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DIETARY LEVELS FOR TRI-CITY ELEMENTARY. SCHOOL CHILDREN
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Environmental Studies Section EIVVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMEIVT

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\section*{DIETARY LEVELS FOR TRI-CITY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHILDREN}
J. K. Soldat and J. F. Honstead

As part of the study of Mechanisms of Environmental Exposure for the Division of Production of the Atomic Energy Commission; a program is underway to investigate dietary pathways affecting school-age children: [l]. The program is conducted in cooperation with school systems in the Tri-City Area: Primarily "elementary school" children are approached with this study, including ages 6 through 12. A much smaller number of:children aged 13 and 14 have also been contacted in the course of this study. The research includes measurements of the body burdens of radioactive materials in children and a study of the children's diets. This report presents a partial compilation of the dietary levels obtained for children of different ages. These data are tabulated here' for reference purposes.

The program conducted in elementary schools is entitled "Influence of Diet on Radioactivity in People". The study is conducted in three phases: (I) The children are provided with information about radioactivity and radiation. measurements in a 45 minute classroom presentation. They are encouraged at. this time to participate in the study. (2) For a seven-day period the children obtain diet statistics on a special form provided them. (3) Upon presenting their completed diet record and parent's approval at sche๐l the students are invited to visit the mobile whole-body counter parked on the school grounds where their body burden of radieactivity is measured. The diet record provided by the children in this way includes a compilation of general diet information elicited by questions concerning frequency of consumption of seafood, Columbia River fish and game birds. In addition, the questions investigate the source
of certain kinds of foodstuffs in the children's diet, e.g., drinking water and milk supplies. Finally, the children are asked to complete an accurate record of the consumption of those kinds of foods believed to contribute to radieactivity in their bodies for a period of seven consecutive days.

\section*{DRINKING WATER}

Table \(l\) gives the reported consumption levels of drinking water by Tri-City school children on the basis of age. Water consumption is reported in "cups per day". The children are carefully instructed concerning the meaning of a "cup". It is identified as an 8 厄z. standard measuring cup. such as is used in cooking and.baking. The children are instructed to keep track of their water consumption and to estimate it in terms of \(8 \circ \mathrm{z}\). cups if the container they normally drink out of is less than 8 oz. In addition, the children are asked to estimate their water consumption from:drinking fountains in terms of cups by assuming 15 swallows to be equivalent to one cup. It was further estimated that a typical visit to the drinking fountain by children results in the consumption of about one-third cup.

\section*{MILK}

The tabulated milk consumption information for Tri-City school children is shown in Table 2. There appears to be a consistently higher milk consumption for boys than for girls from these numbers. The data are again reported in terms of cups per day, having the same definition as that used for water.

\section*{OTHER LIQUIDS}

The children were instructed to include in their "other liquids. record
(Table 3) all liquids, consumed.that were not mixed at home with drinking water.

For example, Kool-Aid and frozen orange juice would be reported in the water consumption table. Examples of "other liquids" would be bottled soft. drinks and canned juices. The liquid consumption is again reported in terms of a standard 8 oz. measuring cup.

\section*{TOTAL LIQUIDS}

Table 4 is a compilation of data which sums the liquid consumption for each child. The data are again reported in standard 8 oz. cups. The total liquid consumption for children of ages 6 through 14 is remarkably similar, little age difference being found. There is a consistent, significant difference in liquid consumption between boys and girls at all of the ages studied.

BREAD
Table 5 shows the reported consumption of bread for the various age groups studied. The diet record heading was "Slices of Bread or Rolls". The children were instructed to include all types of bread and bread-type.foods consumed in this column. For example, children included hot cakes and waffles as bread in making this report.

