

Healthy People 2010 Operational Definition

27-4. Increase the average age of first use of tobacco products by adolescents and young adults.

27-4a. Adolescents aged 12 to 17 years.

National Data Source	National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), SAMHSA.
State Data Source	Not identified.
Healthy People 2000 Objective	4.5 (Substance Abuse: Alcohol and Other Drugs) (also 3.19).
Changes since the 2000 Publication	Revised baseline year (see Comments). Revised measure (see Comments). Revised baseline (see Comments). Revised target (see Comments).
Measure	Mean age.
Baseline (Year)	14.7 (2002)
Target	17.6
Target-Setting Method	Better than the best racial/ethnic subgroup. For a discussion of target-setting methods, see Part A, section 4.
Numerator	Sum of ages of persons aged 12 or older who used cigarettes for the first time prior to the age of 18 in the 12 months prior to the date of the interview.
Denominator	Number of persons aged 12 or older who used cigarettes for the first time prior to the age of 18 in the 12 months prior to the date of the interview.
Population Targeted	U.S. civilian, noninstitutionalized population.
Questions Used To Obtain the National Baseline Data	From the 2002 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: ➤ <i>How old were you the first time you smoked a cigarette?</i>
Expected Periodicity	Annual.

Comments

Although this objective addresses the age at first use of any tobacco product, it is monitored by first use of cigarettes.

The National Survey on Drug Use and Health underwent several methodological changes between 1999 and 2002 including the addition of incentive payments; improved data collection quality control procedures; and use of 2000 Census-based data. The name of the survey also changed from the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse (NHSDA) to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH). To ensure that the baseline and tracking data for this objective would be comparable throughout the decade, the baseline year was revised from 1997 to 2002. The original baseline data value, however, did not change.

The measure has since been revised—SAMHSA has changed the way they measure these data and the measure was revised accordingly. The measure changed from looking at the mean age of persons aged 12 to 17 who ever smoked to looking at the mean age of persons aged 12 to 17 who smoked for the first time in the 12 months prior to the interview.

Initiation of cigarette use in the 12 months prior to date of interview was identified by examining the youth's interview date, birth date, and initiation date of first cigarette use.

The original baseline was revised from 12 to 14.7 due to the change in methodology. The target was proportionally adjusted from 14 to 17.6 to reflect the revised baseline using the original target-setting methodology.

Objective 27-4 was adapted from Healthy People 2000 objective 4.5, which tracked the average age at first cigarette use among persons aged 12 to 17 years. Objective 27-4 monitors first use among persons aged 12 to 17 years (27-4a) and those aged 18 to 25 years (27-4b).

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 NSDUH 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.