Dietary surveys in risk assessment

Data challenges to improve dietary exposure assessment

Senior Adviser Sisse Fagt, National Food Institute, Technical University of Denmark
Long tradition of Danish nationwide dietary surveys

Surveys in 1985 (adults) and 1995 (children and adults)

DAnish National Survey of Diet and physical Activity (DANSDA)

  - 12000 participants, simple random sample
  - Participation rate 54% (2011-13)
  - One week of recording
  - >160.000 eating occasions (2011-13)

  - 3000 participants, simple random sample in 5 age intervals
  - Participation rate 54% (2006-07)
  - One week of recording
  - >65.000 eating occasions (2014-15)
AIM of DANSDA

- Monitor intake of foods and nutrients to identify nutrition- and health- related problems in risk groups
- Perform research on associations between diet, physical activity and health
- Estimate dietary exposure of contaminants, food additives, pesticide residues etc.
- Analyze determinants of dietary habits and physical activity
Interdisciplinary team

Nutritionists, dieticians, food scientists, sociologists, data managers in close collaboration with statisticians, chemists, toxicologists and microbiologists.

Social science in combination with natural science keep us asking the right questions:

- "Is it possible for participants to answer the questions precisely?"
- "Will the type and number of questions raise the respondent burden?"
- "Will we get valid answers?"
Continuously development and improvements

• Continuously development and improvement of survey design and assessment methods

• Increased use of dietary survey in risk assessment, but also ad hoc surveys in special groups

• More details about foods

• Increasing participation rate through change of design

• Participants feedback (focus group interviews) to improve future survey design and assessment methods

• Risk assessors of non-nutrients are asked about their needs before data collection
Merging of consumption data and data from chemical analysis

- Continuously analyses for chemical contaminants and pesticide residues for control purposes which also to a large extent fulfil the need for monitoring
- (no of samples 2,000-2,500/year)

Challenge
- Not consumption data for all analysed foods
- We eat composite foods, but content often determined in raw product
The dietary questionnaire (pre-coded food diary)

Dietary questionnaires cannot be specific on all foods eaten

- Too many questions (burden of participants)
- Not enough knowledge about foods eaten

Need for combining different sets of data
Dietary surveys 2000-2013 - use of other data sets

Household panel/GfK/sales/market data

Distribution between breakfast cereals, types of cheeses etc. (brandname, packaging size, distributor)

Distribution between types of fish: cold/hot smoked salmon, canned/fresh etc.

Recipes

Database of recipes

(WHO, EU, governmental bureaus)

Exposure assessment of non-nutrients: Adjustment of data so food consumption data fit analytical data or vice versa
Examples of dietary data used in risk assessment of non nutrients

Average intake of foods aggregated/disaggregated (foods fit level of analysed data)

Average intake of foods per day or per meal

Individual level for performing probabilistic calculations

Group level (age, sex): Average intake of foods aggregated/disaggregated (foods fit level of analysed data).

Group level (age, sex): Average intake of foods

Increasing complexity in data retrieval

Chicken and salad at the same meal (cross contamination salmonella)

Foods with added sorbic acid e.g. fruit juice

Foods with added waxes

Packaged foods (food contact materials)

Meat products with added nitrite

Smoked salmon or brown rice

Salmon or rice
Future

2014-: Web based technology

- More details on specific foods or facets about food preparation
  - Possible to ask more questions, but still limitations on level of details due to participants burden and knowledge
  - Continuation of combining different data sets (more value for money)

Validation study

- 2 x 24 h recall (recommended by EFSA) vs. 7 d pre-coded food diary (DANSDA)

Future dietary surveys will provide more detailed food consumption data beyond nutritional aspects – enables better exposure risk assessment
Thank you

The interdisciplinary team behind DANSDA

Jeppe Matthiessen,
Anja Biltoft-Jensen,
Ellen Trolle,
Karin Hess Ygil
Karsten Kørup,
Tue Christensen,
Sisse Fagt