

PARTICIPANT BIOGRAPHY

Name: Jay Hirschman, MPH, CNS

Title: Director, Special Nutrition Staff

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Mr. Hirschman is the Staff Director, Special Nutrition Staff at the USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), Office of Research and Analysis. From January 1995 to June 1996, he served as the first Director for the Nutrition Policy and Analysis Staff at the then newly formed USDA Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion. Immediately prior to joining the Center, he served as Senior Analyst for Special Nutrition in the USDA Office of Analysis and Evaluation.

Mr. Hirschman received his master of public health degree with a specialization in human nutrition from the University of Michigan in 1975. He has worked as a nutritionist at the State and local level

In his current position of Staff Director, Mr. Hirschman is responsible for managing the staff conducting the evaluation studies and policy analysis for all domestic Special Nutrition Programs, including WIC, the National School Lunch Program and the other Child Nutrition Programs, and the Food Distribution Programs.

He represents the Food and Nutrition Service on the Federal Dietary Reference Intakes (DRI) Steering Committee, the group coordinating with the National Academies (NAS) on updating the RDAs, and has provided expert testimony to a number of NAS expert committees, including the committee on Nutrition Standards for Foods in School. He has served on the Federal working groups to update the NSLP, SBP and CACFP meal patterns, update the Thrifty Food Plan and update the Healthy Eating Index for the 2005 Dietary Guidelines for Americans. In 2005, he represented USDA at the 18th International Conference on Nutrition in Durban.

Mr. Hirschman is a certified nutrition specialist and served as elected chair of the American Public Health Association Food and Nutrition Section in 2003-2004. In 2009 he is receiving the APHA/FN Mary C. Egan award as a pioneer of fresh approaches in public health nutrition.