\section*{COLUMBIA RIVER FISH}

Table 6 reports the consumption level data obtained from children for . fish caught from the Columbia River downstream from the Hanford plant. The question asked on the diet record form is "Do you ever eat fish caught in the Columbia River? If so, about how frequently?" The children are given the option of:selecting an answer from the following multiple choice statements: None, two or three times a week, once a week, twice a month, once a month, twice a year, very seldom. The currently used diet record card is a revised form of an
earlier questionnaire in which children were asked to provide a numerical estimate of their Columbia River fish consumption. The new:form directs the children's answers to guide them in making more objective answers to this question. However, it also directs their answers into a limited number of :categories which become evident when one examines the results. In their instructions the children were asked to estimate the consumption level only of fish actually taken from the Columbia River. However, they were told to include fish that had been frozen for a period of time as well as those consumed.fresh. A casual observation from children's response leads one to the conclusion that a sizable fraction of Columbia River fish are frozen before being eaten.

\section*{GAME BIRDS}

Table 7 reports the consumption level data obtained from Tri-City school children concerning meals per year of locally harvested game birds. The question asked on the diet record form is: "Do you occasionally eat game birds taken in the vicinity (quail, ducks, pheasants)? If se, how frequently?". The children are then given the same options for multiple choice answers as those reported above in the case of Columbia River fish. Again the earlier version of this diet record provided for a quantitative reply, so that part of the answers obtained:did not fit. into the multiple choice categories. This survey revealed a slightly higher consumption rate for game birds than Columbia River fish, confirming observations made frem adult dietary records \({ }^{[2][3]}\).

BEEF
Ta.blee 8 gives the tabulated beef consumption record.for Tri-City school children of different ages. The results show a remarkable degree of consistency
in all.age groups. The one or two reports.revealing average meat consumption of greater than six servings per day may be.fliers. The children:were instructed to include in their reports of meat consumption only fresh meat meals. This was defined for them as being meat that was purchased as uncooked meat locally and then cooked or frozen after purchase. The question of identifying the source of meat supplies fomnd is not dealt with here but some evidence is available that will permit better selection of those children whose meat supplies are probably from local farms. . The children are asked to report meat consumption data in terms of "servings", with a serving defined on the diet form as 3-5 oz. of meat. Part of the uniformity observed in the meat consumption reports may be the result of: difference in the size of servings fer different aged children. A study of typical serving sizes actually consumed by children of different ages remains to be made.

PORK
Table 9 shows the reported pork consumption data for Tri-City school children. Again only fresh uncooked meat was requested in this tabulation. A problem was encountered.in defining the word "fresh" for the children. We attempted to assure that this meat was uncooked or unprocessed meat but many forms of pork that are popular in the Tri-City Area are difficult to categorize in this.way. For example, uncooked ham or bacon could be considered by the children as "fresh pork". One should assume that this data may be biased by this confusion of definitions. Again the pork consumption data are reported in terms of "servings per day", with the same problem with serving size as discussed for beef.

\section*{SEA FOOD}

Table 10 tabulates the reported consumption of sea foed by Tri-City elementary scho๐l.children. The question asked of the children on their diet record card is: "Do you:ever eat fresh crab meat, shrimp, oysters or clams (other than canned or frozen)? If so, how frequently?". In discussions with the children the purpose of this study was described and'some detail was given concerning the kinds of foods of interest. We pointed out.that we were trying to ascertain consumption levels of sea foods that may be obtained from the Pacific Coast near the mouth of the Columbia River. The majority of the children clearly understood the intent of the question and probably gave the best answers that they could. However, the complexity of the sea food marketing situation would tend to bias the results upward. The children's reports of sea food consumption are consistent with those obtained in a similar way for adults in the Tri-City Area \({ }^{[2][3]}\). In the revised diet.form the children respond to the question concerning sea food by selecting an appropriate diet frequency from a multiple choice :list such as that used in reporting Columbia River fish consumption. Again, the earlier record card provided for a quantitative estimate by the children on their annual consumption. Thus, some of the data fit the multiple choice categories and the rest are more.randomly distributed. The quantity that represents a "meal" of sea food, Columbia River fish or game birds remains to be evaluated in further studies.

