

ANALYSIS OF FNRI 1993 FCS AND NSO 2000 FIES DATA FOR FOOD POVERTY ESTIMATION

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Background: Poverty line is defined as the expenditure level needed by a family to satisfy the minimum basic needs for food and non-food or the peso value of the subsistence (food) line which is augmented by a modest allowance for non-food needs. The estimation of the food line has been officially based on the low-cost menus that meet the 100% Recommended Dietary Allowances (RDA) for energy and protein and at least 80% RDA for other nutrients. Some sectors have raised issues on the use of menus in estimating the food poverty line (*fpl*), and the comparability or consistency of the method to measure the standard of living across geographic domains. There is a need to explore methodologies to estimate food poverty line (*fpl*) without using geography-specific menus. **Objectives:** 1) To estimate the cumulative distributions of the mean one-day per capita energy and protein intake and adequacy; 2) To determine the mean one-day per capita nutrient intake and adequacy by income decile and quartile; and 3) To estimate the prevalence of food poverty using the different cut-off points for per capita calorie and protein intake. **Methods:** The data sets utilized were the 1993 Food Consumption Survey (FCS) of the Food and Nutrition Research Institute, Department of Science and Technology (FNRI-DOST) and the 2000 Family Income and Expenditure Survey (FIES) of the National Statistics Office (NSO). The 1993 FCS covered 4,050 households selected using the stratified two-stage sampling design. The FIES, on the other hand, had about 40,000 households selected using the multi-stage sampling design. The FCS used the one-day food weighing technique while the FIES employed the food recall method. The FNRI-Household Dietary Evaluation System (HDES) was used in processing the two food consumption datasets. **Results:** The 1993 FCS revealed that almost 80% of the sampled households were dietary energy-deficient (DED) while half of the sampled households were dietary protein-deficient (DPD). In the case of the 2000 FIES, 100% energy adequacy was reached at the 70th percentile but 100% protein adequacy was attained at the 60th percentile as compared to the 1993 FCS. The mean one-day per capita energy and protein intake and adequacy by income quartile for the 2 datasets showed an increasing pattern. However, there were fluctuations on the mean one-day per capita energy and protein intake and adequacy by income decile for the two datasets. As expected, the incidence of food-poor increased as the cut-off values for energy and protein intake increased. **Recommendations:** 1) To review the official nutritional requirements in estimating food threshold (i.e., 100% adequacy for energy and protein and 80% for the rest of the nutrients); and 2) To consider the 2000 Recommended Energy and Nutrient Intake (RENI) in the computation of the food poverty line.