

Healthy People 2010 Operational Definition

28-15. Increase the number of persons who are referred by their primary care physician for hearing evaluation and treatment

National Data Sources	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)	28 (2007)
Target	31
Target-Setting Method	10 percent improvement. For a discussion of target-setting methods, see Part A, section 4.
Numerator	Number of adults aged 18 years and older who have seen a doctor or other health care professional about any hearing or ear problems in the past 5 years and then seen, or been referred by their primary care physician to, a hearing specialist, ear, nose, and throat doctor (otolaryngologist or otologist), an audiologist, or hearing aid dispenser.
Denominator	Number of adults aged 18 years and older who have seen a doctor or other health care professional about any hearing or ear problems in the past 5 years.
Population Targeted	U.S. civilian, noninstitutionalized population.
Questions Used To Obtain the National Baseline Data	From the 2007 National Health Interview Survey Hearing Supplement:

➤ *When was the last time you saw a doctor or other health care professional about any hearing or ear problems?*

- *Never*
- *In the past year*
- *1 to 2 years ago*
- *3 to 4 years ago*
- *5 to 9 years ago*
- *10 to 14 years ago*
- *15 or more years ago*

➤ *IN THE PAST 5 YEARS, have you seen or been referred by your doctor or other health care professional to... a hearing specialist, such as an Ear, Nose, and Throat doctor? Read if necessary: Include an Otolaryngologist or Otologist.*

Answer: Yes/No.

➤ *IN THE PAST 5 YEARS, have you seen or been referred by your doctor or other health care professional to an audiologist or hearing aid dispenser?*

Answer: Yes/No.

Expected Periodicity

Annual.

Comments

A numerator for this objective is estimated by all adults aged 18 years and older who responded they had seen a doctor or other health care professional about any hearing or ear problems within the past 5 years (more recently than 5 years ago) and were seen or referred to a hearing specialist, such as an Ear, Nose, and Throat doctor (including otolaryngologist and otologist)" and/or to an audiologist or hearing aid dispenser.

Objective 28-15 was moved from developmental to deleted status at the Healthy People 2010 Midcourse review, since no data source had been identified at that time. However, since the Midcourse review, questions shown above were included in the 2007 NHIS as a part of Hearing Supplement. The objective was reinstated and moved to measurable status.

For some objectives, 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.