



# Framework

## The Vision, Mission, and Goals of *Healthy People 2020*

The vision, mission, and overarching goals provide structure and guidance for achieving the *Healthy People 2020* objectives. While general in nature, they offer specific, important areas of emphasis where action must be taken if the United States is to achieve better health by the year 2020. Developed under the leadership of the Federal Interagency Workgroup (FIW), the *Healthy People 2020* framework is the product of an exhaustive collaborative process among the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and other federal agencies, public stakeholders, and the advisory committee.

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**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; and
- 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.
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## The Importance of an Ecological and Determinants Approach to Health Promotion and Disease Prevention

Health and health behaviors are determined by influences at multiple levels, including personal (i.e., biological, psychological), organizational/institutional, environmental (i.e., both social and physical), and policy levels. Because significant and dynamic inter-relationships exist among these different levels of health determinants, interventions are most likely to be effective when they address determinants at all levels. Historically, many health fields have focused on individual-level health determinants and interventions. *Healthy People 2020* should therefore expand its focus to emphasize health-enhancing social and physical environments. Integrating prevention into the continuum of education—from the earliest ages on—is an integral part of this ecological and determinants approach.

## The Role of Health Information Technology and Health Communication

Health information technology (IT) and health communication will be encouraged and supported as being an integral part of the implementation and success of *Healthy People 2020*. Efforts will include building, and integrating where feasible, the public health IT infrastructure in conjunction with the Nationwide Health Information Network; the *ONC-Coordinated Federal Health IT Strategic Plan: 2008–2012* and any updates developed by the HHS Office of the National Coordinator; the various aspects of IT to meet the direct needs of *Healthy People 2020* for measures and interventions; and health literacy and health communication efforts.

## Addressing “All Hazards” Preparedness as a Public Health Issue

Since the 2000 launch of *Healthy People 2010*, the attacks of September 11, 2001, the subsequent anthrax attacks, the devastating effects of natural disasters such as hurricanes Katrina and Ike, and concerns about an influenza pandemic have added urgency to the importance of preparedness as a public health issue. Being prepared for any emergency must be a high priority for public health in the coming decade, and *Healthy People 2020* will highlight this issue. Because preparedness for all emergencies involves common elements, an “all hazards” approach is necessary.



## Graphic Model of Healthy People 2020

The FIW developed a graphic model to visually depict the ecological and determinants approach that *Healthy People 2020* will take in framing the national health objectives. This particular graphic was designed to emphasize this new approach, and is not meant as a comprehensive representation of all public health issues and societal domains. The graphic framework attempts to illustrate the fundamental degree of overlap among the social determinants of health, as well as emphasize their collective impact and influence on health outcomes and conditions. The framework also underscores a continued focus on population disparities, including those categorized by race/ethnicity, socioeconomic status, gender, age, disability status, sexual orientation, and geographic location.

