

Chapter 2

Household Food Acquisition and Sufficiency

This chapter explores three aspects of households' food acquisition, provision, and sufficiency that are expected to affect children's nutrition outcomes. These are:

- Mothers' participation in, or alternatively delegation of, meal planning, food purchasing, and food preparation;
- Household expenditures on food; and
- Food sufficiency.

A primary route through which maternal employment may affect children's nutrition outcomes is the mother's reduced involvement in the time-consuming tasks of **planning meals, purchasing food, and preparing food**. It seems likely that working mothers would delegate these tasks in whole or in part to other household members, possibly to the detriment of their children's nutritional well-being.

Household food expenditures, appropriately adjusted for household size, are basic measures of how much and where families are eating. Of particular interest is the distinction between food eaten at home and away from home. It was expected that working mothers would rely more heavily on restaurants, fast food, and carry-out, both because they have less time to prepare meals and because they have more income. This may have negative consequences on child nutrition. Working mothers may also spend more at grocery stores, buying more convenience foods rather than less-expensive items that are more time-consuming to prepare.

Finally, **food sufficiency**, a summary measure of food security based on a single survey item, is examined. It was anticipated that food insufficiency would be more of a problem for children of homemaker mothers because of their lower household income. Yet they might be able to substitute time for money in the tasks of food purchasing and preparation, thus making do with less.

As expected, the great majority of children's mothers overall (over 90 percent) are involved in planning meals, food purchasing, and food preparation. The likelihood that the mother plans meals alone is greatest among homemakers (90 percent) and lowest among full-time working mothers (77 percent). Working mothers are significantly more likely to delegate these responsibilities to others, especially if they work full-time.

Full-time and part-time working mothers spend substantially more on food than homemakers: \$176 and \$168 per adult male equivalent per month, *versus* \$153. The bulk of the difference comes from food bought and consumed away from home, e.g., restaurant and cafeteria meals, but working mothers also spend more on groceries and on fast food and carry-out brought home. Even within income categories, full-time working mothers spend more on food than homemakers, concentrated on food bought and consumed away from home, evidently substituting money for time. In single-adult households, both full-time and part-time working mothers spend substantially more on groceries than homemakers. Lacking other adults with whom to share meal preparation tasks, these mothers apparently "buy their way out" by purchasing more convenience foods and preparing fewer foods from scratch.

Only 3 percent of children are in households that “sometimes” or “often” in the last three months did not have enough food to eat. This situation is substantially more common among children of homemakers (5 percent) than among children of working mothers (2 percent). The higher prevalence of food insufficiency among children with homemaker mothers is not entirely attributable to their lower income, and it persists despite their significantly higher FSP participation (reported in Appendix H. In households under 130 percent of poverty, food insufficiency affects 13 percent of children of homemakers, but only 7 to 8 percent of children of working mothers.

Meal Planning, Food Purchasing, and Food Preparation

CSFII data record for each household member whether that person is usually involved in planning, purchasing, and preparation activities. Linking this information to the mother-child dyads, four categories were defined to describe who is responsible for meal planning, food purchasing, and food preparation activities, namely:

1. The child’s mother and no other adults;
2. The child’s mother along with other adults;
3. Other adults excluding the child’s mother; or, in rare cases,
4. Children under the age of 18 only.

Children may be involved in these activities in addition to adults, in categories 1 through 3.⁹

Participation/delegation measures were constructed for each of the 15,344 dyads. Although they are based on household-level information, they may differ between children in a household if they have different mothers. For example, if a household contains two child-mother dyads (A and B) and Child A’s mother usually plans the meals alone (category 1 above), then Child B lives in a household where other adults—exclusive of his mother—usually plan the meals (category 3).¹⁰

Participation in Meal Planning

Most children’s mothers participate in planning the household’s meals—either as the sole adult (83 percent) or in cooperation with others (11 percent; Exhibit 2.1). Significant differences are seen by maternal employment in the expected direction. The likelihood that the mother plans meals alone is greatest among homemakers (90 percent) and lowest among full-time working mothers (77 percent). Although working mothers are more likely than homemakers to participate in meal planning jointly with others (14 *versus* 8 percent), they are nonetheless more likely not to be involved at all (9 percent *versus* 2 percent).¹¹ These patterns generally hold true regardless of child’s age or household income, although at the lowest income levels, full-time and part-time working mothers are equally likely to delegate meal planning altogether (Exhibit 2.2).

⁹ Results for these measures were not stratified by number of adults in the household because for one-adult households delegation of these tasks by the mother is moot.

¹⁰ Note that an adolescent girl can appear in two dyads: one dyad with her child, and a second dyad with her mother. Of the 32 mothers aged 17 years or younger, 12 are dependent children in another dyad.

