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FOOD CONSUMPTION BEHAVIORAL CHANGES

RAPIN OWNON : PERCEPTION OF ECONOMIC CRISIS AND FOOD  
CONSUMPTION BEHAVIORAL CHANGES AMONG REGISTERED NURSES IN  
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The purpose of this study was to determine the relationships between perception of economic crisis and food consumption behavioral changes that were classified as food consumption behavioral changes in purchasing , food consumption behavioral changes in cooking and dietary pattern changes. The participants were 238 registered nurses who held positions of level PC. 4 , 5 and 6 at Siriraj Hospital . These nurses' incomes decreased because of economic crisis in 1998 - 1999 . The data were collected by self-administered questionnaires during 1 - 30 , April 1999.

The results showed that most registered nurses (75.63%) had medium level of perception of economic crisis. Most of them had medium level of food consumption behavioral changes in purchasing , food consumption behavioral changes in cooking and dietary pattern changes ( 66.4 % , 75.2 % and 56.7 % respectively ). Perception of economic crisis and food consumption behavioral changes in purchasing , food consumption behavioral changes in cooking and dietary pattern changes were found to have positive relationship (  $r = 0.146$  ,  $0.208$  and  $0.142$  respectively at  $P < .05$  ). Marital status and food consumption behavioral changes in purchasing and dietary pattern changes were found to have negative relationship (  $r = -0.168$  and  $-0.164$  respectively at  $P < .05$  ). Extra income and dietary pattern changes were found to have negative relationship (  $r = -0.166$  at  $P < .05$  ). The results of this study showed that perception of economic crisis had a favourable effect on food consumption behavioral changes resulting in more economical and appropriate practices in accordance with the prescribed principle of nutrition .