

10. Glossary

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Community food security assessment: The collection of data that will determine whether households in the community have access to nutritionally adequate, sufficient, and culturally acceptable foods to satisfy their dietary needs.

Community profile: A detailed description of the community and its resources that may be developed after all data collection activities have been completed.

Existing data: Previously compiled data.

Data collection instruments: Forms used to collect data to answer research questions. They may include survey forms, interview protocols, observation sheets, and recording forms used in the extraction of data from records.

Data collection tools: The documents (e.g., survey forms, recording forms, interview questions, observation recording sheets) used to structure the collection of data.

Data or data elements: Pieces of information relevant for the assessment.

Entitlement programs: Government programs that provide cash, commodities, or services to all qualifying low-income individuals or households.

Food security: The state in which all persons obtain a nutritionally adequate, culturally acceptable diet at all times through nonemergency sources, including food from local production. Food security broadens the traditional concept of hunger, embracing a systemic view of the causes of hunger and poor nutrition within a community while identifying the changes necessary to prevent their occurrence. Food security programs confront hunger and poverty.

Household food security: The status of a household with reference to its access to nutritionally adequate and culturally acceptable foods in sufficient amounts to meet the needs of all household members.

Indicators: Categories of information for which data are being collected (e.g., number of household members, ethnicity of household members, employment status).

Primary data: Primary data are those data that are collected first hand (i.e., by a researcher, scientist, etc.)

Secondary data: Secondary data are data that have been collected by another entity and may be available through a report, publication, or database.

Toolkit: A self-contained package containing all materials necessary for meeting some purpose.

11. References

11. References

- Anderson SA (ed). "Core Indicators of Nutritional State for Difficult-to-Sample Populations." *Journal of Nutrition* 1990; 120(11S):1557-1600.
- Bickel G, Nord M, Price C, Hamilton W, Cook J. *Guide to Measuring Household Food Security, Revised 2000*. Alexandria, VA: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service; March 2000.
- Biehler D, Fisher A, Siedenburger K, Winne M, Zachary J. *Getting Food on the Table: An Action Guide to Local Food Policy*. Venice, CA: Community Food Security Coalition; March 1999.
- Joseph H (ed). *Community Food Security: A Guide to Concept, Design, and Implementation*. Venice, CA: Community Food Security Coalition; 1997.
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- Macaluso T. "The Extent of Trafficking in the Food Stamp Program: An Update." Alexandria, VA: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Office of Analysis and Evaluation; March 2000.
- Mantovani R, Daft L, Macaluso T, Welsh J, Hoffman K. *Authorized Food Retailers' Characteristics and Access Study*. Alexandria, VA: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Service, Office of Analysis and Evaluation; February 1997.
- The National Nutrition Safety Net: Tools for Community Food Security*. Alexandria, VA: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service; January 2000.
- Nutrition and Your Health: Dietary Guidelines for Americans*. 4th edition. Washington, DC: U.S. Departments of Agriculture and Health and Human Services; 1995.
- Wolfe WS, Brenner B, Ferris-Morris M. *Monitoring the Nutrition of Your Community: A "How-To" Manual*. Ithaca, NY: Division of Nutritional Sciences, Cornell University; 1992.

12. Annotated Bibliography of Community Food Security Assessment Studies

Access Denied: An Analysis of Problems Facing East Austin Residents in Their Attempts to Obtain Affordable, Nutritious Food

A comprehensive analysis of national, state, and local data, with the purpose of describing East Austin residents' problems regarding access to nutritious and affordable food. Information was gathered from a variety of primary and secondary sources, including food stores; national, State, and local census data; the Texas Department of Human Services; and the *Progressive Grocer* supermarket database.

Sustainable Food Center, Austin, Texas, 1995.

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Adams County Head Start: Community Assessment

Identifies the needs of Head Start eligible children and families, evaluates current practices, assesses the resources available to enhance the program, and examines unmet needs. Research consists of a compilation of demographic and economic statistics from a variety of State and local sources, including local school districts, the Adams County Department of Social Services, the Colorado Department of Education, and nonprofit groups. In addition, a focus group interview was conducted with representatives from these agencies, as well as Head Start staff, parents, and representatives from other local service agencies, to discuss perceptions of the health, nutritional, educational, and social services needs of Head Start children and their families.

Adams County, Colorado Head Start, March 1999.

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Administrative Offices
7111 East 56th Avenue
Commerce City, Colorado 80022
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A Citizen's Guide to Food Recovery

A resource guide on food recovery and gleaning programs. Outlines the key components of successful food recovery and gleaning projects, discusses available nonprofit and government resources for food recovery and gleaning activities, and provides a directory of public and private organizations—from the national to the local level—that are involved in food recovery and gleaning activities.

