

Healthy People 2010 Operational Definition

9-12. Reduce the proportion of married couples whose ability to conceive or maintain a pregnancy is impaired.

National Data Source	National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG), CDC, NCHS.
State Data Source	Not identified.
Healthy People 2000 Objective	Adapted from 5.3 (Family Planning).
Changes since the 2000 Publication	None.
Measure	Percent.
Baseline (Year)	13 (1995)
Target	10
Target-setting method	23 percent improvement. For a discussion of target-setting methods, see Part A,, section 4.
Numerator	Number of married females with impaired fecundity.
Denominator	Number of married females aged 15 to 44 years.
Population Targeted	U.S. civilian, noninstitutionalized population.
Questions Used To Obtain the National Data	From the 1995 National Survey of Family Growth: ➤ <i>What is your current marital status? Are you...</i> 1) <i>Married,</i> 2) <i>Widowed,</i> 3) <i>Divorced,</i> 4) <i>Separated, because you and your husband are not getting along,</i> 5) <i>Have you never been married?</i> [Following a series of questions to ALL respondents that address pregnancy, contraceptive use and periods of no sexual activity:] ➤ <i>Have you ever had <u>both</u> your tubes tied, cut, or removed? This procedure is often called a tubal ligation.</i> ➤ <i>Have you ever had a hysterectomy, that is, surgery to <u>remove</u> your uterus?</i>

- *Have you ever had both your ovaries removed?*
- *Have you ever had any other operation that makes it impossible for you to have another baby?*
- *As far as you know, are you completely sterile from this operation, that is, does it make it impossible for you to have a baby in the future?*
- *Has (name of husband/partner) ever had a vasectomy or any other operation that would make it impossible to father a baby in the future?*

[Nonsurgically sterile respondents are those who have not reported any operations for themselves, or if they are married or cohabiting, for their husbands/partners.]

[For respondents who are nonsurgically sterile:]

- *Some women are not physically able to have children. As far as you know, is it physically possible for you, yourself, to have a baby?*
- *What about (name of husband/partner)? As far as you know, is it physically impossible for him to father a baby in the future?*

[If it is physically possible:]

- *Some women are physically able to have a baby, but have difficulty getting pregnant or carrying a baby to term. As far as you know, would you, yourself, have any difficulty getting pregnant or carrying a baby to term?*
- *As far as you know, does (name of male partner) have any difficulty fathering a baby?*
- *At any time has a medical doctor ever advised you to never become pregnant (again)?*

Expected Periodicity Periodic.

Comments Females are considered to have impaired fecundity if they reported they are married; and neither they or their husband has had a sterilizing operation; or any one of the following:

- (a) she and her husband are nonsurgically sterile and it is physically impossible for her to get pregnant or carry a baby to term, or for her husband to father a baby;
- (b) it is physically difficult for her to get pregnant or carry a baby to term, or for her husband to father a baby;
- (c) she has been advised by a doctor (for health reasons) not to become pregnant;

- (d) she and her husband have been married for at least 36 consecutive months and have reported sexual activity without contraception for at least 36 consecutive months, and have had no pregnancies in that time period.

This objective is adapted from a measure in Healthy People 2000 objective 5.3, which tracked the prevalence of infertility. This measure tracks the proportion of married couples who are unable to conceive or maintain a pregnancy due to impaired fecundity.

For some measures, data do not meet the criteria for statistical reliability, data quality, or confidentiality and have been suppressed. Information on suppression of data for the major Healthy People 2010 data systems has been published in a *Healthy People Statistical Note*.¹

See Part C for a description of NSFG and Appendix A for focus area contact information.

References

1. Klein, R.J.; Proctor, S.E.; Boudreault, M.A.; Turczyn, K.M. Healthy People 2010 Criteria for Data Suppression. *Statistical Notes* No. 24. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2002.