

NHEFS Detailed Notes for Selected Variables

MORTSTAT – Final Mortality Status

The *MORTSTAT* variable is NCHS's final determination of vital status and should be used as an outcome variable and to calculate survival. All NHEFS participants are assigned a vital status code (0 = assumed alive; 1 = assumed deceased). The ascertainment of vital status for NHEFS participants with matches to NDI records is based upon the NCHS recommended criteria determined by a calibration study.

MORTSRCE—Final Mortality Source

To assist in reviewing potential NDI matches, NCHS may order and review selected death certificates. The NDI only uses nine matching criteria to determine a potential match. Death certificate review allows for the comparison of additional information provided on the death certificate, such as industry and occupation, with data collected from NHANES I survey records. Comparing the death certificate and survey data assists NCHS in determining if a potential NDI match record correctly matches the NCHS survey participant.

Three sources of information are used to determine if a NHEFS survey participant is deceased:

- 1.) NDI match
- 2.) Death certificate received and matched
- 3.) Previously released NHEFS death

Any combination of these sources can be used to identify NHEFS decedents.

1 NDI match only:

a probabilistic NDI match record was accepted as a match
no death certificate was reviewed

2 NDI and death certificate:

a probabilistic NDI match record was accepted as a match
a death certificate was reviewed and matched

3 Death certificate only:

no probabilistic NDI match record was accepted as a match
a death certificate was reviewed and matched

4 Previously released death only:

no probabilistic NDI match record was accepted as a match
no death certificate was reviewed
death information was obtained from a NHEFS proxy decedent interview

Blank assumed alive

NHEFS
Detailed Notes for Selected Variables (cont.)

SAMP_WGT— Sample Weight for entire NHEFS sample

In order to analyze the entire NHEFS sample (n=14,407), a new set of sample weights had to be calculated. For details on how the sample weights were created, please refer to Appendix III in the following publication:

http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/series/sr_02/sr02_121.pdf

VITST92 - Vital status of NHANES I participants at the completion of the 1992 NHEFS Mortality Follow-up Study period

VITST92 contains the vital status assigned to each NHANES I participant at the completion of the 1992 NHANES I Mortality Follow-up Study period. Each NHANES I participant was assigned a final vital status code (1 = assumed alive; 2 = assumed deceased; 3=unknown). Participants coded as assumed alive (1) were either successfully interviewed or re-contacted with vital status verification. Participants coded as deceased (2) were identified as deceased by either NDI probabilistic match or completed NHEFS proxy interview. Participants coded as unknown (3) were never successfully re-contacted during the NHEFS study period (1982-1992).