

American Community Survey

Population: Question on Fertility

Question as it appears in the questionnaire.

24 Has this person given birth to any children in the past 12 months?

Yes

No

Source: ACS-1(2009)KFI

MEETING FEDERAL NEEDS

The number of children born in the past 12 months is a measure of fertility that is used to project the future size of the population, a basic planning tool for agencies of the government. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services uses these data to carry out various programs required by statute, including determining the need for family planning services within the Indian Health Service, investigating matters on child welfare in the Children's Bureau, and conducting research for voluntary family planning programs.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Social Services

Data about fertility are used to predict the number of children who will need adoptive homes under the Child Welfare Act.

The Indian Health Service uses data about the number of babies born to determine the need for family planning services for its service-eligible population.

Information about children born in the past 12 months is used in research on the family size of female adolescents and their actual birth rates in later life.

The National Center for Health Statistics computes vital statistics for subnational areas using data about children born in the past 12 months.

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