

RESEARCH CLINIC

General information

Supervisor:	Dr. Jessica Kiefte-de Jong j.c.kiefte@luc.leidenuniv.nl
Title of clinic:	Policies and interventions to reduce food insecurity in high-income countries
Number of students:	2
Major (if applicable and approved by the Major Convener):	Global Public Health / Governance Economics and Development
(Pre)requisites (if applicable):	At least one methods course (200 or 300 level)

Research context

Food security:

“When all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for a healthy and active life”

Household food insecurity is currently a serious concern for health and wellbeing in high-income countries. Studies in the United States, United Kingdom, Canada and France reported a prevalence varying between 5-39%. Also, a recent study in The Hague found that food insecurity is present in 25% of the households in disadvantaged neighborhoods. Canada and the USA regularly monitor household food insecurity by screening programs in primary and secondary care practice while in other countries, such as the UK and The Netherlands, limited monitoring is present. Food banks/pantries have become the most common intervention for food insecurity. However, the use of food banks is often limited in most high-income countries due to the stigma associated with it. Little is currently known about other potential interventions, policies and programmes in high-income countries and whether they may be effective in reducing household food insecurity.

Students' tasks and activities

The primary aim of this research clinic is to systematically evaluate existing interventions, programmes and policies that address household food insecurity. A secondary aim of the research clinic is that students get familiar with field research related to food insecurity in The Hague.

Specific tasks will include:

- Participation in ongoing data collection of the food security cohort in The Hague:
 - o Photovoice method development
 - o Conducting surveys on psychosocial determinants of food insecurity
- Conducting a systematic literature search on social or healthcare interventions, programmes or policies aimed at addressing household food insecurity in high-income countries.
- Conduct data extraction and analysis on the respective interventions, their pros and cons, and stakeholders to be involved.
- Writing a scientific report.