

between 1 and 3 in 2001 still represent the most vulnerable consumer group, at 10% of the corresponding population.

2. The amount of food bought by a household can be different from the amount actually consumed. Indeed, namely for seafoods, a non negligible part is not edible: Favier *et al.* (1995) show that on average only 61% of fresh or frozen fish is edible. Besides, Maresca and Poquet (1994) also demonstrate some part of the purchased food is thrown away, which also reduces the actual amount of food consumed by a household. However, SECODIP does not specify whether the quantity of fresh or frozen fish bought is ready to be consumed or as a whole fish that needs some preparation. Applying such a factor to all household intakes yields a long term risk of 0.00%, and  $R_{1.6} = 0.043\%$ . If both the 20% outside of the home consumption correction factor and the 61% edible proportion factor are applied to our series, the long term risk is equal to 0.021%,  $R_{1.6} = 0.13\%$ , and 1.06% of the population of children aged between 1 and 3 are vulnerable. These results stress that applying such a correction factor to assess the actual quantity consumed is probably too strong and is certainly a crude approximation of the quantity of seafoods ingested. Thus, a more detailed database on fish and seafood is needed, to realize an accurate assessment of exposure to methylmercury, taking into account only the edible part of fish and other seafood.

Body weight information is crucial in a food safety context and will be included in the future SECODIP data since it has now been added to the list of required individual characteristics. The measurement error afferent to this quantity will remain however, namely for children whose body weight changes a lot throughout a year. Nevertheless, approximating the weekly body weight of young children by the median of the weekly body weight distribution available in French health records is the best approximation possible.

3. The food nomenclature of the SECODIP database is not as detailed as the contamination database. Unfortunately, fish and seafood species are not well documented so it is not possible to consider more than two food categories when computing household intakes. This problem of nomenclature matching is ubiquitous of food risk assessments since contamination analysis