

Attachment A

Midcourse Review of Nebraska 2010 Health Goals and Objectives

Healthy People 2010 Goal

The national Healthy People goal for 2010 is to improve pregnancy planning and spacing and prevent unintended pregnancy.

Background

Despite technology that would allow couples to have considerable control over their fertility, about one-half of all pregnancies in the United States are currently unintended. Family planning efforts can aid in achieving planned, wanted pregnancies and preventing unintended pregnancies.

Unintended pregnancies are those not wanted at the time of conception or not wanted at all. Many teen pregnancies are unintended. Consequences of unintended pregnancy can be serious and costly. Socially, the costs can be measured in unintended births, reduced educational attainment and employment opportunity, greater welfare dependency, and increased potential for child abuse and neglect. Medically, unintended pregnancy is serious in terms of a lost opportunity to prepare for a healthy pregnancy, an increased chance of infant and maternal illness,.

Progress Toward Healthy People 2010 Objectives

National

Of the ten Family Planning objectives and sub-objectives shared by Nebraska and the nation, two sub-objectives were met for the U.S. The proportion of sexually active high school students (males and females) who used condoms the last time they had sexual intercourse increased enough to meet the 2010 target rates.

Improvement was noted for five objectives or sub-objectives. The teen pregnancy rate was down nationwide. The proportion of high school students (males and females) who had never engaged in sexual intercourse increased, as did the proportion of each gender who had not engaged in intercourse before age 15 years.

On the other hand, the proportion of births that occurred within 24 months of a previous birth increased. The proportion of females of childbearing age (15 to 44 years) who would be at risk for unintended pregnancy but used contraception decreased. Current data were unavailable to assess progress in decreasing the proportion of pregnancies that are unintended.

Nebraska

In Nebraska, none of the Family Planning objectives have been met so far. Progress was made toward two objectives/sub-objectives. The teen pregnancy rate decreased and the proportion of sexually active male high school students who used condoms the last time they had sexual intercourse increased from the baseline.

However, movement away from the 2010 target rates occurred for four of the ten Family Planning objectives. The proportion of births occurring within 24 months of a previous birth increased slightly. Smaller proportions of male and female high school students reported that they had never had sexual intercourse, while fewer female high school students stated that their partner used a condom the last time they had intercourse.

Data are unavailable to assess progress in decreasing the proportion of pregnancies that are unintended. Nebraska data are also unavailable to track the proportion of high school students who did not have sexual intercourse before age 15 years. Due to a change in survey methodology, current data on proportion of females of childbearing age who would be at risk for unintended pregnancy but used contraception are not comparable to the baseline prevalence estimates.

Intended Pregnancies

The first Family Planning objective seeks to increase the proportion of pregnancies that are intended to at least 70 percent nationwide and to at least 80 percent in Nebraska (Table 8). In 1995, an estimated 51 percent of pregnancies in the U.S. were intended, while 63 percent of pregnancies in Nebraska in 1999 were intended. Unfortunately, more recent data are unavailable to assess progress toward the national and state objectives.

Time Interval Between Births

Another Family Planning objective is to reduce the proportion of mothers whose most recent live birth occurred within 24 months of a previous live birth to no more than 6 percent in the U.S. overall and to no more than 12 percent in Nebraska. Nationwide, the proportion of births spaced this closely increased by 64 percent, from 11 percent in 1995 to 18 percent in 2002. In Nebraska, nearly one-fourth (24.5 percent) of all mothers' most recent birth occurred within 24 months of a previous birth in 2004. However, this rate increased only slightly compared to the 1999 baseline (Figure 58).

In Nebraska, the proportion of mothers with their most recent birth occurring within 24 months of a previous birth was highest among Native Americans in 2003 (39.6 percent). This rate had also increased by 25 percent from the 1999 rate (Figure 59). African Americans also recorded a slightly higher rate (28.7 percent) than the average for all mothers. Among Asian Americans (23.0 percent) and Hispanic Americans (22.1 percent), current rates were down somewhat from the baseline and were lower than rates for mothers in the other racial/ethnic groups.

