Healthy People in Healthy Communities

What Is Healthy People?

Healthy People is a set of goals and objectives with 10-year targets designed to guide national health promotion and disease prevention efforts to improve the health of all people in the United States.

Released by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services each decade, Healthy People reflects the idea that setting objectives and providing science-based benchmarks to track and monitor progress can motivate and focus action. Healthy People 2020 represents the fourth generation of this initiative, building on a foundation of three decades of work.

Healthy People is used as a tool for strategic management by the federal government, states, communities, and many other public- and private-sector partners. Its comprehensive set of objectives and targets is used to measure progress for health issues in specific populations, and serves as (1) a foundation for prevention and wellness activities across various sectors and within the federal government, and (2) a model for measurement at the state and local levels.

What’s New in Healthy People 2020?

Healthy People 2020 is committed to the vision of a society in which all people live long, healthy lives. This decade, several new features will help make this vision a reality:

- Emphasizing ideas of health equity that address social determinants of health and promote health across all stages of life
- Replacing the traditional print publication with an interactive Web site as the main vehicle for dissemination
- Maintaining a Web site that allows users to tailor information to their needs and explore evidence-based resources for implementation
**The Mission, Vision, and Goals of Healthy People 2020**

**Vision**—A society in which all people live long, healthy lives.

**Mission**—Healthy People 2020 strives to:

- Identify nationwide health improvement priorities
- Increase public awareness and understanding of the determinants of health, disease, and disability, and the opportunities for progress
- Provide measurable objectives and goals that are applicable at the national, state, and local levels
- Engage multiple sectors to take actions to strengthen policies and improve practices that are driven by the best available evidence and knowledge
- Identify critical research, evaluation, and data collection needs

**Overarching Goals**

- Attain high quality, longer lives free of preventable disease, disability, injury, and premature death
- Achieve health equity, eliminate disparities, and improve the health of all groups
- Create social and physical environments that promote good health for all
- Promote quality of life, healthy development, and healthy behaviors across all life stages

**Foundation Health Measures**

Healthy People 2020 includes broad, cross-cutting measures without targets that will be used to assess progress toward achieving the four overarching goals.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Overarching Goals of Healthy People 2020</th>
<th>Foundation Measures Category</th>
<th>Measures of Progress</th>
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</table>
| Attain high quality, longer lives free of preventable disease, disability, injury, and premature death | General Health Status | - Life expectancy  
- Healthy life expectancy  
- Physical and mental unhealthy days  
- Self-assessed health status  
- Limitation of activity  
- Chronic disease prevalence  
- International comparisons (where available) |
| Achieve health equity, eliminate disparities, and improve the health of all groups | Disparities and Inequity | Disparities/inequity to be assessed by:  
- Race/ethnicity  
- Gender  
- Socioeconomic status  
- Disability status  
- Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender status  
- Geography |
| Create social and physical environments that promote good health for all | Social Determinants of Health | Determinants can include:  
- Social and economic factors  
- Natural and built environments  
- Policies and programs |
| Promote quality of life, healthy development, and healthy behaviors across all life stages | Health-Related Quality of Life and Well-Being | - Well-being/satisfaction  
- Physical, mental, and social health-related quality of life  
- Participation in common activities |
The Topic Areas of Healthy People 2020 identify and group objectives of related content, highlighting specific issues and populations. Each Topic Area is assigned to one or more lead agencies within the federal government that is responsible for developing, tracking, monitoring, and periodically reporting on objectives.

1. Access to Health Services
2. Adolescent Health
3. Arthritis, Osteoporosis, and Chronic Back Conditions
4. Blood Disorders and Blood Safety
5. Cancer
6. Chronic Kidney Disease
7. Dementias, Including Alzheimer’s Disease
8. Diabetes
9. Disability and Health
10. Early and Middle Childhood
11. Educational and Community-Based Programs
12. Environmental Health
13. Family Planning
14. Food Safety
15. Genomics
16. Global Health
17. Healthcare-Associated Infections
18. Health Communication and Health Information Technology
19. Health-Related Quality of Life and Well-Being
20. Hearing and Other Sensory or Communication Disorders
21. Heart Disease and Stroke
22. HIV
23. Immunization and Infectious Diseases
24. Injury and Violence Prevention
25. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Health
26. Maternal, Infant, and Child Health
27. Medical Product Safety
28. Mental Health and Mental Disorders
29. Nutrition and Weight Status
30. Occupational Safety and Health
31. Older Adults
32. Oral Health
33. Physical Activity
34. Preparedness
35. Public Health Infrastructure
36. Respiratory Diseases
37. Sexually Transmitted Diseases
38. Sleep Health
39. Social Determinants of Health
40. Substance Abuse
41. Tobacco Use
42. Vision