



United States Department of Agriculture

# **The National Household Food Acquisition and Purchase Survey FoodAPS**

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US Department of Agriculture



# What is FoodAPS?

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## National Household **F**ood **A**cquisition and **P**urchase **S**urvey

Comprehensive data on **household food purchases and acquisitions.**

- Includes foods from **food-at-home** (FAH) retailers, **food-away-from-home** (FAFH) establishments, and **foods obtained for free**
- Reported by **all household members** over a seven-day period
- FoodAPS-1 fielded from April 2012 to January 2013



# FoodAPS Sample

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**Nationally representative** of US households with four target populations:

- **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households** (1,581)
- **Non-SNAP households** with income:
  - < 100% of the federal poverty guideline (346)
  - $\geq$  100% and < 185% of the federal poverty guideline (851)
  - $\geq$  185% of the federal poverty guideline (2,048)



# FoodAPS Survey

## Households

- Income
- Food security
- Diet and nutrition knowledge
- Food assistance program participation

## Individuals

- Demographics
- Eating occasions
- School attendance
- Dietary restrictions

## Events

- Place
- Total paid
- Payment type

## Items

- Descriptions
- Quantities
- Expenditures
- Prices

## Data collection:

food books, scanned barcodes, receipts,  
in-person interviews, telephone interviews

[illegible]

# Meals, Snacks, and Drinks

## You Got Outside Your Home

**Complete one RED page for each PLACE where you got food and drink.**

<b>(A) What you got to eat:</b> meal, snack, drink	<input type="checkbox"/> Mon	<input type="checkbox"/> Tue	<input type="checkbox"/> Wed	<input type="checkbox"/> Thu	<input type="checkbox"/> Fri	<input type="checkbox"/> Sat	<input type="checkbox"/> Sun
<b>Name of PLACE where you got food:</b>							
<b>Name of PEOPLE who ate this meal, snack, or drink:</b>							
<b>(B) Check box to record if receipt:</b>							
<input type="checkbox"/> I remember it exactly	<input type="checkbox"/> I can describe it	<input type="checkbox"/> I don't know					
<b>(C) How did you pay? CHECK ONE to supply</b>							
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Cash	<input type="checkbox"/> Debit card	<input type="checkbox"/> Credit card				
<input type="checkbox"/> Other gift	<input type="checkbox"/> Social Security card	<input type="checkbox"/> Phone	<input type="checkbox"/> Gift aid				
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Social security check	<input type="checkbox"/> Other					
<b>TOTAL and calculating tax</b>							
\$				\$			
<b>(D) You also keep track of drinks for people who do NOT pay themselves?</b>							
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes		<input type="checkbox"/> No		<input type="checkbox"/> I do not recall			
<b>Complete this section if you DO NOT have a receipt or if receipt DOES NOT list each food item.</b>							
<b>Write each food and drink on its separate line</b>				<b>How many? Amount paid?</b>			
Write down how much you paid for each item on the receipt, such as lunch that costs more than a meal				Write down amount I gave (cash, debit card, etc.)			

Tape RECEIPT HERE

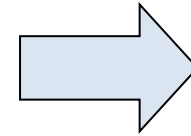
QUESTIONS? Call 1-866-576-6659

[Official Form]



# Food At Home + Food Away From Home

**Food At Home (FAH):** Foods and drinks that are brought home and used to prepare meals for consumption at home or elsewhere (for example, food used to make a sandwich that you bring to work). Places to get FAH include grocery stores, food pantries, and gardens.



**Foods and Drinks Brought into the Home**  
Complete one BLUE page for each PLACE where you got food that you brought home

(1) DAY you brought food home: Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat Sun

Name of PLACE where you got food: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of PERSON who got the food: \_\_\_\_\_

(2) Did you...  
- use a store manufacturer's coupon? ☐ yes ☐ no  
- use a store loyalty card or a frequent shopper card? ☐ yes ☐ no  
- have your receipt? ☐ yes ☐ no  
If you did NOT have receipt, how much did you pay for food and drink? \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(3) How did you pay? Check ALL that apply  
☐ Cash ☐ Check ☐ Credit card ☐ Debit card  
☐ VEC ☐ SNAP EBT amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ PAYE card ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

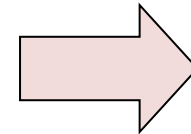
(4) Did you SCAN the food and drink? ☐ ALL ☐ None ☐ Some

List ALL foods and drinks you COULD NOT SCAN  
Description (Please be as specific as possible) Write size or amount if known (cups, grams, etc.) How many?

