

## Healthy People 2010 Operational Definition

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### **3-10. Increase the proportion of physicians and dentists who counsel their at-risk patients about tobacco use cessation, physical activity, and cancer screening.**

#### **3-10e. Primary care providers who counsel about proctoscopic examinations.**

<b>National Data Source</b>	Survey of Physicians' Attitudes and Practices in Early Cancer Detection, ACS. <sup>1</sup>
<b>State Data Source</b>	Not identified.
<b>Healthy People 2000 Objective</b>	Adapted from 16.10 (Cancer).
<b>Changes since the 2000 Publication</b>	None.
<b>Measure</b>	Percent.
<b>Baseline (Year)</b>	23 (1989)
<b>Target</b>	85
<b>Target-Setting Method</b>	270 percent improvement. For a discussion of target-setting methods, see Part A, section 4.
<b>Numerator</b>	Number of primary care physicians who recommend proctoscopic examinations.
<b>Denominator</b>	Number of primary care physicians.
<b>Population Targeted</b>	U.S. civilian, noninstitutionalized population.
<b>Questions Used To Obtain the National Baseline Data</b>	Assessment questions not released.
<b>Expected Periodicity</b>	Periodic.
<b>Comments</b>	Objective 3-10 differs from Healthy People 2000 objective 16.10, which tracked health providers who counseled patients about tobacco-use cessation and cancer screening. The Healthy People 2000 objective focused on physicians and nurse practitioners, while objective 3-10 tracks counseling by physicians and dentists.

An alternative measure, primary care physicians who counsel on sigmoidoscopy or colonoscopy (the two procedures that have replaced proctoscopic examinations), was determined to be 98% by the 2006-07 National Survey of Primary Care Physicians' Recommendations and Practices for Breast, Cervical, Colorectal, and Lung Cancer Screening, NIH, NCI. However, since the data for physician counseling on sigmoidoscopy and colonoscopy were not available until the end of the decade, the original measure was retained in Healthy People 2010. Counseling on recommended colorectal cancer screening, which currently includes FOBT, sigmoidoscopy, and colonoscopy, will be tracked in Healthy People 2020.

See Appendix A for focus area contact information.

## References

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1. 1989 Survey of Physicians' Attitudes and Practices in Early Cancer Detection. *CA: A Cancer Journal for Clinicians*. 1990. 40; 77-101.