

Description of U.S. Department of Agriculture Automated Multiple Pass Method

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Automated Multiple Pass Method (AMPM) is a computerized method for collecting interviewer-administered 24-hour dietary recalls either in person or by telephone. It is used for most large dietary surveys in the United States, most notably the What We Eat In America component of the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES). The interview's multiple pass approach elicits a complete and accurate report of the foods and beverages consumed by a study subject during a 24-hour period the previous day. Subjects are encouraged to think about their intake in different ways, maximizing subjects' ability to remember and report the foods they have eaten. Furthermore, for each food, subjects are prompted for details such as the amount eaten, where it was obtained and consumed, and the time and eating occasion it was consumed. The interview concludes with questions about water consumption, the use of salt, whether foods consumed over the 24 hour period represented the typical amount consumed, and whether the subject was on a diet.