

How to Read Your Lab Results Table

This document will help you understand the information in your lab results tables. If a chemical was measured in both your blood and urine, your results will be shown in separate tables for each measurement. An example of a lab results table is shown in Figure 1. Keep reading to learn more about key parts of the lab results table.

Figure 1. Example Lab Results Table

1 Arsenic Type	2 Your Result (µg/g creatinine)	3 50 th Percentile of U.S. Adults (µg/g creatinine)	95 th Percentile of U.S. Adults (µg/g creatinine)
Total arsenic	70	25.0	56.2
All inorganic arsenic types	5	8.2	16.1

NAME OF CHEMICAL

1

The name of each chemical that MiChEM measured will be listed in the first column of the table.

YOUR LAB RESULTS

2

Your lab results are listed under “Your Result.” Lab results are shown in micrograms per gram (µg/g), nanograms per gram (ng/g), micrograms per deciliter (µg/dL) or micrograms per liter (µg/L) depending on the chemical.

The laboratory has different limits for the amount of each chemical they can measure and report with certainty. Look at the notes below each chemical’s results table to see how the chemical was reported by the laboratory. If you see letters or symbols where your results should be, such as “ND” or a “<” sign, the notes below the table will tell you what that means for that chemical.



50TH AND 95TH PERCENTILES OF U.S. ADULTS



The two columns next to your results show the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) 50th and 95th percentiles for each chemical. These percentiles are shown so that you can compare your lab results to the results of other U.S. adults.

The NHANES 50th and 95th percentiles are only available for some chemicals, so you might see:

- **<Limit of Detection (LOD)**, which means people who took part in NHANES had amounts of chemicals in their blood and or urine that were lower than the amount that could be measured by laboratory equipment.
- **Not available**, which means that chemical was not measured in NHANES or NHANES was not able to provide a 50th or 95th percentile because most people who participated in the survey had amounts that were too low to provide a valid result.

To find out more about percentiles and NHANES, see the “What are Percentiles?” factsheet.

HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR LAB RESULTS?



Call 844-464-7327 between 9 a.m. and 7 p.m., Monday through Friday.

WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT MiChEM?

Visit Michigan.gov/DEHBio and click on “MiChEM.”

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