

COMMONALITIES OF EATING PATTERNS IN HANES AND NFCS DATA  
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Due to recent advances in computer hardware and programming expertise, it is now possible to examine the large amount of nutritional data collected by the HANES I and National Food Consumption Surveys. The purpose of this study is to determine what relationships exist between the food and eating patterns of individuals from both surveys, the presence or absence of nutritional abnormalities and their nutritional adequacy.

The first step in developing the commonality of eating patterns in the HANES and NFCS data involved the selection of a sub-sample from the total HANES I population. Individuals between the ages of ten and forty-four were assigned to one of two groups, depending on whether they did or did not meet certain health criteria. Obesity, abnormal values on certain nutritional biochemical indices and the presence of selected clinical symptoms resulted in assignment to that group not meeting the health criteria. All others were classified as having met the criteria. The eating patterns of these two groups will be compared.

In order to facilitate comparisons between HANES I and NFCS, individual foods from HANES I were aggregated into groups. The individual food items from NFCS will be grouped in a similar manner.

The dietary intake of those HANES I individuals not meeting the health criteria and those who do meet the criteria will be examined for frequency of mention, total calories, total grams and nutrient density. From these data, the eating patterns of the two groups will be ascertained. It is hypothesized that the two eating patterns will be different and a multiple regression analysis will be done to examine those factors which best discriminate between the two groups and to generate a predictive equation. The transition to NFCS data will be accomplished by applying the equation to divide the sample into two groups comparable to those in HANES I according to the eating patterns developed from the HANES I intake data.