

# **Update of FDA Activities Related to Databases**

Jean Pennington, FDA

## **Total Diet Studies**

Five reports were completed for the data from the Total Diet Studies from 1982 to 1991. Three of these reports concern the levels of 11 essential minerals in the 234 Total Diet Study foods; one report concerns dietary intake estimates of the 11 minerals for eight age-sex groups; and one report concerns the contributions of 12 food groups to mineral intakes for these age-sex groups. The food list and diets of the Total Diet Studies were revised in 1991 based on data from the 1987-88 USDA Nationwide Food Consumption Survey. Since the revision in 1991, there have been eight collections of the 265 foods. The foods of each collection are analyzed for 10 essential minerals, and for one collection each year, the foods are analyzed for folic acid and vitamin B-6. A special project was initiated with the USDA Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging at Tufts University on the vitamin K content of foods and daily intakes of this nutrient. FDA sent samples of each of the 265 foods (from one collection) to the Vitamin K Laboratory at Tufts University for analysis. Estimates of the vitamin K intake of 14 age-sex groups have been completed based on these data.

## **International Interface Standard**

Work on the International Interface Standard continues under a contract with Technical Assessment Systems (TAS) in Washington, DC. The purpose of the Interface is to enhance exchange and sharing of food-related information among database users and developers by allowing for clear and unambiguous descriptions of foods. The Interface allows for foods to be described from a variety of viewpoints (factors). Standardized terms have been developed and used for the factors. The schema (template) for food description has been completed. The contractor is currently developing the software for computerized use of the schema. The projected completion date for the project is April 1995.

## **Database for the Nutrition Labeling of Raw Produce and Fish**

A proposal was issued in the Federal Register of May 1994 to update the guidelines for retailers for presenting nutrition labeling information to consumers for the 20 most frequently consumed raw fruit, vegetables, and fish. The proposal also updated the nutrition labeling values for these foods. The original guidelines and labeling values had been published by FDA in the Federal Register of November 27, 1991 (final rule for the Voluntary Nutrition Labeling Program). The listings of the 20 raw fruits and vegetables in the proposal are the same as those in the November 21, 1991 final rule. However, several changes were made to the fish list (e.g., swordfish and subspecies for salmon were added). Changes in nutrition labeling values (from the November 21, 1991 final rule) include revised values for bananas based on data from the

International Banana Association, newer data on tangerines from the Produce Marketing Association, use of USDA data for European grapes (rather than American grapes), and application of FDA compliance calculations to USDA data for several produce items and for fish. Other changes were made to the labeling information for raw produce and fish to be consistent with the mandatory nutrition labeling regulations which were issued on January 6, 1993. These changes concerned the presentation of mandatory nutrients, rounding of nutrient values, and use of percent Daily Values.

### **FDA Database Review System**

Information on the FDA Database Review System was presented at another session.