

## Healthy People 2010 Operational Definition

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### **21-10. Increase the proportion of children and adults who use the oral health care system each year.**

<b>National Data Source</b>	Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS), AHRQ.
<b>State Data Source</b>	Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), CDC. (See State Operational Definition, below.)
<b>Healthy People 2000 Objective</b>	Adapted from 13.14 (Oral Health).
<b>Changes since the 2000 Publication</b>	None.
<b>Measure</b>	Percent (age adjusted—see Comments).
<b>Baseline (Year)</b>	44 (1996)
<b>Target</b>	56
<b>Target Setting Method</b>	Better than the best racial/ethnic subgroup. For a discussion of target-setting methods, see Part A, Section 4.
<b>Numerator</b>	Number of persons aged 2 years and older who report having had a dental visit in the past 12 months.
<b>Denominator</b>	Number of persons aged 2 years and older.
<b>Population Targeted</b>	U.S. civilian, noninstitutionalized population.
<b>Questions Used To Obtain the National Baseline Data</b>	From the 1996 Medical Expenditure Panel Survey. See <a href="http://www.meps.ahrq.gov/survey.htm">http://www.meps.ahrq.gov/survey.htm</a> for more information.
<b>Expected Periodicity</b>	Periodic.
<b>Comments</b>	MEPS data provide information on the nature of the dental visit as well as dental insurance status of the patient. MEPS data are also used for objective 21-12, preventive dental visits for poor children. MEPS data provide a comprehensive assessment of a previous dental visit. Subjects are interviewed on five different occasions over 15 months, so that they do not need to recall details of dental care received

more than 3 months beforehand. In addition, MEPS subjects are also asked for specific information about care received at each visit. Therefore, the numbers of visits during a year are substantiated with additional corroborating evidence. MEPS was used as the database for dental visits in the April 2000 Government Accounting Office report to Congress on access to dental care.

Data are age adjusted to the 2000 standard population using the age groups 2-17, 18-44, 45-54, 55-64, 65-74 and 75 years and over. Age-adjusted rates are weighted sums of age-specific rates. For a discussion of age adjustment, see Part A, section 7.

This objective differs from a similar Healthy People 2000 objective 13.14. The Healthy People 2000 objective was tracked by the NHIS and was restricted to adults aged 35 years and older, while the Healthy People 2010 objective covers all noninstitutionalized persons aged 2 years and older. A report on the operational definitions for the Healthy People 2000 oral health objectives has been published by NCHS.<sup>1</sup>

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*.<sup>2</sup>

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

## References

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1. Vargas, C.; Schober, S.; and Gift, H. Operational definitions for year 2000 objectives: Priority area 13, Oral Health. *Healthy People 2000 Statistical Notes*, No. 12. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), 1997.
2. 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.

## State Operational Definition

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### **21-10. Increase the proportion of children and adults who use the oral health care system each year.**

<b>State Data Source</b>	Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), CDC.
<b>National Data Source</b>	Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS), AHRQ.
<b>Measure</b>	Percent (age adjusted—see Comments).
<b>Numerator</b>	Number of persons aged 18 years and older who report having had a dental visit in the past 12 months.
<b>Denominator</b>	Number of persons aged 18 years and older.
<b>Population Targeted</b>	State-specific civilian, non-institutionalized adult population residing in households with telephones (see Comments).
<b>Questions Used To Obtain the State Baseline Data</b>	<p>From the 1998 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System:</p> <p>[NUMERATOR:]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ <i>How long has it been since you last visited a dentist or a dental clinic?</i><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. <i>Within the past year (1 to 12 months ago).</i></li><li>b. <i>Within the past 2 years (1 to 2 years ago).</i></li><li>c. <i>Within the past 5 years (2 to 5 years ago).</i></li><li>d. <i>Don't know/Not sure</i></li><li>e. <i>Refused</i></li></ul></li></ul>
<b>Expected Periodicity</b>	Periodic.
<b>Comments</b>	<p>Data for this objective are collected using an optional module of the BRFSS, which is made available to States for administration annually. The number of States that select the Oral Health module varies every year. In 1998, 12 States used the optional Oral Health module.</p> <p>Data (except those by education status) are age adjusted to the 2000 standard population using the age groups 18-24, 25-34, 35-44, 45-64, and 65 years and over. Data by education status are adjusted using the age groups 25-34, 35-44, 45-64,</p>

and 65 years and over. Age-adjusted rates are weighted sums of age-specific rates. For a discussion of age adjustment, see Part A, section 7.

National data from the MEPS and state data from the BRFSS may not be comparable for a number of reasons, including mode of question administration, context of questions, question wording, and survey sampling frame.

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*.<sup>1</sup>

See [www.cdc.gov/brfss](http://www.cdc.gov/brfss) for a description of BRFSS and Appendix A for focus area contact information.

## References

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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.