Description (Please be as specific as possible)	Write size or amount if known (cups, grams, etc.)	How many?

QUESTIONS? Call 1-866-275-8659 Office 104

**Food Away From Home (FAFH):** Foods and drinks that are obtained for consumption away from home *and* prepared foods that are brought home or delivered. Places to get FAFH include cafeterias, restaurants (incl. takeout), parties, schools, church dinners, and senior centers.



**Meals, Snacks, and Drinks You Got Outside Your Home**  
Complete one RED page for each PLACE where you got food and drinks

(1) DAY you got this meal, snack, drink: Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat Sun

Name of PLACE where you got food: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of PEOPLE who ate this meal, snack, or drink: \_\_\_\_\_

(2) Check the meal or snack  
☐ Breakfast ☐ Lunch ☐ Dinner/Supper ☐ Snack/Drink

(3) How did you pay? Check ALL that apply  
☐ Cash ☐ Check ☐ Credit card ☐ Debit card  
☐ SNAP EBT ☐ School lunch card ☐ Other ☐ Gift card ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL paid (including tax)  
Total paid \$ \_\_\_\_\_ If you left a tip, how much? \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(4) Did you buy food or drinks for anyone who is not in your household?  
☐ No ☐ 1 person ☐ 2 people ☐ 3 or more people

Separate this section if you did NOT have a receipt or the receipt DOES NOT list each food item.  
Write each food and drink on a separate line. Only include foods and drinks you got that are not on the receipt, such as bread and water that come with a meal. Write size or amount if known (cups, grams, etc.) How many? Amount paid

Write each food and drink on a separate line. Only include foods and drinks you got that are not on the receipt, such as bread and water that come with a meal.	Write size or amount if known (cups, grams, etc.)	How many?	Amount paid

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# FoodAPS by the Numbers

	Full Survey	SNAP Households	Non-SNAP + <100%	Non-SNAP + ≥100% + <185%	Non-SNAP + ≥185%
<i>Households</i>	<b>4,826</b>	1,581	346	851	2,048
<i>Individuals</i>	<b>14,317</b>	5,414	964	2,375	5,564
<i>FAH Events</i>	<b>15,998</b>	5,545	1,134	2,711	6,608
<i>FAH Items</i>	<b>143,050</b>	51,145	8,693	21,878	61,334
<i>FAFH Events</i>	<b>39,120</b>	12,371	2,311	6,329	18,109
<i>FAFH Items</i>	<b>116,074</b>	37,140	6,831	18,480	53,623

