

**Table 34. Meals and Snacks:** Distribution of Meal Patterns<sup>1</sup> and Snack Occasions<sup>2</sup>, by Race/Ethnicity and Age, in the United States, 2009-2010

Race/ethnicity and age (years)	Breakfast, lunch, and dinner				Any two meals				Any one meal or less			
	Number of snack occasions				Number of snack occasions				Number of snack occasions			
	1 or less	2 or 3	4 or more		1 or less	2 or 3	4 or more		1 or less	2 or 3	4 or more	
	% (SE)	% (SE)	% (SE)	% (SE)	% (SE)	% (SE)	% (SE)	% (SE)	% (SE)	% (SE)	% (SE)	% (SE)
<b>Non-Hispanic White:</b>												
2 - 5.....	88 (3.2)	6 (1.0)	41 (3.8)	42 (2.3)	11 (3.2)	1*(0.8)	7 (2.2)	3*(1.3)	#	#	#	#
6 - 11.....	73 (3.8)	14 (1.8)	41 (2.2)	18 (2.3)	23 (1.8)	2*(0.8)	10 (2.3)	11 (1.5)	4*(2.4)	#	2*(1.2)	2*(1.3)
12 - 19.....	57 (3.8)	10 (1.0)	32 (3.2)	15 (2.0)	35 (2.7)	10 (2.8)	17 (2.2)	8 (1.9)	8 (2.7)	2*(0.8)	4*(1.1)	2*(1.3)
20 and over...	68 (1.8)	12 (0.7)	33 (1.1)	24 (1.1)	27 (1.8)	4 (0.6)	13 (1.0)	11 (1.1)	4 (0.4)	1 (0.1)	2 (0.3)	2 (0.2)
2 and over...	68 (1.7)	11 (0.5)	34 (1.0)	23 (1.1)	27 (1.4)	4 (0.5)	13 (0.7)	10 (0.9)	4 (0.5)	1 (0.1)	2 (0.3)	2 (0.3)
<b>Non-Hispanic Black:</b>												
2 - 5.....	79 (4.1)	17 (3.1)	45 (3.8)	17 (3.0)	18 (4.3)	1*(0.5)	8*(1.8)	9*(2.8)	3*(1.5)	1*(0.8)	1*(0.8)	1*(1.1)
6 - 11.....	67 (3.4)	25 (4.2)	32 (3.1)	10 (2.0)	31 (4.2)	7*(2.1)	18 (3.0)	6*(1.5)	2*(1.2)	1*(0.8)	1*(0.9)	#
12 - 19.....	42 (4.4)	16 (3.3)	19 (1.7)	6 (2.2)	40 (4.5)	9 (1.8)	23 (4.0)	8 (1.5)	18 (3.2)	3*(1.5)	10 (2.5)	6*(1.5)
20 and over...	45 (1.9)	14 (1.6)	22 (1.7)	9 (1.3)	44 (1.5)	12 (1.0)	23 (1.1)	9 (0.9)	11 (1.1)	3 (0.7)	6 (0.6)	3 (0.6)
2 and over...	48 (1.4)	16 (1.4)	24 (1.4)	9 (1.0)	41 (1.0)	11 (0.6)	21 (0.6)	9 (0.9)	11 (1.0)	2 (0.7)	5 (0.6)	3 (0.4)
<b>Hispanic<sup>3</sup>:</b>												
<i>Mexican American</i>												
2 - 5.....	73 (2.9)	13 (2.9)	32 (4.1)	28 (3.2)	25 (2.6)	1*(0.5)	10 (1.9)	15 (2.4)	1*(0.8)	#	#	1*(0.8)
6 - 11.....	65 (3.3)	18 (3.0)	36 (3.8)	11 (1.5)	30 (2.9)	7 (1.2)	15 (2.6)	8 (2.2)	6 (1.7)	1*(0.9)	2*(0.8)	3*(1.2)
12 - 19.....	45 (3.2)	16 (2.3)	22 (2.9)	7 (1.7)	45 (2.4)	13 (1.7)	20 (2.7)	12 (2.0)	10 (2.2)	1*(0.5)	4*(1.2)	5 (1.7)
20 and over...	50 (2.7)	15 (1.5)	25 (2.1)	10 (1.7)	44 (2.2)	10 (0.8)	23 (1.6)	10 (1.1)	6 (1.0)	1*(0.4)	3 (0.6)	2 (0.3)
2 and over...	53 (1.8)	15 (0.8)	26 (1.3)	12 (0.9)	41 (1.4)	9 (0.5)	20 (0.8)	11 (0.8)	6 (0.8)	1 (0.3)	3 (0.4)	2 (0.4)
<i>All Hispanic</i>												
2 - 5.....	73 (3.1)	12 (2.4)	36 (3.7)	24 (2.4)	26 (2.9)	2*(1.1)	9 (1.5)	14 (3.1)	1*(0.6)	#	#	1*(0.7)
6 - 11.....	65 (3.7)	18 (2.0)	35 (2.8)	12 (1.3)	30 (3.8)	6 (0.8)	14 (2.5)	10 (2.1)	5 (1.2)	1*(0.6)	2*(0.8)	2*(0.7)
12 - 19.....	49 (2.8)	18 (2.2)	23 (3.1)	8 (1.8)	43 (2.3)	12 (1.3)	19 (2.2)	12 (1.7)	8 (1.6)	1*(0.5)	3*(0.8)	5 (1.2)
20 and over...	47 (3.3)	13 (1.1)	23 (2.1)	11 (1.4)	45 (2.6)	11 (0.9)	23 (1.7)	11 (0.9)	8 (1.3)	1 (0.3)	4 (0.8)	3 (0.7)
2 and over...	52 (2.4)	14 (0.9)	26 (1.2)	12 (0.8)	41 (2.0)	10 (0.7)	20 (1.1)	11 (0.8)	7 (0.9)	1 (0.2)	3 (0.5)	3 (0.5)