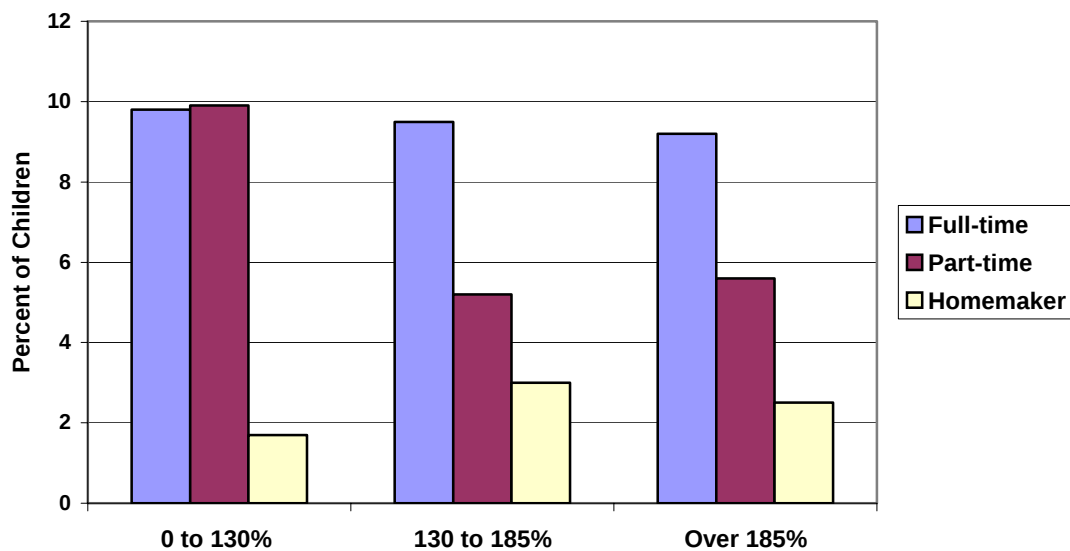
¹¹ A handful of children (0.4 percent) live in households where children (under the age of 18) are responsible for meal planning.

Exhibit 2.1**Participation in Meal Planning**

	Maternal Employment Status			All Children
	Full-Time	Part-Time	Homemaker	
All children				
Mother alone	76.9%***	85.2%***	89.9%	82.8%
Mother and other adults	13.7***	8.3	7.9	10.7
Other adults alone	8.9***	6.0***	2.2	6.2
Children alone	0.4**	0.5**	0.1	0.4
Maximum sample size	6,425	3,206	5,688	15,319
By age group				
0 to 4 years				
Mother alone	70.4%***	79.1%***	88.5%	79.1%
Mother and other adults	17.7***	13.1***	8.2	13.1
Other adults alone	11.7***	7.7***	3.3	7.7
Children alone	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.1
Maximum sample size	2,865	1,529	2,941	7,335
5 to 8 years				
Mother alone	77.0%***	86.3%*	90.0%	83.1%
Mother and other adults	13.1***	7.8	8.5	10.5
Other adults alone	9.8***	5.3***	1.5	6.2
Children alone	0.1	0.6	0.0	0.2
Maximum sample size	1,533	807	1,387	3,727
9 to 12 years				
Mother alone	81.0%***	88.6%	88.5%	84.8%
Mother and other adults	10.6	5.4	8.6	8.9
Other adults alone	7.8***	5.2	2.5	5.8
Children alone	0.6	0.8	0.3	0.6
Maximum sample size	996	481	784	2,261
13 to 17 years				
Mother alone	80.7%***	88.3%	92.6%	84.9%
Mother and other adults	12.6***	5.8	6.1	9.7
Other adults alone	5.8***	5.4**	1.3	4.7
Children alone	1.0**	0.5	0.0	0.7
Maximum sample size	1,031	389	576	1,996
By income category				
Under 130% of poverty				
Mother alone	77.4%***	82.2%**	86.8%	82.6%
Mother and other adults	12.9	8.0**	11.5	11.2
Other adults alone	9.3***	8.2***	1.5	5.7
Children alone	0.5	1.7**	0.2	0.6
Maximum sample size	1,715	885	2,562	5,162

Exhibit 2.1**Participation in Meal Planning**

	Maternal Employment Status			All Children
	Full-Time	Part-Time	Homemaker	
130 to 185% of poverty				
Mother alone	77.6%***	85.4%	89.1%	83.4%
Mother and other adults	12.9**	9.4	7.9	10.3
Other adults alone	8.6***	5.2	2.9	5.8
Children alone	0.9***	0.0*	0.1	0.5
Maximum sample size	885	449	862	2,196
Over 185% of poverty				
Mother alone	76.7%***	86.2%***	92.4%	82.7%
Mother and other adults	14.1***	8.1**	5.1	10.6
Other adults alone	8.9***	5.4**	2.5	6.5
Children alone	0.3*	0.2*	0.0	0.2
Maximum sample size	2,927	1,393	1,697	6,017
***	Statistically significant difference from children whose mothers are homemakers at the 1 percent level			
**	Statistically significant difference from children whose mothers are homemakers at the 5 percent level			
*	Statistically significant difference from children whose mothers are homemakers at the 10 percent level			

Exhibit 2.2**Mothers Not Involved in Meal Planning, by Household Income Relative to Poverty and Employment Status**

Participation in Food Purchasing

Similarly, most children's mothers are responsible in whole or in part for purchasing food for the household: 75 percent of mothers are the only adult in the household who usually shops for food, and 16 percent of mothers are among several adults in the household who do so (Exhibit 2.3). Full-time working mothers are significantly less likely than part-time working mothers and homemakers to take sole responsibility for food purchases (73 *versus* 78 percent). Conversely, full-time working mothers and, to a lesser extent, part-time working mothers, are significantly more likely than homemakers to delegate food shopping completely (11 and 8 *versus* 6 percent). This is especially true among mothers of younger children, age 0 to 4 years (13 and 10 *versus* 7 percent).

