Rethinking Poverty in Nigeria: 
The Demographics of Food Insecure Households

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Background
- Measurement of living standards is crucial to health and poverty alleviation
- In poor countries like Nigeria absolute poverty better portrays household living conditions (Falkingham and Namazie, 2005)
- Poverty is episodic but there has been limited longitudinal analyses of food insecurity

The Present Study
- Compares two measures of household socioeconomic status – wealth and food security
- Investigates trends in household food security in Nigeria over a two-year period – 2010-2013
- Examines transitions into and out of food insecurity over time
- Utilizes more recent and panel data (2010-2013 NGS)

Data and Sample
- Nigeria General Household Survey (NGHS)
  - 2010-2013 (Four visits, one per annum)
- Analyses of trends in household food insecurity
  - About 4,600 households at each wave
- Analyses of transitions into and out of food insecurity
  - 3,618 food secure households
  - 3,391 food insecure households

Method
- Discrete-time multinomial logistic regression
- Food security status (0 = food secure, 1 = moderately food insecure, 2 = severely food insecure)
- Transition into food insecurity (Food secure — Food insecure)
- Transition out of food insecurity (Food insecure — Food secure)

Results

Multivariate Results

Discussion
- Wealth index presents a very different picture of household socioeconomic wellbeing than food security in Nigeria
- Half of all Nigerian households were food insecure in 2010
- Food conditions improved between 2010 and 2011 but became worse in 2012
- Experiences of food insecurity in Nigeria are mostly transient, not static
- Education and wealth are protective of food insecurity
- Unemployment, larger household size, and urban residence aggravate the risks of food insecurity

Conclusion

Limitations
- Characteristics of persons reporting food insecurity
- Potential bias from attrition

Next steps
- Changes in household food insecurity and health
- Regional variations in household food insecurity

Reference

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