Table 2.3: Population totals from combined 6-year sample by age, gender, and race-ethnicity, NHANES III, 1988-94

Age(years)	Non-Hispanic white		Non-Hispanic black		Mexican American		Other		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	population
2-11months	1,087,948	1,022,490	292,652	255,744	188,980	150,760	165,949	185,667	3,350,188
1-2	2,586,688	2,568,738	647,701	639,327	409,038	392,640	446,166	312,164	8,002,463
3-5	3,867,692	3,576,723	935,862	938,510	563,286	563,183	581,558	628,177	11,654,990
6-11	7,808,033	7,401,349	1,770,525	1,732,954	998,192	999,217	972,969	843,937	22,527,176
12-19	9,795,497	9,208,607	2,191,327	2,218,406	1,180,160	1,173,272	1,249,752	1,364,492	28,381,514
20-29	13,340,788	14,032,118	2,194,990	2,776,284	1,785,795	1,462,678	1,967,497	1,614,120	39,174,269
30-39	15,492,738	15,745,424	2,433,567	2,902,296	1,318,832	1,170,452	1,803,778	1,851,752	42,718,838
40-49	12,895,086	12,644,242	1,641,005	1,995,794	795,346	757,632	910,861	1,547,516	33,187,483
50-59	8,551,440	9,112,707	937,867	1,166,482	380,932	410,833	757,342	681,281	21,998,882
60-69	7,740,932	8,915,681	773,533	1,015,525	252,188	326,141	462,520	613,319	20,099,840
70-79	5,033,323	7,049,276	435,122	642,775	116,067	122,989	229,588	235,166	13,864,305
80+	1,857,333	3,545,878	138,000	338,819	45,313	52,006	71,673	88,032	6,137,053
All	**90,057,499**	**94,823,234**	**14,392,149**	**16,622,916**	**8,034,129**	**7,581,802**	**9,619,653**	**9,965,622**	**251,097,002**

Source: The NHANES III data file, 1988-94

SECTION III
Age-adjustment and trends analyses

Age-adjustment is important for trends analyses across NHANES surveys, and also for comparisons across race-ethnic subgroups within NHANES III. It was decided that for comparison of data between NHANES surveys, the 1980 Census population would be used as the standard population (McMillen and Sempos, unpublished memorandum, 1985). Since the choice of a standard population is somewhat arbitrary, for consistency, we recommend that the same standard population from the 1980 Census should be used for all NHANES III analyses and also for trends analyses.

Following are proportions based on the 1980 Census that should be used in analyses consisting of age groups 20 years and older (see table A.1 for the 1980 age distribution, and table A.2 for 1980 civilian noninstitutionalized population counts by single year of age in Appendix A.) In SUDAAN (Shah 1995) these proportions are used with statements STDVAR and STDWGT, where STDVAR lists the name of the variable with age categories used in standardization and STDWGT lists the corresponding proportions from the 1980 Census.

Age Group	Proportion
20-29	0.2650
30-39	0.2046
40-49	0.1477
50-59	0.1514
60-69	0.1225
70-79	0.0752
80 +	0.0336

The following proportions based on the 1980 Census data are to be used for trends analyses (ages 20-74 years only) between NHANES surveys.

Age Group	Proportion
20-29	0.2834
30-39	0.2188
40-49	0.1579
50-59	0.1618
60-74	0.1781

It is also important to include, when possible, age-specific estimates along with age-adjusted estimates in any publication; so that the user can easily evaluate the possible differences in age-adjusted rates versus crude rates. If it is not possible to report both sets of data in a publication, then the choice of crude (or age-specific) versus age-adjusted data should be made based upon the primary focus of the manuscript.

Furthermore, it is important to remember that the Mexican-American population group is much younger than the non-Hispanic white and non-Hispanic black populations. If the variable of interest varies substantially by age within race-ethnic categories, the age-standardized estimates will be more appropriate for comparison by race-ethnic categories. However, if most of the age-specific estimates are unstable due to small sample sizes (or have high coefficients of variation), then the age-standardized estimate will not be reliable. In general, the above methods for age-adjustment should be used for all NHANES III related analyses. All deviations from these procedures should be documented in the publication so that analyses can be replicated in the future.