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.

The age groups shown in Table A-2 were used for most of the tabulations included in appendix D. For analyses involving dietary outcomes (Chapters Two and Three), the two oldest age groups (80-84 and 85 and older) were collapsed because the sample of seniors 85 years and older was too small for estimation of usual energy and nutrient intakes.

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	$12 \leq HSAITMOR < 60$
	Infants	$2 \leq HSAITMOR < 12$
	Postpartum women	
	Breastfeeding up to 12 months postpartum	$(MYPC25 = 1$ or $MAPF20 = 1)$ and $(1 \leq MYPC20 \leq 4$ or $1 \leq MAPF15 \leq 4)$
	Non-lactating up to 6 months postpartum	$(MYPC25 = 2$ and $MAPF20 = 2)$ and $(1 \leq MYPC20 \leq 2$ or $1 \leq MAPF15 \leq 2)$
	Pregnant women	$MYPC17 = 1$ or $MAPF12 = 1$
Volume III: School-age children and adolescents	Age 5-18 years and in school	$(5 \leq HSAGEIR \leq 16$ & $1 \leq HYJ7 \leq 2)$ or $(17 \leq HSAGEIR \leq 18$ & $HAS22 = 4$ & $0 < HFA8R < 12)$
Volume IV: Older Adults	Age 60 years and older	$HSAGEIR \geq 60$
Column definitions		
Volume I	Currently receiving food stamps	$HFF11 = 1$
	Income-eligible nonparticipant	$HFF11 = 2$ and $0 \leq DMPPIR \leq 130$
	Higher-income nonparticipant	$HFF11 = 2$ and $DMPPIR > 130$
Volume II	Current WIC participant[c]	$MAPF17 = 1$ or $MYPC22 = 1$ or $MPPB6 = 1$
	Income-eligible nonparticipant	$(MAPF17 = 2$ & $MYPC22 = 2$ & $MPPB6 = 2)$ and $0 < DMPPIR \leq 185$
	Higher-income nonparticipant	$(MAPF17 = 2$ & $MYPC22 = 2$ & $MPPB6 = 2)$ and $DMPPIR > 185$
Volumes III and IV	Income $\leq 130\%$ poverty or current FSP participant	$HFF11 = 1$ or $(HFF11 = 2$ and $0 \leq DMPPIR \leq 130)$
	Income 131-185% poverty	$HFF11 = 2$ and $130 < DMPPIR \leq 185$
	Income $> 185\%$ poverty	$HFF11 = 2$ and $DMPPIR > 185$
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 Elderly NHANES-III respondents by income group

	NHANES-III respondents to household interview				
	Total persons	Income ≤ 130% poverty	Income 131-185% poverty	Income > 185% poverty	Income missing
Both sexes					
60-64 years	1,344	417	159	632	136
65-69 years	1,264	389	153	597	125
70-74 years	1,278	368	207	585	118
75-79 years	878	282	149	327	120
80-84 years	1,134	366	179	412	177
85 + years	698	234	109	219	136
Total	6,596	2,056	956	2,772	812
Male					
60-64 years	672	194	77	340	61
65-69 years	626	174	72	324	56
70-74 years	611	153	105	305	48
75-79 years	382	112	63	159	48
80-84 years	540	144	89	233	74
85 + years	286	82	55	107	42
Total	3,117	859	461	1,468	329
Female					
60-64 years	672	223	82	292	75
65-69 years	638	215	81	273	69
70-74 years	667	215	102	280	70
75-79 years	496	170	86	168	72
80-84 years	594	222	90	179	103
85 + years	412	152	54	112	94
Total	3,479	1,197	495	1,304	483

Source: NHANES-III, 1988-94.