

Healthy People 2010 Operational Definition

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.

3-9b. Increase the proportion of adults aged 18 years and older who follow protective measures that may reduce the risk of skin cancer.

National Data Source	National Health Interview Survey (NHIS), CDC, NCHS.
State Data Source	Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), CDC, NCCDPHP
Healthy People 2000 Objective	Adapted from 16.9 (Cancer).
Changes since the 2000 Publication	Revised baseline (see Comments). Revised baseline year (see Comments). Revised target (see Comments).
Measure	Percent (age adjusted—see Comments).
Baseline (Year)	65 (2005)
Target	85
Target-Setting Method	Better than the best racial/ethnic subgroup. For a discussion of target-setting methods, see Part A, section 4.
Numerator	Number of persons aged 18 years and older who report that they are very likely to limit sun exposure, use sunscreen, or wear protective clothing.
Denominator	Number of persons aged 18 years and older.
Population Targeted	U.S. civilian, noninstitutionalized population.
Questions Used To Obtain the National	From the 2005 National Health Interview Survey:

Baseline Data

[NUMERATOR:]

- *When you go outside on a warm sunny day for MORE than an hour, how often do you stay in the shade?*
- *When you go outside on a warm sunny day for MORE than an hour, how often do you wear a hat that shades your face, ears AND neck such as a hat with a wide brim all around?*
- *When you go outside on a warm sunny day for MORE than an hour, how often do you wear a long sleeved shirt?*
- *When you go outside on a warm sunny day for MORE than an hour, how often do you wear long pants or other clothing that reaches your ankles?*
- *When you go outside on a warm sunny day for MORE than an hour, how often do you use sunscreen?*
 - *What is the SPF number of the sunscreen you use most often?*
 - *Is the SPF usually 1-14 or 15-50?*

Expected Periodicity

Periodic.

Comments

For this objective, a person is defined as following protective measures if the person answers "always" or "most of the time" to one or more of the questions listed above, with the additional restriction of sunscreen SPF values of 15 or greater for the last question.

After the midcourse, the original baseline was revised from 47 percent in 1998 to 65 percent in 2005, due to changes in the survey questions. The target was adjusted to reflect the revised baseline using the original target-setting method.

Data (except those by education status) are age adjusted to the 2000 standard population using the age groups 18-24, 25-34, 35-44, 45-64, and 65 years and over. Data by education status are age adjusted using the age groups 25-34, 35-44, 45-64, and 65 and over. Age-adjusted percents are weighted sums of age-specific percents. For a discussion of age adjustment, see Part A, section 7.

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 are age adjusted while data for the Healthy People 2000 objective are unadjusted rates. Additionally, the Healthy People 2010 objective combines the data from the three questions into one measure while the Healthy People 2000 objective considered them 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*.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.