



Data Points

RESULTS FROM THE CALIFORNIA WOMEN'S HEALTH SURVEY

Infertility is a major public health problem affecting up to 10.0 percent of American couples of reproductive age and is defined as inability to conceive a pregnancy after 12 months of unprotected intercourse.¹ Infertility may be related to hormonal factors and history of upper genital tract infection within couples. Differences in infertility prevalence may exist with respect to income and access to infertility-related services as well as age and race/ethnicity.²

In 2003, 2,564 California Women's Health Survey (CWHS) participants ages 18-50 were asked the following questions: "In the past have you ever tried for more than 12 months to get pregnant and weren't successful?" and "Have you ever been told by a doctor or other health professional that you were infertile?" Responses were stratified by age, race/ethnicity, and health insurance status, and weighted to the 2000 California population.

Overall, 11.2 percent of California women reported having problems getting pregnant after 12 months of trying to get pregnant.

- Women ages 35-44 and 45-50 were more likely to report problems with getting pregnant (13.1 percent) compared with women ages 18-24 (3.5 percent) and ages 25-34 (11.9 percent).³
 - White women were more likely to report problems getting pregnant (13.7 percent) compared with women of "Other" race/ethnicity (9.8 percent), Hispanic women (8.3 percent), and Black/African American women (7.0 percent).
 - Among women with and without health insurance, 11.0 percent of each reported problems getting pregnant.
- Overall, 4.6 percent of California women reported a past history of an infertility diagnosis.
- A higher proportion of women ages 35-44 and 45-50 reported a past diagnosis of infertility (6.3 percent) compared with women ages 18-24 (2.1 percent), and ages 25-34 (3.2 percent).³
 - Black/African American women were more likely to report a past infertility diagnosis (9.1 percent) compared with White women (5.3 percent), women of Other race/ethnicity (3.0 percent), and Hispanic women (2.9 percent).³
 - Five percent of women with health insurance reported a past infertility diagnosis.³
- Eighteen percent of women who had problems getting pregnant also reported a past diagnosis of infertility.

Infertility: Problems Getting Pregnant and Past Infertility Diagnosis Among California Women, 2003

California Department of Health Services
Division of Communicable Disease Control, Sexually Transmitted Disease Control Branch

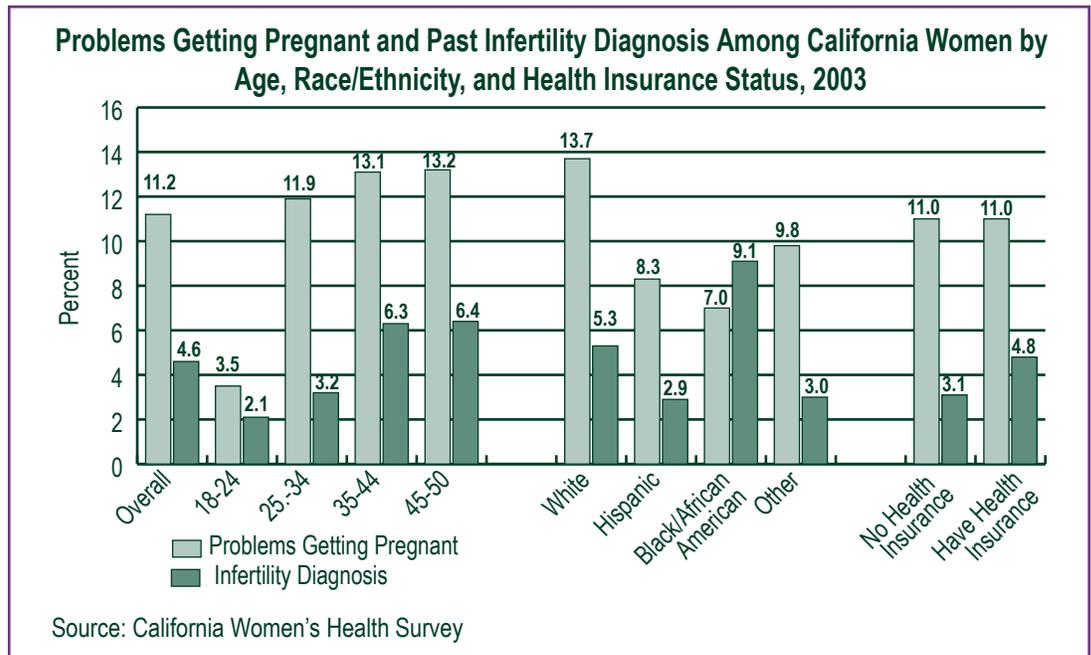
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Public Health Message:
History of infertility diagnosis and problems with getting pregnant varied by age and race/ethnicity. These patterns may be related to differences in timing of child birth and health care-seeking behaviors.

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- 1 Mosher WD, Pratt WF. Fecundity and infertility in the United States, 1965-88, Maryland: US Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service, CDC, 1990. (Advance data from vital and health statistics; no. 192).
- 2 Hirsch MB, Mosher WD. Characteristics of infertile women in the United States and their use of infertility services. *Fertil Steril* 1987;47:618-25.
- 3 Small numbers of respondents for women who were age 18-24, Black/African American and Asian/PI and Other race/ethnicity, and uninsured did not allow for comparisons with these groups.

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