\section*{CONCLUSIONS \\ Valid dietary information for population groups is useful in assisting with calculations of dose. received by people Living in the vicinity of nuclear installations. These data for elementary.school children should assist with}
such calculations. In particular, the data are most applicable to the Hanford environmental, dose evaluation. On an international level scientists in the field of health physics have long felt the need for the definition of a "standard child". - the counterpart of the "standard man" that has been used for establishing permissible levels of radioactivity in various environments: The dietary inf'ormation being obtained at Hanford with this elementary school children survey should assist with the development of this model.

\section*{REFERENCES}
[1] Honstead, J. F.; "A Program:for Evaluating Environmental Radiation Dose to Children". Submitted for publication in Radiological, Health Data and Reports, in press.
[2] Honstead, J. F., "Dietary Sources of Radieactivity for Richland Rẹidents", BNWL-CC-926, November 10, 1966.
[3] Honstead, J. F., "Radionuclide Burden-Diet Relationships Near a Nuclear Facility". Proceedings of the Symposium on Diagnosis and Treatment of Deposited Radionuclides, in press.

\section*{TABLE 1}



This Takle contains the results of diet records provided by. 2973 Tri-City school children. They maintaired the record for seven consecutive days, the tabulated numbers representing: the average for the period. They were asked to report all water consumption, including that used to mix powdered milk, soup, etc., in terms: of standard, 8 oz. cups.

\section*{TABLE 2}

MILK


Cups/Day
Percent of Total Cases



Cups/Day
Percent of Total Cases


\section*{CONSUMPTION OF:LIQUIDS OTHER THAN WATER OR MILK BY CHILDREN}

This Tُble contains the results of diet records provided by 2973 Tri-City schol children. They maintained the record for seven consecutive days, the tabulated numbers representing the average for the period. "Other" liquids include bottled beverages, fruit juice, etc. © The children were asked to report liquid consumption in terms of standard 8 oz. cups..

\section*{TABLE 4}

TOTAL LIQUIDS (WATER + MILK + OTHER LIQUIDS)
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|}
\hline Age & \multicolumn{2}{|c|}{5} & \multicolumn{2}{|r|}{7} & \multicolumn{2}{|l|}{: 8} & \multicolumn{2}{|r|}{9} & \multicolumn{2}{|r|}{10} & \multicolumn{2}{|r|}{11} & \multicolumn{2}{|c|}{12} & \multicolumn{2}{|c|}{13} & \multicolumn{2}{|c|}{14} \\
\hline Sex & M & F & M & F & ; M & F & in & F & M & F & M & F & M & F & M & F & M & F \\
\hline Total Cases & 27. & 32 & 124 & 119 & 189 & 201 & 1192 & 235 & 282 & 263 & 293 & : 306 & 1273 & 282 & 72 & ! 59 & 15 & 9 \\
\hline Avg. Cups/Day & 7.2 & 6.4 & 6.4 & 5.9 & 6.6 & 6.1 & 16.9 & 16.3 & 17.2 & 6.5 & 7.2 & : 6.4 & 7.4 & 6.8 & 7.4 & 6.8 & 7.0 & 5.8 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}


This \(\dot{\text { tiable }}\) contains the results of individual summations of water, milk, and other liquids consumed. The daja were taken from diet records maintained by 2973 Tri-City children for seven consecutive days. The tabulated numbers represent the average for the period and report consumption of standard 8 cz . cups of liquids.

