

# The Nationwide Food Consumption Survey (NFCS), 1977-78

**BACKGROUND:** The NFCS 1977-78 provided information on food consumption at two levels:

- o Food used by entire households at home (household use of food component) The basic sample was a nationally representative sample of households in the 48 conterminous States and Washington DC. Information on household food use and money value of food was collected using a 7-day list recall from the person with major responsibility for planning or preparing meals. The interviewer asked which foods from a list were used, and the respondent indicated the kind, amount, source (purchased, home produced, gift or pay), and the price if purchased. Foods were analyzed for food energy and 14 nutrients. Other information included the sex and age of each household member; the number of morning, noon, and evening meals each had during the week from home food supplies and away from home; and the expense for meals and snacks bought away from home. In addition, counts of guest meals and snacks were recorded, because they affect household food use.

Data for the 1977-78 basic survey were collected from Apr. 1977 - Mar. 1978. The survey included several supplemental samples: Households containing one or more elderly persons (April. 1977 - Mar. 1978), households in Puerto Rico (Jul. 1977 - Dec. 1977), Alaska (Jan.-Mar. 1978), and Hawaii (Jan.-Mar. 1978), and households eligible for the Food Stamp Program (low-income I) in Nov. 1977 - Mar. 1978. A follow-up low-income survey was conducted in 1979-80 (low-income II) in Nov. 1979 - Mar. 1980. For the 1977-78 low-income sample, eligible households were those receiving food stamps or eligible to receive food stamps; information for the second low-income sample was collected to reflect changes in the food stamp program.

- o Foods eaten at home and away from home by individual household members (individual intake component). In this component, the sample included a nationally representative sample of about 36,000 individuals in households in the 48 conterminous States and Washington DC. Food intake was collected over 3 consecutive days using a 1-day dietary recall in an in-person interview and a self-administered 2-day dietary record. Each respondent provided information on his or her own intake, except for children under 12 years of age whose intake was usually reported by the household respondent. The individual estimated the amount ingested and reported the name of the eating event (breakfast, lunch, dinner, supper, snack, etc.) The time the eating event began, with whom it was eaten (alone, other household member, nonhousehold member), and where it was eaten (someone else's home, restaurant, fast-food place, school, etc.). For food bought and eaten away from home, the kind of service (water/waitress, counter, cafeteria, vending machine, carryout) and amount paid were recorded. Each individual was asked about health status, height and weight, water consumption, and use of vitamin and mineral supplements.

The supplemental samples were the same as those described in the household component above, however, the elderly and the low-income II surveys included only a 1-day recall. In the Spring portion of the Basic survey and in all supplemental surveys, all members of sample households provided information. In the Summer, Fall, and Winter of the Basic survey, data was obtained for all household members under 19 years of age but for only half of household members 19 years of age and over.

**SAMPLE SIZES AND RESPONSE RATES:**

	Household		Individual (1 day)	
	Number	Response rate	Number	Response rate
Basic sample.....	14,930	61%	30,467	57%
Low-income I ....	4,623	53%	12,650	42%
Elderly.....	4,918	NA	8,036	NA
Puerto Rico.....	3,040	NA	7,950	NA
Alaska.....	1,131	NA	2,393	NA
Hawaii .....	1,256	NA	3,086	NA
Low-income I....	4,623	NA	12,847	NA
Low-income II ..	3,002	NA	9,123	NA

**PRODUCTS:** Products include a series of reports and magnetic data tapes. The products listed below are available from the National Technical Information Service 1-800-553-6847 or 703- 487-4650; please provide the accession number when ordering. A series of magnetic data tapes for both components and for the supplemental surveys are available from NTIS also.

