

Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: How Well Does the ATUS and EHM Capture Information About How Often and When Americans Eat? A Comparison of ATUS-EHM and NHANES

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

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

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Subject of Review: Since 2003, the American Time Use Survey (ATUS) has collected detailed information about how Americans spend their time by asking respondents to identify primary or main activities they were engaged in over a full 24-hour period, including eating. This means that the ATUS misses eating occasions that occur while an individual is otherwise occupied doing something else that is considered primary by the respondent, such as working or watching TV (secondary eating). The Eating & Health Module (EHM) was designed to collect these secondary eating occasions and was included as a supplement to the ATUS during 2006-08 and again in 2014-16. This report compares the number and timing of eating occasions reported in the 2014-16 ATUS-EHM to those reported in the dietary intake component of the 2013-16 National Health and Examination Survey (NHANES), which is considered to be the best available data for estimating average daily dietary intake among the U.S. population. We find that the EHM reduces the gap between the ATUS and NHANES with respect to the total number of eating occasions during the day, as well as the share of people reporting eating during each hour of the day, but overall the ATUS-EHM does not capture as many eating occasions as NHANES. When we exclude more easily forgotten eating occasions, that is drinks, snacks, and extended consumption, from the NHANES analysis, we find that the ATUS-EHM data capture 93.1 percent of all eating occasions reported in NHANES.

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Timing of Review (Est.): Start: 2/20/2019 Completed: 4/24/19 Withdrawn: XX/XX/19

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