

CHAPTER 2

Progress by HEALTHY PEOPLE 2000 Priority Area

Review of Progress

1995 Revisions

INTRODUCTION

This chapter examines the progress that has been made to date toward the year 2000 targets in each of the 22 HEALTHY PEOPLE 2000 priority areas. These assessments have been prepared by the lead agencies of the U.S. Public Health Service to provide a snapshot of progress at the midpoint of the decade. In each priority area, a graph illustrates the objectives that are moving toward and away from their targets by measuring the percentage of targets achieved. This explanatory note clarifies how these progress quotients were calculated and why this methodology was employed.

The equation used in measuring progress for each objective is as follows:

$$\frac{(\text{Current Status} - \text{Baseline})}{(\text{Year 2000 Target} - \text{Baseline})} \times 100 = \text{Percentage of Target Achieved}$$

What is being measured is the percentage of the target achieved based on the most current data. This is not simply a statement of the percent change from the baseline. This equation is used so that comparisons can be made between objectives as to the extent of progress made to date on each of the targets. HEALTHY PEOPLE 2000 objectives are measured by differential rates of change. For example some objectives call for a 10 percent change over the decade; others call for a 15 percent change from the baseline; while other objectives, for example, the percentage of people in radon-tested houses, call for a 700 percent increase. Therefore, in order to compare progress among objectives, it is important to look at progress in the context of the total change sought. Complete achievement of a targeted objective would equal 100 percent.

For example, using a 5 percent change from the baseline, the percentage of target achieved would differ depending on the total percent change sought over the decade. If a 10 percent improvement was thought to be realistic and 5 percent has been achieved to date, then the progress quotient is 50 percent. An objective with a 5 percent change and a 700 percent increase between the baseline and 2000 target would have accomplished less than 1 percent of its targeted change.

If an update from the baseline is unavailable or no baseline has yet been established for a particular objective, that objective number appears under the listing of “no tracking data available.” Unless otherwise noted, the original baseline and target are used in the equation.

The data to support these graphs can be found in *Healthy People 2000 Review, 1994*, a publication of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. An order form for the *Healthy People 2000 Review* has been provided at the end this document. In addition to the graphs, one objective in each priority area has been chosen for illustration with a map. The purpose of these illustrations is to show which States have already achieved the year 2000 targets and to display comparative status of the States on a selected HEALTHY PEOPLE 2000 objective. The priority area reviews also include a section on the 1995 revisions describing the changes appearing in Appendix A, Summary List of Objectives.