Gaps in food composition data: Issues related to data compilation and use

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Who are our users?

• Dietitians
• Epidemiologists
• Public health nutritionists
• Food industry
• Many others
What do our users expect?

• Accurate composition values
• Complete data
What do our users expect?

• Accurate composition values – Dr. Greenfield
• Complete data – Dr. Murphy

Broad areas that need more attention
- Compilation of complete data

• Combining data from multiple sources is usually needed
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But there are many gaps in our ability to do this accurately!

Solutions might include:
Better standardization of data formats (eg, use of tag names)
Better documentation of ALL assumptions, etc.
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- Compilation of complete data

• Combining data from multiple sources is usually needed

Solutions might include:
And more training on how to make appropriate decisions

But there are also many gaps in our ability to do this accurately!
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- Compilation of complete data

- Combining data from multiple sources
- Imputing missing values is usually needed

But there are also many gaps in our ability to do this accurately!

Ongoing discussion about whether it even should be done.

Solutions might include:
Better guidelines on best practices when imputing values
Broad areas that need more attention
- Compilation of complete data

- Combining data from multiple sources
- Imputing missing values is usually needed

Solutions might include:
And more training on how to make appropriate decisions
Broad areas that need more attention
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- Combining data from multiple sources
- Imputing missing values
- Compiling dietary supplement databases

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• Combining data from multiple sources
• Imputing missing values
• Compiling dietary supplement databases

Many gaps in our ability to do this accurately. Data are lacking as well as guidelines on compiling the data that do exist.

Solutions might include:
Development of guidelines on compilation
Data sharing across countries (because many formulations are common globally)
Other broad areas that need more attention

• Recipes: calculated vs. analyzed
• Retention factors
• Applications related to nutrition labeling
• Assigning foods to food groups