

**NHANES 1999-2000 Public Data Release File (June 2002)**  
**Phlebotomy Examination**

**Description**

The phlebotomy component of NHANES involved the collection of blood specimens. Prior to blood collection, the MEC phlebotomist administered a questionnaire to screen for conditions that would exclude participants from the blood draw. At this time, fasting status was determined. Blood specimens for basic hematology, nutritional biochemistry, and special studies was obtained. Blood specimens are collected on participants aged one year and older in the MEC (or the respondent's home when a home examination is performed).

**Eligible Sample**

Participants aged 1+ years of age

**Data Collection Methods**

The MEC phlebotomist draws blood from the participant's arm. The volume of blood specimen for each age group is as follows:

- 1-2 years, 9 mL
- 3-5 years, 22 mL
- 6-11 years, 38 mL
- 12+ years 89-92 mL

**Examination Protocol**

Detailed specimen collection and processing instructions are discussed in the NHANES Laboratory/Medical Technologists Procedures Manual (LPM).

**Survey Staff**

The NHANES 1999-2000 staff consisted of two phlebotomists. The American Society

for Clinical Pathologists or a similar organization certifies the phlebotomists. The MEC phlebotomists complete comprehensive training in pediatric phlebotomy techniques, including instruction by a pediatric nurse practitioner.

**Data Collection**

Detailed specimen collection and processing instructions are discussed in the NHANES Laboratory/Medical Technologists Procedures Manual (LPM). Each chapter in the LPM specifies the procedure to be used for preparation of the participant, specimen collection, labeling, processing, and preservation, and conditions for specimen transport that are appropriate for that method.

## **Data Processing and Preparation**

Phlebotomy data were recorded directly into a computerized database; all forms used in the MEC were automated.

## **Analytic Notes**

Use PHAFSTHR and PHAFSTMN to determine the duration of fasting in hours and minutes, respectively.