

Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) Participant Characteristics Study

The Urban Institute, in conjunction with the National Opinion Research Center (NORC) and Support Services International, Inc. (SSI), has been awarded a contract from USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) to conduct a national study of FDPIR and its participants. The last nationally representative study was completed in 1990. Since then, significant changes have occurred in FDPIR, including changes to eligibility rules, foods offered, and food delivery options. This study is needed to help FNS make future decisions regarding the program. The study's objectives include but are not limited to the following:

- Obtain an updated demographic profile of participants,
- Measure FDPIR's contribution to participants' food supply,
- Explore reasons for the downward trend in FDPIR participation,
- Study participants' movement between FDPIR and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and
- Examine food package distribution approaches.

The study will begin this fiscal year, and be conducted over a three-year period. The study will include but not be limited to telephone and in-person interviews of program staff, participants, and other individuals in select Tribal areas, which are still to be determined. To make the study as representative as possible, ITOs and/or State agencies with varying levels of program participation will be asked to participate, including larger participating FDPIR ITOs and/or State agencies, such as the Navajo Nation and the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma.