

File Formats for the USDA-NCC Carotenoid Database for U. S. Foods - 1998

These files are provided for users who wish to import the USDA-NCC Carotenoid Database for U.S. Foods into a database program. There are two principal files, the Food Description File and the Carotenoid Data File, and one support file, the Nutrient Definition File. Files are ASCII, delimited. All fields are separated by carets (^) and text fields are surrounded by tildes (~). A double caret (^) will appear when a field is null or blank. Format descriptions listed here include the name of each field; its type (N=numeric with width and number of decimals (w.d) and A=alphanumeric); its length, and a brief description. More detailed descriptions of selected fields are given in the Documentation. The files, their formats, descriptions, and relationships are described as follows:

Food Description File: (File Name = food_des)

- Links to the Nutrient Data File by the NDB_No field

The Food Description File contains the descriptions for the 215 food items .

Field Name	Type	Blank	Description
NDB_No	A 5	N	5-digit Nutrient Data Bank number which uniquely identifies a food item
FdGp_Cd	A 4	N	4-digit code indicating food group to which a food item belongs.
Desc	A 200	N	200 character description of food item

Carotenoid Data File (File Name = car_tble)

- Links to the Food Description File by NDB_No
- Links to the Nutrient Definition File by Nutr_No

The Carotenoid Data File contains the mean values for the five carotenoids and information about them including: standard error of the mean, number of means/individual values, minimum and maximum values, confidence codes and references.

Field Name	Type	Blank	Description
NDB_No	A 5	N	5-digit Nutrient Data Bank number.
Nutr_No	A 3	N	3-digit unique identifier code for a nutrient
Mean	N 10.0	N	Amount in 100 grams, edible portion.

SEM			Standard error of the mean. See documentation for a full description of this item.
#S	N 5.0	N	Number of means/individual values. See documentation for a full description of this item.
Min	N 10.0	N	Minimum value (mcg/100g edible portion)
Max	N 10.0	N	Maximum value (mcg/100g edible portion)
CC	A 2	N	Confidence Code. See documentation for a full description of this item.
Ref. No.	A		Reference(s) from which carotenoid values were obtained. Numbers refer to citations in the list of references.

Nutrient Definition File (File Name = nutr_def)

- Links to the Nutrient Definition File by Nutr_No

The Nutrient Definition File is the support file to the Nutrient Data File. It identifies the 3 digit nutrient number code with the unit of measure, INFOODS tagname, and description.

Field Name	Type	Blank	Description
Nutr_No	A 3	N	3-digit unique identifier code for a nutrient
Units	A 6	N	Units of measure - mg, g, mcg, etc.
Tagname	A 20	N	INFOODS Tagnames (7). A unique abbreviation for a food component developed by INFOODS to aid in the interchange of data.
NutrDesc	A 60	N	The name of the food component