Exhibit 2.3

Participation in Food Purchasing

	Maternal Employment Status			All Children
	Full-Time	Part-Time	Homemaker	
All children				
Mother alone	72.6%***	77.7%	77.7%	75.4%
Mother and other adults	16.6	14.7	16.4	16.0
Other adults alone	10.6***	7.5**	5.5	8.3
Children alone	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.2
Maximum sample size	6,433	3,201	5,691	15,325
By age group				
0 to 4 years				
Mother alone	66.1%***	72.9%	75.3%	71.0%
Mother and other adults	20.7**	16.9	17.6	18.7
Other adults alone	13.1***	10.2**	7.0	10.2
Children alone	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1
Maximum sample size	2,871	1,527	2,942	7,340
5 to 8 years				
Mother alone	72.5%**	79.6%	78.7%	76.1%
Mother and other adults	17.0	13.6	15.8	15.9
Other adults alone	10.5***	6.7	5.5	8.1
Children alone	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Maximum sample size	1,534	807	1,389	3,730
9 to 12 years				
Mother alone	77.3%	81.1%	77.4%	78.2%
Mother and other adults	13.5	12.6	17.2	14.3
Other adults alone	9.2*	6.3	5.1	7.4
Children alone	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.1
Maximum sample size	996	479	784	2,259
13 to 17 years				
Mother alone	76.2%	78.5%	79.9%	77.5%
Mother and other adults	14.2	15.1	14.9	14.6
Other adults alone	8.9***	6.3	4.0	7.3
Children alone	0.6	0.1	1.2	0.6
Maximum sample size	1,032	388	576	1,996

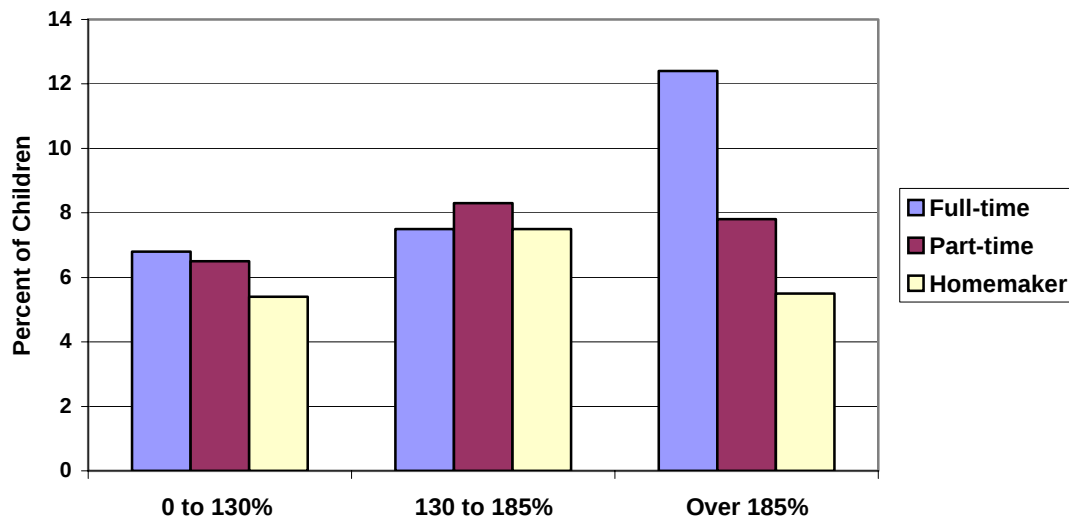
Exhibit 2.3**Participation in Food Purchasing**

	Maternal Employment Status			
	Full-Time	Part-Time	Homemaker	All Children
<i>By income category</i>				
Under 130% of poverty				
Mother alone	75.1%	78.2%	75.6%	75.9%
Mother and other adults	18.1	15.3*	19.0	18.0
Other adults alone	6.8**	6.2	4.6	5.7
Children alone	0.0	0.3	0.8	0.4
Maximum sample size	1,716	883	2,566	5,165
130 to 185% of poverty				
Mother alone	76.5%***	73.4%	66.6%	72.9%
Mother and other adults	16.0***	18.3*	25.9	19.4
Other adults alone	7.4	8.3	7.5	7.6
Children alone	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1
Maximum sample size	543	260	540	1,343
Over 185% of poverty				
Mother alone	71.2%***	78.6%**	82.9%	75.9%
Mother and other adults	16.3***	13.6	11.6	14.4
Other adults alone	12.2***	7.8*	5.4	9.6
Children alone	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.2
Maximum sample size	2,384	1,139	1,416	4,939
*** Statistically significant difference from children whose mothers are homemakers at the 1 percent level				
** Statistically significant difference from children whose mothers are homemakers at the 5 percent level				
* Statistically significant difference from children whose mothers are homemakers at the 10 percent level				

For lower income households (0 to 130 percent of poverty and 130 to 185 percent of poverty), little variation is seen across maternal employment categories in the likelihood of mothers delegating food purchasing entirely to other adults. Large differences are seen, however, for higher income households (Exhibit 2.4). This is undoubtedly due at least in part to the greater presence of additional adults in higher income households. Practically all (92 percent) of households with income over 185 percent of poverty include extra adults, compared with only two-thirds (68 percent) of households with income under 130 percent of poverty. Lower income working mothers have little time to shop, but there may be no one else available to take over the job.

