16-15. Reduce the occurrence of spina bifida and other neural tube defects.

National Data Source	National Birth Defects Prevention Network (NBDPN), CDC, NCBDDD.
State Data Source	State birth defects monitoring systems; State vital statistics.
Healthy People 2000 Objective	Adapted from 14.17 (Maternal and Infant Health).
Changes since the 2000 Publication	None.
Measure	Rate per 100,000 live births.
Baseline (Year)	60 (1996) (selected States—see Comments)
Target	30
Target-Setting Method	50 percent improvement. For a discussion of target-setting methods, see Part A, section 4.
Numerator	Number of live births and fetal deaths of 20 or more weeks gestation diagnosed with spina bifida and other neural tube defects (ICD-9 codes 740-742.0).
Denominator	Number of live births.
Population Targeted	U.S. resident live births plus fetal deaths (20 or more weeks gestation) (selected States—see Comments).
Questions Used to Obtain the National Baseline Data	Not applicable
Expected Periodicity	Annual.
Comments	A description of the primary measurement used to determine an infant's gestational age—the interval between the first day of LMP and the birth has been published by NCHS.[1] NCBDDD is collaborating with more than 30 States

in NBDPN to systematically collect population-based birth defect data in a timely fashion.

This objective is comparable to Healthy People 2000 objective 14.17, which was tracked by the Birth Defects Monitoring Program (BDMP) through 1993. However, the BDMP system of voluntary reporting by hospitals was unreliable and no longer exists.

The original baseline was revised from 6 (per 10,000) to 60 (per 100,000) to be consistent with other published statistics. Accordingly, the target was revised from 3 (per 10,000) to 30 (per 100,000).

See Appendix A for focus area contact information.

References

1. Martin, J.A.; Hamilton, B.E.; Sutton, P.D.; et al. Births: Final data for 2003. *National Vital Statistics Reports* Vol. 54, No. 2. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics, 2005.