASCON, Inc.	\$354,851	1993	Winter 1998
Conference on Access to Food	Address strategies for increasing the number of supermarkets and full-line food stores in disadvantaged communities.	Small Business Administration/ KRA Corp.	\$118,237	1994	Fall 1996
National Urban Markets Conference	Provide partial sponsorship of conference on how public markets can provide access to fresh food and economic revitalization for communities.	Interagency transfer of funds to AMS.	\$10,000	1995	Transfer to AMS completed.

Title	Description	Organization(s) conducting the study	Total contract cost ^a	Start	Actual or expected completion
Study of Access to Nutritious and Affordable Food	Provide technical assistance to selected communities seeking to establish full-line food stores.	Small Business Administration/CRP, Inc.	\$444,687	1995	Winter 1998
Conference on Food Security Measurement and Research	Support technical research conference to review state of the art in measuring the dimensions of hunger in America.	Small Business Administration/KRA Corp.	\$133,292	1993	Spring 1995
Valuing Access to Food Stores	Support an economic "valuation" analysis of whether food stamp participants have adequate access to food stores.	Interagency transfer of funds to ERS	\$48,159	1995	Transfer to ERS completed.
Feasibility of Food Price Monitoring in Rural Areas	Assess the feasibility of expanding the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Consumer Price Index to rural areas.	Joel Popkin, Inc.	\$150,453	1995	Summer 1996
Food Security Supplement to the Current Population Survey	Develop and collect the April 1995, September 1996, and April 1997 Current Population Survey Food Security Supplements.	Interagency transfer of funds to the Bureau of the Census.	\$1,465,000	1993	Transfer to the Bureau of the Census completed.
The National Survey of Food Stamp Recipients and Eligibles	Conduct the first nationally representative survey of Food Stamp Program recipients to understand their needs and views on customer service, food security and access to stores, and the benefit structure.	Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.	\$2,322,396	1994	Summer 1998

ENCLOSURE I

ENCLOSURE I

Title	Description	Organization(s) conducting the study	Total contract cost ^a	Start	Actual or expected completion
Food Security Measurement Project	Analyze the April 1995 Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement.	Abt Associates, Inc.	\$487,600	1995	Fall 1997
Reaching the Elderly and Working Poor	Assess reasons for lower-than-average food stamp participation among the elderly and working poor.	Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.	\$833,849	1995	Winter 1999
Dynamics of Food Stamp Participation	Update earlier research on food stamp participation patterns with more recent longitudinal data.	Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.	\$347,997	1995	Winter 1998
Support to SSI Outreach Demonstration Grants	Combine SSI and Food Stamp Program outreach demonstrations.	Interagency transfer of funds to SSA.	\$794,783	1994	Transfer to SSA completed.
National Survey of Homeless Assistance Providers and Clients	Support for development/data collection of a survey of the homeless.	Interagency transfers of funds to the Bureau of the Census and HUD.	\$220,000	1995	Transfers to the Bureau of the Census and HUD completed.
Support for the Development of the Survey of Program Dynamics	Support a 10-year longitudinal survey that will enable improved analyses of patterns of program participation.	Interagency transfer of funds to the Bureau of the Census.	\$400,000	1993	Transfer to the Bureau of the Census completed

Title	Description	Organization(s) conducting the study	Total contract cost ^a	Start	Actual or expected completion
Evaluation of Expanded EBT Demonstration in Maryland	Evaluate the first large-scale, statewide EBT program. Project included development of EBT cost models and special analyses of redemption patterns.	Abt Associates, Inc.	\$2,156,303	1991	Winter 1997
Evaluation of Demonstration of Expanding Off-line EBT Statewide in Ohio	Evaluate the first large-scale, statewide off-line EBT program.	Abt Associates, Inc.	\$765,969	1994	Fall 1999
Economics of EBT	Support additional development and analysis of EBT cost models.	Abt Associates, Inc.	\$255,270	1997	Summer 1998
Mobil Merchant Pilot Test	Demonstrate and evaluate whether portable communications/POS terminals can extend benefits of on-line EBT to farmers' market and mobile food retailers.	Maryland	\$50,672	1993	Summer 1995
Feasibility of Standards for EBT Equipage of Farmers' Markets and Mobile Retailers	Inventory available technologies and determine the feasibility of developing compatible software and equipment to apply on-line EBT technology to farmers' markets and other mobile retailers.	Small Business Administration/AM A Systems	\$199,976	1996	Summer 1998

