

Food Consumption Survey



The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department is conducting Hong Kong's largest scale, most comprehensive food consumption survey. This pamphlet introduces you to this survey.

What is a food consumption survey?

- A food consumption survey is a survey to collect food consumption data of the population, such as **(1) types of food intake**, **(2) amounts of food intake** and **(3) dietary practices**.

How will the results be used?

- We use food consumption data to find out if the public is exposed to any hazardous dietary risks such as those from contaminants and food additives, and also to understand the size of the risk and which population groups may be most at risk. At present, we do not have comprehensive data to conduct these in-depth risk assessments.
- Such information will be vital for the Government in formulating public policies and targeting education strategies to promote food safety in Hong Kong.

Who will carry out this survey?

- The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) has commissioned the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) to conduct this survey. The CUHK survey team consists of academic experts in nutrition, public health and statistics, nutritionists, and well-trained interviewers.

Which groups of people is this survey targeting?

- This survey aims to cover the Hong Kong population aged 20 to 84 years. Around 5200 eligible people all over the territory will be selected through an anonymous and scientific household address sampling procedure.

When will the survey be conducted?

- The fieldwork has been commenced since March 2005.

What information will be collected in this survey?

- Food consumption data will be collected by three face-to-face and telephone interviews with each participant. Other information such as dietary practices, weight and height, general health, and demographic information will also be collected.

How long will the interviews take?

- The first interview will take about 15 minutes, the second about 45 minutes, and the final interview by telephone will take only 10-15 minutes.

Your partnership and collaboration are crucial!!

- Throughout the survey, the selected households will receive an invitation letter from the FEHD explaining the interview arrangement. After receiving the letter you will be asked to call the CUHK survey office so that we can recruit one participant from your household.
- As participants will be selected following strict sampling procedures, they cannot be replaced; therefore, your support is extremely important. Your time will be well spent, as your participation will benefit the whole community and enable stronger efforts to protect Hong Kong residents from foodborne disease. If you are selected, your information will represent that of many Hong Kong residents.

Will my personal data be disclosed if I participate in the study?

- All your data will be kept strictly confidential. Neither the FEHD nor any other government agency will have access to information that identifies you. Survey results will be published only in the form of overall population food consumption patterns.

How can you help?

- You can help by
 - cooperating with the interviewers to provide accurate information, and
 - passing information about the food consumption survey to your relatives and friends.

For further information, please contact:

- FEHD hotline 2868 0000;
- CUHK Survey Unit 2609 6876 during office hours; or
- e-mail the CUHK Survey Unit at hkfcsc@cuhk.edu.hk

