

## Anthropometric Procedures Video: Introduction

Music

The National Center for Health Statistics, or NCHS, is one of the centers of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The primary mission of the National Center for Health Statistics is the collection and dissemination of health statistics for the Nation.

The National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, or the NHANES, is one of many data collection systems at NCHS.

This particular survey is unique among national health surveys.

It collects nationally representative reference data through household interviews and detailed physical examinations.

These examinations are conducted in specially equipped mobile examination centers that travel to selected locations across the United States.

The third NHANES, a six year survey conducted from 1988 through 1994, was designed to provide reference health and nutritional status data for the U.S. population and detailed statistics representing non-Hispanic white, non-Hispanic black, and Mexican American persons in all fifty states.

NCHS makes available reports of reference health data as well as public-use datasets for others to analyze.

Many researchers and health care providers compare information collected in their local clinics or research projects with these nationally representative reference data.

Consequently, a considerable amount of interest has been expressed by investigators and health care professionals in the methods used to collect the NHANES data.

One of the physical exam components included in the NHANES that receives particular attention from numerous data users is the anthropometric or body measurement component.

In the scientific and medical literature, many different approaches to measure the human body have been documented.

Variations in assessment methodologies can affect interpretations when comparing locally collected data with national reference data.

Therefore, it's important to use standardized procedures consistently.

This video production demonstrates the anthropometric procedures used to obtain body measurement reference data for the third National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey.

It's intended to share with others the specific procedures selected and used for the anthropometric assessment.

The viewer should have the basic knowledge of the fundamentals of anthropometry.

For further background information on the underlying principles of anthropometry, as well as distributors of measuring equipment, a reference, such as the Anthropometric Standardization Reference Manual, is recommended.

This demonstration of procedures will allow others to follow the NHANES III anthropometric methodology, and will enable the comparisons of data from other studies with national reference data.