HOUSEHOLD USE OF FOOD COMPONENT

--Reports

- o Food Consumption: Households in the United States, Spring 1977, Rep. No. H-1, Pub. 1982, 296 pp. NTIS Accession No. PB91-104174
- o Food Consumption: Households in the Northeast, Spring 1977, Rep. No. H-2, Pub. 1982, 301 pp. NTIS Accession No. PB91-105387
- o Food Consumption: Households in the North Central Region, Spring 1977, Rep. No. H-3, Pub. 1982, 301 pp. NTIS Accession No. PB91-103671
- o Food Consumption: Households in the South, Spring 1977, Rep. No. H-4, Pub. 1982, 301 pp. NTIS Accession No. PB91-104208
- o Food Consumption: Households in the West, Spring 1977, Rep. No. H-5, Pub. 1982, 301 pp. NTIS Accession No. PB91-103655
- o Food Consumption: Households in the United States, Seasons and Year 1977-78, Rep. No. H-6, Pub. 1983, 309 pp. Accession No. PB91-105379
- o Food Consumption: Households in the Northeast, Seasons and 1977-78, Rep. No. H-7, Pub. 1983, 311 pp. NTIS Accession No. PB91-104190/AS
- o Food Consumption: Households in the North Central Region, Seasons and Year 1977-78, Rep. No. H-8, Pub. 1983, 311 pp. NTIS Accession No. PB91-104166
- o Food Consumption: Households in the South, Seasons and Year 1977-78, Rep. No. H-9, Pub. 1983, 311 pp. NTIS Accession No. PB84-171768
- o Food Consumption: Households in the West, Seasons and Year 1977-78, Rep. No. H-10, Pub. 1983, 311 pp. NTIS Accession No. PB91-105874
- o Dietary Levels: Households in the United States, Spring 1977, Rep. No. H-11, Pub. 1985, 188 pp. NTIS Accession No. PB91-103515
- o Dietary Levels: Households in the Northeast, Spring 1977, Rep. No. H-12, Pub. 1985, 188 pp. NTIS Accession No. PB91-105361
- o Dietary Levels: Households in the North Central Region, Spring 1977, Rep. No. H-13, Pub. 1985, 188 pp. NTIS Accession No. PB91-105841
- o Dietary Levels: Households in the South, Spring 1977, Rep. No. H-14, Pub. 1985, 188 pp. NTIS Accession No. PB91-103663
- o Dietary Levels: Households in the West, Spring 1977, Rep. No. H-15, Pub. 1985, 188 pp. NTIS Accession No. PB91-105395

--Magnetic Data Tape

- o Spring Basic -- Accession No. PB80-190176
- o Summer Basic -- Accession No. PB80-197411
- o Fall Basic --Accession No. PB80-200215
- o Winter Basic -- Accession No. PB80-202542
- o Puerto Rico -- Accession No. PB82-138454
- o Alaska -- Accession No. PB81-146763
- o Hawaii -- Accession No. PB81-146755
- o Elderly -- Accession No. PB83-137281
- o Low-income I -- Accession No. PB81-114399
- o Low-income II -- Accession No. PB82-138470

--Technical Support Files: USDA Nutrient Data Base for Household Food Use Surveys. NTIS  
Accession No. PB82-138496

**INDIVIDUAL INTAKE COMPONENT**

--Reports

- o Food Intakes: Individuals in 48 States, Year 1977-78, Rep. No. I-1, Pub. 1984 , 617 pp. NTIS  
Accession No. PB91-103523
- o Nutrient Intakes: Individuals in 48 States, Year 1977-78. Rep. No. I-2, Pub. 1984, 439 pp. NTIS  
Accession No. PB91-105866
- o Food and Nutrient Intakes: Individuals in Four Regions, 1977-78, Rep. No. I-3, Pub. 1985, 533 pp.  
NTIS Accession No. PB91-105858
- o Foods Commonly Eaten by Individuals: Amount Per Day and Per Eating Occasion. Home  
Economics Research Report No. 44. NTIS Accession No. PB97-165542

--Magnetic data tapes

- o Spring Basic -- Accession No. PB80-190218
- o Summer Basic -- Accession No. PB80-197429
- o Fall Basic --Accession No. PB80-200223
- o Winter Basic -- Accession No. PB81-118853
- o Puerto Rico -- Accession No. PB82-138462
- o Alaska -- Accession No. PB81-162539
- o Hawaii -- Accession No. PB81-146771
- o Elderly (Spring and Summer) -- Accession No. PB83-134023
- o Elderly (Fall and Winter) -- Accession No. PB86-206307
- o Low-income I -- Accession No. PB81-118838
- o Low-income II -- Accession No. PB82-138415

---USDA Nutrient Data Base for Individual Food Intake Surveys, Release 1, 1980. NTIS  
Accession No. PB82-138504

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Agricultural Research Service  
Beltsville Human Nutrition Research Center  
Food Surveys Research Group  
10300 Baltimore Ave., Building 005, Room 102  
BARC-West, Beltsville, MD 20705-2350  
<http://www.barc.usda.gov/bhnrc/foodsurvey/home.htm>

Phone: 301-504-0170  
FAX: 301-504-0376  
E-mail: [fsrg@rbhnrc.usda.gov](mailto:fsrg@rbhnrc.usda.gov)