



## Measure Names Style Guide



### Capitalization

Capitalization follows the same style used for book titles. Each word is capitalized, except for prepositions, articles, and conjunctions (unless they are the first or last word). For hyphenated words, capitalize only the first word.

#### Examples:

- Incidence of Bladder Cancer
- Heat Stress Hospitalizations
- Age-adjusted Incidence Rate of Melanoma of the Skin per 100,000 Population over a 5-year Period

### Rates

Rates are listed as the complete number (with a comma, as needed) per population. An exception is with birth data when referencing live births.

#### Examples:

- Crude Rate of Emergency Department Visits for Heat Stress per 100,000 Population
- Rate of Reported Exposures to Insecticides per 100,000 Population
- Prevalence of Anencephaly per 10,000 Live Births over a 5-year Period

### Multi-year Measures

When a measure includes data for more than one year, use “over a(n) X-year Period”.

#### Examples:

- Average Annual Number of Deaths from CO Poisoning over a 5-year Period
- Number of Emergency Department Visits for Asthma at 5K Aggregation over a 3-year Period
- Number of Buildings Tested over a 10-year Period
- Life Expectancy over a 6-year Period

### Units of Measurement

When a measure name includes a unit of measurement, use the abbreviation within parentheses—except for blood lead levels.

#### Examples:

- Number of CWS by Maximum Arsenic Concentrations ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ ), by Year
- Total Thyroxine (TT4) Concentrations in Serum ( $\mu\text{g/ml}$ )
- Annual Average Ambient Concentrations of PM<sub>2.5</sub> ( $\mu\text{g/m}^3$ ), Based on Seasonal Averages and Daily Measurement (Monitored and Modeled Data)
- Number of Children Tested with Blood Lead Levels between 5 and less than 10  $\mu\text{g/dL}$

If using a number with the abbreviation, insert one space between the number and the abbreviation. Use a comma with the number as needed.

**Examples:**

- Number of Children Tested with Blood Lead Levels between 5 and less than 10 µg/dL
- Percent of Population Living within 150 m of a Highway
- Average Annual Number of Very Low Birthweight (<1,500 g) Live Singleton Births over a 5-year Period

## Symbols

Use symbols instead of the words “greater than”, “less than”, “equal to”, etc. when describing a measurement within parentheses and for ages. Do not put spaces between the symbol and the numeral. In other cases, use the words.

**Examples:**

- Average Annual Number of Very Low Birthweight (<1,500 g) Live Singleton Births over a 5-year Period
- Number of Workers >16 Years of Age
- Number of Households with Income Less Than \$20,000 without an Internet Subscription

## Ages

Include the unit of measurement (e.g., months, years). Use symbols instead of the words “greater than”, “less than”, or “equal to”. If using symbols, do not include a space between the symbol and the number.

**Examples:**

- Number of Workers >16 Years of Age
- Percent of Adults ≥18 Years of Age Who Were Obese (BMI = 30.0 to 99.8) 2011 and onward
- Number of Children 12-17 Years of Age Receiving Early Intervention, Special Education, or Related Services for a Developmental Disability

## Ranges

When describing any range of values, use a hyphen (-) unless the numbers have decimal points. Do not put spaces between the numbers and the hyphen.

**Examples:**

- Number of Children 12-17 Years of Age Receiving Early Intervention, Special Education, or Related Services for a Developmental Disability
- Volatile Organic Compounds in Blood (2001-2004)

For time period ranges, place the years inside parentheses unless there is other parenthetical content nearby.

**Examples:**

- Metals and Metalloids in Urine (1999-2014)
- Metals and Metalloids in Urine 1999-2014 (creatinine corrected)

For time period ranges that start with a year/date and have no end point, use “and onward”.

**Examples:**

- Percent of Adults ≥18 Years of Age Who Were Obese (BMI = 30.0 to 99.8) 2011 and onward
- Percent of Former Adult Smokers (2011 and onward)

## Abbreviations and Acronyms

Use the full name with the abbreviation/acronym in parentheses unless the indicator name already includes this info.

### Examples:

- Number of CWS by Maximum Arsenic Concentrations ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ ), by Year
  - CWS is spelled out in the indicator name [Arsenic in Community Water Systems (CWS)], so it is not included in the measure name.
- Total Thyroxine (TT4) Concentrations in Serum ( $\mu\text{g/ml}$ )
  - Thyroxine is not abbreviated in the indicator name, so it is included in the measure name.