

# Usage Rates of Various Food and Nutrition Software for Specified Professional Uses and Functions

(Results From March 2002 Nutrition Software Usage Poll)

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## Introduction

An online “Quick Poll” was run on the [Nu Connexions](#) food and nutrition software portal web site from March 13-31, 2002. This “Quick Poll” was publicized through various North American-based professional nutrition-related listservs, as well as an Australian professional nutrition listserv. The purposes of the “Quick Poll” were as follows:

- Determine the extent to which food and nutrition professionals use any type of profession-related software.
- Determine reasons for not using any type of profession-related software.
- Determine frequency of usage for specified profession-related functions, and usage rate of user-specified software packages for these functions.

Response rate for this poll was as follows:

Total Number of Survey Responses: 45

Countries of Respondents:

Australia – 4 (3 reported using professional food/nutrition software)

Canada – 8 (6 reported using professional food/nutrition software)

USA – 33 (23 reported using professional food/nutrition software)

## Reported Reasons for Not Using Food/Nutrition-Related Software

Thirteen (13) out of 45 respondents reported not using any type of professional food/nutrition-related software. Pre-coded reasons are summarized on the next page, as well as relevant free-text comments from respondents. Some respondents gave more than one reason for not using software.

## Reported Reasons for Not Using Food/Nutrition-Related Software

Pre-coded Reason	No.	Related Comments from Respondents
Specialized food/nutrition software not necessary for my work.	1	
Specialized food/nutrition software is too expensive.	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>One respondent reported being a student.</i></li> <li>• I currently work in a hospital facility &amp; our budget has not allowed purchase of specialized food/nutrition software at this time although we feel it could be useful to us.</li> <li>• Unable to find the system that will work best for our company at a reasonable cost.</li> <li>• As a consultant I have not purchased Software for my practice. I do use the programs available in accounts I work with.</li> <li>• I work at a rural hospital. Reasonably priced software would be a major plus to me.</li> </ul>
Specialized food/nutrition software is too complicated to use.	1	
Software currently on the market doesn't address my needs.	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We have not found a Canadian program that handles meat well.</li> <li>• I haven't been able to find software that addresses my areas of practice (long term care and eating disorders) and is within my budget. I have developed forms within my word processing program (Microsoft Word) and plan on exploring other potential uses of this program.</li> </ul>
I don't feel I'm "computer literate" enough.	1	
Other reasons.	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• small institution....adding technology to the mix would mean having to increase our staffing levels to include rd or supervisor level on weekends.</li> </ul>

## Software Functions and Reported Vendors/Usage Rates

Respondents who used food/nutrition-related software (32 of 45) were asked to identify the function(s) for which they used professional food/nutrition-related software. They were also asked which software packages they currently use for each identified function. Most respondents identified more than one function for which they used professional food/nutrition-related software.

<b>Software Function</b>	<b>Frequency of Software Usage for This Function</b>	<b>Usage Rates Rank-Ordered by Vendor</b>
Nutrient analysis of recipes or menus.	23/32	ESHA Food Processor – 7 Nutritionist Pro – 3 Food Smart – 2 Nutritionist V – 2 CBORD – 1 Computrition – 1 GFS Plus – 1 medDietary, MSM – 1 NAT (University of Illinois database) – 1 NutriBase 2001 Personal Plus - 1 Ohio Recipe Analyzer – 1 Serve Australia – 1 Sierra - 1
Individual dietary intake analysis.	21/32	ESHA Food Processor – 6 Nutritionist Pro – 4 Food Smart – 2 Body Watch (Australia) – 1 Diet 4 (Australia) - 1 DietPower - 1 DietSys – 1 ESHA Diet Analysis Plus – 1 In-house Custom Developed Software (Australia) - 1 NutriBase 2001 Personal Plus - 1 Nutritionist IV – 1 Nutritionist V – 1
<b>Table continued on next page.</b>		

Software Function	Frequency of Software Usage for This Function	Usage Rates Rank-Ordered by Vendor
Population group intake analysis.	7/32	Computrition – 1 DietSys with SPSS or Splus – 1 ESHA Food Processor – 1 Food Smart – 1 In-house Custom Developed Software (Australia) - 1 Nutritionist Pro – 1 USDA CSFII - 1
Food allergy/intolerance diagnosis/counseling.	2/32	Allergy Advisor – 1 Computrition TrayTrakker - 1
Patient risk assessment screening.	5/32	Compu-Cal Nutritionist Asst. & Dietitian Asst. for PDA – 1 Computrition TrayTrakker - 1 Food Smart – 1 Nutrition RX – 1 Weight Tracker – 1
Diet office management.	7/32	Carex-Vision Software Technologies - 1 CBORD - 1 Computrition CareTrakker – 1 Computrition TrayTrakker – 1 GFS Plus - 1 medDietary – 1 Menu Tracker - 1
Food production management.	5/32	Carex-Vision Software Technologies - 1 CBORD - 1 Computrition Hospitality Suite – 1 Food Supplier-Specific Custom Developed Software – 1 GFS Plus – 1
<b>Table continued on next page.</b>		

Software Function	Frequency of Software Usage for This Function	Usage Rates Rank-Ordered by Vendor
Food procurement management.	6/32	Carex-Vision Software Technologies - 1 CBORD - 1 Computrition Hospitality Suite – 1 Food Supplier-Specific Custom Developed Software – 1 GFS Plus – 1 Developed Software – 1 Meditech & medDietary - 1
Other functions (listed in third column of this table).	11/32	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anthropometric calculations – Web-based.</li> <li>• BEE calculations – Mistabar.</li> <li>• BMI and weight tracking – Self-developed Excel spreadsheets.</li> <li>• Clip art (food-oriented) – Various CD’s.</li> <li>• Education (university) – ESHA Diet Analysis Plus (with text book).</li> <li>• Food &amp; medication interactions – FMI</li> <li>• Nutrition assessment – Compu-Cal.</li> <li>• Patient education (diabetes and other topics) – Various CD’s, including some that accompany Aspen Publications “Diabetes Patient Education Manual” and “Patient Education Manual”.</li> <li>• Retail foodservices point-of-sale functions – Sebring Technology.</li> <li>• Tracking costs and effectiveness of nutritional supplement</li> </ul>

		usage – Supplement Tracker.
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