

SURVEY NAME	The National Health and Nutrition Examination Surveys (NHANES)
SPONSOR	Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS)
MODE OF ADMINISTRATION	In-person interview in the household and in a private setting in the mobile examination center. Standardized physical examinations and medical tests in mobile examination centers. Conducted in English and Spanish.
SURVEY SAMPLE DESIGN	The NHANES uses a stratified multi-stage probability sample, nationally representative of the U.S. civilian, non-institutionalized population. Approximately 5,000 people are examined at 15 locations each year. In NHANES III, children 2 months-5 years, persons 70 years and over, African-Americans and Mexican-Americans were oversampled. Beginning in 1999, African-Americans, Mexican Americans, adolescents, and older persons will be oversampled.
RESPONSE RATES	In NHANES III (1988-94): Household interview response rate 86% Medical examination response rate 78%
PRIMARY SURVEY CONTENT	The prevalence of chronic diseases and conditions including undiagnosed conditions , prevalence of risk factors, diet and nutritional status, immunization status and prevalence of infectious diseases, and measures of environmental exposures. Beginning in 1999, topics addressed include hearing, vision, mental health, anemia, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, obesity, oral health, mental health, physical fitness and functioning.
POPULATION TARGETED	For NHANES III, the civilian, non-institutionalized population residing in the United States ages 2 months and over. Beginning in 1999, people of all ages are included.
DEMOGRAPHIC DATA	Sex, age, education, race/ethnicity, place of birth, income, health insurance, income, occupation and industry
YEARS COLLECTED	From 1960 to 1994, a total of seven national examination surveys have been conducted. Beginning in 1999, the survey will be conducted continuously.
SCHEDULE	Periodic (1960-1994); annual beginning in 1999.
GEOGRAPHIC ESTIMATES POSSIBLE	National; 4 regions.
NOTES	Although the new NHANES will be conducted on a yearly basis, the annual sample size will be too small to provide reliable estimates for many measures and for most subgroups. Most analyses will require three years of data for reliable estimates.