For the NHANES 2001-2002 data files, both the final interview and final examination weights are provided. The interview weight should be used when an analysis uses only data from the household interview. If an analysis uses data from the MEC (MEC interview, examination, or laboratory data on the full MEC sample) exclusively, or in conjunction with the household interview data, the examination weight should be used. Due to the smaller sample size, survey weights are larger than in past NHANES. Data users should first employ exploratory data analysis on their variables of interest, including examining the data for outliers due to influential values and/or influential weights. Due to smaller sample sizes in NHANES 2001-2002, standard errors for a variable in NHANES 2001-2002 will be approximately 70% greater than for the corresponding variable in NHANES III. Because differential probabilities of selection were used in NHANES 2001-2002, it is highly recommended that any statistical inference based on the survey data use the sample weights that are provided on the data file.

The sample weights were calculated from the base probabilities of selection, adjusted for non-response, and post-stratified to match population control totals. For NHANES 2001-2002, weighting adjustments involved multiple levels. Due to the nested levels of data collection (screener, household interview, examination) and to keep the weights from being too variable, a non-response adjustment was applied at each level of data collection, that is, for the screener interview, the household interview and the MEC examination. Post-stratification was applied at each nested level as well.

NCHS encourages the user to read the data file documentation before undertaking any analysis. The documentation will indicate how the data were collected and how the data are coded. For NHANES 2001-2002, the documentation will also indicate if a data item was collected on all or a sub-sample of sample persons, if it was collected on a limited age-range, or if exclusion criteria were applied for a specific examination component. The current documentation can be compared with documentation from past NHANES surveys to determine if a specific data item is comparable with a similar data item collected in previous surveys. Sample weights should be used for the most appropriate design-based estimation. For NHANES 2001-2002 the use of sampling weights is recommended for all analyses because the sample design incorporates differential probabilities of selection. For further details visit the NHANES 2001-2002 data release page (http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/about/major/nhanes/NHANES01_02.htm) or review the NHANES 2001-2002 analytic guidelines (http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nhanes/guidelines01_02.pdf).

The two-year sample interview and examination weights (WTINT2YR, WTMEC2YR) should be used for NHANES 2001-2002 analyses and the four-year sample weights (WTINT4YR, WTMEC4YR) for combined analyses of NHANES 1999-2000 & NHANES 2001-2002 data. Please refer to the analytic guidelines provided with the data release files to determine the appropriate analytic methodology.

Table 1. Examination Data

Component	Data File	File Containing Sample Weights to Use for Analysis
Bioelectrical Impedance Analysis	bix_b.xpt	MEC Exam weights in demo_b.xpt
Blood Pressure Section of the Physician's Examination	bpx_b.xpt	MEC Exam weights in demo_b.xpt
Body Measurements	bmx_b.xpt	MEC Exam weights in demo_b.xpt
Cardiovascular Fitness	cvx_b.xpt	MEC Exam weights in demo_b.xpt
Ankle-Brachial Blood Pressure Index (ABPI) Section of the Lower Extremity Disease Examination	lexab_b.xpt	MEC Exam weights in demo_b.xpt
Peripheral Neuropathy (PN) Section of the Lower Extremity Disease Examination	lexpn_b.xpt	MEC Exam weights in demo_b.xpt
Muscle Strength	msx_b.xpt	MEC Exam weights in demo_b.xpt

Table 2. Laboratory Data

[NOTE: The first character in the lab file names, for example, l02_b.xpt, is the lower case letter "L", not an Arabic number one (1)]

Analytes	Data File	File Containing Sample Weights to Use for Analysis
Hepatitis C	l02_b.xpt	MEC Exam weights in demo_b.xpt
HIV	l03_b.xpt	MEC Exam weights in demo_b.xpt
Chlamydia, Gonorrhea (ages 18 – 39)	l05_b.xpt	MEC Exam weights in demo_b.xpt
Chlamydia, Gonorrhea (ages 14 – 17)	Available through the NCHS Research Data Center Only	
Biochemistry and trace metals	l06_b.xpt	MEC Exam weights in demo_b.xpt
Glycohemoglobin	l10_b.xpt	MEC Exam weights in demo_b.xpt
CRP and FIB,	l11_b.xpt	MEC Exam weights in demo_b.xpt
Prostate specific antigen	l11psa_b.xpt	MEC Exam weights in demo_b.xpt
Total cholesterol	l13_b.xpt	MEC Exam weights in demo_b.xpt
Urinary albumin, creatinine	l16_b.xpt	MEC Exam weights in demo_b.xpt
Complete blood count	l25_b.xpt	MEC Exam weights in demo_b.xpt
T. vaginalis, B. vaginosis	l34_b.xpt	MEC Exam weights in demo_b.xpt
Syphilis	l36_b.xpt	MEC Exam weights in demo_b.xpt
Biochemistry profile, FSH, LH	l40_b.xpt	MEC Exam weights in demo_b.xpt
Phlebotomy fasting questionnaire	ph_b.xpt	MEC Exam weights in demo_b.xpt
Pregnancy results	uc_b.xpt	MEC Exam weights in demo_b.xpt

Table 3. Questionnaire Data

Section	Data File	File Containing Sample weights to Use for Analysis
Acculturation	acq_b.xpt	Interview weights in demo_b.xpt
Alcohol Use (ages 20+)	alq_b.xpt	MEC Exam weights in demo_b.xpt
Alcohol Use (ages 12 – 19)	Available through the NCHS Research Data Center only	
Audiometry	auq_b.xpt	Interview weights in demo_b.xpt
Balance	baq_b.xpt	Interview weights in demo_b.xpt
Blood Pressure	bpq_b.xpt	Interview weights in demo_b.xpt
Cardiovascular Disease	cdq_b.xpt	Interview weights in demo_b.xpt
Diet Behavior	dbq_b.xpt	Interview weights in demo_b.xpt
Dermatology	deq_b.xpt	Interview weights in demo_b.xpt
Diabetes	diq_b.xpt	Interview weights in demo_b.xpt
Drug Use (ages 20+)	duq_b.xpt	MEC Exam weights in demo_b.xpt
Drug Use (ages 12 – 19)	Available through the NCHS Research Data Center only	
Early Childhood	ecq_b.xpt	Interview weights in demo_b.xpt
Health Status	hsq_b.xpt	MEC Exam weights in demo_b.xpt
Hospital Utilization	huq_b.xpt	Interview weights in demo_b.xpt
Immunization	imq_b.xpt	Interview weights in demo_b.xpt
Medical Conditions	mcq_b.xpt	Interview weights in demo_b.xpt
Miscellaneous Pain	mpq_b.xpt	Interview weights in demo_b.xpt
Physical Functioning	pfq_b.xpt	Interview weights in demo_b.xpt
Sexual Behavior (ages 20+)	sxq_b.xpt	MEC Exam weights in demo_b.xpt
Sexual Behavior (ages 12 – 19)	Available through the NCHS Research Data Center only	
Social Support	ssq_b.xpt	Interview weights in demo_b.xpt