Title	Description	Organization(s) conducting the study	Total contract cost ^a	Start	Actual or expected completion
Study of Direct Certification	Describe state and local direct certification programs. Estimate the costs and savings of using direct certification. Assess the impact on the certification and participation rates of students eligible for free meals.	Decision Information Resources	\$432,977	1995	Spring 1998
Nutrient Standard Menu Planning Demonstration Evaluation	Estimate the costs and benefits entailed by nutrient standard menu planning.	Abt Associates, Inc.	\$1,420,120	1993	Spring 1998
School Food Purchase Study	Examine (1) the type, volume, and costs of foods purchased directly by school districts participating in the NSLP and SBP and (2) the relative importance of foods donated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.	Abt, Daft, Earley & Ward (Currently-Promar International)	\$1,031,271	1995	Spring 1998
Evaluation of Team Nutrition Pilot Communities	Describe and compare schools' strategies for implementing Team Nutrition in seven school districts. Investigate outcomes in four school districts.	Prospect	\$2,079,815	1995	Spring 1998

Title	Description	Organization(s) conducting the study	Total contract cost ^a	Start	Actual or expected completion
Assessment of the Implementation of Nutrition Objectives for School Meals - School Nutrition Study	Examine the food and nutrient composition of NSLP/SBP meals currently being offered. Include a comparison to the findings of the School Nutrition Dietary Assessment Study, which collected data in 1992.	Abt Associates, Inc.	\$893,621	1995	Fall 1998
Study of Implementation of the School Meals Initiative for Healthy Children	Provide nationally representative data on the implementation of the School Meals Initiative for Healthy Children. Provide general descriptive information on the operations and characteristics of school-based child nutrition programs and Team Nutrition activities.	The Gallup Organization	\$1,348,975	1996	Summer 2000
School Health and Nutrition Monitoring	Test, with the Center for Disease Control and the University of Texas, the feasibility of a school nutrition monitoring system as prescribed in the 10-year plan for Nutrition Monitoring.	Interagency transfer of funds to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and University of Texas	\$175,000	1994	Transfer completed to the CDC

Title	Description	Organization(s) conducting the study	Total contract cost ^a	Start	Actual or expected completion
Team Nutrition Needs Assessment	Collect information about teachers' and other educators' needs for nutrition education materials and activities. The assessment uses the Fast Response Survey System of the National Center for Education Statistics.	Interagency transfer of funds to the National Center for Education Statistics/Westat, Inc.	\$218,000	1996	Winter 1998
School-Based Nutrition Monitoring	Develop a survey that can be used by educators' who instruct 4th, 8th, and 11th graders to describe the status of nutrition education and administration in the schools.	University of Texas Health Sciences Center	\$74,996	1996	Winter 1998
Special Nutrition Analysis and Modeling II	Support a contract that provides quick response capability for the Child Nutrition Programs in answering questions posed by legislators and policy makers and further analyses of existing data sets.	Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.	\$973,526	1993	Winter 1996
Nutrition Education and Training Activities Inventory	Provide a national description of the Nutrition Education Training program, including met and unmet needs identified by states.	TASCON, Inc.	\$154,755	1994	Fall 1997

Title	Description	Organization(s) conducting the study	Total contract cost ^a	Start	Actual or expected completion
Nutrition Education in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools	Examine the nutrition education programs, services, and activities available in the schools and identify gaps.	Department of Education/ Westat, Inc.	\$135,000	1995	Summer 1996
Family Day Care Homes Legislative Changes	Compare participation of family day care homes and their sponsors in the child component of CACFP before and after means testing. This study is mandated by P.L. 104-193.	Abt Associates, Inc.	Estimated cost \$4,000,000/ \$1,699,544 prior to transfer to ERS	1996	Summer 2001 Research transferred to ERS
Child Nutrition Analysis Project	Provide analytic support for emerging and ongoing Child Nutrition policy and budget issues.	Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.; Rand Corp.	\$40,000	1997	Fall 2000

Legend

- CACFP = Child and Adult Care Food Program
- ERS = Economic Research Service
- FCS = Food and Consumer Service/Currently the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS)
- NSLP = National School Lunch Program
- SBP = School Breakfast Program

^aFunds to cover total contract cost may be from more than one fiscal year appropriation.

