

## **Feasibility of Using the USDA Global Branded Food Products Database to Update a Food and Nutrient Database**

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**Objective:** To evaluate the feasibility of using the USDA Global Branded Food Products Database (GBFPD) to update branded food products in a database used to support a dietary intake assessment software application.

**Materials and Methods:** In 2020, the University of Minnesota Nutrition Coordinating Center (NCC) database scientist team evaluated whether the GBFPD could be used to update margarine and buttery spreads in the NCC Food and Nutrient Database. NCC staff downloaded all CSV (Comma-Separated Values) files of Branded Foods and merged the files to create a single file that included all the relevant food attributes (e.g., food description, brand, nutrients). Database scientists reviewed the 'butter & spread' food category to identify products from the 16 brands in the NCC Food and Nutrient Database. The identified products were evaluated for currentness and completeness by comparing them to the matching product information available on each brand's website.

**Results:** The GBFPD contained at least one product for each of the 16 margarine and buttery spread brands in the NCC Food and Nutrient Database, with a total of 76 products identified. Manufacturers "Modified Date" for these products ranged from June 2017 to January 2019. Comparison of GBFPD data with each brand's website revealed discrepancies. Only 45% of the products were a match; the rest were either no match, discontinued, or multiple rows of the same product. The GBFPD was missing numerous products advertised on each brand's website. For example, the GBFPD included one Land O' Lakes product, whereas 13 products were on the brand's website.

**Significance:** The GBFPD includes many branded food products with crucial information (e.g., label nutrients, ingredients, etc.) consistently available for products included in it. However, NCC staff had to use brand website information to update the database because GBFPD didn't have the most current and complete data for the products.