

## IFSS\_AGEXPECT: Age R expects next child

### Summary for Variable Group: Birth desires and intentions

This variable group describes the respondent's intended and expected number of additional children, how sure she is of the intended number, when she expects to have her next child, and whether she and her husband want to have additional children. It also includes information on the ideal number of children for the respondent personally as well as for the average American family. Retrospective reports of whether past pregnancies were intended are located in the pregnancy interval file.

### IFSS\_AGEXPECT

Age R expects next child

### Availability

[1995 NSFG](#)

[1988 NSFG](#)

[1973 NSFG](#)

[1965 NFS](#)

[1960 GAF](#)

### Source Variables

[LOW\\_AGE0](#)

[D30\\_37](#)

[EXP\\_WHENNXTB1](#)

[EXP\\_WHENNXTB](#)

[EXP\\_DTNXT](#)

[EXP\\_NEXT](#)

### Source Questions

GB-6

D-30/D-37

80A

80

126

26

1995 NSFG

1988 NSFG

1973 NSFG

1973 NSFG

1965 NFS

1960 GAF

### Description

IFSS\_AGEXPECT contains the age at which the respondent expects to have her next child.

### General Comparability Notes

*Summary: The variable and its universe are highly comparable across surveys. There are some differences in the way expected age is calculated and "don't know" responses are treated.*

In the 1960 GAF, the 1965 NFS, and the 1973 and 1988 NSFGs, respondents were asked when they next expected to have a child. To create the harmonized variable, responses given in years (e.g., three years from now) were converted into expected age at the next birth by adding the number of years to the respondent's current age. In the 1995 NSFG, the respondent was directly asked at what age she expected to have her next child.

"Don't know" responses to this question were not imputed during the harmonization process. In some years, respondents who reported that they did not know when they expected their next child were prompted to give a range of dates. In the 1973 NSFG, respondents who did not report an exact expected time were asked whether they expected their next child "within two years from now, between two and five years from now, or five or more years from now?" These responses were harmonized as 1 year, 3 years, and 7 years, respectively, from respondents current age. In the 1995 NSFG, respondents were given the option of providing a range of ages in response to the original question about the age at which they expected their next child. For respondents who provided a range, IFSS\_AGEXPECT contains the midpoint of the range. Imputation flags indicate whether harmonized values were taken from these ranges or from an exact reported timing.

In all years, respondents who are sterile or who intend no more children are not asked about the timing of future childbearing. In the 1988 NSFG, respondents who report that they or their husband have had or plan to have a sterilizing operation, who would terminate future pregnancies for health reasons, who don't know whether they intend to have another child, or who report disagreement with a partner about whether another child is desired are also excluded from the question universe. In 1995, the universe is further limited by excluding women who have reached menopause, women who are not currently married, and women who say whether they have another child is up to God, in addition to the restrictions present in the earlier surveys.

### See also:

[IFSS\\_ADEXP5YR](#)

IFSS\_EXPECT\_MAX  
IFSS\_EXPECT\_MIN  
IFSS\_IDEALCH  
IFSS\_IDEALCH\_MAX  
IFSS\_IDEALCH\_MIN  
IFSS\_INTEND  
IFSS\_INTENDN  
IFSS\_INTENDN\_MAX  
IFSS\_INTENDN\_MIN  
IFSS\_PWANT  
IFSS\_RWANT  
IFSS\_SUREINT