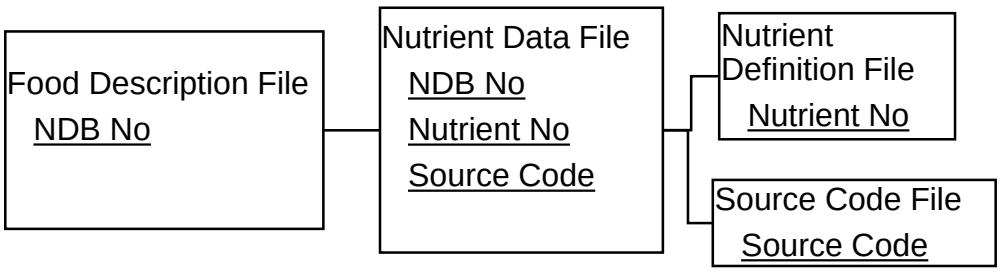
File Formats:

Survey-SR consists of four files in a relational database format. The four files are Food Description, Nutrient Data, Nutrient Definition, and Source Code. These files can be linked together in a variety of combinations to produce queries and generate reports. The figure below provides a diagram of the relationships between files and their key fields.

Relationships among files in the USDA National Nutrient Database for Standard Reference Dataset for What We Eat In America, NHANES (Survey-SR) *



* Underlined items denote key fields that link to other files

Format descriptions include the name of each field, its type [N = numeric with width and number of decimals (w.d) or A = alphanumeric], and maximum record length. The actual length in the data files may be less and most likely will change in later releases. Fields that always contain data and fields that can be left blank or null are identified in the "blank" column; N indicates a field that is always filled; and Y indicates a field that may be left blank (null). An asterisk (*) indicates primary key(s) for the file.

Food Description File (file name = FOOD_DES). This file contains long and short descriptions for all food items.

- Links to the Nutrient Data file by the NDB_No field

Food Description File Format

Field name	Type	Blank	Description
NDB_No	A 5*	N	5-digit Nutrient Databank number that uniquely identifies a food item. If this field is defined as numeric, the leading zero will be lost.
Long_Desc	A 200	N	200-character description of food item.

Field name	Type	Blank	Description
Shrt_Desc	A 60	N	60-character abbreviated description of food item.

* Primary key for the Food Description file.

Nutrient Data File (file name = NUT_DATA)**.** This file contains the nutrient values and information about the values.

- Links to the Food Description file by NDB_No
- Links to the Nutrient Definition file by Nutr_No
- Links to the Source Code file by Src_Cd

Nutrient Data File Format

Field name	Type	Blank	Description
NDB_No	A 5*	N	5-digit Nutrient Databank number.
Nutr_No	A 3*	N	Unique 3-digit identifier code for a nutrient.
Nutr_Val	N 10.3	N	Amount in 100 grams, edible portion †.
Src_Cd	A 2	N	Code indicating type of data.
AddMod_Date	A10	Y	Indicates when a value was either added to the database or last modified.

* Primary keys for the Nutrient Data file.
† Nutrient values have been rounded to a specified number of decimal places for each nutrient. Number of decimal places is listed in the Nutrient Definition file.

Nutrient Definition File (file name = NUTR_DEF). This file is a support file to the Nutrient Data file. It provides the 3-digit nutrient code, unit of measure, number of decimal places for each nutrient, INFOODS tagname, and description.

- Links to the Nutrient Data file by Nutr_No

Nutrient Definition File Format

Field name	Type	Blank	Description
Nutr_No	A 3*	N	Unique 3-digit identifier code for a nutrient.
Units	A 7	N	Units of measure (mg, g, mcg etc.).
Tagname	A 20	Y	International Network of Food Data Systems (INFOODS) Tagnames. A unique abbreviation for a nutrient/food component developed by INFOODS to aid in the interchange of data.

Field name	Type	Blank	Description
NutrDesc	A 60	N	Name of nutrient/food component.
Num_Dec	A 1	N	Number of decimal places to which a nutrient value is rounded.

* Primary key for the Nutrient Definition file.

Source Code File (file name = SRC_CD). This file contains codes indicating the type of data (analytical, calculated, assumed zero, and so on) in the Nutrient Data file. Nutrient values were imputed for a number of proximate components, total dietary fiber, total sugar, vitamins and minerals.

- Links to the Nutrient Data file by Src_Cd

Source Code File Format

Field name	Type	Blank	Description
Src_Cd	A 2*	N	2-digit code.
SrcCd_Desc	A 60	N	Description of source code that identifies the type of nutrient data.

* Primary key for the Source Code file.