

Appendix A

Determination of Child-Maternal Female Dyads in the CSFII

The analysis sample of child-mother dyads for this report was constructed from the Continuing Survey of Food Intakes by Individuals (CSFII) data for survey years 1994-1996 and 1998. The first step was to identify every potential dependent child. These are persons aged 0 to 17 years who were not labeled as reference persons (RPs), their spouses, or their partners. Also excluded were boarders, employees, or guests age 15 to 17 years. There were altogether 17,486 dependent children available for dyads.

The second step was to identify and rank the pool of potential mothers or maternal females for each dependent child. This included all females in the household who were age 15 years or older, and at least five years older than the child. Information was not available on the direct relationships between all household members (e.g., between the child and every household member), so each potential mother was rated according to her relationship to the RP. This resulted in a hierarchy of ratings (1 is best) specific to each relationship scenario (Exhibit A.1). For example, if the sample child was the child of the RP—a category accounting for nearly 90 percent of children in the CSFII—then optimal candidates for the child’s mother were the RP (ranked 1), or the RP’s spouse or partner (ranked 2 and 3, respectively). If the RP was male and no spouse or partner was listed, then the next best candidate would be the child’s grandmother or aunt (ranked 4 and 5, respectively). Absent these household members, potential maternal females were other relatives (e.g., the RP’s mother-in-law or aunt) or the child’s (sufficiently older) sister.

Exhibit A.1

Rank Ordering of Potential Mothers in Household by Relationship to Reference Person (RP)

Child’s Relationship to RP	Maternal Female’s Relationship to RP
Foster child/Child	1 = RP, 2 = Spouse, 3 = Partner, 4 = Parent, 5 = Sibling, 6 = Other relative, 7 = Child, 8 = Foster child
Grandchild	1 = Child, 2 = RP, 3 = Spouse, 4 = Partner, 5 = Sibling, 6 = Other relative, 7 = Grandchild
Other relative	1 = Sibling, 2 = Other relative, 3 = RP, 4 = Spouse, 5 = Partner, 6 = Parent, 7 = Child; 8 = Grandchild
Sibling	1 = Parent, 2 = RP, 3 = Spouse, 4 = Partner, 5 = Sibling, 6 = Other relative
Guest/Unrelated/Boarder	1 = Guest, 2 = Other unrelated, 3 = Boarder, 4 = Partner, 5 = RP, 6 = Spouse, 7 = Parent, 8 = Sibling, 9 = Other relative, 10 = Child, 11 = Grandchild

The third step was to select one maternal female who completed a dyad with each child. The majority of dyads include a maternal female who was probably the child’s mother; 95 percent of the females

selected were either a biological, foster, or step mother. If multiple females obtained the same rating for a given child, the dyad was incomplete because the most likely mother could not be determined, and the child was consequently excluded from the analysis sample. This accounted for just over 1 percent of the potential dyads. Most commonly, the sample child was the RP's grandchild, and the household included two or more women who were daughters of the RP and age 15 or more years older than the grandchild—either one of whom might thus be the child's biological mother.

After each dependent child was associated with a maternal female, two exclusionary criteria were applied. Although grandmothers were permissible as maternal females, dyads involving maternal females aged 60 years or older were dropped because those women would not be considered to be choosing between homemaking and working outside the home. They accounted for less than 1 percent of the potential dyads. Similarly, only homemakers and females whose employment status could be categorized as working full- or part-time were appropriate for analyses, which excluded about 9 percent of the dyads. The final analysis sample comprised 15,344 child-mother dyads.