

Panel Presentation

Publishing and Citing Papers Concerning Nutrient Data

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In presenting data generated from nutrient databases, I suggest a minimum to be included of: 1) the name of the database software developer or tradename, 2) the copyright year/year of most recent update, 3) the version number, if applicable, 4) a statement describing modification/additions to the database, 5) a statement, if appropriate, to indicate how missing data, missing foods, and other missing data were handled, 6) a statement, if considered appropriate, as to the source of the nutrient content data (e.g. USDA and/or food manufacturers).

Because of the importance of supplying needed information to readers and researchers, I propose that an Ad Hoc committee be established from this Nutrient Database Conference that can address these issues. Suzanne Murphy, who has been the Chairman of the meeting, would be an excellent leader for such a committee and I am sure that many of us here would be willing to serve with her in developing and working out suggestions of guidelines that would be appropriate to use when data from different databases is presented or published.

In addition to the citing of databases, there are five other issues that are critical in research:

1. The accuracy of the database, its completeness and its currency.
2. Accurate coding of foods consumed.
3. Valid and reliable methods of collecting food intake data.
4. Proper sample selection to assure that the study population is properly identified and adequately sampled.
5. High subject response rate, to assure that the subjects represent the sample which, in turn, represents the study population.