

Healthy People 2010 Operational Definition

9-1. Increase the proportion of pregnancies that are intended.

National Data Sources	National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG), CDC, NCHS; National Vital Statistics System (NVSS), CDC, NCHS; Abortion Provider Survey, The Alan Guttmacher Institute (AGI); Abortion Surveillance Data, CDC, NCCDPHP.
State Data Source	Not identified.
Changes since the 2000 Publication	Revised baseline (see Comments).
Healthy People 2000 Objective	Adapted from 5.2 (Family Planning).
Measure	Percent.
Baseline (Year)	52 (1995)
Target	70
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 intended births among females aged 15 to 44 years.
Denominator	Number of live births plus abortions among females aged 15 to 44 years.
Population Targeted	U.S. resident population; U.S. civilian, noninstitutionalized population (see Comments).
Questions Used To Obtain the National Baseline Data	From the 1995 National Survey of Family Growth: ➤ <i>Before you became pregnant this time, was the reason you did not use any birth control methods because you, yourself wanted to become pregnant?</i> ➤ <i>At the time you became pregnant, did you, yourself actually want to have a baby at some time?</i> ➤ <i>So would you say you became pregnant too soon, at about the right time, or later than you wanted?</i> 1) <i>Too soon</i>

- 2) *Right time*
- 3) *Later*
- 4) *Didn't care*

Expected Periodicity

Periodic.

Comments

Intended pregnancies include births that were wanted at the time of conception. Births that were wanted at the time of conception are those resulting from pregnancies that happened at the right time, later than wanted or those answering didn't care. All abortions are considered unintended pregnancies.

Estimates of pregnancies that were intended are derived from the following sources: (1) live births to U.S. residents in 1994; (2) the proportion of recent births that were intended according to the 1995 NSFG; and (3) estimates of induced abortions based on reports by CDC and The Alan Guttmacher Institute (AGI). AGI's national estimates of abortions, based on surveys it conducts of all known abortion providers, are distributed by age, race, marital status, and ethnicity according to estimates prepared by CDC's National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (NCCDPHP), which are based on reports from State health departments.

The proportion of births intended (females who wanted to become pregnant and wanted to have a baby at sometime and became pregnant at the right time, later, or didn't care) from NSFG are applied to all resident live births, divided by all births and abortions combined.

Information about potential sources of error in the data sources have been published.^{1,2,3}

Known pregnancies that ended in fetal loss (for example, miscarriage, stillbirth, or ectopic pregnancy) are excluded. However, it was found that incorporating information on the planning status of pregnancies resulting in fetal loss, as reported in the 1995 NSFG, had very little impact on the proportions shown.

The numerator and denominator of this measure refer to slightly different populations. The numerator, which comes from the NSFG, includes only the U.S.

civilian, noninstitutionalized population. The denominator includes all U.S. residents.

The original baseline of 51 percent was revised to 52 percent after the Healthy People 2010 Midcourse Review. The target of 70 percent did not change.

This objective is adapted from a measure in Healthy People 2000 objective 5.2, which tracked the proportion of pregnancies that were unintended. This measure tracks the proportion of pregnancies that are intended.

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 a description of NSFG and NVSS and Appendix A for focus area contact information.

References

1. Henshaw, S.K. Unintended pregnancy in the United States. *Family Planning Perspectives* 30 (1):24-29, 46, 1998.
2. Abortion surveillance—United States, 1993 and 1994, Special focus: Surveillance for reproductive health. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* 46(SS-4), 1997.
3. Henshaw, S.K., and Kost, K. Abortion patients in 1994-1995: Characteristics and contraceptive use. *Family Planning Perspectives* 28(4):140-147, 158, 1996.
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.