

Healthy People 2010 Operational Definition

16-1. Reduce fetal and infant deaths.

16-1b. Fetal and infant deaths during perinatal period (28 weeks of gestation to less than 7 days after birth).

National Data Source	National Vital Statistics System – Fetal Death and Natality (NVSS-FD and NVSS-N), CDC, NCHS.
State Data Source	National Vital Statistics System – Fetal Death and Natality (NVSS-FD and NVSS-N), CDC, NCHS.
Healthy People 2000 Objective	Not applicable.
Changes since the 2000 Publication	Revised baseline (see Comments). Revised target (see Comments).
Measure	Rate per 1,000 live births plus fetal deaths.
Baseline (Year)	7.3 (1997)
Target	4.4
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 fetal and infant deaths (from 28 weeks gestation to less than 7 days after birth).
Denominator	Number of live births plus fetal deaths (of at least 28 weeks gestation).
Population Targeted	U.S. resident live births plus fetal deaths (20 or more weeks gestation).
Questions Used to Obtain the National Baseline Data	Not applicable.
Expected Periodicity	Annual.
Comments	States are required to report fetal deaths if they occur in the 20th week of pregnancy or later, or if they weigh at least 350 grams. ¹ The number of fetal deaths may be underreported in part because of

variations in reporting requirements by States.

A description of the primary measurement used to determine the infant's gestational age—the interval between the first day of the last normal menstrual period (LMP) and the birth—has been published by NCHS.²

A description of the perinatal death measurement has been published by NCHS.¹

The original baseline of 7.5 perinatal deaths per 1,000 live births and fetal deaths was revised to 7.3 perinatal deaths per 1,000 as the result of changes in methodology. The target was proportionally adjusted from 4.4 perinatal deaths per 1,000 live births and fetal deaths to 4.4 perinatal deaths per 1,000 to reflect the revised baseline using the original target-setting method.

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*.³

See Part C for a description of NVSS-M and NVSS-N and Appendix A for focus area contact information.

References

1. National Center for Health Statistics. *Technical Appendix. Vital Statistics of the United States, 1999*. Vol. II, Mortality, Part A. Available from: www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/statab/techap99.pdf
2. 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.
3. 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.