

Healthy People 2010 Operational Definition

1-6. Reduce the proportion of families that experience difficulties or delays in obtaining health care or do not receive needed care for one or more family members.

National Data Source	Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS), AHRQ.
State Data Source	Not identified.
Healthy People 2000 Objective	Not applicable.
Changes since the 2000 Publication	Revised baseline (see Comments). Revised baseline year (see Comments). Revised target (see Comments).
Measure	Percent.
Baseline (Year)	21 (2002)
Target	9
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 families that report at least one family member had difficulty or delay in obtaining health care or did not receive needed care.
Denominator	Number of families.
Population Targeted	U.S. civilian, noninstitutionalized population.
Questions Used to Obtain the National Baseline Data	From the 2002 Medical Expenditure Panel Survey: <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ In the past 12 months, was anyone in the family unable to get medical care, tests, or treatments they or a doctor believed necessary?➤ In the last 12 months, was anyone in the family delayed in getting medical care, tests, or treatments they or a doctor believed necessary?➤ In the last 12 months, was anyone in the family unable to get dental care, tests, or treatments they or a dentist believed necessary?➤ In the last 12 months, was anyone in the family delayed in getting dental care, tests, or treatments

they or a dentist believed necessary?

- In the last 12 months, was anyone in the family unable to get prescription medicines they or a doctor believed necessary?
- In the last 12 months, was anyone in the family delayed in getting prescription medicines they or a doctor believed necessary?

Expected Periodicity Annual.

Comments A family is considered having difficulty or delay in obtaining care if the head of the household responds “yes” to any of the questions listed above.

In 2010, the original baseline and baseline year were revised from 12 percent in 1996 to 21 percent in 2002 due to changes in the survey questions. The target of 7 percent was proportionally adjusted to 9 percent to reflect the revised baseline using the original target-setting methodology.

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