

Table 1 Demography, study variables and their distributions by shopping frequencies in Elderly Nutrition and Health Survey in Taiwan 1999–2000 participants* (n=1841)

Descriptor	n†	Weekly shopping frequency (%)				p Value‡
		Less than once	Once	2–4 times	Every day	
Total	1841	48.0	13.0	22.3	16.7	
Gender						<0.001
Male	933	42.5	12.5	24.3	20.7	
Female	908	54.4	13.6	20.1	12.0	
Age at baseline						<0.001
65–69 y	606	38.9	16.8	24.8	19.5	
70–74 y	637	44.0	13.3	26.3	16.5	
75–97 y	598	58.4	9.8	17.1	14.7	
Education						0.004
Illiterate	635	59.3	11.4	17.2	12.1	
Elementary school and below	820	40.8	13.3	24.6	21.2	
High school	317	38.4	15.4	29.3	16.9	
College and above	62	59.6	11.5	15.4	13.6	
Ethnicity						0.7
Non-indigenous	1652	48.1	12.8	22.4	16.7	
Indigenous	187	43.8	20.4	21.8	14.1	
Perceived financial status						0.1
Enough or just enough	1242	46.3	14.0	22.9	16.9	
Some difficulty	439	48.8	10.9	24.2	16.0	
Very difficult	100	58.0	7.4	12.9	21.7	
Smoker						<0.001
Never	1192	51.3	14.0	21.3	13.4	
Former	235	43.1	11.5	21.4	24.0	
Current	405	42.3	11.5	25.4	20.9	
Alcohol drinker						0.2
No	1344	50.8	12.8	21.1	15.3	
Former	124	43.3	13.6	27.1	16.0	
Current	369	39.1	14.0	25.1	21.8	
Exercise frequently						0.003
No	900	56.6	11.2	17.2	15.0	
Yes	939	41.0	14.5	26.5	18.0	
Dinner companions						<0.001
Self	322	48.6	10.8	20.9	19.7	
Spouse	694	39.4	14.4	27.4	18.8	
Children and relatives	811	55.2	12.7	18.4	13.7	
Friends or neighbours	10	6.5	17.7	57.7	18.1	
Transportation						<0.001
Never going out	141	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Private vehicle (motorcycle or car)	888	45.8	15.1	23.9	15.2	
Public	418	45.2	17.9	22.4	14.6	
Bicycle	161	37.3	12.5	28.5	21.7	
Walking	232	33.5	8.1	26.3	32.1	
Current work status						0.01
Yes	173	31.7	21.5	29.8	17.1	
Retired	1032	46.3	11.5	23.1	19.1	
Housewife	531	56.0	13.0	19.8	11.3	
Never employed	91	63.5	16.1	9.4	11.1	
Duration of observation (median, y)		8.5	8.8	8.8	8.8	

*% are weighted to reflect their representation in the population.

†Total sample size is 1841; cases with missing values were not included for the relevant variable.

‡ χ^2 test by SUDAAN programme.