Exhibit 2.4

Mothers Not Involved in Food Purchasing, by Household Income Relative to Poverty and Employment Status



Participation in Food Preparation

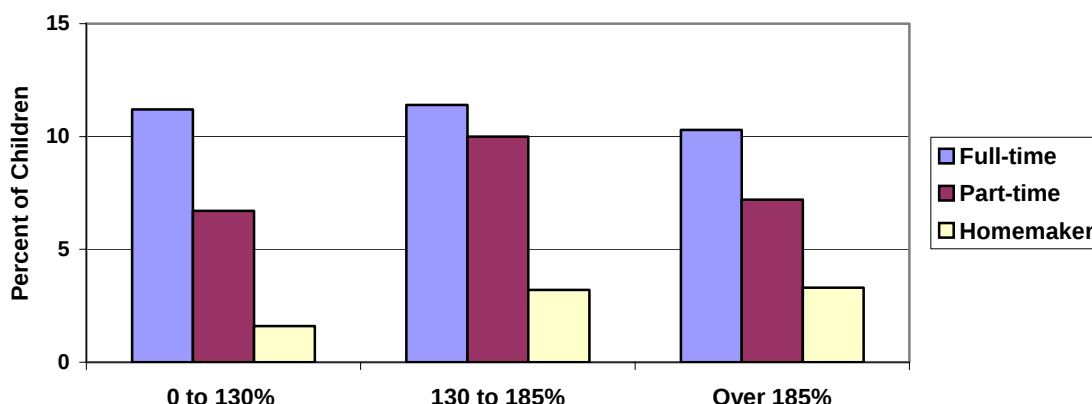
Finally, nearly all children's mothers are responsible for food preparation, either in whole (77 percent) or in part (16 percent; Exhibit 2.5). Sole responsibility is much more prevalent among homemakers than among full-time and part-time working mothers (87 *versus* 69 and 78 percent, respectively), and complete delegation more common among full-time working mothers. The relationship between responsibility for food preparation and maternal employment status is similar regardless of child's age or household income (Exhibit 2.6).

Exhibit 2.5 Participation in Food Preparation

	Maternal Employment Status			All Children
	Full-Time	Part-Time	Homemaker	
All children				
Mother alone	69.3%***	78.1%***	87.1%	76.7%
Mother and other adults	20.1***	14.4***	10.1	15.9
Other adults alone	10.2***	7.4***	2.7	7.2
Children alone	0.4***	0.2*	0.0	0.2
Maximum sample size	6,414	3,199	5,686	15,299
By age group				
0 to 4 years				
Mother alone	64.4%***	71.7%***	86.0%	74.2%
Mother and other adults	21.9***	19.3***	10.7	17.1
Other adults alone	13.4***	8.8***	3.4	8.6
Children alone	0.2**	0.2	0.0	0.1
Maximum sample size	2,859	1,528	2,941	7,328

Exhibit 2.5
Participation in Food Preparation

	Maternal Employment Status			
	Full-Time	Part-Time	Homemaker	All Children
5 to 8 years				
Mother alone	69.2%***	79.0%***	87.5%	77.1%
Mother and other adults	19.1***	14.0**	10.2	15.2
Other adults alone	11.6***	6.9***	2.3	7.7
Children alone	0.1*	0.0	0.0	0.0
Maximum sample size	995	479	784	2,258
9 to 12 years				
Mother alone	73.3%***	81.6%	84.9%	78.3%
Mother and other adults	17.1**	11.3	11.0	14.1
Other adults alone	9.0**	7.0	4.1	7.2
Children alone	0.5	0.2	0.0	0.3
Maximum sample size	995	479	784	2,258
13 to 17 years				
Mother alone	71.4%***	81.6%**	90.1%	77.7%
Mother and other adults	21.6***	11.7	8.7	16.7
Other adults alone	6.2***	6.4***	1.1	5.1
Children alone	0.8***	0.2	0.0	0.5
Maximum sample size	1,032	386	576	1,994
By income category				
Under 130% of poverty				
Mother alone	73.3%***	77.9%***	87.6%	80.6%
Mother and other adults	15.4**	15.4**	10.8	13.3
Other adults alone	10.6***	6.6***	1.6	5.8
Children alone	0.6***	0.1	0.0	0.3
Maximum sample size	1,281	662	1,941	3,884
130 to 185% of poverty				
Mother alone	69.1%***	71.5%**	82.3%	74.3%
Mother and other adults	19.5	18.5	14.5	17.5
Other adults alone	10.4***	10.0***	3.1	7.8
Children alone	1.0***	0.0*	0.1	0.5
Maximum sample size	882	447	862	2,191
Over 185% of poverty				
Mother alone	68.2%***	79.8%***	88.3%	75.7%
Mother and other adults	21.5***	12.9***	8.4	16.5
Other adults alone	10.1***	7.0***	3.3	7.6
Children alone	0.2*	0.2*	0.0	0.2
Maximum sample size	3,818	1,867	2,263	7,948
***	Statistically significant difference from children whose mothers are homemakers at the 1 percent level			
**	Statistically significant difference from children whose mothers are homemakers at the 5 percent level			
*	Statistically significant difference from children whose mothers are homemakers at the 10 percent level			

