

Healthy People 2010 Operational Definition

21-1. Reduce the proportion of children and adolescents who have dental caries experience in their primary or permanent teeth.

21-1a. Reduce the proportion of young children with dental caries experience in their primary teeth.

National Data Source	National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES), CDC, NCHS.
State Data Source	Not identified.
Healthy People 2000 Objective	Adapted from 13.1 (Oral Health).
Changes since the 2000 Publication	None.
Measure	Percent.
Baseline (Year)	18 (1988–94)
Target	11
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 children aged 2 to 4 years with a clinical diagnosis of dental caries or presence of fillings in at least one primary tooth.
Denominator	Number of children aged 2 to 4 years.
Population Targeted	U.S. civilian, noninstitutionalized population.
Questions Used To Obtain the National Baseline Data	Not applicable.
Expected Periodicity	Periodic.
Comments	This objective uses the same measurement protocol as the comparable Healthy People 2000 objective 13.1. A description of the clinical protocol used to diagnose caries experience for Healthy People 2000

has been published by NCHS.¹

Data on missing primary teeth are not captured by NHANES. Indicators of caries in primary teeth omit missing teeth to avoid potential misclassification of teeth lost to natural exfoliation as missing due to caries.

Baseline data for the American Indian/Alaska Native population are from the 1999 Oral Health Survey of Native Americans. The Indian Health Service (IHS) collects data approximately every 10 years on the American Indian/Alaska Native population. Data are collected on clinic users to assess the oral health status and treatment needs of the IHS service area population. The data reflect a weighted sample.

Baseline data for the Asian population are from the 1993-94 California Oral Health Needs Assessment of Children. This data set was used because it had the largest representative sample of Asian children in which clinical oral health status indicators were assessed. Data were collected from a representative sample of California children in schools by trained examiners.

Although this objective uses the same measurement protocol as the comparable Healthy People 2000 objective 13.1, the tracking of young children aged 2 to 4 years is new to Healthy People 2010.

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*.²

See Part C for a description of NHANES and Appendix A for focus area contact information.

References

1. Vargas, C.; Schober, S.; and Gift, H. Operational definitions for year 2000 objectives: Priority area 13, Oral Health. *Healthy People 2000 Statistical Notes*, No. 12. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), 1997.
2. 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.