

Healthy People 2010 Operational Definition

16-16. Increase the proportion of pregnancies begun with an optimum folic acid level.

16-16b. Median red blood cell (RBC) folate level among nonpregnant women aged 15 to 44 years.

National Data Source	National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES), CDC, NCHS.
State Data Source	Not identified.
Healthy People 2000 Objective	Not applicable.
Changes since the 2000 Publication	Revised baseline (see Comments).
Measure	Concentration (ng/ml).
Baseline (Year)	158 (1988-94)
Target	220
Target-Setting Method	Consistent with NHANES III. For a discussion of target-setting methods, see Part A, section 4.
Numerator	Median RBC folate level.
Denominator	Not applicable.
Population Targeted	U.S. civilian noninstitutionalized population.
Questions Used to Obtain the National Baseline Data	Not applicable.
Expected Periodicity	Periodic.
Comments	<p>The median RBC folate level is a population-weighted estimate from the blood specimens collected from women aged 15 to 44 years as part of the standard NHANES protocol.¹</p> <p>The target of 220 ng/ml was established from the median RBC folate value for women 18-44 years of age who reported taking a folic acid-containing</p>

supplement in NHANES III in 1992-94.

The 1991-94 baseline of 160ng/ml was revised in 2007 to 158ng/ml (1988-94) due to changes in the baseline years. The target of 220 ng/ml did not change.

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*.²

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

References

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Folate Status in Women of Childbearing Age by Race/Ethnicity--United States, 1999-2000. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*. 2007; 55:1377-1380.
2. 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.