

Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: The Food Spending Patterns of SNAP Households: Findings from the National Household Food Acquisition and Purchase Survey Data

Type of Report
(ERR, EIB, EB, TB,
SOR,)

EIB

Agency: Economic Research Service [X] Influential Scientific Information
USDA [] Highly Influential Scientific Assessment

Agency Contact: Cindy Nickerson, cnickerson@ers.usda.gov

Subject of Review: The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the cornerstone of federal food assistance for low-income households in the United States, is designed to increase the food purchasing power of low-income households. A recent USDA survey—the National Household Food Acquisition and Purchase Survey (FoodAPS)—provides a unique opportunity to gain a comprehensive understanding of the food spending of SNAP households. This study finds that, on average, SNAP households spend less on food than other households, even compared to nonparticipant households whose income and assets are low enough to make them eligible for SNAP. Food-at-home spending accounts for a greater share of the total food expenditures of SNAP households than of other households. The contribution of SNAP benefits to household food spending is substantial, accounting for over 60 percent of the food-at-home expenditures of the average SNAP household. SNAP benefits play a particularly strong role in the food budgets of households with children and those in poverty, especially those in deep poverty. Among both SNAP households and eligible nonparticipants, food secure households spend more on food than those that are food insecure. Finally, this study finds clear evidence of a cyclical pattern in the food spending of SNAP households across the benefit month.

Purpose of Review: The purpose of the review is to ensure the high-quality of the economic analysis, transparent explanation of methods, objective interpretation of results, and effective communication to the intended audience.

Type of Review: [] Panel Review [X] Individual Reviewers
[] Alternative Process (Briefly Explain):

Timing of Review (Est.): Start: 11/04/16 Completed: 04/11/17 Withdrawn: X/X/X

Number of Reviewers: [] 3 or fewer [x] 4 to 10 [] More than 10

Primary Disciplines/Types of Expertise Needed for Review: Economists

Reviewers selected by: [X] Agency [] Designated Outside Organization
Organization's Name:

Opportunities for Public Comment? [] Yes [X] No
If yes, briefly state how and when these opportunities will be provided:

How:

When:

Peer Reviewers Provided with Public Comments? [] Yes [X] No

Public Nominations Requested for Review Panel? [] Yes [X] No