

National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) (Used in Indicators B1, B2, B3, B4, B5, B6, B7, B8, B9, B10, B11, B12, B13, H10, and H11)	
Brief description of the data set	The National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) is a program of studies designed to assess the health and nutritional status of the civilian noninstitutionalized population of the United States, using a combination of interviews, physical examinations, and laboratory analysis of biological specimens.
Who provides the data set?	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics.
How are the data gathered?	Laboratory data are obtained by analysis of blood and urine samples collected from survey participants at NHANES Mobile Examination Centers. Health status is assessed by physical examination. Demographic and other survey data regarding health status, nutrition, and health-related behaviors are collected by personal interview, either by self-reporting or, for children under 16 and some others, as reported by an informant.
What documentation is available describing data collection procedures?	See http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhanes.htm for detailed survey and laboratory documentation by survey period.
What types of data relevant for children’s environmental health indicators are available from this database?	Relevant data include concentrations of environmental chemicals (in urine, blood, and serum), body measurements, health status (as assessed by physical examination, laboratory measurements, and interview responses), and demographic information.
What is the spatial representation of the database (national or other)?	NHANES sampling procedures provide nationally representative data. Analysis of data for any other geographic area (region, state, etc.) is possible only by special arrangement with the NCHS Research Data Center, and such analyses may not be representative of the specified area.
Are raw data (individual measurements or survey responses) available?	Individual laboratory measurements and survey responses are generally available. Individual survey responses for some questions and some measurements are not publicly released.
How are database files obtained?	http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhanes.htm .
Are there any known data quality or data analysis concerns?	Some environmental chemicals have large percentages of values below the detection limit. Data gathered by interview, including demographic information, and responses regarding health status, nutrition, and health-related behaviors are self-reported, or (for individuals age 16 years and younger) reported by an adult informant. In some cases, the size of a particular sample is too small in an individual 2-year survey cycle to produce statistically reliable estimates; this can be addressed by combining two or more consecutive 2-year survey cycles.
What documentation is available describing quality assurance procedures?	http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhanes.htm includes detailed documentation on laboratory and other quality assurance procedures. Data quality information is available at http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/about/policy/quality.htm .

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For what years are data available?	Some data elements were collected in predecessors to NHANES beginning in 1959; collection of data on environmental chemicals began with measurement of blood lead in NHANES II, 1976-1980. The range of years for measurement of environmental chemicals varies; apart from lead and cotinine (initiated in NHANES III), measurement of environmental chemicals began with 1999-2000 or later NHANES.
What is the frequency of data collection?	Data are collected on continuous basis, but are grouped into NHANES cycles: NHANES II (1976-1980); NHANES III phase 1 (1988-1991); NHANES III phase 2 (1991-1994); and continuous two-year cycles beginning with 1999-2000 and continuing to the present.
What is the frequency of data release?	Data are released in two-year cycles (e.g. 1999-2000); particular data sets from a two-year NHANES cycle are released as available.
Are the data comparable across time and space?	Detection limits can vary across time, affecting some comparisons. Some contaminants are not measured in every NHANES cycle. Within any NHANES two-year cycle, data are generally collected and analyzed in the same manner for all sampling locations.
Can the data be stratified by race/ethnicity, income, and location (region, state, county or other geographic unit)?	Data are collected to be representative of the U.S. population based on age, sex, and race/ethnicity. The public release files allow stratification by these and other demographic variables, including family income range and poverty income ratio. Data cannot be stratified geographically except by special arrangement with the NCHS Research Data Center.