

Appendix A

NHANES-III Data Files

NHANES-III included a number of different interviews as well as a comprehensive physical examination. Most interview data were collected through ‘household interviews,’ which were conducted in respondents’ homes. Physical exams were generally conducted in Mobile Exam Centers (MEC), although home examinations were offered if the sample person was 2-11 months, 60 years or older and wheelchair-bound, or primarily bedridden. The home examination included a subset of the measures collected in the MEC. Additional interview data were collected at the time of the exam. The content of these interviews varied for adults and youth and included questions about use of alcohol and tobacco, physical activity, reproductive health, and selected aspects of diet.

The organization of NHANES-III data files corresponds to the origin of the data—household interviews or examinations. The four main data files are:

- **Household adult data file**—contains data from the household interview on individual demographics, household composition, family background, family characteristics, health insurance, health services, selected health conditions, reproductive health, functional impairment, physical activity, use of tobacco and alcohol, and vitamin and mineral supplements.
- **Household youth data file**—parallels the adult data file, with the exception of questions that cover physical activity, use of tobacco and alcohol, reproductive health, and selected diet-related topics (e.g., dieting). These topics were included as part of the MEC youth interview, which was completed by youth 8 years of age and older, generally without caregiver involvement. In addition, the youth file contains data on some topics

not included in the adult file. This includes data on birth characteristics, infant feeding practices, and television viewing.

- **Examination data file**—contains results of the physical examinations conducted in the MEC or at home, and data from interviews conducted in the MEC.
- **Laboratory data file**—contains results of laboratory tests on blood samples collected in the MEC.

The origin of each data item determines the sample for analysis. NHANES-III provides sample weights for three samples: interview-only, MEC-examined, and home-examined. The sample sizes for these samples are shown in Chapter One, table 1. The sample weight used for each tabulation is specific to the data item tabulated. Source notes at the bottom of each detailed table (appendix D) identify the NHANES-III data file used in the tabulation.

In addition to the four main data files, NHANES-III released several dietary recall data files and supplementary files containing constructed variables or raw data unavailable at the initial release date. The additional files used for this series of reports are:

- **Dietary recall data files**—contain information about individual foods, combination foods, and ingredients reported during 24-hour recalls. The file includes nutrient values from two different nutrient databases—the USDA Survey Nutrient Data Base and the nutrient data base maintained by the University of Minnesota’s Nutrition Coordinating Center (NCC). All of the nutrient analyses presented in this series of reports are based on nutrient values from the USDA Survey Nutrient Data Base.

- **Healthy Eating Index (HEI) file**—contains HEI scores (based on NHANES-III 24-hour dietary recalls) based on the measure developed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to measure overall dietary quality (Kennedy et al., 1995).

Subgroups Used for Tabulations

Each volume of this report examines specific subgroups of the low-income population (volume I: Food Stamp Program participants and nonparticipants; volume II: WIC Program participants and nonparticipants; volume III: school-age children; and volume IV: older adults.) In the detailed tables provided in each volume (appendix D), table columns correspond to subgroups defined by program participation and/or income level, and table rows present information for gender- and age-specific subgroups. The subgroup definitions used for each volume of the report, and the NHANES-III variables used to identify persons in each subgroup, are summarized in table A-1.

Survey questions about program participation and income level each suffered some degree of nonresponse. Table A-2 shows cell sizes for the various age/gender/income or program participation subgroups reported on in this particular volume. Cell sizes are shown for all subgroups, including those with missing income or program participation. In appendix D tables, the final column is suppressed due to small cell sizes, although the “Total Persons” or “All Children” columns include individuals with missing program participation or income.