TABLE 5
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|}
\hline Age & \multicolumn{2}{|r|}{6} & \multicolumn{2}{|r|}{7} & \multicolumn{2}{|c|}{8} & \multicolumn{2}{|r|}{9} & \multicolumn{2}{|r|}{10} & \multicolumn{2}{|c|}{11} & & \multicolumn{2}{|l|}{12} & \multicolumn{2}{|l|}{13} & \multicolumn{2}{|r|}{14} \\
\hline Sex & M & F & M & F & M & F & M & F & M & F & M & F & & M & F & M & F & M & F \\
\hline Total Cases & 27 & 32 & 124 & 119 & 189 & 201 & 192 & 235 & : 282 & 263 & 293 & & 06 & 273 & 282 & 72 & 59 & 15 & 9 \\
\hline Avg. Serv/Day & 2.6 & 2.24 & 2.61 & 2.26 & 2.66 & 2.49 & 2.82 & 2.49 & 3.10 & 2.74 & 3.11 & & . 82 & 3.44 & 3.07 & 3.74 & 3.28 & 3.27 & 2.34 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

Servings/Day Percent of Total Cases


\section*{CONSUMPTION OF BREAD BY CHILDREN}

This Table contains the results of diet records provided by 2973 Tri-City school children. They maintained the record for seven consecutive days, the tabulated numbers representing the average for the period. Children were asked to record all forms of bread, ro-ls; pancakes, etc., in this categony. Servings are defined as slices of loaf bread, single rolls or buns, or single pancakes.
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|}
\hline Age & \multicolumn{2}{|r|}{6} & \multicolumn{2}{|c|}{7} & \multicolumn{2}{|r|}{8} & \multicolumn{2}{|c|}{9} & \multicolumn{2}{|l|}{10.} & \multicolumn{2}{|c|}{11} & \multicolumn{2}{|l|}{12} & \multicolumn{2}{|c|}{13} & \multicolumn{2}{|c|}{14} \\
\hline Sex & M & F & M & F & M & F & M & F & M & F & M & F & & F & M & F & M & F \\
\hline Total Cases & 27 & 32 & 124 & 119 & 189 & \[
201
\] & \[
192
\] & \[
235
\] & \[
282
\] & \[
263
\] & \[
293
\] & \[
306
\] & \[
273
\] & 282 & 72 & & 15 & , \\
\hline Avg. Meals/Year & & ! 1.78 & 1.61 & 2.18 & 2.11 & 2.03 & 2.50 & 2.30 & 2.79 & 2.62 & 2.18 & 2.66 & 3.11 & 2.60 & 3.07 & 2.12 & 2.93 & 2.56 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
Meals/Year Percent of Total Cases


