Understanding Transitions into Food Insecurity

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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.

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