

Removal of Carotenoid Data (Lab 6) from NHANES 1999-2000

On June 3, 2004, data for six serum carotenoids were removed from the NHANES 1999-2000 Lab 6 public data sets. The data were removed because the CDC/NCEH laboratory reported a methodological problem that resulted in lower carotenoid values than expected during NHANES 1999-2000, based on a review of NHANES III, 1988-94 data, and serum vitamin A results from NHANES III and NHANES 1999-2000. Carotenoids from NHANES 1999-2000 were 22.9 to 33.5% lower when compared to NHANES III carotenoids. This was unexpected since Vitamin A did not significantly change from NHANES III to NHANES 1999-2000.

The six carotenoids (variable names) were: Alpha carotene (LBXALC, LBDALCSI), trans-beta carotene (LBXBEC, LDBECSI), Cis-beta carotene (LBXCBC, LBDCBCSI), Beta cryptoxanthin (LBXCRY, LBDCRYSI), Lutein/zeaxanthin (LBCLUZ, LBDLUZSI), and Trans-lycopene (LBXLYC, LBDLYCSI). NCHS modified the Lab 6 codebook, documentation, frequency tables and data files to reflect the removal of the carotenoid data from the file.

NCHS/DHANES has not made a final decision regarding reanalysis of NHANES 1999-2000 serum carotenoids.