

Healthy People 2010 Operational Definition

26-9. Increase the age and proportion of adolescents who remain alcohol and drug free.

Average age at first use:

26-9a. Alcohol.

National Data Source	National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) SAMHSA.
State Data Source	National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) SAMHSA.
Healthy People 2000 Objective	4.5 (Substance Abuse: Alcohol and Other Drugs) (also 3.19).
Changes since the 2000 Publication	Revised baseline (see Comments).
Measure	Mean.
Baseline (Year)	13.0 (2002)
Target	16.1
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 reported ages at first use of alcohol by persons aged 12 to 17 years.
Denominator	Persons aged 12 to 17 years.
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>Think about the first time you had a drink of an alcoholic beverage. How old were you the first time you had a drink of an alcoholic beverage? Please do not include any time when you only had a sip or two from a drink.</i>

Expected Periodicity Annual.

Comments The original baseline of a mean age of 13.1 years (1998) was revised to a mean age of 13.0 years (2002) as the result of several methodological changes to The National Household Survey on Drug Abuse (NHSDA) during the period from 1999 to 2002 including: incentive payments; improved data collection quality control procedures and, use of 2000 Census-Based data. The survey name also changed to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH). The target of a mean age of 16.1 years did not change.

This subobjective tracks one of the measures monitored by Healthy People 2000 objective 4.5

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.