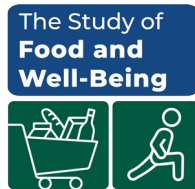


Appendix R. Study Description



The Study of Food and Well-Being

Overview

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is conducting this study to gain a deeper understanding of the interrelated factors that affect food insecurity and poverty. This data collection effort will help the USDA better understand the association between SNAP, other USDA-administered programs, and community-based assistance with well-being and the food environment. The USDA has contracted with Mathematica to conduct this study in six counties experiencing persistent poverty.

Research goals

The study team will conduct a survey of a representative sample of low-income households in each study county, some who participate in SNAP and some who do not. These households will provide the basis for understanding food insecurity and poverty in environments experiencing high and persistent levels of poverty.

Key study goals are to:

- Produce descriptive statistics in each study county on key social, financial, and geographic variables related to well-being and economic strain.
- Characterize the social context and the life course of individuals, especially within multigenerational family units, as they define their overall life experiences and history with food insecurity.

Study activities

To achieve its research objectives, the team is conducting:

- **Household Surveys:** will collect information to better understand county residents' sociodemographic and economic backgrounds that affect food security.
- **In-depth Interviews:** will be conducted with multigenerational SNAP and SNAP-eligible households to provide a richer and more nuanced understanding of factors that affect individuals' well-being and to provide context to survey findings.
- **Focus Groups:** will be conducted with community stakeholders that work closely with low-income populations to enhance understanding of the community, including service needs and gaps.

Findings

Data collection on this 5-year study will begin in 2024. Final data files and documentation will be available to the public. A final report on the research findings is expected in 2026.

To find out more

Contact Mathematica's project director, [NAME], by phone at (XXX) XXX-XXXX or by email at [EMAIL], or the FNS project officer, Michael Burke, by phone at (703) 305-4369 or by email at michael.burke@usda.gov. You can also learn more about the study by visiting the study website: www.mathematica.org/STUDYWEBSITE