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Community-Based Food System Monitoring System, Knoxville, Tennessee

A food system monitoring system based on five food security goals of the Knoxville Food Policy Council: the sustainability of local food production, the economic vitality of the food system, the quality of the food system, nutrition education, and the availability of adequate and nutritious food supply to all. Researchers identified indicators for each goal, investigated the degree to which variables were available to measure each indicator area, and selected indicator areas that could be objectively measured with available resources. Secondary data were gathered from a variety of sources and summarized in a printed report and Internet database.

Haughton B. Department of Nutrition, University of Tennessee-Knoxville, October 1997.

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Community Food Security (CFS): A Guide to Concept, Design, and Implementation

A comprehensive guide to the various components of community food security, defining concepts, planning processes, needs assessment, collaborations and coalitions, project implementation, interagency and multisector projects and strategies, entrepreneurship and community economic development, funding issues, and long-term program support. It also provides an overview of four of the existing CFS initiatives.

Joseph H (ed.). Community Food Security Coalition, 1997.

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The Detroit Area Food System: Statistics and Trends

Used secondary data to assess three components of the Detroit area food system—food in community economic development, food in community health, and food in neighborhood revitalization. Primary data were collected in pilot studies on household food security and food availability in Detroit’s food stores.

Pothukuchi K. Department of Geography and Urban Planning, Wayne State University, revised draft, June 1999.

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Fertile Ground: Planning for the Madison/Dane County Food System

An analysis of the Madison/Dane County food system, describing the conventional food system as it operates in the county and evaluating the system within the community food security framework employed in the Seeds of Change report. Contains an analysis of secondary data on environment, economic, and government indicators, as well as indicators of community supported agriculture (CSA) and community gardens. Includes primary data collection and analysis in the form of “food asset mapping”; a food price survey; focus group interviews with low-income adults and children to understand barriers to food access; a food-related strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) analysis of the neighborhoods; and a survey of food-related businesses.

Allen M, Born B, and Herbach G (eds.). Department of Urban and Regional Planning, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1997.

Contact: Jerome L. Kaufman, Ph.D.
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Madison, WI 53706
(608) 262-1004 (voice)
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From Field to Table: Linking Sustainable Agriculture with Local Communities in Northern California

Used quantitative and qualitative methods to assess the local food system in Berkeley. Community members were interviewed at all levels of the local and regional food system, including farmers, food retailers, and consumers. Survey tools developed for the project include a residential survey, a farmers survey, a food store survey, and a liquor store survey.

Pinderhughes R. Urban Studies Program, San Francisco State University.

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Homeward Bound: Food-Related Transportation Strategies in Low Income and Transit Dependent Communities

A literature review of food access issues from both a food systems and transportation planning perspective, including a review and analysis of established private and public food access programs and case studies of emerging innovative food access programs in low-income communities.

Gottlieb R, Fisher A, Dohan M, O'Connor L, and Parks V. UCLA Pollution Prevention Education and Research Center & The Community Food Security Coalition, 1996.

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Hot Peppers & Parking Lot Peaches: Evaluating Farmers' Markets in Low Income Communities

An evaluation based on eight case studies of farmers' markets in the United States. Researchers identified the general characteristics of successful farmers' markets in low-income communities. Methods included a survey of consumers in two California communities on their attitudes and perceptions about farmers' markets and extensive in-person and phone interviews with farmers, farmers' market managers, and other organizers.

Fisher A. Community Food Security Coalition, January 1999.

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Household Food Security in the United States in 1995: The Food Security Measurement Project

A description of the methods and findings of the Food Security Supplement to the Current Population Survey (CPS) of the United States Bureau of the Census in 1995. The Food Security Supplement is the basis for comprehensive household measures of food security in the United States and has been adapted into the USDA Core Food Security Module. It is an 18-question survey used to classify households into 4 levels of food security status: (1) food secure, (2) food insecure without hunger, (3) food insecure with moderate hunger, and (4) food insecure with severe hunger.

USDA, Food and Nutrition Service, Office of Analysis and Evaluation, September 1997.

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Hunger Task Force of Milwaukee: Milwaukee Food System Assessment Study (FSAS)

Comparative Study of Food Pricing and Availability in Milwaukee

An assessment of the availability and prices of selected food items in retail food outlets located within and outside a target area in inner-city Milwaukee. Stores were classified by their location in relationship to the target area and by their size. More than 50 food items were selected for

examination (using a market basket approach). The store survey also collected data on other store characteristics, such as produce quality and overall store cleanliness.

Johnson K, Percy S, and Wagner E. Urban Research Center, September 1996.

Socio-Spatial Relationships and Food Programs in Milwaukee's Food System

An evaluation of spatial relationships within Milwaukee's food system using analytic geographic information systems (GIS) mapping techniques and demographic and statistical methods. Includes a socioeconomic and demographic profile and spatial analyses of Milwaukee's emergency food assistance providers, food stamp retailers, and food assistance centers.