Table I.3: WIC Research Studies and Evaluations

Title	Description	Organization(s) conducting the study	Total contract cost ^a	Start	Actual or expected completion
Study of WIC Participant and Program Characteristics, 1994 and 1996	Describe characteristics of WIC Program participants in the areas of income, nutritional risks, migrant status, and other attributes. The 1996 effort includes a local agency survey to describe clinic operations.	Abt Associates, Inc.	\$1,087,003	1993	1994 report completed in the winter 1996. 1996 report completed in the spring 1998.
WIC Eligibility Update (1990 Census)	Update state and county estimates of individuals eligible for the WIC Program using 1990 Decennial Census data.	Sigma One	\$701,404	1993	Summer 1998
Children's Eating Habits Research Tool	Develop and validate an instrument that can be used to study the diets of low-income children ages 2 to 5.	M.I. Bassett Hospital Research Center	\$177,299	1996	Spring 1998
WIC Nutrition Education Assessment	Investigate the relationship of WIC nutrition education and participants' nutrition-related knowledge, attitudes, behavior and satisfaction with services.	Abt Associates, Inc.	\$1,800,000	1992	Spring 1998

Title	Description	Organization(s) conducting the study	Total contract cost ^a	Start	Actual or expected completion
WIC/Head Start Coordination Study	Describe the overlap in required standards for WIC and Head Start, particularly in the areas of eligibility determination and nutrition education. Identify potential barriers to coordination between WIC and Head Start.	Researchable	\$175,096	1994	Spring 1998
WIC Nutrition Education Demonstration Study	Examine the effectiveness of three innovative WIC nutrition education programs in promoting learning.	Grantees: 8 cities Evaluation: Abt Associates, Inc.	\$1,582,919	1994	Summer 1998
National Survey of WIC Participants and Their Local Agencies	Collect nationally representative information on participants and local programs that is not included in the current data collections. Determine participants' incomes and the magnitude of income misreporting.	Abt Associates, Inc.	\$1,630,362	1996	Winter 1998
WIC Modeling and Analytic Projects II (MAP II)	Analyze existing data to answer research questions on a range of policy-relevant topics, including nutritional and medical risk analyses.	Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.	\$1,222,972	1994	Spring 1998

Title	Description	Organization(s) conducting the study	Total contract cost ^a	Start	Actual or expected completion
Adolescent WIC Participants Study	Identify needs of adolescent WIC participants. Describe the participation patterns of adolescent WIC participants.	Research Triangle Institute	\$990,450	1995	Spring 1998
WIC Infant Feeding Practices Study	Describe the types of foods consumed by infants, patterns of feeding, food and formula handling practices, and changes in feeding patterns over time.	Battelle	\$1,289,086	1993	Fall 1997
WIC Food Purchasing Study	Test the feasibility of matching data from a WIC state agency's participant records with data contained in a chain grocery store's transaction files to describe the food purchasing practices of WIC participants.	Health Systems Research, Inc.	\$485,982	1994	Spring 1997
Infrared Blood Sensing for the WIC Program	Explore the potential for using infrared rays for conducting blood iron measurements without invasive blood testing to measure blood iron levels of WIC participants.	ARS/ Baylor Medical Center	\$200,000	1995	Winter 1998
WIC Vendor Management Study	Examine the incidence and prevalence of vendor abuse of the WIC Program rules. Provide national estimates of the types of abuse and their magnitude.	Health Systems Research, Inc.	\$2,093,226	1996	Spring 2000

Title	Description	Organization(s) conducting the study	Total contract cost ^a	Start	Actual or expected completion
Study of WIC Participant and Program Characteristics, 1998 and 2000	Collect biennial statistics on WIC participant and program characteristics.	Abt Associates, Inc.	\$742,692	1997	Fall 1999
WIC Nutrition Risk Criteria: A Scientific Assessment	Examine the scientific base underlying the nutritional risk criteria used in the WIC program.	National Academy of Science Institute of Medicine	\$751,839	1993	Spring 1996
WIC Iron Deficiency Anemia Pilot Project	Conduct a pilot study in Georgia and Alabama to investigate the prevalence of anemia in selected WIC clinics reporting data to the Pediatric Nutrition Surveillance System.	Interagency transfer of funds to CDC	\$50,000	1995	Transferred completed to CDC
WIC Iron Deficiency Anemia Project (CDC)	Investigate the prevalence and etiology of anemia in selected communities reporting high rates of anemia to the CDC's Pediatric Nutrition Surveillance System.	Interagency transfer of funds to CDC	\$94,000	1996	Transferred completed to CDC
WIC Iron Deficiency Anemia Project Health Management Resources, Inc. (HMR)	Collect data for the joint FNS/CDC project to investigate the prevalence and etiology of anemia in selected communities reporting high rates of anemia to the CDC's Pediatric Nutrition Surveillance System.	Small Business Administration/HMR, Inc.	\$55,000	1996	Summer 1997

