CHAPTER 34

Preparedness (PREP)

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Office of Policy, Strategic Planning, and Communications, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, Office of the Secretary

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**Goal:** Improve the Nation’s ability to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from a major health incident.

This chapter includes objectives that monitor public health agency response times to major public health emergencies, and state public health agency establishment of after-action reports and improvement plans following responses to public health emergencies and exercises. The Reader’s Guide provides a step-by-step explanation of the content of this chapter, including criteria for highlighting objectives in the Selected Findings.

**Status of Objectives**

![Figure 34–1. Midcourse Status of the Preparedness Objectives](image)

Of the five objectives in the Preparedness Topic Area at midcourse, two objectives were archived, one was developmental, and two were measurable (Figure 34–1, Table 34–1). At midcourse, the two measurable objectives had baseline data only, so progress toward their 2020 targets could not be assessed (Table 34–2).

**More Information**

Readers interested in more detailed information about the objectives in this topic area are invited to visit the HealthyPeople.gov website, where extensive substantive and technical information is available:

- For the background and importance of the topic area, see: https://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topics-objectives/topic/preparedness
- For data details for each objective, including definitions, numerators, denominators, calculations, and data limitations, see: https://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topics-objectives/topic/preparedness/objectives

**Footnotes**

1The Technical Notes provide more information on Healthy People 2020 statistical methods and issues.
2Archived objectives are no longer being monitored due to lack of data source, changes in science, or replacement with other objectives.
Developmental objectives did not have a national baseline value.

Measurable objectives had a national baseline value.

Baseline only—The objective only had one data point, so progress toward target attainment could not be assessed.

Suggested Citation

### Table 34–1. Preparedness Objectives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective Number</th>
<th>Objective Statement</th>
<th>Data Sources</th>
<th>Midcourse Data Availability</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PREP-1</td>
<td>(Developmental) Reduce the time necessary to issue official information to the public about a public health emergency</td>
<td>(Potential) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of State and Local Readiness (CDC/DSLR)</td>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PREP-2</td>
<td>Reduce the time necessary to activate designated personnel in response to a public health emergency</td>
<td>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of State and Local Readiness (CDC/DSLR)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PREP-3.1</td>
<td>(Archived) Increase the proportion of LRN biological laboratories that meet proficiency standards for Category A and B threat agents</td>
<td>(Potential) CDC Laboratory Response Network (LRN), CDC/NCEH</td>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PREP-3.2</td>
<td>(Archived) Increase the proportion of LRN chemical laboratories that meet proficiency standards for chemical threat agents</td>
<td>CDC Laboratory Response Network (LRN), CDC/NCEH</td>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PREP-4</td>
<td>Reduce the time for state public health agencies to establish after-action reports and improvement plans following responses to public health emergencies and exercises</td>
<td>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of State and Local Readiness (CDC/DSLR)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**LEGEND**

- Data for this objective are available in this chapter’s Midcourse Progress Table.
- Disparities data for this objective are available, and this chapter includes a Midcourse Health Disparities Table.
- A state or county level map for this objective is available at the end of the chapter.

**Not Applicable**

Midcourse data availability is not applicable for developmental and archived objectives. Developmental objectives did not have a national baseline value. Archived objectives are no longer being monitored due to lack of data source, changes in science, or replacement with other objectives.
Table 34–2. Midcourse Progress for Measurable Preparedness Objectives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective Description</th>
<th>Baseline Value (Year)</th>
<th>Midcourse Value (Year)</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Movement Toward Target</th>
<th>Movement Away From Baseline</th>
<th>Movement Statistically Significant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PREP-2</td>
<td>Designated personnel report-to-duty time in a public health emergency (average time in minutes)</td>
<td>66 (2009)</td>
<td>59</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PREP-4</td>
<td>Timely production of after-action reports and improvement plans after simulation exercise (average time in days)</td>
<td>46 (2009)</td>
<td>41</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTES
See HealthyPeople.gov for all Healthy People 2020 data. The Technical Notes provide more information on the measures of progress.

FOOTNOTES—Continued

1 Measurable objectives had a national baseline value.
2 Target met or exceeded: At baseline the target was not met or exceeded and the midcourse value was equal to or exceeded the target. (The percentage of targeted change achieved was equal to or greater than 100%.)
3 The baseline and midcourse values were equal to or exceeded the target. (The percentage of targeted change achieved was not assessed.)
4 Improving: Movement was toward the target, standard errors were available, and the percentage of targeted change achieved was statistically significant.
5 Movement was toward the target, standard errors were not available, and the objective had achieved 10% or more of the targeted change.
6 Little or no detectable change: Movement was toward the target, standard errors were available, and the percentage of targeted change achieved was not statistically significant.
7 Movement was toward the target, standard errors were not available, and the objective had achieved less than 10% of the targeted change.
8 Getting worse: Movement was away from the baseline and target, standard errors were available, and the percentage change relative to the baseline was not statistically significant.
9 Movement was away from the baseline and target, standard errors were not available, and the objective had moved less than 10% relative to the baseline.
10 There was no change between the baseline and the midcourse data point.
11 Movement away from the baseline and target, standard errors were not available, and the objective had moved 10% or more relative to the baseline.
12 Movement away from the baseline and target, standard errors were available, and the percentage change relative to the baseline was statistically significant.
13 Baseline only: The objective only had one data point, so progress toward target attainment could not be assessed.
14 Informational: A target was not set for this objective, so progress toward target attainment could not be assessed.
15 For objectives that moved toward their targets, movement toward the target was measured as the percentage of targeted change achieved (unless the target was already met or exceeded at baseline):

\[
\text{Percentage of targeted change achieved} = \frac{\text{Midcourse value} - \text{Baseline value}}{\text{HP2020 target} - \text{Baseline value}} \times 100
\]
16 For objectives that moved away from their baselines and targets, movement away from the baseline was measured as the magnitude of the percentage change:

\[
\text{Magnitude of percentage change from baseline} = \frac{|\text{Midcourse value} - \text{Baseline value}|}{\text{Baseline value}} \times 100
\]
17 Statistical significance was tested when the objective had a target and at least two data points, standard errors of the data were available, and a normal distribution could be assumed. Statistical significance of the percentage of targeted change achieved or the magnitude of the percentage change from baseline was assessed at the 0.05 level using a normal one-sided test.

DATA SOURCES
PREP-2 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of State and Local Readiness (CDC/DSLR)
PREP-4 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of State and Local Readiness (CDC/DSLR)