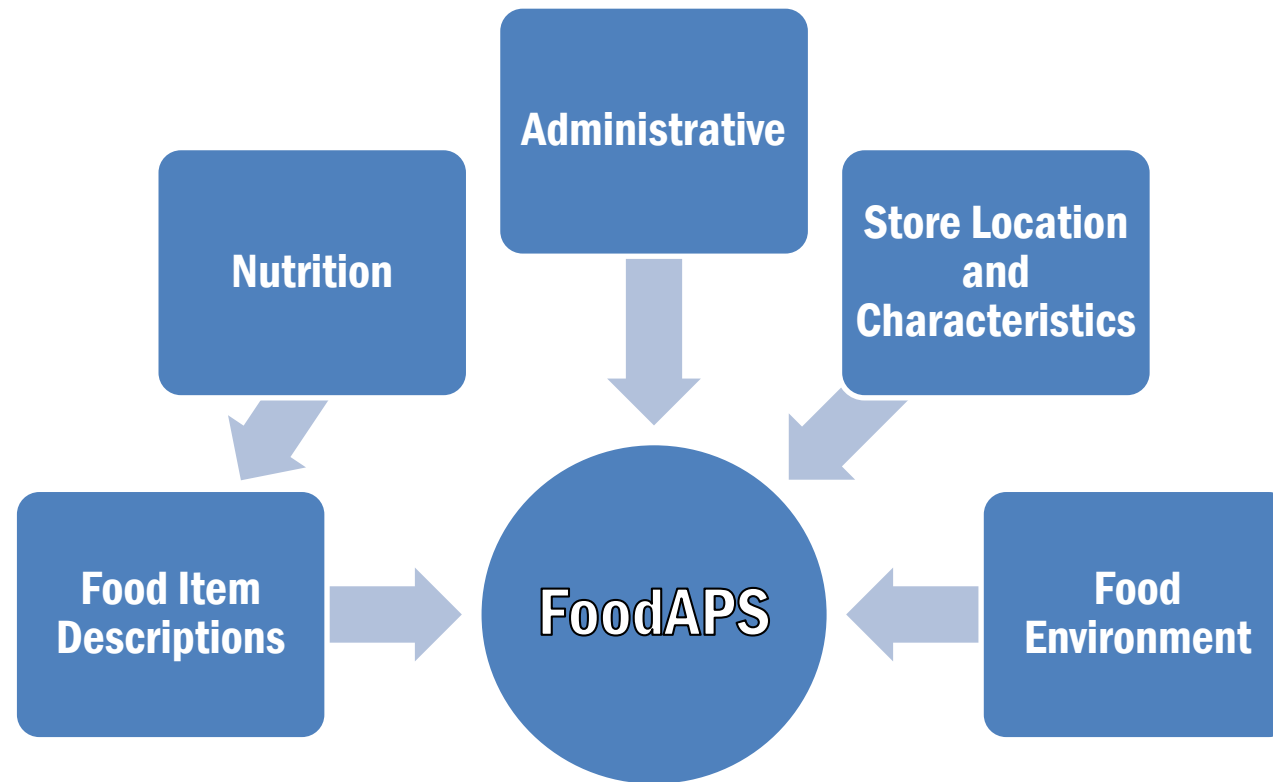
Note: These numbers represent unweighted frequencies.





# Integrating Extant Data

Extant data were linked to **reduce respondent burden** and **enhance data analysis**.



# Data Access

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## Restricted-use data:

- Protected under the *Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act* (CIPSEA)
- Access requires annual training, project agreement, confidentiality agreement, and a memorandum of understanding (MOU)
- Stored on a secure data enclave:  
Administrative Data Research Facility (ADRF)

## Public-use data:

- Stripped of data that may pose disclosure risk.
- Available online at:  
[www.ers.usda.gov/foodaps](http://www.ers.usda.gov/foodaps)





# Files and Documentation

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## Main FoodAPS Data Files (SAS, Stata):

