

Healthy People 2010 Operational Definition

25-11. Increase the proportion of adolescents who abstain from sexual intercourse or use condoms if currently sexually active.

25-11b. If sexually experienced, are not currently sexually active.

National Data Source Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS), CDC, NCCDPHP.

State Data Source Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS), CDC, NCCDPHP.

Healthy People 2000 Objective Adapted from 5.5 and 5.6 (Family Planning) (also 18.15 and 19.16).

Changes since the 2000 Publication New subobjective (see Comments).

Leading Health Indicator Responsible Sexual Behavior.

Measure Percent.

Baseline (Year) 27 (1999)

Target 30

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 students in grades 9 through 12 who report that they have had sexual intercourse, but not in the past three months

Denominator Number of students in grades 9 through 12.

Population Targeted Students in grades 9 through 12.

Questions Used To Obtain the National Baseline Data From the 1999 Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System:

- *During the past three months, with how many people have you had sexual intercourse?*

I have never had sexual intercourse
I have had sexual intercourse, but not in the
past 3 months
1 person
2 people
3 people
4 people
5 people
6 or more people

Expected Periodicity

Biennial.

Comments

This measure tracks the proportion of adolescents in grades 9 through 12 who reported having sexual intercourse, but not in the past three months.

Objective 25-11 originally tracked the proportion of students who abstained from sexual intercourse or used condoms. During the Healthy People 2010 Midcourse Review, the objective was divided into three subobjectives tracking the proportion of students who have never had sexual intercourse, those who have had intercourse but not in the past 3 months, and those who used condoms at their last intercourse. The rationale for this decision was to more directly reflect the public health priority of increasing sexual abstinence for adolescents, both as a primary strategy of delay of sexual initiation, and as a secondary strategy to decrease their number of partners and exposure to STDs. The division of the objective into 3 subobjectives also enables the tracking of the percentage of adolescents who are meeting the public health goal (by being sexually abstinent) and those who are currently using barrier protection.

This subobjective is one of the measures used to track the Responsible Sexual Behavior Leading Health Indicator. See Appendix E for a complete list.

Objective 25-11 was adapted from Healthy People 2000 objectives 5.5 and 5.6. Objective 5.5 tracked the proportion of persons 15 to 17 years of age who were abstinent for the past 3 months, while 5.6 tracked to proportion of persons aged 15 to 19 years who used contraception (including condoms).

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 YRBSS 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.