

FY 2017 NWPG Measure Definitions Fish and Shellfish

Measure Code: FS-SP6.N11



Measure Language: Percent of women of childbearing age having mercury levels in blood above the level of concern.

Type of Measure: Target measure; annually reported (data available biennially)

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Measure Definition

Methodology for computation of results: The Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Center for Health Statistics conducts the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) in which chemicals or their metabolites are measured in blood and urine samples from a random sample of participants. NHANES is a series of surveys designed to collect data on the health and nutritional status of the U.S. population. CDC reports the NHANES results in the *National Report on Human Exposure to Environmental Chemicals*. The *Second National Report on Human Exposure to Environmental Chemicals* was released in 2003 and presented biomonitoring exposure data for 116 environmental chemicals for the civilian, non-institutionalized U.S. population over the 2-year period 1999–2000. The *Third National Report on Human Exposure to Environmental Chemicals* presents similar exposure data for the U.S. population for 148 environmental chemicals over the period 2001–2002. The Fourth Report, which includes the data from the Second and Third Reports, measures 212 chemicals over the period 2003–2004, and was published in December 2009.

Methods and Assumptions: Biomonitoring measurements for the Report were from samples from participants in NHANES. NHANES collects information about a wide range of health-related behaviors, performs a physical examination and collects samples for laboratory tests. Beginning in 1999, NHANES became a continuous survey, sampling the U.S. population annually and releasing the data in two-year cycles. (Note, however, that the Fourth Report was issued four years after the Third Report.) The sampling plan follows a complex, stratified, multistage, probability-cluster design to select a representative sample of the civilian, noninstitutionalized population in the United States. Additional detailed information on the design and conduct of the [NHANES survey](#). The CDC National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) provides [guidelines for the analysis of NHANES data](#). Other details about the methodology including statistical methods are reported in the *Fourth National Report on Human Exposure to Environmental Chemicals*.

Units: Women of childbearing age (expressed as a percentage).

Universe: n/a; women of childbearing age.

Baseline: The percent of women of childbearing age having mercury level above the level of concern at a point in time. Data from the Third National Report on Human Exposure to Environmental Chemicals for the sampling period 1999–2002.