Legend

ARS = Agriculture Research Service

CDC = Centers for Disease Control

FNS = Food and Nutrition Service

WIC = Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children

³Funds to cover total contract cost may be from more than one fiscal year appropriation.

Table 1.4: Jointly Funded Food Stamp, Child Nutrition, and WIC Research Studies and Evaluations

Title	Description	Organization(s) Conducting the Study	Total contract cost ^a	Start	Actual or expected completion
Early Childhood Longitudinal Study	Examine the relationship between children's nutritional status and their cognitive performance and progress in school, as well as links between participation in school nutrition programs and learning in the early school years. Food stamp funds add a food sufficiency module with parents/guardians to determine problems families have getting enough to eat.	Interagency transfer of funds to the U.S. Department of Education.	\$193,750	1996	Spring 2000
Early Childhood and Child Care Study	Examine the nutrient content of meals offered to children through the CACFP. Describe characteristics of CACFP programs and participants in CACFP.	Abt Associates, Inc.	\$3,217,763	1993	Summer 1997

Title	Description	Organization(s) Conducting the Study	Total contract cost ^a	Start	Actual or expected completion
Survey of Program Dynamics	Support the development of the Survey of Program Dynamics, a proposed 10-year longitudinal survey that will enable improved analyses of patterns of program participation.	Interagency transfer of funds to the Bureau of the Census	\$600,000	1993	Transfer to the Bureau of the Census completed.
WIC EBT Demonstration Evaluation	Evaluate Wyoming's EBT system which uses smart cards to integrate food stamp and WIC benefit delivery.	Abt Associates, Inc.	\$1,172,445	1993	Spring 1997
Community Nutrition Education Cooperative Agreements	Support the design, implementation, and evaluation of nutrition education programs that reach large numbers of food assistance recipients, foster development of community networks to better integrate nutrition education service and resources, and provide integrated nutrition education outside of traditional program-centered delivery systems	Cooperators: 10 organizations and/or universities Research Network International, Inc. Society for Nutrition Education	\$2,399,459	1994	Completed in the winter 1996 (with all cooperators involved). Spring 1998
Panel Survey of Income Dynamics (Basic Research)	Provide support to include questions of food assistance programs' participation and food security in the Panel of Income Dynamics.	Interagency transfer of funds to the National Science Foundation	\$130,000	1996	Transfer to the National Science Foundation completed.

Title	Description	Organization(s) Conducting the Study	Total contract cost ^a	Start	Actual or expected completion
Printing and Design Services (Miscellaneous)	Provide funds to the Government Printing Office to print research reports.	Government Printing Office	\$172,197	1993	Ongoing each year
Provide Support to the Food and Nutrition Information Center (Miscellaneous)	Facilitate access to nutrition reference materials for FCS, state, and local programs.	Interagency transfer of funds to the National Agricultural Library.	\$590,000	1993	Transfer to National Agricultural Library completed.

Legend

CACFP = Child and Adult Food Care Program

FCS = Food and Consumer Service/Currently Food and Nutrition Service (FNS)

^aFunds to cover total contract cost may be from more than one fiscal year appropriation.

FOOD ASSISTANCE AND NUTRITION PROGRAM RESEARCH
PUBLISHED BY THE ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE, FISCAL YEARS 1995-97