Contraceptive Use Among Females of Childbearing Age

Nebraska and the nation have both established an objective that aims to increase the proportion of females aged 15 to 44 who would be at risk of unintended pregnancy but use contraception. The U.S. target rate is 100 percent, while the Nebraska target rate is 95 percent (Table 8). Definitions and data collection differ between the state and the U.S., so data are not necessarily comparable, although current rates are similar. Nationally, the proportion of adult females (or their partners) using contraception decreased from 93 percent in 1995 to 89 percent in 2002.

In Nebraska, the 1999 baseline is not comparable to 2004 data, due to a 2002 change in the categories of respondents asked this question and the definition of "at-risk".

Currently, the BRFSS questions are asked of non-pregnant women aged 18 to 44 years and men aged 18 to 59 years. The definition of “at-risk” excludes women who had a hysterectomy, had a same-sex partner, who want a pregnancy, or who were not sexually active. It also excludes male respondents whose partner is now pregnant or who want a pregnancy. Based on these criteria, 87.5 percent of at-risk respondents used contraception to avoid unintended pregnancy in 2004.

Teen Pregnancy

A target rate of no more than 18 pregnancies per 1,000 females aged 15 to 17 years has been set for Nebraska. For the U.S., the target rate is no more than 43 pregnancies per 1,000 in this age group. Teen pregnancy rates have declined nationwide and in Nebraska. In the U.S., the 2004 rate of 54 pregnancies per 1,000 females in this age group represents a decrease of 19 percent from the 1996 baseline. In Nebraska, the 2004 rate (23.7 per 1,000) is less than one-half the national rate and was down 14 percent from the 1999 baseline (Figure 60).

Sexual Intercourse Among Adolescents

Three objectives regarding sexual behavior among adolescents have been adopted nationwide and in Nebraska. The first of these seeks to increase the proportion of high school students who have not engaged in sexual intercourse before the age of 15 years. The U.S. target is at least 88 percent for both genders, while the Nebraska target rate is at least 92 percent for males and for females (Table 8).

Nationwide, the proportion of females who have not had sexual intercourse before this age rose from 81 percent in 1995 to 87 percent in 2002. Among male high school students, this rate also increased (from 79 percent in 1995 to 85 percent in 2002). In Nebraska, no current data are available to assess progress. However, the 1999 baseline rates (88 percent of high school girls and 85 percent of high school boys) are similar to the 2002 national rates.

A related 2010 objective, established for the U.S. and for Nebraska, is to increase to 75 percent the proportion of high school students (males and females) who have never engaged in sexual intercourse. Nationally, progress was made toward this objective for both male and female students. Among females, the proportion who had never had sexual intercourse increased from 62 percent in 1995 to 70 percent in 2002. For male high school students, the proportion was up 19 percent (from 57 percent in 1995 to 68 percent in 2002).

In Nebraska, the trend was negative for both male and female high school students (Figures 61 and 62). For both genders in 1999, 62 percent reported they had never engaged in sexual intercourse. The proportion was lower in each of the three YRBS studies conducted after that, with a 2004 prevalence estimate of 59 percent each for males and females.

Condom Use Among Sexually Active Adolescents

The third objective related to adolescent sexual behavior tracks the proportion of sexually active, unmarried high school students who used condoms the last time they had sexual intercourse. For female students, the U.S. objective is to increase the

prevalence of condom use to at least 49 percent, while for males the target rate is at least 79 percent (Table 8). For Nebraska, the target rates are at least 75 percent for female high school students and at least 83 percent for male students. Progress was made nationwide, with both of the U.S. objectives met as of 2002. In 2002, 56 percent of high school girls and 84 percent of high school boys who were sexually active reported using condoms the last time they had intercourse.

In Nebraska, the proportion of girls who reported that their partner used condoms the last time they had intercourse actually decreased somewhat from 59 percent in 1999 to 56 percent in 2005 (Figure 63). Among high school boys, however, the proportion using condoms at last intercourse increased from 63 percent in 1999 to 67 percent in 2005 (Figure 64).

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