

Determinants of Population Food Patterns. KATRINE BAGHURST. *CSIRO Division of Human Nutrition, Adelaide, Australia.*

The effects of factors such as gender, age, ethnicity, income, occupation and education on food and nutrient intake, and to a lesser extent on dietary change, have been studied in several developed societies. However, mean differences in dietary intakes between social groups are often smaller than might be expected, given the variation in nutritional health status. While it has been recognized for some time that health-related behaviours can be strongly influenced by a range of psychosocial factors, these factors have received relatively little attention in relation to diet. A study conducted last year by CSIRO showed that personality characteristics such as locus of control, anxiety, tough-mindedness and extraversion explained more of the variance in both nutrient and food intake patterns in a general population survey than traditional demographic descriptors such as gender, age or occupation. A more recent CSIRO study of 2000 subjects showed that nutrient intake was also related, particularly in men, to factors such as perceived benefits and susceptibility, barriers to change, concerns for health, cues to action, normative beliefs, motivation to comply and rigidity.

Image of Foods—In Regard to Origin and Some Quality Components. OTTO BAYER and ULRICH OLTERSDORF. *Federal Research Center for Nutrition, Institute of Nutritional Economics and Sociology, Garbenstr. 13, D-70599 Stuttgart, Germany.*

In order to receive specific information on the image of foods in regard to their origin and their quality components, two representative surveys were carried out in Germany: the first in 1991 ($n=2000$), the second in 1992 ($n=2500$). Almost 60% of West Germans and East Germans believe that indigenous foods provide "very high quality", that they are "worth the money", and that they are "completely harmless to health"; additionally they are regarded as "natural/less processed or containing less additives". Consumers in both regions agree that foods produced in West Germany have labels providing good information to the consumer. In comparison to the results given above, all these characteristics of food quality are less ascribed to the foods from Western Europe and—if ever known—from North America. Considering the foods from Eastern Europe, Africa and Australia, this tendency becomes more noticeable: Foods from these countries provided with those quality characteristics are mentioned by only 10% or less of the respondents. But in East Germany up to 75% of the respondents are hardly familiar with such foods.

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Abstracts

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