Table II.1: Food Stamps/General Food Assistance Research Studies and Evaluations

Title	Description	Individual(s)/ organization conducting the study	Publication
How Much Can Informational Outreach Programs Increase Food Stamp Program Participation?	Uses a Food Stamp Program participation equation that incorporates a household's perceived eligibility, to estimate that informational outreach programs directed at these households have the potential of increasing the overall FSP participation rate by a maximum of 18% and benefit payments by 12.6%.	J. William Levedahl/ ERS	American Journal of Agricultural Economics, No. 77, 1995
A Theoretical and Empirical Evaluation of the Functional Forms Used to Estimate the Food Expenditure Equation of Food Stamp Recipients	Evaluates, theoretically and empirically, a variety of equations used to estimate the food expenses of food stamp recipients.	J. William Levedahl/ ERS	American Journal of Agricultural Economics, No. 77, 1995
The Food Stamp Program and Welfare Reform	Explores the impacts of proposed food stamp program changes on food spending, income support, welfare reform, the agricultural sectors and the rest of the economy.	Betsey Kuhn, Pamela Dunn, David Smallwood, Kenneth Hanson, James Blaylock, and Stephen Vogel/ ERS	Journal of Economic Perspectives, Vol. 10, 1996

Title	Description	Individual(s)/ organization conducting the study	Publication
The Economics of Food Assistance Programs	Outlines, in graphs and figures, the state of current knowledge about the economics of food assistance programs: program characteristics, eligibility and benefits, and food spending patterns of low-income consumers. The document estimates the long- and short-term impacts of proposed reform legislation on output and employment in the food and nonfood sectors of the economy. The key economic elements of proposed reforms were block grants, program reduction, and the elimination of entitlement status. The document was prepared as a briefing for administration executives and staffs of the House and Senate Agriculture Committees.	Betsy Kuhn, David Smallwood, and Kenneth Hanson/ERS	Staff Paper No. AGES-9507, 1995
Food Expenditures Estimates from the 1995 CPS Food Security Supplement: How Do They Compare With the Consumer Expenditure Survey?	Compares estimates of household food expenditures obtained from the Food Security Supplement (a survey instrument designed to collect detailed information on household food insecurity and hunger in the United States, used in 1995 as part of the Current Population Survey) to those obtained from the 1994 Consumer Expenditure Survey.	Victor Oliveira and Donald Rose/ERS	Staff Paper No. 9617, 1996
Welfare Reform and Nutrition Education: Alternative Strategies to Address the Challenges of the Future	Reviews welfare reform issues such as work requirements, federal spending limits, and the delegation of program responsibility to the states that could affect nutrition educators through changes in the funding and organizational structure of client services, or a decline in economic conditions for some low-income households. Suggests alternative strategies for nutritionists to use in addressing the challenges of the future.	Donald Rose/ERS, and Marion Nestle/ New York University	Journal of Nutrition Education, Vol. 28, No. 2, 1996

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Title	Description	Individual(s)/ organization conducting the study	Publication
The Nutrition, Health, and Economic Consequences of Block Grants for Federal Food Assistance Programs	Analyzes the economic consequences of changing the form of the nation's food and nutrition programs. In particular, ERS analyzed the economic impacts on participants, agriculture, and the general economy of block granting food assistance programs to the states.	Food and Consumer Service/ ERS	Food and Consumer Service Economic Research Service, 1996
Validation of a Self-Reported Measure of Household Food Insufficiency With Nutrient Intake Data	Examines the external validity of a self-reported indicator of food insecurity and hunger using nutrient intake data from the 1989-91 Continuing Survey of Food Intake by Individuals. Food-insufficient households were defined as those reporting that they sometimes or often did not get enough to eat (n=299); the remaining sampled households were classified as food-sufficient (n=5,844). Nutrient adequacy ratios, using intake data obtained from 24-hour diet recalls and age- and sex-specific recommended dietary allowances, were calculated for 15 nutrients and an average at the household level. Multiple regression analysis was used to study the association of food sufficiency with these indicators of nutrient intake, while controlling for other influences on dietary patterns, such as age, race/ethnicity, and schooling of the household head; income status, size, and composition of the household; and geographic and seasonal influences on diet.	Donald Rose and Victor Oliveira/ERS	Economic Research Service Technical Bulletin, No. 1863, 1997
New Directions for Food Assistance Efforts	Lists articles related to food assistance.	ERS	Food Review: January-April 1995, Vol. 18, Issue 1

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**CPS = Current Population Survey
ERS = Economic Research Service
FNS = Food and Nutrition Service**

