



Healthy People Consortium

Fact Sheet

What is the Healthy People Consortium?

The Healthy People Consortium is an alliance of organizations committed to making Americans healthier by supporting the goals of Healthy People, the nation's health agenda. The membership consists of State and territorial public health, mental health, substance abuse, and environmental agencies, and national membership organizations representing professional, advocacy, and business sectors.

Background

The Consortium was convened in 1988 when, at the request of the Public Health Service, the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences invited national membership organizations representing professional, advocacy, and corporate sectors, as well as State and territorial public health agencies, to join the Healthy People 2000 Consortium. The members assisted in developing the Healthy People 2000 objectives and have played an important role in implementing, monitoring, and

reporting on the Nation's successes and challenges in health.

The Consortium has grown in size as well as influence over the last decade. The number of national membership organizations has more than doubled since 1988. In 1995, State mental health, substance abuse, and environmental agencies joined the effort. This broadening membership has enriched the expertise and experience of the Consortium. In 2000, as a response to requests for more timely updates from Healthy People 2010, the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion established a news and announcement listserv.

The Role of the Consortium

The role of the Consortium has broadened since its inception. Many members have developed health promotion and disease prevention programs using Healthy People objectives. Some organizations have adopted Healthy People objectives as part of their missions. Many of these organizations assisted in the Healthy People 2010 develop-

ment. Organizations provided public comment in 1997 on the framework and goals of Healthy People 2010 and then again in 1998 on the specific objectives for 2010.

Healthy People is being used by the States and territories. As of fall 1999, 47 States, the District of Columbia, and Guam have published their own Healthy People 2000 plans. The first State to release its 2010 plan was Iowa with *Healthy Iowans 2010* by the Iowa Department of Public Health. As of summer 2001, 15 States have released Healthy People 2010 State plans.

During this decade, it is envisioned that membership will expand beyond the traditional public health community and health associations to include a range of business, labor, and other organizations which will take the message of Healthy People into every community and workplace. Consortium members receive updates on the implementation of Healthy People 2010 goals via the Healthy People listserv. Annually the Healthy People Consortium meets and information is

shared, opportunities for collaboration are created, and commitments are renewed.

How Can Organizations and Their Members Contribute to Healthy People?

➤ **Integrate Healthy People Objectives into Current Programs, Special Events, Publications, and Meetings**

The framework for the initiative is in the public domain and can be used by any organization to measure health improvements. Integrating Healthy People objectives into programs, special events, publications, and meetings will enable organizations to guide health improvements and monitor their results.

➤ **Incorporate Healthy People into Healthy Community Initiatives**

Use Healthy People as a framework to promote healthy cities and communities. Businesses can use the framework to guide worksite and health

promotion activities as well as for community-wide initiatives. Schools and colleges can undertake activities to further the health of children, adolescents and young adults. By selecting among the national objectives, any individual or organization can build an agenda for community health improvement suited to local needs.

➤ **Utilize Healthy People in Planning**

National membership organizations, as well as State and territorial agencies, can and have used Healthy People objectives to set their own benchmarks for systems and operational planning. Healthy People measures can also be used for evaluating programs and setting a research agenda.

➤ **Use Healthy People Objectives in Performance Measurement Activities**

Healthy People objectives are linked to numerous perfor-

mance measurement efforts. For example, the National Committee on Quality Assurance incorporated many Healthy People objectives into its Health Plan Employer Data and Information Set (HEDIS) 3.0, a set of standardized measures for health care purchasers and consumers to use in assessing performance of managed care organizations in the areas of immunizations, mammography screening, and other clinical preventive services.

➤ **Join the Consortium**

The only criterion for membership is that the group be a national membership organization. As an enrollment benefit, you will automatically be added to the Healthy People listserv. To receive an application to join the Consortium, e-mail hp2010@osophs.dhhs.gov.

If you have questions, please contact Miryam Granthon, Healthy People Consortium Coordinator, Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Room 738G, Hubert Humphrey Building, 200 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20201, (202) 690-6245.