

## Healthy People 2010 Operational Definition

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**3-9. Increase the proportion of persons who use at least one of the following protective measures that may reduce the risk of skin cancer: avoid the sun between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., wear sun-protective clothing when exposed to sunlight, use sunscreen with a sun protective factor (SPF) of 15 or higher, and avoid artificial sources of ultraviolet light.**

**3-9a. Increase the proportion of adolescents in grades 9 through 12 who follow protective measures that may reduce the risk of skin cancer.**

<b>National Data Source</b>	Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS), CDC, NCCDPHP.
<b>State Data Source</b>	Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS), CDC, NCCDPHP.
<b>Healthy People 2000 Objective</b>	Adapted from 16.9 (Cancer).
<b>Changes since the 2000 Publication</b>	New subobjective (see Comments).
<b>Measure</b>	Percent (see Comments).
<b>Baseline (Year)</b>	24 (2005)
<b>Target</b>	28
<b>Target-Setting Method</b>	Better than the best racial/ethnic subgroup. For a discussion of target-setting methods, see Part A, section 4.
<b>Numerator</b>	Students in grades 9 through 12 who wear sunscreen (SPF 15 or higher) or stay in the shade, wear long pants, wear a long-sleeved shirt, or wear a hat that shades your face, ears, and neck most or all of the time when outside for more than an hour on a sunny day.
<b>Denominator</b>	Students in grades 9 through 12.
<b>Population Targeted</b>	Students in grades 9 through 12.

**Questions Used To Obtain the National Baseline Data**

From the 2005 Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System:

[NUMERATOR:]

- *When you are outside for more than one hour on a sunny day, how often do you wear sunscreen with an SPF of 15 or higher?*
- *When you are outside for more than one hour on a sunny day, how often do you do one or more of the following: stay in the shade, wear long pants, wear a long-sleeved shirt, or wear a hat that shades your face, ears, and neck?*

**Expected Periodicity**

Biennial.

**Comments**

For this objective, a person is defined as following protective measures if the person answers "always" or "most of the time" to either of the two questions listed above.

Subobjective 3.9a moved from developmental to measurable in December 2006. Prior to the 2005 data year, the CDC's Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS) had obtained information only on sunscreen use in adolescents. For the 2005 survey, YRBSS added a question that asked youths to report the use of other protective measures. Current YRBSS plans are to retain both questions into the future.

This objective was adapted from Healthy People 2000 objective 16.9, which measured the percent of people of all ages who limited sun exposure, used sunscreens and protective clothing when exposed to sunlight, and avoided artificial sources of ultraviolet light. This objective measures the percent of students in grades 9 through 12 who practice sun safety behaviors. Although similar questions are used to measure this objective and the comparable Healthy People 2000 objective 16.9, the data for the Healthy People 2010 objective 3.9a are for adolescents in grades 9 through 12 only. Additionally, the Healthy People 2010 objective combines the data from the two questions into one measure while the Healthy People 2000 objective considered sun safety behaviors individually.

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*.<sup>1</sup>

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

## References

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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.