

# **Update on Activities for the Third National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES III)**

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NHANES data are used to assess the health and nutritional status of the U.S. population, to estimate the prevalence of selected health conditions, and to examine secular trends in the prevalence of many diseases and health risk factors. NHANES III began in 1988 and will continue until late 1994. Approximately 20,000 persons 2 months of age and older have completed the interview and examination components of the Survey. The dietary assessment methods used in NHANES III include 24-hr recall and food frequency interviews, and dietary practices questions. NHANES III 24-hr recalls are collected with the NHANES III Dietary Data Collection (DDC) system, an automated interview and coding system developed by the University of Minnesota's Nutrition Coordinating Center with Federal funding. The DDC system features include a standardized interview format and structured probes. During the past year preliminary findings on the prevalence of high blood pressure in the U.S. population were released. Body measurement and serum lipid data will be available shortly. The NCHS dietary data group completed preliminary edits on all Cycle I recall data. HNIS provided a nutrient composition data file and survey recipe and codebook files used to complete data processing.