

Healthy People 2010 Operational Definition

26-1. Reduce deaths caused by alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes.

26-1a. Alcohol-related motor vehicle crash deaths.

National Data Source	Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS), U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), National Highway Transportation Administration (NHTSA)
State Data Source	Police Accident Reports (PARs) (account for 90 percent of the data) and State Traffic Record Systems,
Healthy People 2000 Objective	4.1 (Substance Abuse: Alcohol and Other Drugs) (also 9.23)
Changes since the 2000 Publication	Revised text (see Comments). Revised baseline (see Comments). Revised target (see Comments).
Measure	Rate per 100,000 population.
Baseline (Year)	5.3 (1998)
Target	4.8
Target-Setting Method	Consistent with the U.S. Department of Transportation goals. For a discussion of target-setting methods, see Part A, section 4.
Numerator	Number of alcohol-related motor vehicle crash deaths.
Denominator	Number of persons.
Population Targeted	U.S. civilian, noninstitutionalized population.
Questions Used To Obtain the National Baseline Data	Not applicable.
Expected Periodicity	Annual.

Comments

NHTSA defines a fatal crash as alcohol related if either a driver or a nonmotorist has a measurable or estimated blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of 0.08 g/dL or above.

BAC is measured as a percentage by weight of alcohol in the blood (expressed as grams per deciliter). An elevated BAC level (0.08g/dL and higher) indicates that enough alcohol was consumed by the person tested to impair normal functions.

Only deaths that occur within 30 days of the motor vehicle crash are included (less than 2 percent of the total number of deaths occur after 30 days).

FARS data are obtained solely from a State's existing documents, including police crash reports, death certificates (coded to ICD-10 V30-V39 [.4-.9], V40-V49 [.4-.9], V50-V59 [.4-.9], V60-V69 [.4-.9], V70-V79 [.4-.9], V81.1, V82.1, V83-V86 [.0-.3], V20-V28 [.3-.9], V29 [.4-.9], V12-V14 [.3-.9], V19 [.4-.6], V02-V04 [.1, .9], V09.2, V80 [.3-.5], V87 [.0-.8], V89.2), vehicle registration files, and hospital medical reports.

A description of the FARS data set has been published by NHTSA.¹

The objective wording was modified by deleting the words: injuries and drug, since substance-related injuries and drug-related motor vehicle crash deaths cannot be reliably measured.

The original baseline of 5.9 deaths per 100,000 population was revised to 5.3 per 100,000 due to a change in the measure. The original measure tracked deaths in crashes where the BAC was .01 g/dL or above.

The target was adjusted from 4 deaths per 100,000 population to 4.8 per 100,000 to match the NHTSA goals to reduce deaths in crashes where the BAC was .08 g/dL or above.

See Appendix A for focus area contact information.

References

1. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Traffic Safety Facts 2003: A Compilation of Motor Vehicle Crash Data from the Fatality Analysis Reporting System and the General Estimates System. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Transportation, 2005.