## Symbol Legend

\* Indicates an estimate that may be less statistically reliable than estimates that are not flagged. The rules for flagging estimated percentages are as follows:

**Percent reporting:** An estimated percentage between 25 and 75 percent is flagged when based on a sample size of less than 30 times the variance inflation factor (VIF), where the VIF represents a broadly calculated average design effect, or when the relative standard error is greater than 30 percent. An estimated percentage less than or equal to 25 percent or greater than or equal to 75 percent is flagged when the smaller of  $np$  and  $n(1-p)$  is less than 8 times the VIF, where  $n$  is the sample size and  $p$  is the percentage expressed as a fraction. The VIF used in this table is 2.04.

# Indicates a non-zero value too small to report.

## Footnotes

<sup>1</sup> Meals Patterns are categorized into the following:

**Breakfast, lunch, and dinner:** the respondent reported each of the three meals as follows: breakfast includes all eating occasions designated by the respondent as "breakfast", or the Spanish equivalents "desayuno", and "almuerzo"; lunch includes all eating occasions designated as "brunch", "lunch" or the Spanish equivalent "comida"; and dinner includes all eating occasions designated as "dinner", "supper", or the Spanish equivalent "cena".

**Any two meals:** the respondent reported any combination of two of the three meals -- breakfast, lunch or dinner.

**Any one meal or less:** the respondent reported one of the three meals, or no meal.

<sup>2</sup> Snack occasions were reported as distinct eating occasions during the dietary interview and consisted of one or more food and beverage items, including plain water. Water was the only item reported in approximately 22 percent of the snack occasions. Survey respondents selected the name of all eating occasions from a fixed list that was provided during the interview. All reports of "snack", "drink" or "extended consumption" (items that were consumed over a long period of time) were included as snack occasions. Spanish language interviewers used Spanish language snack occasion names: "merienda", "entre comida", "botana", "bocadillo", "tentempie", and "bebida".

<sup>3</sup> A new sampling methodology was implemented for NHANES 2007-2010; the entire Hispanic population was oversampled instead of just the Mexican American population. Sufficient numbers of Mexican Americans were retained in the sample design so that trends can be monitored.

## Abbreviations

SE standard error.

## Notes Applicable to All Tables in Series: *What We Eat in America*, NHANES 2009-2010

The statistics in this table are estimated from Day 1 dietary recall interviews conducted in the *What We Eat in America*, National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) 2009-2010. The 24-hour dietary recalls were conducted in-person, by trained interviewers, using the USDA 5-step Automated Multiple-Pass Method. Food intakes were coded and nutrient values were determined using the USDA Food and Nutrient Database for Dietary Studies 5.0 [www.ars.usda.gov/ba/bhnrc/fsrg](http://www.ars.usda.gov/ba/bhnrc/fsrg) which is based on nutrient values in the USDA National Nutrient Database for Standard Reference, Release 24 (Agricultural Research Service, Nutrient Data Laboratory, 2011).

Intakes of nutrients and other dietary components are based on the consumption of food and beverages, including water, and do not include intake from supplements or medications.

The table includes data from individuals 2 years and over. Breast-fed children were excluded because breast milk was not quantified in dietary recall interviews.

## Suggested Citation

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