



2013-2014 Food and Nutrient Database for Dietary Studies

Files At A Glance

The USDA Food and Nutrient Database for Dietary Studies (FNDDS) is used to convert food and beverages consumed in What We Eat In America (WWEIA), National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey into gram amounts and to determine their nutrient values. FNDDS 2013-2014 consists of 11 separate but linked data files. File number, name (abbreviated name), and contents are provided for each file. Key to abbreviations and symbols provided on last page.

Food Descriptions Component

File 1. Main Food Descriptions (MainFoodDesc)

- Primary descriptions for 8,536 items - 90% foods and 10% beverages
- Unique 8-digit food code assigned to each main description

Field Name	Field Type	Description
Food code ‡	N 8*	Unique 8-digit numeric identification code
Start date	MM/DD/YYYY	Start/end dates indicate time period corresponding to WWEIA data
End date	MM/DD/YYYY	
Main food description	A 200	Primary description for a food/beverage

File 2. Additional Food Descriptions (AddFoodDesc)

- Descriptions for 12,128 additional foods/beverages associated with a specific main food/beverage (share same nutrient values and portion weights)
- More than one additional description may be associated with a food code, not all food codes have additional descriptions
- Aid in selection of food codes to represent foods/beverages reported by study participants

Field Name	Field Type	Description
Food code ‡	N 8*	Unique 8-digit numeric identification code
Seq num	N 2*	Sequence number (unique within a food code) for ordering additional food descriptions, gaps may appear
Start date	MM/DD/YYYY	Start/end dates indicate time period corresponding to WWEIA data
End date	MM/DD/YYYY	
Additional food description	A 80	Additional food description associated with a specific food code and its main description

Food Portions and Weights Component

File 3. Food Weights (FoodWeights)

- Over 40,000 weights (g) for different portions of foods/beverages

Field Name	Field Type	Description
Food code ‡	N 8*	Unique 8-digit numeric identification code
Subcode ‡	N 7*	Unique 7-digit number associated with a particular subcode description, a zero indicates use “default gram weights”
Seq num	N 2*	Sequence numbers (unique within a food code) for ordering portion weights, gaps may appear
Portion Code ‡	N 5*	Unique 5-digit number assigned to a portion description, a zero indicates “none”
Start date	MM/DD/YYYY	Start/end dates indicate time period corresponding to WWEIA data
End date	MM/DD/YYYY	
Portion weight	N 8.3	Weight (g edible portion), missing values for portion code 90000 (quantity not specified) indicated with -9

File 4. Food Portion Descriptions (FoodPortionDesc)

- Descriptions for unit of measure, e.g. slice, piece, snack size, medium, teaspoon, cup
- Each description identified by unique 5-digit portion code
- Same portion description and code used for many different foods/beverages

Field Name	Field Type	Description
Portion Code ‡	N 5*	Unique 5-digit number assigned to a portion description, a zero indicates “none”
Start date	MM/DD/YYYY	Start/end dates indicate time period corresponding to WWEIA data
End date	MM/DD/YYYY	
Portion description	A 120	Unit of measure description

File 5. Subcode Descriptions (SubcodeDesc)

- Used for food codes that have more than one weight for a single portion description.
- Unique 7-digit code and description assigned to about 50 foods (candy and snack cakes)
- Subcode description is associated with a specific food code and main description

Field Name	Field Type	Description
Subcode ‡	N 7*	Unique 7-digit number associated with a particular subcode description, a zero indicates use “default gram weights”
Start date	MM/DD/YYYY	Start/end dates indicate time period corresponding to WWEIA data
End date	MM/DD/YYYY	
Subcode description	A 80	Associated with a main food code and description, shares the same nutrient values, but has its own unique weight data

File 6. Food Code-Subcode Links (FoodSubcodeLinks)

- Show associations between food codes and subcodes
- Food codes may be linked to multiple subcodes, and subcodes may be linked to multiple food codes
- Includes about 50 food codes that have subcodes (candy and snack cakes)

Field Name	Field Type	Description
Food code ‡	N 8*	Unique 8-digit numeric identification code
Subcode ‡	N 7*	Unique 7-digit number associated with a particular subcode description, a zero indicates use “default gram weights”
Start date	MM/DD/YYYY	Start/end dates indicate time period corresponding to WWEIA data
End date	MM/DD/YYYY	

Nutrients Component

File 7. FNDDS Nutrient Values (FNDDSNutVal)

- Nutrient values for food energy and 64 nutrients/food components for each food/beverage
- Data in Files 8-11 used in generating the nutrient values