Table A-1—Subgroup definitions

	Definition	Data Items^a
Groups included in volume		
Volume I: Food Stamp Program participants and nonparticipants	Total population	
Volume II: WIC Program participants and nonparticipants	Children	$12 \leq \text{HSAITMOR} < 60$
	Infants	$2 \leq \text{HSAITMOR} < 12$
	Postpartum women Breastfeeding up to 12 months postpartum	(MYPC25 = 1 or MAPF20 = 1) and ($1 \leq \text{MYPC20} \leq 4$ or $1 \leq \text{MAPF15} \leq 4$) (MYPC25 = 2 and MAPF20 = 2) and ($1 \leq \text{MYPC20} \leq 2$ or $1 \leq \text{MAPF15} \leq 2$)
	Non-lactating up to 6 months postpartum	
Volume III: School-age children and adolescents	Pregnant women	MYPC17 = 1 or MAPF12 = 1
	Age 5-18 years and in school	($5 \leq \text{HSAGEIR} \leq 16$ & $1 \leq \text{HYJ7} \leq 2$) or ($17 \leq \text{HSAGEIR} \leq 18$ & $\text{HAS22} = 4$ & $0 < \text{HFA8R} < 12$)
Volume IV: Older Adults	Age 60 years and older	$\text{HSAGEIR} \geq 60$
Column definitions		
Volume I	Currently receiving food stamps	HFF11 = 1
	Income-eligible nonparticipant	HFF11 = 2 and $0 \leq \text{DMPPIR} \leq 130$
	Higher-income nonparticipant	HFF11 = 2 and $\text{DMPPIR} > 130$
Volume II	Current WIC participant ^c	MAPF17 = 1 or MYPC22 = 1 or MPPB6 = 1
	Income-eligible nonparticipant	(MAPF17 = 2 & MYPC22 = 2 & MPPB6 = 2) and $0 < \text{DMPPIR} \leq 185$
	Higher-income nonparticipant	(MAPF17 = 2 & MYPC22 = 2 & MPPB6 = 2) and $\text{DMPPIR} > 185$
Volumes III and IV	Income \leq 130% poverty or current FSP participant	HFF11=1 or (HFF11=2 and $0 \leq \text{DMPPIR} \leq 130$)
	Income 131-185% poverty	HFF11=2 and $130 < \text{DMPPIR} \leq 185$
	Income $>$ 185% poverty	HFF11=2 and $\text{DMPPIR} > 185$
Row definitions		
	Gender ^b	HSSEX
	Age	HSAGEIR (Age at household interview ^b)

^a Program participation and income variables:

HFF11 = "(Are you / Is your family) receiving food stamps at the present time?" (Household interview)

MAPF17, MYPC22, MPPB6 = "Are you now receiving benefits from the WIC program?" (MEC-adult, MEC-youth, MEC-proxy)

If WIC participation is missing, and response to household interview question (HFF9) "Did you or any member of this family receive benefits from the WIC program LAST MONTH?" is "no" then sampled person is assumed to be a nonparticipant.

DMPPIR = Poverty income ratio (Household interview)

^b Gender not tabulated in Volume II.

^c Age at household interview defines table rows; age in months at the MEC examination was used to assess children's height and weight relative to growth curves.

^d WIC participation of the sampled person is measured during the MEC examination interview and all WIC tables are limited to MEC respondents. The household interview included a question about WIC participation by any member of the family (HFF9), and this question was used to establish nonparticipation in the case of nonresponse to the MEC WIC question.

Table A-2—Number of NHANES-III respondents categorically eligible for WIC, grouped by WIC participation and income

	NHANES-III respondents to MEC interview				
	Total Persons	Currently Receiving WIC Benefits	Income-eligible Nonparticipants	Higher-income Nonparticipants	WIC participation or income missing
Women ¹	667	181	247	185	54
Infants	1,961	787	348	731	95
Children					
1 year old	1,258	419	391	357	91
2 years old	1,269	253	545	387	84
3 years old	1,119	201	513	325	80
4 years old	1,098	137	547	342	72
All children	4,744	1,010	1,996	1,411	327
Total	7,372	1,978	2,591	2,327	476

¹ Pregnant women responded yes to 'Are you now pregnant?' Pregnant women identified only by urinalysis results are not included in table.

Source: NHANES-III, 1988-94: Examination File. WIC participation is asked during the MEC exam.