

Announcements

National Infertility Awareness Week, April 23–29, 2017

April 23–29 is National Infertility Awareness Week and is intended to increase awareness of infertility, which affects the reproductive systems of both women and men (1). In general, infertility is defined as the inability of couples to achieve pregnancy after ≥ 1 year of trying (1). However, given that fertility in women is known to decline steadily with age, some providers evaluate and treat women aged ≥ 35 years after 6 months of intercourse without the use of contraception (1). Causes of infertility include genetic abnormalities, certain acute and chronic diseases, exposure to certain environmental toxins, smoking, and excessive alcohol use (2).

During 2011–2013, approximately 1.6 million (6%) married women aged 15–44 years in the United States reported difficulty getting pregnant (3). Approximately 4 million (9%) men aged 25–44 years reported that they or their partner had consulted a doctor for advice, testing, or treatment for infertility during their lifetime (4). Infertility might contribute to stress, anxiety, and depression in couples trying to conceive, and treatment can be medically invasive and expensive. In addition, fertility treatments can be associated with health problems for women and resulting children (2), especially those related to the increased risk for multiple gestation.

In collaboration with partners, CDC developed the *National Public Health Action Plan for the Detection, Prevention, and Management of Infertility*, which identifies opportunities to prevent and reduce infertility and improve outcomes for couples undergoing fertility treatment. Additional information regarding infertility is available at <https://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/Infertility/index.htm>. Information on National Infertility Awareness Week is available at <http://www.resolve.org/national-infertility-awareness-week/home-page.html>.

References

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3. National Center for Health Statistics. 2011–2013 National Survey of Family Growth public use data and documentation. Hyattsville, MD: US Department of Health and Human Services, CDC, National Center for Health Statistics; 2014. https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nsfg/nsfg_2011_2013_puf.htm
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Sleep Awareness Week, April 23–29, 2017

Sleep Awareness Week, the National Sleep Foundation's annual campaign to educate the public about the importance of sleep in health and safety, will be observed April 23–29, 2017. The amount of sleep a person needs changes with age. Adults need ≥ 7 hours each night to promote optimal health and well-being (1); children and adolescents require even more sleep. Sleep needs decrease from 12–16 hours of sleep per 24 hours (including naps) for infants aged 4–12 months to 8–10 hours of sleep for teenagers aged 13–18 years (2). Children who regularly sleep less than the recommended amount are more likely to have behavior and learning problems, physical and mental health conditions such as obesity, diabetes, depression, or injuries (2). A regular bedtime routine can help children get adequate sleep. The American Academy of Pediatrics provides advice for parents at <https://www.healthychildren.org/English/healthy-living/sleep/>. Additional details about how much sleep is recommended across a lifespan is available at https://www.cdc.gov/sleep/about_sleep/how_much_sleep.html.

References

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