Exhibit 2.6**Mothers Not Involved in Food Preparation, by Household Income Relative to Poverty and Employment Status**

Household Food Expenditures

Food expenditures differ among households for many reasons, including differences in household composition. To correct for the latter, monthly food expenditures are expressed on an Adult Male Equivalent, or AME, basis. Each household member is counted as some fraction of an adult male, based on their relative food energy requirements conditional on age, gender, and pregnancy/lactation status.¹²

Overall, children's households spend \$168 per AME per month on food, of which \$107 is spent at grocery stores, \$13 at specialty stores (e.g., bakeries, fish stores, fruit and vegetable stands), \$17 on carry-out and fast food brought into the home, and \$31 on food bought and consumed away from home, e.g., at restaurants, cafeterias, vending machines (Exhibit 2.7). Households with full-time and part-time working mothers spend more on food than households with homemaker mothers, not only in total, but also in *every* category (Exhibit 2.8). Total spending per AME is \$176 for children's households with full-time working mothers, \$168 for households with part-time working mothers, and \$153 for households with homemaker mothers. Whereas working mothers' households spend \$3 to \$4 more per AME at grocery stores than their homemaker counterparts, and \$1 to \$2 more at specialty stores, they spend \$4 to \$7 more on fast food and carry-out, and \$15 to \$23 more on food bought and consumed away from home. Qualitatively similar patterns are seen for the household spending of children of all ages.

¹² The food energy requirement, i.e., REA, for an adult male (aged 19 to 50) is 2900 kcal (National Research Council, 1989). The range for other groups is 650 kcal (infants age 0 to 5 months) to 3000 kcal (boys age 15 to 18 years) per day.

Exhibit 2.7**Household Food Expenditures per Adult Male Equivalent (AME), by Source of Food**

	Maternal Employment Status			All Children
	Full-Time	Part-Time	Homemaker	
All children				
Grocery stores	\$107.4**	\$108.1**	\$103.8	\$106.5
Specialty stores	12.9	14.0	12.4	13.0
Fast food/Carry-out	19.3***	16.6***	12.4	16.7
Away from home ^a	36.3***	29.7***	24.5	31.3
Total	175.8***	168.3***	153.1	167.5
Maximum sample size	6,323	3,157	5,585	15,065
By age group				
0 to 4 years				
Grocery stores	\$112.5	\$111.5	\$108.3	\$110.7
Specialty stores	12.7	12.6	12.8	12.8
Fast food/Carry-out	20.4***	17.3***	12.6	16.8
Away from home ^a	36.1***	31.2***	22.8	30.0
Total	181.8***	172.6***	156.6	170.2
Maximum sample size	2,821	1,513	2,895	7,229
5 to 8 years				
Grocery stores	\$106.7	\$105.3	\$103.8	\$105.5
Specialty stores	13.7	12.5	12.0	12.9
Fast food/Carry-out	18.7***	15.6	13.5	16.4
Away from home ^a	35.3***	29.4**	24.3	30.6
Total	174.4***	162.9	153.7	165.4
Maximum sample size	1,514	797	1,369	3,680
9 to 12 years				
Grocery stores	\$104.4	\$104.0	\$103.0	\$103.9
Specialty stores	11.9	13.8	13.9	12.8
Fast food/Carry-out	19.0***	16.7*	12.8	16.8
Away from home ^a	33.3*	28.8	27.8	30.8
Total	168.5	163.4	157.4	164.4
Maximum sample size	987	470	761	2,218
13 to 17 years				
Grocery stores	\$104.8	\$110.2**	\$99.2	\$104.7
Specialty stores	13.2	17.1**	11.1	13.6
Fast food/Carry-out	18.9***	16.8***	10.7	16.6
Away from home ^a	40.1***	28.9*	23.5	34.1
Total	176.9***	173.0***	144.5	169.0
Maximum sample size	1,001	377	560	1,938
By income category				
Under 130% of poverty				
Grocery stores	\$92.0	\$104.0***	\$89.7	\$93.2
Specialty stores	10.0	10.4	10.2	10.1
Fast food/Carry-out	14.2***	13.2**	10.0	12.1
Away from home ^a	17.4***	15.5***	11.8	14.4
Total	133.6***	143.1***	121.7	129.8
Maximum sample size	1,678	874	2,508	5,060

