

Healthy People 2010 Operational Definition

8-1. Reduce the proportion of persons exposed to air that does not meet the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's health-based standards for harmful air pollutants.

8-1g. Total number of people.

National Data Source	Air Quality System (AQS), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Office of Air and Radiation (OAR), Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards (OAQPS).
State Data Source	Air Quality System (AQS), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Office of Air and Radiation (OAR), Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards (OAQPS).
Healthy People 2000 Objective	Adapted from 11.5 (Environmental Health).
Changes since the 2000 Publication	Revised Baseline (see comments).
Measure	Number.
Baseline (Year)	137,019,000 (1997)
Target	0
Target-Setting Method	Consistent with Clean Air Act (PL101-549). For a discussion of target-setting methods, see Part A, section 4.
Numerator	Number of persons living in areas that exceed the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (nonattainment areas) for either ozone, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, particulate matter 10 or 2.5, or lead.
Denominator	Not applicable.
Population Targeted	U.S. resident population.
Questions Used To Obtain the National Baseline Data	Not applicable.

Expected Periodicity

Annual.

Comments

The Air Quality System (AQS) was formerly a subsystem of the Aerometric Information Retrieval System (AIRS).

All areas (100 percent) are required by law to come into attainment no later than 2012 for all pollutant criteria except particulate matter 2.5, which will come into attainment by 2017. EPA's air quality monitoring and NAAQS data collection have historically taken place in large urban centers and other appropriate areas generally considered to have the Nation's poorest air quality.

Nonattainment areas may include single counties, multiple counties, parts of counties, municipalities, or combinations of the preceding jurisdictions. When an area is designated as "nonattainment," it retains this status for 3 years, regardless of annual changes in air quality. Nonattainment areas may also include jurisdictions in which the source of the pollutants are located, even if that jurisdiction meets all NAAQS.

The areas monitored may change over time to reflect changes in air quality or the pollutants being monitored.

The original baseline was revised from 119,803,000 persons exposed to any harmful air pollutant to 137,019,000 persons exposed. The target of 0 persons exposed did not change.

The population estimates used for the baseline are based on 2000 census estimates and do not reflect growth or depletion of population since that date. The NAAQS were revised in 1997 by EPA, but the revisions are currently being contested in court; resolution of the court case may affect the population estimates in the baseline.

The use of nonattainment areas in this objective represents an important measurement distinction from the measure used in Healthy People 2000 objective 11.5, which used counties that did not meet NAAQS in the previous 12 months. Nonattainment areas may include counties that did not meet NAAQS, but also counties that met the standards, but are sources of the pollutants.

See Appendix A for focus area contact information.