Varela O. Center for Urban Initiatives and Research, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, November 1996.

Food Insecurity in Milwaukee: A Qualitative Study of Food Pantry and Meal Program Users

An exploration of the food needs of clients of food pantries and meal programs in Milwaukee. Using focus groups, researchers conducted intensive interviews to identify clients' unmet food needs, the extent to which those needs are satisfied by emergency food programs, obstacles they have faced in accessing the emergency programs, and food acquisition patterns.

Varela O, Johnson K, and Percy S. Center for Urban Initiatives and Research, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, February 1998.

Perceptions and Experiences of Consumer Access to Food in Milwaukee's Inner City Neighborhood

Researchers used a phone survey of residents and households in Milwaukee's inner-city neighborhoods to examine food-shopping patterns, eating patterns, use of food and nutrition programs, and levels of hunger and food insecurity.

Varela O, Haider-Markel D, and Percy S. Center for Urban Initiatives and Research, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, March 1998.

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Improving Access to Food in Low-Income Communities: An Investigation of Three Bay Area Neighborhoods

An investigation of barriers to nutritious and affordable food experienced by people living in three San Francisco Bay area low-income communities—The Tenderloin, Bayview/Hunters Point, and Fruitvale. Sites were selected on the basis of income/poverty, race/ethnicity, degree of community organization, and replicability, with some consideration given to demographic characteristics such

as age, household composition, and the circumstances of food acquisition for residents of the neighborhood. The project consisted of initial interviews and meetings with key government leaders and nongovernment organizations, members of the food industry, and residents representing distinct subpopulations within the neighborhoods. Researchers conducted 11 focus group interviews and 45 resident surveys in the 3 neighborhoods. They also conducted a market basket survey to compare prices at food retailers in and near two of the neighborhoods. The third part of the study consisted of a comprehensive literature review of all aspects of community food security systems, as well as summaries of meetings and interviews with community food security experts nationwide.

For the Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr., Fund, by the California Food Policy Advocates, January 1996.

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Nutrition and Health Status in the Lower Mississippi Delta of Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi: A Review of Existing Data

The premier publication of the Lower Mississippi Delta Nutrition Intervention Research Initiative (Delta NIRI), a multiyear collaborative research study of health and nutrition intervention needs in the lower Mississippi Delta region of Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi. [Using secondary data, the report examines a variety of socioeconomic, demographic, and health and nutritional indicators in the Delta region, including the availability of community services and health care resources, health and nutritional status, food and nutrition program resources, food and nutrient intake, eating patterns, and household food security.

USDA Agricultural Research Service, 1997.

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Seeds of Change: Strategies for Food Security for the Inner City

The product of a year-long UCLA study that examined various components of community food security in the inner city (and specifically in Los Angeles). Components measured include nutrition education, public health, hunger advocacy, economic and community development, food retailing, local agriculture (sustainability, food production, direct marketing, and so forth), urban ecology, and public policy. Researchers examined these components at the local, regional, State, and national levels. Methods used include an extensive literature review of more than 1,000 policy, industry, and academic documents; interviews with key figures in the public and private sectors; and original research in the form of primary data collection, geographic information systems (GIS) analysis, and analysis of U.S. census data.

Ashman L, de la Vega J, Dohan M, Fisher F, Hippler R, and Romain B. Graduate School of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of California, June 1993.

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Supermarket Access in Cambridge: A Report to the Cambridge City Council

Used a market analysis of secondary data to evaluate food access in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Discusses strategies for mapping access to supermarkets, identifying underserved areas, and evaluating potential sites for new supermarkets. For each potential site, a site analysis was conducted that identified the location and owner, site conditions, applicable zoning, availability, neighborhood character, location in relation to the underserved area, and transportation routes. Researchers also conducted a Cambridge market basket food survey to examine food product availability and prices in different areas of the city.

Community Development Department, Cambridge, Massachusetts, December 1994.

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Cambridge, MA 02139
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The Thin Red Line: How the Poor Still Pay More

A study of the problems faced by low-income consumers in accessing basic consumer needs, such as decent affordable housing, quality food, health care, and banking and credit services. With relation to food needs, researchers conducted a total market basket survey, which examined the price of a monthly market basket for a family of four in different market areas. They also assessed

market demand in low-income and middle-income communities by considering consumers' driving time to food markets.

Troutt D. The West Coast Regional Office of Consumers Union, June 1993.

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(414) 431-6747 (voice)
(415) 431-0906 (fax)

The Urban Grocery Store Gap

An assessment and analysis of the urban grocery store gap in 21 large U.S. cities. The study used secondary data from the 1990 U.S. Population Survey as well as market data from the *Progressive Grocer* supermarket database. The report examines the relationship between demographic characteristics and supermarket characteristics at the ZIP Code and city levels.

Cotterill R and Franklin A. Food Marketing Policy Center, University of Connecticut, April 1995.

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