

Healthy People 2010 Operational Definition

6-2. Reduce the proportion of children and adolescents with disabilities who are reported to be sad, unhappy, or depressed.

National Data Source	National Health Interview Survey (NHIS), CDC, NCHS.
State Data Source	Not identified.
Healthy People 2000 Objective	Not applicable.
Changes since the 2000 Publication	None.
Measure	Percent.
Baseline (Year)	31 (1997)
Target	17
Target-Setting Method	45 percent improvement (parity with children and adolescents without disabilities in 1997). For a discussion of target-setting methods, see Part A, section 4.
Numerator	Number of persons aged 4 to 17 years with disabilities who are reported to be unhappy, sad, or depressed.
Denominator	Number of persons aged 4 to 17 years with disabilities.
Population Targeted	U.S. civilian, noninstitutionalized population.
Questions Used To Obtain the National Baseline Data	From the 1997 National Health Interview Survey: [NUMERATOR:] ➤ <i>During the past 6 months has (<u>Person</u>) been unhappy, sad, or depressed?</i> [DENOMINATOR:] ➤ <i>I am now going to ask you about (your/the) general health (of family members) and the effects of any physical, mental, or emotional health problems.</i> [For children under 5:]

- *(Are/Is) (Person) limited in the kind or amount of play activities he/she/they can do because of a physical, mental or emotional problem?*

[For children 3 to 17:]

- *Because of a physical, mental or emotional problem (do/does) (you/anyone) in the family need the help of other persons with PERSONAL CARE NEEDS, such as eating, bathing, dressing, or getting around inside this home?*

[For children 5 to 17:]

- *Because of a physical, mental or emotional problem (do/does) (you/anyone) in the family need the help of other persons in handling ROUTINE NEEDS, such as everyday household chores, doing necessary business, shopping, or getting around for other purposes?*

[For children under 18:]

- *Do any of the children under 18 in this family receive Special Education or Early Intervention Services?*
- *Because of a health problem, (do/does) (you/anyone) in the family have difficulty walking without using any special equipment?*
- *(Are/Is) (you/anyone) in the family LIMITED IN ANY WAY in any activities because of difficulty remembering or because {you/they} experience periods of confusion?*
- *(Are/Is) (you/anyone) in the family LIMITED IN ANY WAY in any activities because of physical, mental or emotional problems?*
- *Does (Person) have an impairment or health problem that requires {him/her} to use special equipment, such as a brace, a wheelchair, or a hearing aid (excluding ordinary eyeglasses or corrective shoes)?*

Expected Periodicity Annual.

Comments Children and adolescents aged 4 to 11 are defined as having a disability if the proxy adult respondent responds “yes” to any of the limitation, special services, or special equipment questions listed above in the DENOMINATOR section.

A child/adolescent is considered sad, unhappy or depressed if any of these feelings have been observed by the proxy adult respondent during the past 6 months.

Baseline percents are based on data obtained in the last two quarters of the 1997 NHIS collection period.

The wording of the numerator question changed

slightly since the baseline. From 1997 to 2000, the question was:

- *During the past 6 months has (Person) been unhappy, sad, or depressed?*

Since 2001, the question has been:

- *During the past 6 months has (Person) been unhappy, depressed, or tearful?*

This objective was intended to target all children and adolescents aged 2 to 18 years. However with the 1997 and 1998 NHIS, it was not possible to combine data for the entire age range into one measure. Instead, proxy data for children and adolescents aged 4 to 11 years have been provided. More recent data includes ages 4-17 years.

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*.¹

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

References

1. 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.