

Healthy People 2010 Operational Definition

16-4. Reduce maternal deaths.

National Data Source	National Vital Statistics System - Mortality and Natality (NVSS-M and NVSS-N), CDC, NCHS.
State Data Source	National Vital Statistics System - Mortality and Natality (NVSS-M and NVSS-N), CDC, NCHS.
Healthy People 2000 Objective	14.3 (Maternal and Infant Health).
Changes since the 2000 Publication	Revised baseline (see Comments). Revised target (see Comments).
Measure	Ratio per 100,000 live births.
Baseline (Year)	9.9 (1999)
Target	4.3
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 female deaths due to obstetric causes (ICD-10 codes A34, O00-O95, O98-O99) within 42 days of a pregnancy.
Denominator	Number of live births.
Population Targeted	U.S. resident population.
Questions Used To Obtain the National Baseline Data	Not applicable.
Expected Periodicity	Annual.
Comments	Maternal mortality rates are computed on the basis of the number of live births. The maternal mortality rate indicates the likelihood of a pregnant woman dying of maternal causes. They are calculated by dividing the number of maternal deaths in a calendar year by the number of live births registered for the same period and are presented as rates per 100,000 live births. The number of live births used

in the denominator is an approximation of the population of pregnant women who are at risk of a maternal death.

“Maternal deaths” are defined by the World Health Organization as “the death of a woman while pregnant or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy, irrespective of the duration and the site of the pregnancy, from any cause related to or aggravated by the pregnancy or its management, but not from accidental or incidental causes.”¹ Included in these deaths are ICD–10 codes A34, O00-O95, and O98-O99.

A description of the maternal mortality measurement has been published by NCHS.²

The original baseline was revised from 7.1 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births to 9.9 maternal deaths per 100,000 due to changes in the International Classification of Diseases (ICD) system. The original baseline (1998) was based on ICD-9 codes 630 to 676. The revised baseline (1999) is based on the ICD-10 system. The baseline year for all Healthy People 2010 mortality objectives was changed to 1999 so that a consistent trend based on a single ICD classification scheme could be tracked throughout the decade. See Part A, section 8 for a discussion of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD). Information on comparability between ICD-9 and ICD-10 has been published by NCHS.³

The target was proportionally adjusted from 3.3 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births to 4.3 maternal deaths per 100,000 to reflect the revised baseline using the original target-setting method.

This objective tracks the same measure as Healthy People 2000 objective 14.3.

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*.⁴

See Part C for descriptions of NVSS-M and NVSS-N

and Appendix A for focus area contact information.

References

1. World Health Organization. *International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, Tenth Revision*. Geneva, Switzerland: World Health Organization, 1992.
2. Heck, K.E., and Klein, R.J. Operational definitions for year 2000 objectives: Priority area 14, Maternal and Infant Health. *Healthy People 2000 Statistical Note*. No. 14. Hyattsville, MD: NCHS, 1998.
3. Anderson, R.N.; Minino, A.M.; Hoyert, D.L.; Rosenberg, H.M.; Comparability of cause of death between ICD-9 and ICD-10: Preliminary estimates. *National Vital Statistics Reports*. Vol. 49 No.2. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics, 2001.
4. 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.