

Food Insecurity during Childhood:  
Understanding Persistence and Change Using Linked Current Population Survey Data<sup>1</sup>

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Because of a lack of nationally representative longitudinal data on children's food insecurity in the United States, we know very little about the dynamics of movements into or out of food insecurity among children, the duration of food insecurity among children, and the policy levers which affect movement. Our paper examines the prevalence and determinants of children's transitions into and out of food insecurity since 2001. We use longitudinally linked data from the Food Security Supplements to the Current Population Surveys to estimate one-year transition probabilities of entry and exit from food insecurity. Our results indicate that a significant minority of U.S. children experience multiple years of food insecurity and that this increased during the recession. There are also large demographic and socioeconomic differences in rates of entry and persistence in food insecurity.