Foodborne Diseases Active Surveillance Network (FoodNet): Variable Definitions

The variables listed are from the Case Report Form, which is a hard copy based on the Public Health Laboratory Information System (PHLIS) Foodborne Illness Module. Numbered variables on the Case Report Form are included in the PHLIS Foodborne Illness Module. Unnumbered variables are provided at site request to help track patients and specimens.

PHLIS ID Number: During data entry, the PHLIS program automatically assigns the id number. The first eight digits correspond to the site ID, [SITE_ID], the next 9 digits are the patient ID, [PAT_ID] and the next three are the specimen ID. The specimen ID distinguishes between multiple specimens for a case, i.e. from different sources or different days. The last 2 digits are the aliquot ID which is used when a single specimen is split for multiple tests. PHLIS will permit multiple specimens per patient through the structure of its relational database. Information on the algorithm to be used with multiple samples per patient is provided in the Case Ascertainment Instructions.

Local Case ID: [LOCAL_ID] Case medical record number

[SNAPDATE]: Date PHLIS data was uploaded to Foodnet for each site

Patient name, address, and phone number: Personal identifiers will be entered into the database but will be encrypted during data transmission to the CDC. City, [CITY] State, [STATE] and ZIP code [ZIPCODE] will be transferred to CDC unencrypted. Data at lower sites, such as Grady Hospital in Atlanta or the Oakland Office in California, will be unencrypted when received in the higher site.

County [COUNTY]: This records the patient's county of residence. This will be used to determine whether or not the individual resides within the catchment area and therefore whether the individual will be included in the data. Protocol for homeless cases: Enter 'homeless' in the address field, '99999' as the zipcode, leave the city field blank, and enter the appropriate county from where the case was reported.

Sex [SEX]: Male, Female, or Unknown

Date of Birth [DOB]: Month/Day/Year

Race [RACE]: If known (white, black, American Indian/Native Alaskan, Asian/Pacific Islander) or unknown.

Race-additional census categories: This is a new question for 2002 to capture more specific data on race. The pick list includes Asian, Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian, Multi-racial, and Other. These additional choices have been added as part of FoodNet to all isolate modules for compliance with the new census categories. This question will be skipped if the answer to “Race” is White, Black, American Indian/Native Alaskan, or Unknown. Otherwise you will be prompted to fill in this variable.

Ethnicity [ETHNICITY]: If known (Hispanic, Non-Hispanic, unknown)

Specimen date [SPECDATE]: Month/Day/Year of specimen collection. If this information is unavailable, please provide "Date received in laboratory" in the appropriate field [DT_RCVD].

Age/Age in months [AGE_YR, AGE_MNTH, AGE_DAYS]: PHLIS will calculate this information, given the “Date of Birth" and the "Specimen date". This age is in years. If the patient is less than one year old, age in months is used. If the patient is less than 1 month old, age in days is used.

Submitting Lab/Phone: This list of hospital and reference labs will be in picklist format in the module. The module does not have the picklist installed for each site. The picklist is created by the user during data entry. In the PHLIS module, at the variable "Submitting lab", hit the insert key to add to the picklist and type the name of the hospital or reference lab. The phone number will not be entered into PHLIS. [SUBLAMNM]

Submitting Physician/Phone/ Address: This information is not transmitted to the CDC but was requested by the sites in order to follow up isolates sent to reference labs.

Source of Specimen [SPECSRCE]: Site from which specimen was collected, including stool, urine, blood, CSF, or other sterile site such as bones or joints.
**Isolated Bacteria and Confirmed Parasites [ISOLATE]:** The list of bacteria includes *Salmonella, Shigella, Campylobacter, E. coli* (STEC), *Vibrio, Listeria monocytogenes, and Yersinia enterocolitica*. The list of parasites include *Cryptosporidium* and *Cyclospora*.

Once the bacteria is selected, a second picklist of serotype, if known, is provided for: [SEROTYPE]

- Shigella: [SHIGSERO]
- Campylobacter: [CAMPSPEC]
- *Yersinia*
- *Vibrio*: [VIBROSPC]
- *Listeria*: [LISTSERO]

Additional variables on *Salmonella* serogroup and serotype are also provided: [SAL_GRP, SAL_SERO]

If the bacterial pathogen is *E. coli* (STEC) or *Listeria*, additional information is requested:

**E. coli / STEC**

Biochemically identified as *E. coli*? [BIOID] Yes, No, Unsure/not tested, Unknown

O157 positive? [O157POS] Yes, No, Unsure/not tested, Unknown

O antigen number [OANTIGNO] ###

H7 Antigen Positive?: [HANTPOS] If final identification is *E. coli* O157, was it H 7 antigen positive? Yes, No, Unsure/not tested

H Antigen Number [ECOLANT]: If H antigen positive, provide H antigen number ##.