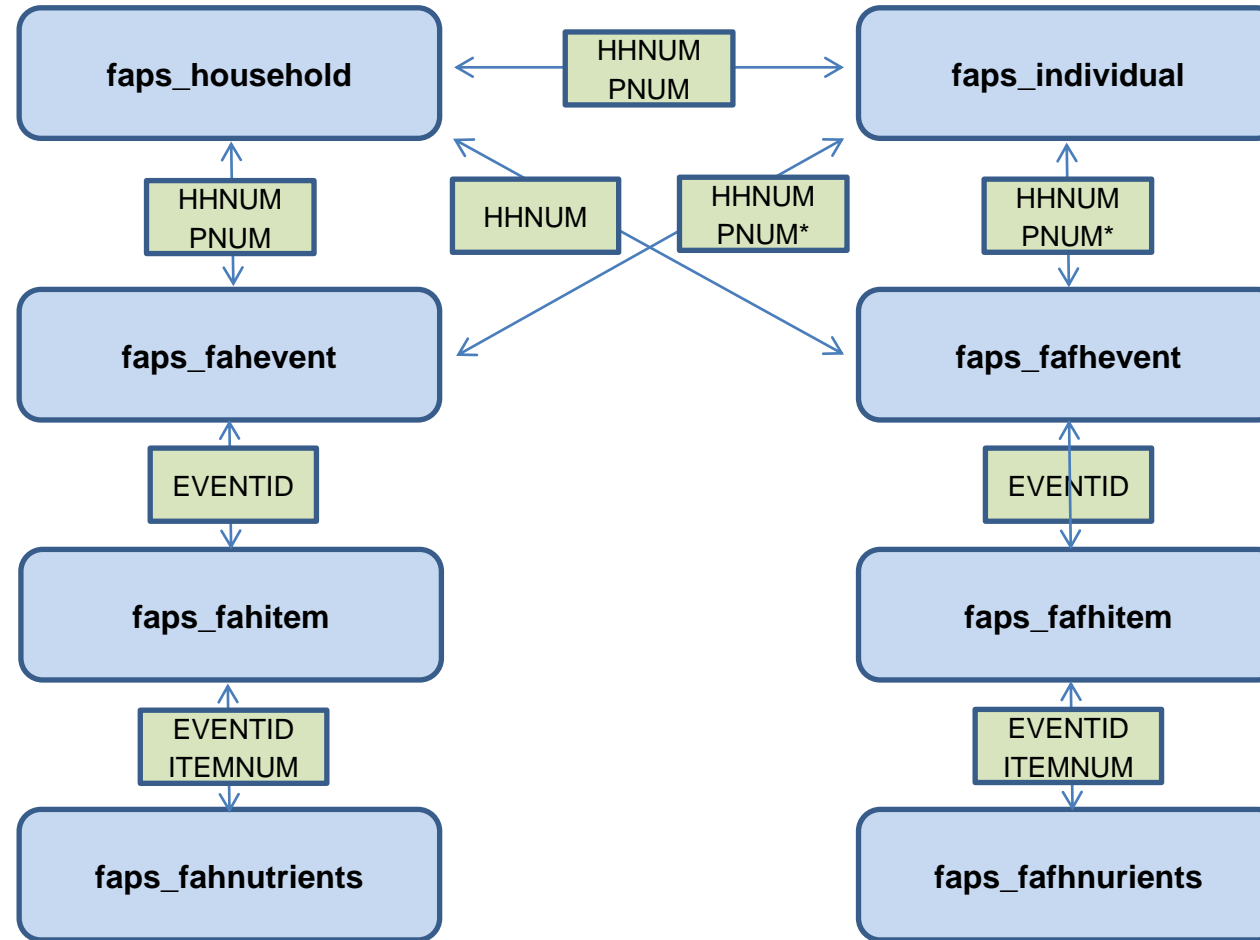
- Household File
- Individual File
- FAH Event, Item, and Nutrient Files
- FAFH Event, Item, and Nutrient Files
- ERS Imputed FAH and FAFH Item Quantities
- Meals and Snacks File
- Reporting Status File
- Access File
- SNAP Eligibility Estimates
- HouseholdWeights

## Extras:

- Geography Component
- Household Geocodes
- Places Geocodes
- Detailed Food Item Descriptions
- Store-level Data
- Linked Retail Scanner Data



# File Structure



# Documentation

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- [User Guide](#) [Start Here!]
- **Codebooks**
  - One codebook per data file
  - Except for the replicate sample weights, covered in User Guide
- **Nutrient Coding Overview**
- **FAFH Supplementary Documentation**
- **Place Supplementary Documentation**
- [Main Variable List](#)



# Survey Weights

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- To the extent possible, analyses should account for the complex sample design.
  - Taylor series (linearization) method using HHWGT along with TSSTRAT and TSPSU
  - Jackknife method using replicate weights from separate file
- Weights can be used for both household- and individual-level analyses.
- Discussed in User's Guide (see Chapter 6)



# FoodAPS Team

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**For more information, visit:**

**[www.ers.usda.gov/foodaps](http://www.ers.usda.gov/foodaps)**