Field Name	Field Type	Description
Food code‡	N 8*	Unique 8-digit numeric identification code
Nutrient code‡	N 5*	Identifies a nutrient
Start date	MM/DD/YYYY	Start/end dates indicate time period corresponding to WWEIA data
End date	MM/DD/YYYY	
Nutrient value	N 10.x	Nutrient amount per 100 g edible portion

File 8. Nutrient Descriptions (NutDesc)

- Descriptions and measurement units for nutrients

Field Name	Field Type	Description
Nutrient code‡	N 5*	Identifies a nutrient
Nutrient description	A 45	Description of nutrient or food component
Tagname	A 15	INFOODS international food component identifier (1)
Unit	A 10	Measurement unit for nutrient value
Decimals	N 1	Number of decimal places follow SR conventions

File 9. Moisture & Fat Adjustments (MoistNFatAdjust)

- Factors used in calculation of nutrient values to account for changes during cooking where applicable

Field Name	Field Type	Description
Food code‡	N 8*	Unique 8-digit numeric identification code
Start date	MM/DD/YYYY	Start/end dates indicate time period corresponding to WWEIA data
End date	MM/DD/YYYY	
Moisture change	N 5.1	Percentage change in moisture of total weight
Fat change	N 5.1	Percentage change in fat of total weight
Type of fat	N 8	Specific fat used for calculating fat change

File 10. FNDDS-SR Links (FNDDSSRLinks)

- Information used in calculating FNDDS nutrient values per 100 g
- One FNDDS code to one SR code = 2,593 FNDDS codes
- One FNDDS code to multiple SR codes = 5,943 FNDDS codes
- Retention factor method used to calculate FNDDS nutrient values (2)

Field Name	Field Type	Description
Food code ‡	N 8*	Unique 8-digit numeric identification code
Start date	MM/DD/YYYY	Start/end dates indicate time period corresponding to WWEIA data
End date	MM/DD/YYYY	
Seq num	N 2*	Sequence number (unique for a food code and time period) for ordering SR codes and descriptions
SR code ‡	N 8*	4- or 5-digit SR code (NDB_No) or 8-digit FNDDS food code
SR description	A 240	Description of SR code or main description of FNDDS food code
Amount	N 11.3	Number of measures/portions of SR or FNDDS code
Measure	A 3	Type of measure used to quantify amount of SR or FNDDS code, may be blank
Portion code ‡	N 5	Unique 5-digit number assigned to a portion description, a zero indicates "none"
Retention code	N 4	Retention factor identification code (3)
Flag	N 2	2 = SR description does not match SR code other values = internal processing codes for FSRG use only
Weight	N 11.3	Weight (g edible portion) of SR or FNDDS code

File 11. SR Nutrient Values (accessed 2015 October 1) (**SRNutVal**)

- Nutrient values for food energy and 64 nutrients/food components for 2,976 SR codes used in FNDDS
- Source of nutrient values is USDA National Nutrient Database for Standard Reference (SR) 28 (accessed 2015 October 1), 3 additional codes (99995, 99996, 99997) not in SR
- 360 nutrient values changed from SR 28 (accessed 2015 October 1): 277 updated values provided by NDL, 83 values changed by FSRG

Field Name	Field Type	Description
SR code ‡	N 8*	4- or 5-digit SR code (NDB_No)
Nutrient code ‡	N 5*	Identifies a nutrient
Start date	MM/DD/YYYY	Start/end dates indicate time period corresponding to WWEIA data
End date	MM/DD/YYYY	
Nutrient value	N 10.x	Nutrient amount per 100 g edible portion of food/beverage
Nutrient value change flag	N 1	Indicates nutrient value change from SR 28 (accessed 2015 October 1) 1 = provided by NDL 2 = change by FSRG

Key to Abbreviations and Symbols

- N = numeric field, number is field length, number after decimal is number of decimal places
- A = alphanumeric field, number is field length
- * = indexed field, holds values by which the file is ordered
- ‡ = linking field across files
- SR = USDA National Nutrient Database for Standard Reference
- NDB_No = nutrient database number in SR
- INFOODS = International Network of Food Data Systems
- NDL = Nutrient Data Laboratory
- FSRG = Food Surveys Research Group

References

- (1) Food and Agriculture Organization. International Network of Food Data Systems (INFOODS), Tagnames for Food Components. Available from: www.fao.org/infoods/infoods/standards-guidelines/food-component-identifiers-tagnames/en/ .
Accessed 2016 September 27.
- (2) Powers P.M., and Hoover, L.W. (1989). Calculating the nutrient composition of recipes with computers. *Journal of the American Dietetic Association* 89(2):224-232.
- (3) U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, Nutrient Data Laboratory. (2007). USDA Table of Nutrient Retention Factors, Release 6. Available from: www.ars.usda.gov/SP2UserFiles/Place/12354500/Data/retn/retn06.pdf.
Accessed 2016 September 27.