Exhibit 2.7**Household Food Expenditures per Adult Male Equivalent (AME), by Source of Food**

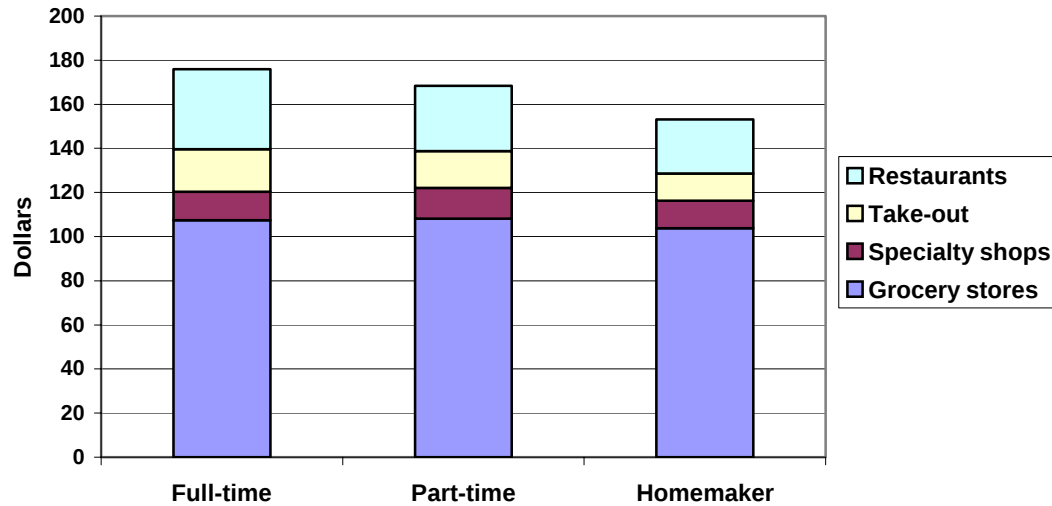
	Maternal Employment Status			All Children
	Full-Time	Part-Time	Homemaker	
130 to 185% of poverty				
Grocery stores	\$95.9	\$92.7	\$94.2	\$94.3
Specialty stores	10.7	8.4	8.8	9.5
Fast food/Carry-out	18.0***	13.2	11.7	14.9
Away from home ^a	23.0**	19.8	18.7	20.9
Total	147.5**	134.2	133.4	139.6
Maximum sample size	874	436	850	2,160
Over 185% of poverty				
Grocery stores	\$113.9	\$113.2*	\$118.2	\$114.8
Specialty stores	14.1	16.8	15.3	15.0
Fast food/Carry-out	20.9***	18.7***	14.6	18.9
Away from home ^a	44.1***	37.1	36.0	40.7
Total	193.0*	185.8	184.0	189.4
Maximum sample size	3,771	1,847	2,227	7,845
By number of adults				
One				
Grocery stores	\$120.9***	\$130.3***	\$106.7	\$119.8
Specialty stores	14.0	14.1	13.2	14.0
Fast food/Carry-out	21.1***	18.3***	10.9	18.5
Away from home ^a	34.6***	17.7**	12.0	27.1
Total	190.6***	180.4***	142.9	179.4
Maximum sample size	944	303	490	1,737
Multiple				
Grocery stores	\$104.6	\$105.4	\$103.4	\$104.4
Specialty stores	12.6	13.9	12.3	12.8
Fast food/Carry-out	18.9***	16.3***	12.6	16.4
Away from home ^a	36.6***	31.1***	25.7	32.0
Total	172.8***	166.7***	154.0	165.6
Maximum sample size	5,379	2,854	5,095	13,328

a Includes food bought and consumed away from home.

*** Statistically significant difference from children whose mothers are homemakers at the 1 percent level

** Statistically significant difference from children whose mothers are homemakers at the 5 percent level

* Statistically significant difference from children whose mothers are homemakers at the 10 percent level

Exhibit 2.8**Monthly Food Expenditure per AME, by Source of Food and Maternal Employment Status**

Household income is of course an important determinant of food expenditures. Total food expenditures per AME in households under 130 percent of poverty, between 130 and 185 percent of poverty, and over 185 percent of poverty, are \$130, \$140, and \$189, respectively. The nearly \$50 differential between the second and third groups is mostly due to greater expenditures on groceries (\$21) and restaurants (\$20) by the latter (higher income households).

