



# Data Points

RESULTS FROM THE 2005 CALIFORNIA WOMEN'S HEALTH SURVEY

A couple is defined as infertile if they do not use contraception and the woman has not become pregnant within 12 months.<sup>1</sup> In 2002, 7.4 percent of United States married women aged 15 to 44 were infertile.<sup>1</sup> Findings from the 2003 California Women's Health Survey (CWHS) indicated that 4.6 percent of California women aged 18 to 50 reported receiving an infertility diagnosis.<sup>2</sup>

In 2005, CWHS participants were asked the following: "Have you ever been to a doctor or other health care provider to talk about ways to help you to ovulate or help you become pregnant".

Nine percent (n = 420; representing over 1 million California women) of the respondents said that they had seen a doctor or other health care provider to discuss fertility. Women who had not delivered a live birth had higher rates than women who had at least one live birth (12.7 percent vs. 7.9 percent, respectively).

Respondent characteristics varied by age group, race/ethnicity, health insurance status, and poverty status.

- Hispanic women reported lower consultation rates with doctors or other health care providers to discuss fertility issues (4.8 percent), compared with Asian/Others (10.8 percent), Whites (10.6 percent), and Black/African Americans (9.3 percent).
  - Higher proportions of respondents with current health insurance coverage discussed infertility with doctors or health care providers (9.7 percent), compared with respondents without current health insurance coverage (4.2 percent).
  - Higher proportions of women living in households earning more than 200 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL) discussed infertility with their doctors or health care providers (11.2 percent) than women living in poorer households (5.5 percent).
- Young women (aged 18 to 24) had the lowest rates of consulting a doctor or health care provider for fertility issues (2.0 percent), followed by the oldest women, aged 65 and above (7.2 percent). Women in the 35-44 and 45-54 age groups (12.6 percent for each age group) reported the highest rates of consulting a doctor or health care provider.

## *Visit With a Doctor or Health Care Provider to Discuss Ovulation and/or Getting Pregnant*

Department of Health  
Care Services  
California Department of  
Public Health  
Office of Women's Health

### **Public Health Message:**

*About one in 10 California women saw a doctor or a health care provider to discuss fertility issues in their lifetime. Using such services may be related to health insurance status, plans that cover the services, and knowledge about coverage by those plans. Outreach and educational efforts about the availability of these services could be targeted to women who need fertility services, but are less likely to go to a health care provider to discuss them.*

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**Visit With a Doctor or Health Care Provider to Discuss Ovulation or Getting Pregnant**

	Percent Reporting (N=4278)
<b>Overall</b>	9.0
<b>Had a Live Birth<sup>a</sup></b>	
Yes	7.9
No	12.7
<b>Age Group<sup>a</sup></b>	
18-24	2.0
25-34	7.4
35-44	12.6
45-54	12.6
55-64	10.0
65 +	7.2
<b>Race/Ethnicity<sup>a</sup></b>	
White	10.6
Black/African American	9.3
Hispanic	4.8
Asian/Other	10.8
<b>Has Health Insurance<sup>a</sup></b>	
Yes	9.7
No	4.2
<b>Poverty Status<sup>a</sup></b>	
< 200 % of federal poverty level	5.5
> 200 % of federal poverty level	11.2
Unknown	6.1

a - Subcategories under each characteristic differ statistically, chi-square test, P < .05.

Source: California Women's Health Survey, 2005

- 1 Chandra A, Martinez GM, Mosher WD, Abma JC, Jones J; Division of Vital Statistics. *Fertility, Family Planning and Reproductive Health of U.S. Women: Data From the 2002 National Survey of Family Growth*. Series 23, No 25. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; December 2005. Available at: [http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/series/sr\\_23/sr23\\_025.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/series/sr_23/sr23_025.pdf)
- 2 Chow J, Lifshay J, Bolan G. *Infertility: Problems Getting Pregnant and Past Infertility Diagnosis Among California Women, 2003*. California Department of Health Services, Office of Women's Health. Data Points: Results from the California Women's Health Survey; 2003-2004. Available at: [http://www.dhs.ca.gov/director/owh/owh\\_main/cwhs/wmns\\_hlth\\_survey/03-04\\_data\\_points/060703%20Data%20Points%20Press.pdf](http://www.dhs.ca.gov/director/owh/owh_main/cwhs/wmns_hlth_survey/03-04_data_points/060703%20Data%20Points%20Press.pdf)

Submitted by: Zipora Weinbaum, Ph.D., and Terri Thorfinnson, J.D.,  
Department of Health Care Services, California Department of Public Health,  
Office of Women's Health, (916) 440-7626, Terri.Thorfinnson@dhcs.ca.gov