

The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) collects, analyzes, and disseminates data on the Health status of U.S. residents. The results of surveys, analyses, and studies are made known through a number of data release mechanisms including publications, mainframe computer data files, CD-ROMs and the Internet. The following table summarizes the NHES and NHANES data which are currently available on CD-ROM or through other release mechanisms such as the Internet.

Table 1. Available NHES & NHANES Data

Dataset Name	Release Date	Size in Megabytes	Data Files / Description
NHANES III, 1988-94, Series 11, No. 8A, ASCII Version	January 2001	9.7	Data file and documentation for NHANES III children under 7 years. Basic demographic items and sample weights plus items from their birth certificates. Records can be matched with exam files from NHANES.
NHANES III, 1988-94, Series 11, No. 6A, ASCII Version	January 2000	2.7	Healthy Eating Index (HEI) Data File and documentation includes number of servings by Food Guide Pyramid food groups and HEI
NHANES III, 1988-94, Series 11, No. 5A, ASCII Version	October 2000	54	NHANES III Supplemental Nutrition Survey of Older Americans (SNS) dietary intake data and documentation for a special dietary follow-up study of NHANES III, phase 1 (1988-91) examinees
NHANES III, 1988-94, Series 11, No. 4A, ASCII Version (this release)	January 2000	0.5	Priority toxicant reference range study data file and documentation
NHANES III, 1988-94, Series 11, No. 3A, ASCII Version	July 1999	33	Second exam sample files for dietary recall, examination, laboratory, additional laboratory analytes and documentation
NHANES III, 1988-94, Series 11, No. 2A, ASCII Version	April 1998	407	Dietary recall (replacement), electrocardiography, laboratory (additional analytes), and vitamins/medicines data files and documentation
NHANES III, 1988-94, Series 11, No. 1A, ASCII Version	July 1997	454	Adult and youth household questionnaire, dietary recall, examination, and laboratory data files and documentation
NHANES III Reference Manuals and Reports October 1996	October 1996	152	Plan and operation, analytic and reporting guidelines, weighting and estimation methodology, field operations, non-response bias
NHANES II	---	343	Adult and youth household questionnaire, examination, laboratory, and dietary intake data files and documentation

NHANES I	---	463	Adult and youth household questionnaire, examination, laboratory and dietary intake data files and documentation
HHANES	---	366	Hispanic adult and youth household questionnaire, examination, laboratory, and dietary intake data files and documentation
NHES III	---	74	Youth ages 12-17 household questionnaire, examination and laboratory data files and documentation.
NHES II	---	74	Children ages 6-11 household questionnaire, examination and laboratory data files and documentation.
NHES I	---	74	Adult ages 18-59 household questionnaire, examination and laboratory data files and documentation.

Survey description (NHES III)

The Third National Health Examination Survey (NHES III) was conducted on a nationwide probability sample of 7,514 youths 12-17 years of age. Of the 7,514 youths selected for the sample, 6,768 (90 percent) were examined. Adjusted sampling weights were computed in order to inflate the sample so as to closely reflect the 23 million youths in the U.S. population at that time in terms of age, sex, and certain other demographic characteristics. Because the same basic sampling plan was used in NHES III as in the earlier NHES II, nearly one-third of the children examined in NHES II were also examined in NHES III. In the NHES III Extended Data (ED), provision has been made for the user to identify sample persons examined in both surveys and to create from the NHES II Integrated Data (ID) and the NHES III ED a composite data set for longitudinal studies.

Data file description (NHES III)

The NHES III data contains responses to detailed questionnaires for medical and developmental histories; responses to school questionnaires; results of medical, dental, and psychological examinations, and vision and hearing tests; anthropometric measurements; and certain x-rays and laboratory tests.

Referencing or Citing NHES III Data

- o In publications, please acknowledge NCHS as the original data source. For instance, the reference for NHES III is: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). National Center for Health Statistics. The Third Health Examination Survey Data file 1966-70. Public Use Data file Documentation. Hyattsville, MD: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Using the files

Your analysis software should be able to read data files directly from your hard drive. Please note that some files are very large. Check the file sizes before copying.

The data files may be used in other analysis packages by using the field positions found in the corresponding documentation. Below are some tips for using SAS.

DATA Step Statements: INPUT Statement - Column Input
INPUT, Column Reads input values from specified columns and assigns them to corresponding SAS variables.

The following arguments are allowed:

variable	names a variable that is assigned input values.
\$	indicates to store the variable values as character values rather than numeric values.
start-column	specifies the first column of the input record that contains the value to read.
--end-column	specifies the last column of the input record that contains the value to read.
.decimalplaces	gives the number of digits to the right of the decimal if the input value does not contain an explicit decimal point.
@	holds the input record for the execution of the next INPUT statement within the same iteration of the DATA step. This line-hold specifier is called the trailing @.
@@	holds the input record for the execution of the next INPUT statement across iterations of the DATA step. This line-hold specifier is called the double trailing @.

Problems Using the Data

NHES III is a rich source of data and NCHS encourages you to use the data for research and analysis. However, the dataset is large and complex and familiarity with data file manipulation and analysis is required. NCHS does not have the resources to perform analyses, check results, debug programs or do literature review for your work. Thorough review of the extensive documentation on the planning of the survey, analytic guidelines and individual datasets should resolve most questions. If you still have questions after careful review of the documentation, please contact the Data Dissemination Branch at (301) 458-4636 or refer to the web page at <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhanes.htm>.