Isolate non-motile? [NONMOTIL] Yes, No, Unsure/not tested

Shiga toxin Positive: [SHIGTPOS] If *E. coli* is Nonmotile, was it Shiga-like toxin producing? Yes, No, Unsure/Not tested

**Listeria**

Pregnant? [PREGNANT] Yes, No, Unknown

Outcome of Fetus? [FOUTCOME] Abortion/stillbirth, Induced abortion, Live birth/neonatal death, Survived-clinical infection, survived - no apparent illness, unknown

**Specimen ID number (accession #):** This information is **not transmitted** to the CDC but was requested by the sites to track specimens by the accession number from the lab sample.

Date received in laboratory: This information is required only if the Specimen Collection Date is unavailable. Month, Day, and Year the specimen was received in the laboratory. [DT_RCVD]

* Patient Status at time of specimen collection [PSTATCOL]: Was the patient an inpatient, an outpatient, or unknown. An ER collection is counted as an outpatient. For ER discharges with no follow-up, ‘subsequent hospitalization’ and ‘outcome’ will be coded as ‘unknown’.

If outpatient, was patient subsequently hospitalized [OPATHOSP]: Outpatients who are hospitalized within 7 days of specimen collection, should be counted as ‘yes’. If we cannot find out if case was subsequently hospitalized, make no assumptions and enter ‘unknown’.

If hospitalized, please provide the following information:

- Hospital name [HOSPNAME], Date of admission [HDTOFADM], Date of discharge [HDTOFDIS], if transferred to another hospital [XFR2OHOS], and the name of the hospital to which the patient was transferred [XFRHOSNM]. Patient ID number is the medical record number or chart number of the hospitalized patient. This variable is not included in the PHLIS module because it is a patient identifier. It is included on the Case Report Form in order to follow up the hospitalized patients. A picklist can be created for the "Hospital name" in the same way as for "Submitting lab".

- How was the information determined? [HINFODET]: How information from questions 13, 14, or 15 were determined. Choices are patient or relative contacted, physician contacted or chart review/medical records review, did not follow up, or county provided information

Outcome [OUTCOME]: Alive, Dead, Unknown. If outpatient, death within 7 days of culture confirmation date, if hospitalized, follow-up until patient is discharged or dies. If hospitalization is <7 days, data from hospital discharge will still be used for 'outcome'.
How was the information determined? [OINFODET]: How information from question 16 was determined. Choices are patient or relative contacted, physician contacted or chart review/medical records review, did not follow up, or county provided information.

Did the state receive the isolate? [STLABRIS]: Did the hospital or reference lab forward the isolate, yes, no, or unknown?

* If yes, isolate number: [SLABSID] Each state lab should assign a unique isolate ID number. This isolate ID number will be used to link isolates forwarded to CDC by state health departments for anti-microbial testing.

Case found during an audit? Yes, no, or unknown

Case in case-control study? [CASE_IN]: Yes, no, or unknown (Only for cases of pathogens for which we are conducting an ongoing case control study.)

If no, reason case is not enrolled in case control study [REASON]: Only for cases of pathogens for which we are conducting an ongoing case control study. If surveillance case was not enrolled as a case in the case control study, reason why excluded. Choices may vary by study, but will usually include: not reachable after 15 calls, do not have home phone, non English speaker, unable to answer questions, did not have diarrhea, no onset of diarrhea, diarrhea onset > 10 days before collection, outbreak associated, unable to interview within 21 days of collection, refused, not in catchment area, immunocompromised, not selected in random sample, chronic carrier, family member with positive culture/bloody diarrhea, unable to contact patient, outside of study time period, no control was found, or other reason.

Is case report complete? [CASRPTC]: Yes, no, or unknown: CDC can track the number of completed forms with this variable. A case report form will be complete if all known variables are provided.

* Complete, Date, Initials [CASRPTCD, CASRPTCI]: When the case report form is complete, the person completing the form should initial and date the form. No may be entered in the PHLIS module, but this information will be updated to yes once the form is complete or all information available is collected.

* Must enter data into PHLIS module