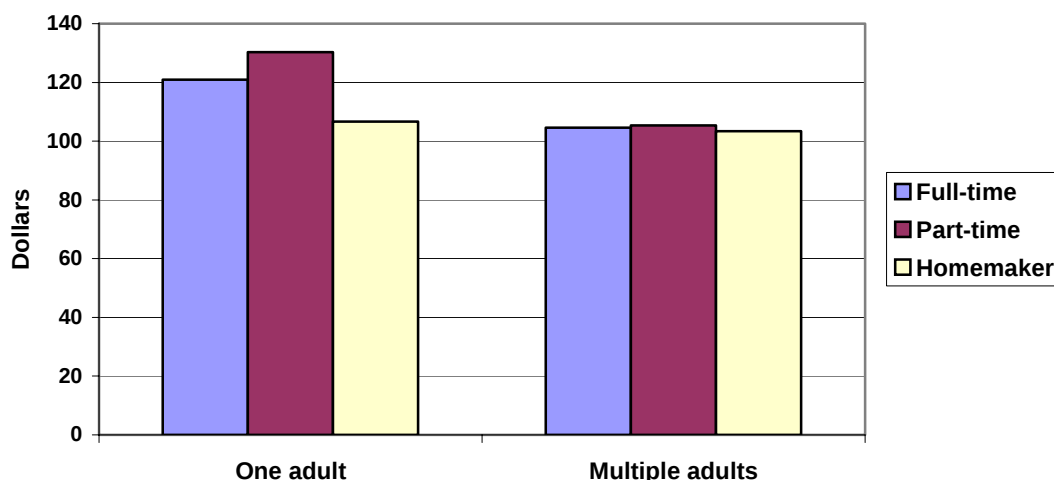
Even within each income category, full-time working mothers spend more in total on food than do homemakers, evidently substituting money for time. In the lowest income group, part-time working mothers do so as well. With one exception, these differences within income category are attributable to higher spending on food bought and consumed away from home. That exception is part-time working mothers in the lowest income category. In addition to spending \$4 more per AME than homemakers at restaurants, they also spend an estimated \$14 more at grocery stores, presumably buying more convenience foods.

Total spending on food per AME is \$13 higher in single-adult than in multiple-adult households, again likely representing a substitution of money for time, despite the lower income of single-adult households. Single adult households in fact spend \$5 less at restaurants than multiple-adult households, but \$10 more on groceries.

This difference in grocery expenditures, however, is entirely attributable to households with working mothers (Exhibit 2.9). Full-time and part-time working mothers in one-adult households spend \$14 and \$24 respectively more on groceries than homemakers. In households with multiple adults, in contrast, working mothers and homemakers spend practically identically on groceries (\$103 to \$105), and not very differently from homemakers in one-adult households (\$107).

Exhibit 2.9

Spending on Groceries per AME, by Household Type and Maternal Employment Status



Food Sufficiency

Overall sufficiency of food for a household was measured in the CSFII by the following item:

Which of these statements best describes the food eaten in your household in the last three months: enough of the kinds of food we want to eat; enough but not always the kinds of food we want to eat; sometimes not enough to eat; or often not enough to eat?

For households that did not have enough food to eat, follow-up questions determined whether the household had enough to eat in each of the past three months, the number of days in the past month when food was lacking, and reasons for food insufficiency.

Overall, nearly three-quarters (72 percent) of children are in households that have enough of the kinds of food they wanted to eat, and another quarter (25 percent) have enough food but not of the desired kinds. Only 3 percent sometimes lack enough to eat (and a negligible proportion “often” lacked enough to eat).

Children of working mothers are significantly more food sufficient according to this measure (Exhibit 2.10).¹³ Little difference is seen between children of full-time and part-time working mothers. Three-quarters (74 percent) of children whose mothers work, *versus* two-thirds of children of homemaker mothers, have enough of the kinds of food they prefer. Conversely, only 2 percent of children of working mothers, *versus* 5 percent of children of homemaker mothers, sometimes or often do not

¹³ A more exact measure of children’s food security can be calculated using the CPS, which contains the full 18-item battery for a nationally representative sample of households in the same time frame, and the Children’s Food Security Scale (Nord and Bickel, 2002). Because families attempt to protect children from food insecurity, measures based on the entire household rather than the children may overestimate the extent of the problem.

have enough to eat (Exhibit 2.11). Similar patterns are seen for children in each age group. For some age groups food sufficiency is a little higher among children of full-time working mothers and for others among children of part-time mothers; but in all age groups children of homemaker mothers fare the worst. Likewise, within both one-adult and multiple adult households the same patterns are seen.

