

Healthy People 2010 Operational Definition

12-14. Reduce the proportion of adults with high total blood cholesterol levels.

National Data Source	National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES), CDC, NCHS.
State Data Source	Not identified.
Healthy People 2000 Objective	Adapted from 15.7 (Heart Disease and Stroke) (also 2.25)
Changes since the 2000 Publication	None.
Measure	Percent (age adjusted—see Comments).
Baseline (Year)	21 (1988-94)
Target	17
Target-Setting Method	Better than the best racial/ethnic subgroup. For a discussion of target-setting methods, see Part A, section 4.
Numerator	Number of persons aged 20 years and older with total blood cholesterol of 240 mg/dL or greater.
Denominator	Number of persons aged 20 years and older.
Population Targeted	U.S. civilian, noninstitutionalized population.
Questions Used to Obtain the National Baseline Data	Not applicable.
Expected Periodicity	Periodic.
Comments	Total cholesterol is a combination of HDL, LDL, and VLDL. Total blood cholesterol is measured enzymatically in a series of coupled reactions. A description of the procedures for the total cholesterol measurement in NHANES has been published by NCHS. ^{1, 2} Blood cholesterol levels less than 200 mg/dL are considered desirable. Levels of 240 mg/dL or above are considered high. Levels of 200-239 mg/dL are

considered borderline.

Individuals who take medication to lower their serum cholesterol levels and whose measured total serum cholesterol levels are below the cut-offs for high and borderline high cholesterol, are not defined as having high or borderline high cholesterol, respectively.

Data are age adjusted to the 2000 standard population using the age groups 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70-79, and 80 years and over. Age-adjusted rates are weighted sums of age-specific rates. For a discussion on age adjustment, see Part A, section 7.

Objective 12-14 tracks the same measure as Healthy People 2000 objective 15.7; however, the data used to track objective 15.7 were not age adjusted.

For some measures, data do not meet the criteria for statistical reliability, data quality, or confidentiality and have been suppressed. Information on suppression of data for the major Healthy People 2010 data systems has been published in a *Healthy People Statistical Note*.³

See Part C for a description of NHANES and Appendix A for focus area contact information.

References

1. HHS, NCHS. *Third National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, 1998–1994*, NHANES III Laboratory Data Files (CD-ROM). Public Use Data File Documentation No. 76200. Hyattsville, MD: CDC, 1996.
2. Gunter, E.W.; Lewis, B.G.; and Koncikowski, S.M. *Laboratory Procedures Used for the Third National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES III), 1988–94*. HHS, Public Health Service, CDC, 1996.
3. Klein, R.J.; Proctor, S.E.; Boudreault, M.A.; Turczyn, K.M. Healthy People 2010 Criteria for Data Suppression. *Statistical Notes* No. 24. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2002.