Table II.2: Child Nutrition/General Nutrition Research Studies and Evaluations

Title	Description	Individual(s)/organization conducting the study	Publication
Differences in the Dietary Quality of Adults Living in Single Versus Multiperson Households	Uses data from the USDA's 1987-88 Nationwide Food Consumption Survey, to compare the diets of adults living in single-person households with those living in multiperson households by selected sex and age groups. Dietary quality is examined in terms of intake as a percent of the recommended dietary allowance for 15 essential nutrients, a measure of dietary adequacy, and of intake of fat, saturated fat, cholesterol, and sodium, a measure of dietary moderation. To facilitate comparisons, indices reflecting dietary adequacy and dietary moderation were constructed.	Shirley A. Gerrior, Joanne F. Guthrie, Jonathan J. Fox, Thomas P. Keane, P. Peter Basiotis/CNPP, and Steven M. Lutz/ERS	Journal of Nutrition Education, Vol. 27, No. 3, 1995
Aggregation, Flexible Forms, and Estimation of Food Consumption Parameters	Assesses the importance of analytic factors such as grouping schemes, aggregation, and functional specification for estimating aggregate food consumption parameters. A flexible food demand model that tests alternative specifications is estimated using U.S. data. Foods are aggregated based on a new grouping scheme adopted from the "Dietary Guidelines for Americans." Nutrient intake elasticities with respect to food prices and expenditure are calculated. The influence of socioeconomic variables on consumption and nutrient intake is analyzed. Price, income, and demographic effects are found to be highly significant. The findings are invariant to the choice of function form.	Cyrus A. Ramezani, University of Wisconsin, Donald Rose/ERS, and Suzanne Murphy/ University of California at Davis	American Journal of Agricultural Economics, No. 77, 1995

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Title	Description	Individual(s)/ organization conducting the study	Publication
Socio-Economic Factors Associated With the Iron Intake of Preschoolers in the United States	Investigates household income, food program participation, and diet awareness and attitudes of the household meal planner as predictors of the dietary iron intake of preschoolers in the United States. Non-breast-fed children, 1 to 5 years of age, with 3 days of dietary data from the 1989-91 Continuing Survey of Food Intake of Individuals, were included in this sample (N=800). Two measures of intake were analyzed: a nutrient adequacy ratio, defined as iron intake divided by the recommended dietary allowance, and an index of nutritional quality, or diet density measure, which is the ratio of the iron nutrient adequacy ratio to the energy nutrient adequacy ratio. Data from the concurrent Diet and Health Knowledge Survey were used to create indicator variables for meal planners, who were aware of anemia as a health problem related to iron intake and who felt it was important to choose a diet with plenty of grain products.	Donald Rose, David Smallwood, and James Blaylock/ERS	Nutrition Research, Vol. 15, No. 9, 1995
The American Diet: Health and Economic Consequences (ERS)	Provides information on the incidence, prevalence, and costs associated with health conditions commonly associated with poor diets and inadequate activity. Current dietary patterns are compared with federal dietary recommendations. Possible reasons for current dietary patterns and USDA's efforts at improving diets are also described.	Elizabeth Frazão/ERS	Agriculture Information, Bulletin No. 711, 1995

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ENCLOSURE II

Title	Description	Individual(s)/ organization conducting the study	Publication
Modeling Nutrient Intake: The Role of Dietary Information	Uses dietary information and intake data for a sample of U.S. household meal planners to estimate the effect of fiber-specific information on dietary fiber intake. The information variables are measured using survey responses to a series of questions on the fiber content of foods, attitude toward consuming fiber-rich foods, and awareness of fiber-health links. Results indicate that attitudes about eating high-fiber foods and awareness of the linkage between dietary fiber intake and some diseases are important determinants of an individual's fiber intake.	Jaychandran N. Variyam, James Blaylock, and David Smallwood/ERS	Technical Bulletin, No. 1842, 1995
Food Energy Remains Constant With Increasing Alcohol Intake	Examines data from a large sample of adults who participated in the 1987-88 Nationwide Food Consumption Survey (NFCS). This survey quantified the alcohol intake of respondents over a 3-day period, thus, it provides important information about how energy and macronutrient intake vary by level of alcohol consumption.	Donald Rose/ERS, Suzanne P. Murphy, Mark Hudes, and Fernando E. Viteri/University of California at Davis	Journal of the American Dietetic Association, Vol. 95, No. 6, 1995
The Diets of America's Children: Influence of Dining Out, Household Characteristics, and Nutrition Knowledge	Uses data from USDA's 1989-91 Continuing Survey of Food Intakes by individuals and the Diet and Health Knowledge Survey to examine various aspects of children's diets, such as the share of calories from total and saturated fats, sodium intake, intakes of fiber, etc.	Biing-Hwan Lin, Joanne Guthrie, and James R. Blaylock/ERS	Agricultural Economic Report, No. 746, 1996