\section*{COLUMBIA RIVER FISH (continued)}


\section*{TABLE 7}

GAME BIRDS


\section*{Meals/Year}

\section*{Percent of Total Cases}
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|}
\hline 0 & 55.6 & 65.6 & 63.7 & 47.9 & 58.7 & 62.2 & 57.8 & 60.4 & 56.7 & 57.8 & 55.3 & 57.8 & 50.6 & 56.7 & 47.2 & 155.9 & 53.3 & 44.4 \\
\hline 1 & 7.4 & 0.0 & 4.8 & 10.9 & 9.5 & 8.0 & 9.4 & 6.0 & 8.9 & 8.4 & 7.2 & 8.5 & 11.0 : & 11.0 & 13.9 & 113.6 & 0.0 & 10.0 \\
\hline 2 & 7.4 & 6.3 & 7.3 & 15.1 & 11.1 & 8.0 & 120.9 & 9.4 & . 9.6 & \(: 10.7\) & 10.2 & 8.2 & 11.4 & 8.5 & 8.3 & 8.5 & 16.7 & 111.1 \\
\hline 3 & 11.1 & 3.1 & 6.5 & 4.2 & 12.1 & 2.5 & 4.2 & 3.4 & 3.9 & 14.2 & 3.1 & 4.3 & 4.0 & 4.6 & 4.2 & 5.1 & 10.0 & 11.1 \\
\hline 4 & 11.1 & 3.1 & 3.2 & 2.5 & 11.1 & 2.0 & 0.5 & 3.4 & 3.9 & 3.4 & 3.4 & 4.3 & 2.2 & 2.5 & 2.8 & 1.7 & ; 6.7 & 11.1 \\
\hline 5 & 0.0 & 6.3 & 1.6 & 2.5 & 3.7 & 2.0 & 3.7 & 1.3 & 2.8 & 1.9 & 3.4 & 0.7 & 4.0 & 1.4 & 1.4 & 0.0 & 16.7 & \\
\hline 6 & 3.7 & 3.1 & 3.2 & 0.8 & : 1.6 & 1.5 & 3.1 & 2.6 & 5.0 & 3.0 & 3.8 & 1.6 & 1.5 & 2.1 & 5.6 & 6.8 & 113.3 & \\
\hline 7 & & - & 0.8 & 0.8 & 1.1 & 1.5 & 0.0 & 1.3 & 0.0 & 0.4 & 1.4 & 0.C & 1.1 & 0.7 & 1.4 & & 0.0 & : \\
\hline 8 & & & 1.6 & 0.8 & 0.0 & 0.5 & 0.5 & 1.7 & 0.4 & 0.8 & 0.0 & 0.7 & 0.7 & 1.4. & 1.4 & & 6.7 & \\
\hline 9 & & & 0.0 & 0.8 & 0.0 & 0.0 & 0.0 & 0.0 & 0.0 & 0.4 & 0.0 & 0.3 & 0.0 & 0.7 & & & ; & \\
\hline 10 & & 3.1 & 3.2 & 3.4 & 3.2 & 2.5 & 3.1 & 2.1 & 1.4 & 1.5 & 2.1 & 3.9 & 4.4 & 2.1 & & & , & \\
\hline 11 & & & 0.0 & 0.0 & 0.0 & 0.0 & 0.0 & 0.0 & 0.4 & 0.4 & 0.0 & 0.3 & 0.0 & 0.0 & & & 1 & \\
\hline 12 & & & 1.6 & 3.4 & 3.7 & 2.0 & 1.0 & 3.0 & 1.4 & 2.3 & 2.4 & 2.0 & 2.2 & 3.2 & 2.8 & 1.7 & ! & \\
\hline 13 & & & & & & & & & & & 0.3 & 0.0 & 0.4 & 0.0 & & & & \\
\hline 14 & & & & & & & & & & & 0.0 & 0.3 & 0.0 & 0.0 & & : & , & \\
\hline 15 & & 3.1 & 0.8 & 0.8 & !0.5 & 1.0 & 1.0 & 0.9 & 1.4 & 1.1 & 1.7 & 1.0 & 1.1 & 1.1 & & & ! & 11.1 \\
\hline 16 & 3.7 & & & & & & & & & & 0.3 & 0.3 & 0.0 & 0.4 & & & ! & 11.1 \\
\hline 17 & & & & & & & & & & & 0.0 & 0.3 & & & & ; & 1 & \\
\hline 18 & & & & & 0.5 & & & & & & 0.3 & & & & : & & - & \\
\hline 19 & & & & & & & 0.5 & & & & 0.0 & & & & & & & : \\
\hline 20 & & 6.3 & & 1.7 & 1.1 & 2.5 & 0.5 & 2.1 & 1.1 & 1.5 & 2.4 & 2.0 & 2.2 & 1.1 & 2.8 & , & : & \\
\hline 21. & & & & & & & & & & & & & & & & & & \\
\hline 22 & & & & & & 0.5 & & & 0.4 & & & & & & & & ; & \\
\hline 23 & & & & & & & & & & & & & & & & & - & \\
\hline 24 & & & 0.8 & 0.8 & & 1.0 & & 0.9 & & 0.8 & 0.7 & 1.0 & 0.7 & 0.4 & 2.8 & 3.4 & 6.7 & \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

