

Healthy People 2010 Operational Definition

28-16. Increase the use of ear protection devices.

28-16a. Adults aged 20 to 69 years who have ever used hearing protection devices (ear plugs, ear muffs) when exposed to loud sounds or noise.

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| National Data Source | National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES), CDC, NCHS. |
| State Data Source | Not identified. |
| Healthy People 2000 Objective | Not applicable. |
| Changes since the 2000 Publication | New subobjective (see Comments). Revised baseline (see Comments). Revised baseline years (see Comments). Revised target (see Comments). |
| Measure | Rate per 1,000 population (age adjusted – see Comments). |
| Baseline (Year) | 489.8 (1999-2002) |
| Target | 514.5 |
| 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 persons 20-69 years who report they have ever worn a hearing protective device when exposed to loud sounds or noise. |
| Denominator | Number of persons 20-69 years exposed to loud sounds or noise. |
| Population Targeted | U.S. civilian, noninstitutionalized population. |
| Questions Used To Obtain the National Baseline Data | From the 1999-2000 National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey: ➤ <i>Outside of work, have you ever been exposed to firearms noise for an average of at least once a month for a year?</i> |

- *Have you ever worn hearing protection devices when exposed to firearms noise?*
- *Outside of work, have you ever been exposed to other types of loud noise, such as noise from power tools or loud music, for an average of at least once a month for a year? By loud noise, I mean noise so loud that you have to speak in a raised voice to be heard.*
- *Have you ever worn hearing protection devices when exposed to these loud noises?*
- *Have you ever been exposed to loud noise at work for at least 3 months? By loud noise, I mean noise so loud that you have to speak in a raised voice to be heard.*
- *At your job as a(n) {occupation} for {employer}, are you currently exposed to loud noise? By loud noise, I mean noise so loud that you have to speak in a raised voice to be heard.*
- *[At work] Do you ever wear protective hearing devices?*
- *Remembering the kind of work you did the longest, that is, as {kind of work did the longest} were you ever exposed in that job to loud noise for at least three months? By loud noise I mean noise so loud that you had to speak in a raised voice to be heard.*

Expected Periodicity Periodic.

Comments The numerator for this objective is estimated by all adults who responded “yes” to experiencing loud sounds or noises at or outside of work and who also responded “yes” to wearing protective hearing devices.

Data (except those for education status) are age adjusted to the 2000 standard population using the age groups 20-39, 40-59, and 60-69. Data by education status are adjusted using the age groups 25-39, 40-59, and 60-69. For a discussion on age adjustment, see Part A, section 7.

Objective 28-16 moved from developmental to measurable at the Healthy People 2010 Midcourse Review. Two subobjectives, targeting different age groups, were created. Subobjective 28-16a focuses on persons aged 20 to 69 years, while 28-16b targets adolescents aged 12 to 19 years.

The original baseline of 457 per 1,000 population was calculated using 2 years of NHANES data (1999-2000). The baseline was revised to 489.8

when data for the period 1999-2002 became available. The target of 487 per 1,000 population was adjusted to 514.5 to reflect the revised baseline using the original target-setting methodology.

For some objectives, 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 NHANES 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.