Exhibit 2.10

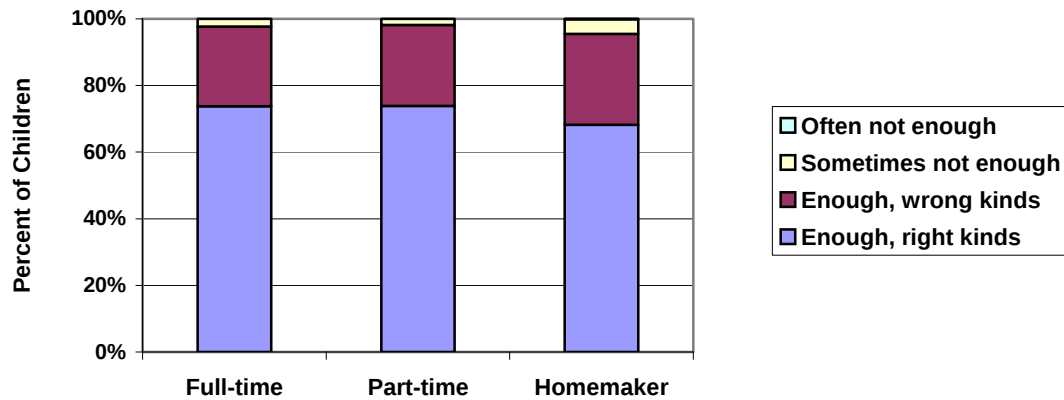
Household Food Sufficiency

	Maternal Employment Status			All Children
	Full-Time	Part-Time	Homemaker	
All children				
Enough kinds and food	73.8%***	73.7%***	67.8%	72.1%
Enough food, not kinds	23.9**	24.3	27.2	24.9
Sometimes not enough food	2.3***	1.8***	4.4	2.8
Often not enough food	0.0***	0.1***	0.6	0.2
Maximum sample size	6,443	3,208	5,687	15,338
By age group				
0 to 4 years				
Enough kinds and food	73.1%**	70.2%	67.8%	70.5%
Enough food, not kinds	25.0	27.6	27.7	26.6
Sometimes not enough food	1.9**	2.1*	3.5	2.5
Often not enough food	0.0***	0.1***	1.0	0.4
Maximum sample size	2,878	1,531	2,941	7,350
5 to 8 years				
Enough kinds and food	74.7%**	73.6%	68.8%	72.6%
Enough food, not kinds	23.0	24.3	26.4	24.4
Sometimes not enough food	2.2	1.9*	4.1	2.7
Often not enough food	0.1**	0.2*	0.7	0.3
Maximum sample size	1,537	807	1,388	3,732
9 to 12 years				
Enough kinds and food	76.4%	73.6%	70.9%	74.3%
Enough food, not kinds	21.0	23.7	24.9	22.7
Sometimes not enough food	2.5	2.7	3.8	2.9
Often not enough food	0.1*	0.0*	0.4	0.1
Maximum sample size	997	481	782	2,260
13 to 17 years				
Enough kinds and food	71.6%	78.1%***	64.1%	71.4%
Enough food, not kinds	25.9	21.1	29.3	25.6
Sometimes not enough food	2.5*	0.5***	6.4	2.9
Often not enough food	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.1
Maximum sample size	1,031	389	576	1,996
By income category				
Under 130% of poverty				
Enough kinds and food	54.6%**	51.9%	47.8%	51.0%
Enough food, not kinds	37.2	40.8	39.1	38.9
Sometimes not enough food	8.0*	6.6**	11.3	9.1
Often not enough food	0.2***	0.7**	1.7	1.0

Exhibit 2.10**Household Food Sufficiency**

	Maternal Employment Status			All Children
	Full-Time	Part-Time	Homemaker	
Maximum sample size	1,718	885	2,562	5,165
130 to 185% of poverty				
Enough kinds and food	69.9%	70.4%	64.4%	68.4%
Enough food, not kinds	26.1**	28.2	35.0	29.2
Sometimes not enough food	4.0***	1.4	0.6	2.4
Often not enough food	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Maximum sample size	885	449	862	2,196
Over 185% of poverty				
Enough kinds and food	79.9%**	82.1%	84.3%	81.4%
Enough food, not kinds	19.7**	17.7	15.6	18.3
Sometimes not enough food	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.3
Often not enough food	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Maximum sample size	3,840	1,874	2,263	7,977
By number of adults				
One				
Enough kinds and food	65.3%***	46.8%	50.3%	58.9%
Enough food, not kinds	31.1	48.6*	37.2	35.4
Sometimes not enough food	3.5**	3.8**	10.4	4.9
Often not enough food	0.2**	0.8	2.0	0.8
Maximum sample size	954	307	491	1,752
Multiple				
Enough kinds and food	75.6%***	77.0%***	69.6%	74.1%
Enough food, not kinds	22.4**	21.4***	26.2	23.3
Sometimes not enough food	2.0***	1.6***	3.8	2.4
Often not enough food	0.0***	0.0***	0.4	0.2
Maximum sample size	5,489	2,901	5,196	13,586
*** Statistically significant difference from children whose mothers are homemakers at the 1 percent level				
** Statistically significant difference from children whose mothers are homemakers at the 5 percent level				
* Statistically significant difference from children whose mothers are homemakers at the 10 percent level				

Exhibit 2.11**Household Food Sufficiency, by Maternal Employment Status**

Exhibit 2.11**Household Food Sufficiency, by Maternal Employment Status**

Because food sufficiency is so closely related to income, it is of special interest to look at variations by maternal employment status holding income constant. Among children in households under 130 percent of poverty, 10 percent do not always have enough to eat. This proportion is substantially higher among children of homemaker mothers (13 percent) than children of working mothers (7 to 8 percent; Exhibit 2.12). Among children in the middle-income group (130 to 185 percent of poverty), only 2 percent lack enough to eat; surprisingly, this is heavily concentrated among children of full-time working mothers. Food insufficiency is virtually non-existent among children in higher income households.

Information was also collected in the CSFII about the reasons that households did not have enough food or money or food stamps to buy food. In virtually all cases, it was found to be because of insufficient funds, rather than lack of appliances, transportation, or time (not shown).

Exhibit 2.12**Sometimes/Often Not Enough to Eat, by Household Income Relative to Poverty and Maternal Employment Status**