

Appendix C

Introduction to Primary Tables by Key Socio-Demographic Variables

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In the tables presented in Appendices C1-C5, each of the main analysis tables is crossed by several key socio-demographic characteristics. There were a total of 23 key socio-demographic characteristics designated throughout the first two years of this study. To facilitate presentation, each is associated with the letter indicated in the list below this paragraph. Because they are widely applicable, the first nine characteristics (a-i) apply to all tables in Appendices C1-C5. The remaining characteristics apply selectively to tables as relevant. The letters associated with each socio-demographic characteristic remain the same across each appendix. Consequently, some letters are missing from Appendices C1 – C5 where that variable is not applied. For all of the key socio-demographic variables listed, missing values are imputed.¹ Socio-demographic data are typically collected either at enrollment or at the baseline interview, which takes place at the caregiver’s first telephone interview (prenatal, 1 month, or 3 months, depending on timing of study enrollment).

- a. **Race** (of the caregiver): Consists of three categories—African American, White, and other—based on responses to question SD3. If multiple races are indicated, respondent is categorized as other.
- b. **Ethnicity** (of the caregiver): Consists of two categories—Hispanic and non-Hispanic—based on responses to question SD2.
- c. **Current Marital Status of the Mother**: Consists of two categories—married and not married developed from question SD14. Not married includes widowed and divorced. For analysis of data after 13 months, this variable is refreshed to reflect status at the 13-month interview.
- d. **Household Food Security** (measured using the 6-item module): Consists of three categories—high or marginal food security, low food security, and very low food security—based on responses to questions SD36 through SD40. Directions for coding responses are available at: <https://www.ers.usda.gov/media/8282/short2012.pdf>. For analysis of data after 13 months this variable is refreshed to reflect status at the 13-month interview.
- e. **Participation in non-WIC Benefit Program(s)**: Consists of three categories—does not participate in any other benefit programs; participates in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or in SNAP and other benefit programs; participates in other programs excluding SNAP—based on responses to questions SD21a-d.

¹ See Appendix B1 for information on imputation.

other programs excluding SNAP—based on responses to questions SD21a-d. Placement in the SNAP category is determined by responses to SD21a regardless of responses to other questions. For analysis of data after 13 months, this variable is refreshed to reflect status at the 13-month interview.

- f. **Parity:** Consists of three categories—first born, second born, and third or subsequent born—based on responses to question SD15.
- g. **Timing of WIC Enrollment:** Consists of four categories—first trimester, second trimester, third trimester, and postnatal—based on the difference between the infant’s due data and the respondents enrollment date and assumes a 40-week pregnancy. If the number of weeks pregnant is less than zero, the respondent joined postnatally. If the number of weeks pregnant is greater than zero and less than 13, the respondent joined in the first trimester. If the number of weeks pregnant is between 13 and 28 (inclusive), the respondent joined in the second trimester. If the number of week pregnant is greater than 28, the respondent joined in her third trimester. Timing of WIC enrollment coincided with study enrollment.
- h. **Weight Status of the Mother before Pregnancy:** Consists of three categories—normal or underweight, overweight, and obese—based on the calculation of the respondent’s body mass index (BMI) from questions MH1, MH2, and MH29. If BMI is less than 25, the respondent is classified in the normal or underweight category. If BMI is between 25 and 30, the respondent is classified as overweight. If BMI is 30 or higher, the respondent is classified as obese.
- i. **Income Poverty:** Consists of three categories—75 percent of the poverty guideline or below, above 75 percent of the poverty guideline but no more than 130 percent, and above 130 percent of the poverty guideline—based on calculations using the poverty guidelines published at <http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/13poverty.cfm> and responses to question SD18. For analysis of data after 13 months this variable is refreshed to reflect status at the 13-month interview.
- j. {Breastfeeding History, appeared in the WIC ITFPS-2 Infant Year Report}.
- k. **Age of Mother or Caregiver at Child’s Birth:** Consists of three categories—16-19 years of age, 20-25 years of age, and 26 years or older—based the infant’s date of birth and the mother’s age as reported in question SD1.
- l. {Birth Weight, appeared in the WIC ITFPS-2 Infant Year Report}.
- m. {Delivery Type, appeared in the WIC ITFPS-2 Infant Year Report}.
- n. {Birth Complications, appeared in the WIC ITFPS-2 Infant Year Report}.
- o. {Length of Mother’s Hospital Stay, appeared in the WIC ITFPS-2 Infant Year Report}.
- p. {Time between Birth of Reference Child and Previous Child, appeared in the WIC ITFPS-2 Infant Year Report}.

- q. {Nature of Non-WIC Breastfeeding Support at Hospital, appeared in the WIC ITFPS-2 Infant Year Report}.
- r. **Non-Breastfeeding Infant Nutrition Education and Skills Training from WIC:** Consists of four mutually exclusive categories—received training on formula only, received training on cereal only, received training on both, and received training on neither—based on responses to question WC7, WC8, and WC9.
- s. {Nature of Breastfeeding Support at Home, appeared in the WIC ITFPS-2 Infant Year Report}.
- t. {Nature of Breastfeeding Support from WIC, appeared in the WIC ITFPS-2 Infant Year Report}.
- u. {Nature of breastfeeding support at work – not displayed due to small numbers of participants eligible for these questions}.
- v. {Nature of breastfeeding support at child care – not displayed due to small numbers of participants eligible for these questions}.
- w. **Child WIC Participation Status:** This is child WIC participation status at 1 month, representing whether the child was certified in WIC after birth. For analysis of data after 13 months, this variable is refreshed to reflect status at the 13-month interview.

The main analysis sample comprises 3,777 (unweighted) observations. All analyses are based on this group unless otherwise noted. When a respondent skips a question, it is referred to as item non-response. Responses of Don't Know or Refused are also treated as nonresponse unless otherwise noted. To address the fact that sample sizes vary between analyses due to item nonresponse, sample sizes have been included in the tables. Footnotes indicate when sample size falls below the number total number of respondents who received a given question.

Table titles include information on the variables used in the tables, followed by an indicator in parentheses of the interviews from which data were drawn. In some cases, interviews asked respondents to report retrospectively on events such as the timing of major feeding transitions not previously reported. Consequently, interview months in the titles may at times not correspond to event timing reported in the tables themselves.

In the tables, percentages are within group percentages, that is, they are a percentage of the sample size (denoted “n”) reported for the category. The within group data are, then, examined by the socio-demographic characteristic of interest.

Significance tests are conducted on the crosstabs to determine whether the distribution of mothers within a socio-demographic group (e.g., race) changed with the variable of interest (e.g., breastfeeding initiation). A chi-square test, appropriately adjusted for our complex sample design, is used to determine if observed differences are statistically significant or the result of normal sampling error. All significant findings are indicated by footnotes to the tables, and an absence of such a footnote indicates that none of the chi-square tests are significant. Using breastfeeding status and race as an example, the chi-square test is run to determine whether the percentage distribution of women initiating breastfeeding was associated with race. It should be noted that a chi-square test of the association of breastfeeding initiation with race indicates whether the percentage of women initiating breastfeeding changes with race but does not indicate how racial subgroups differ from each other (i.e., whether African American mothers differ from White mothers.) Only large differences between specific subgroups are likely to be statistically significant.