\section*{TABLE 7 (continued)}

GAME BIRDS (con-inued)
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|}
\hline Age & \multicolumn{2}{|r|}{6.} & \multicolumn{2}{|c|}{7} & \multicolumn{2}{|c|}{8} & \multicolumn{2}{|r|}{9} & \multicolumn{2}{|r|}{- 10} & \multicolumn{2}{|r|}{11} & \multicolumn{2}{|c|}{12} & \multicolumn{2}{|l|}{13} & \multicolumn{2}{|c|}{14} & \\
\hline Sex & M & F & M & F & M & F & im & F & M & F & M & F & M & F & M & F & M & F & \\
\hline Total Cases & 27 & 32 & 124 & 119 & 189 & 201 & 192 & 235 & 282 & 263 & 293 & 306 & 273 & 282 & 72 & 59 & 15 & 9 & \\
\hline Avg. Meals/Year & , & 2.9 & 2.1 & 3.39 & 2.78 & 3. 01 & 3.04 & 2.77 & 2.89 & 12. 68 & 3.4 & 3.15 & 3.53 & 2.97 & 4. & 2 & & & \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

Meals/Year Percent of Total Cases


\section*{CONSUMPTION OF GAME BIRDS BY CHILDREN}

This Table contains the result's of diet questionnaires completed by 2973 Tri-City school children The early form used in the study asked for a numerical estimate of the children's consumption of game birds taken in this vicinity (quail, ducks, pheasants), in terms of meals per year. The form was later revised to provide them with multiple choices that guided their answers, i.e., "Two. or three times a week, once' a week, twice a month, once a month, twice a year, very seldom, or never".


\section*{CONSUMPTION OF BEEF BY CHILDREN}

This Table contains the results of diet records provided by 2973 Tri-City school children. : They maintained the record for seven consecutive days, the tabulated numbers representing the average for the ! period.

\section*{TABLE 9}


\section*{Servings/Day}

\section*{Percent of Total Cases}

\section*{CONSUMPTION OF PORK BY CHILDREN}

This Table contains the results of diet records provided by 2973 Tri-Ci-y school children: They maintained the record for seven consecutive days; the tabulated numbers representing the average for the period.

\section*{TABLE 10}

SEAFOOD
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|}
\hline Age & & & : & .7 & \multicolumn{2}{|c|}{8} & \multicolumn{2}{|r|}{9} & \multicolumn{4}{|c|}{\(10: 11\)} & \multicolumn{2}{|c|}{12} & \multicolumn{3}{|c|}{13} & \multicolumn{2}{|l|}{14} \\
\hline Sex & M & F & \[
\mathrm{M}
\] & \[
\mathrm{F}
\] & M & F & \% M & : F & M & & \[
\mathrm{M}
\] & F & M & F & M & & F & M & F \\
\hline Total Cases & 27 & 32 & 124. & 119 & 189 & 201 & 192 & :235 & 282 & 263 & \[
293
\] & 306 & 273 & 282 & 72 & & 59 & 15 & 9 \\
\hline Avg. Meals/Year & 3.4 & 1. & 1.80 & 2.32 & 2.04 & 2.39 & :2.32 & 2.28 & 2.85 & 2.65 & 2.31 & 2.87 & 3.52 & 3.24 & & & 2.08 & 3.87 & 1.78 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

\section*{Meals/Year}

\section*{Percent of Totai Cases}

\begin{tabular}{llllllllll} 
& 0.5 & 0.4 & 1.1 & 0.4 & & 0.4 & & \\
& 0.4 & 0.3 & 1.0 & 0.7 & 1.1 & 2.8 & 6.1 \\
& & & & Continued
\end{tabular}

This Table contains the results of diet questionnaires completed by 2973 Tri-City school children. "Seafcod" was defined as fresh crab meat, shrimp, oysters, or clams (other than canned or frozen). The early form used in the study asked for a numerical estimate of the children's consumption of seafood in terms of meals per year. The form was later revised to provide them with multiple choices that guided their answers, i.e., "Two or three times a week, once a week, twice a month, once a month, twice a year, very seldom, or never".```