ENCLOSURE II

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Title	Description	Individual(s)/organization conducting the study	Publication
Nutrient Elasticities in a Complete Food Demand System	Explores the linkage of the determinants of food choice with consumer nutrient availability by developing a procedure to measure changes in nutrient availability as the demand for food items changes. The study uses demand elasticities from traditional demand analysis to estimate elasticities of changes in the nutritional content of consumer diets. The procedure is applied to estimate nutrient elasticities for 15 nutrients in response to changes in 35 food prices and per capita income.	Kuo Huang/ERS	American Journal of Agricultural Economics, No. 78, 1996
Size and Growth of the Nutritionally Improved Food Market	Analyzes sales of 37 food categories (such as cookies, hot dogs, and ice cream) and divides each category into two groups: "nutritionally improved versions" and "regular versions." The study used supermarket scanner data for the period 1989-93.	Elizabeth Frazão and Jane E. Allshouse/ERS	Economic Research Service Agricultural Information, Bulletin No. 723, 1996
A Probit Latent Variable Model of Nutrition Information and Dietary Fiber Intake	Uses nutrition information and intake data from a sample of U.S. household meal planners to estimate the effects of fiber-specific information on dietary fiber intake. The information variables are measured using survey questions on the fiber content of foods, attitudes toward consuming fiber-rich foods, and awareness of fiber-health links.	Jaychandran N. Variyam, James Blaylock, and David Smallwood/ERS	American Journal of Agricultural Economics, Vol. 78, 1996

Title	Description	Individual(s)/ organization conducting the study	Publication
Modeling Nutrition Knowledge, Attitudes, and Diet-Disease Awareness: The Case of Dietary Fiber	Uses the Diet and Health Knowledge component of USDA's Continuing Survey of Food Intakes by Individuals to examine consumer knowledge of dietary fiber, fiber consumption attitudes, and the awareness of fiber-related health problems. A statistical model is used to estimate the relationships between an individual's sociodemographic characteristics and his or her knowledge about fiber, attitudes, and disease awareness.	Jaychandran N. Varyyam, James Blaylock, and David Smallwood/ERS	Statistics in Medicine, Vol. 15, 1996
Diet-Health Information and Nutrition: The Intake of Dietary Fats and Cholesterol	Uses diet-health information and nutrient intake data for a sample of U.S. household meal planners to estimate the effect of information on the intake of fat, saturated fat, and cholesterol. Results indicate that an awareness of health problems due to excess intake of these nutrients and the self-assessed importance of avoiding too much of these nutrients in one's diet have significant influence on nutrient intake. Results support the allocative efficiency hypothesis that states that higher human capital promotes healthier food choices through better acquisition and use of health information. Personal and household characteristics significantly affecting nutrient intake include income, schooling, age, sex, race, ethnicity, body mass index, vegetarian status, and dieting status. The informational role of exogenous variables is illustrated by computing their direct and indirect effects on intake.	Jaychandran N. Varyyam, James Blaylock, and David Smallwood/ERS	Technical Bulletin, No. 1855, 1997
Moving Toward Healthier Diets	Lists nutrition-related articles.	ERS	Food Review: January-April 1996, Vol. 19, Issue 1

ENCLOSURE II

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Legend

ERS = Economic Research Service
USDA = U.S. Department of Agriculture
WIC = Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children

Table II.3: WIC Research Studies and Evaluations

Title	Description	Individual(s)/ organization conducting the study	Publication
The Extension Service/WIC Nutrition Education Initiative: Progress in the First Year	Summarizes the progress of 18 nutrition education projects in their first year of operation. The projects were awarded funds under the Department of Agriculture's Extension Service/WIC Nutrition Education Initiative and were administered at the local level within the cooperative extension system. The main goal of this initiative was to change the behavior and promote the nutritional well-being of the neediest WIC participants. A wide variety of innovative educational techniques were created or adapted to address the nutritional needs of these hard-to-reach populations. The report reviews the progress of the projects in meeting specific process and outcome objectives of the initiative.	Donald Rose and Jon Weimer/ERS	Staff Paper No. AGES-9515, 1995

Legend

WIC = Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Woman, Infants, and Children

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