

Understanding Transitions into Food Insecurity

Robert Nielsen, University of Georgia¹
Melissa Wilmarth, Second Author Institution²
Sae Rom Chung, University of Georgia³
Jung Sun Lee, University of Georgia⁴

This study sought to identify the factors that contribute to households transitioning into, and out of, food insecurity over the course of a one-year study period. Using the 2008 panel of the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), we estimated a conditional logistic regression two-period fixed effects model focusing on households transitioning into and out of food security from 2010 to 2011. First, we examined key characteristics related to food insecurity by household food security patterns from 2010 to 2011. The fixed effects analysis indicates that households have higher odds of becoming food insecure if they start receiving informal food assistance, move to metro areas of residence changing from a two adult households to other household types. Households going from having children under 18 years present in the household to no children reduce their odds of becoming food insecure. These preliminary results provide insights to policymakers who identify and craft policies that address food security across the life course. A greater understanding of the characteristics related to becoming food insecure is vital determining how to policies may be able to better address household food needs.

Acknowledgements

This research was supported, in part, by funding from the United States Department of Agriculture Food and Agricultural Sciences National Needs Graduate and Postgraduate Fellowship (NNF) Program and Hatch Act funding from the University of Georgia Agricultural Experiment Stations.

¹ Associate Professor, Financial Planning, Housing and Consumer Economics, 205 Dawson Hall, University of Georgia, Athens, GA, 30602, USA. Phone: 706-542-8885. Email: rnielsen@uga.edu.

² Assistant Professor, Department of Consumer Sciences, 305 Adams Hall, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL, 35487, USA. Phone: 205-348-7954. Email: mwilmarth@ches.ua.edu.

³ Graduate Student, Financial Planning, Housing and Consumer Economics, 205 Dawson Hall, University of Georgia, Athens, GA, 30602, USA. Email: saeddong@uga.edu.

⁴ Associate Professor, Foods and Nutrition, 129 Barrow Hall, University of Georgia, Athens, GA, 30602, USA. Phone: 706-542-6783. Email: leejs@uga.edu.