

Domain:	Reproductive Health
Measure:	Difficulty Getting Pregnant
Definition:	Methods to assess length of time male and female partners have been trying to get pregnant.
Purpose:	These methods ascertain whether a person and his or her partner are trying to become pregnant and how long they have been trying. Difficulty in conceiving may have genetic or epigenetic origins and is also related to lifestyle and environmental exposures.
Essential PhenX Measures:	Current Age Causes and Treatments of Known Infertility Gender Current Pregnancy Status
Related PhenX Measures:	Reproductive History, Contraceptive Methods, Hysterectomy and Oophorectomy, Prostate Symptoms
Keywords:	Reproductive health, difficulty conceiving, infertility, pregnancy, subfertility, impaired fecundity
Measure Release Date:	February 26, 2010

Protocol Release Date:	February 26, 2010
PhenX Protocol Name:	Difficulty Getting Pregnant – Retrospective
Protocol Name from Source:	NA, see source
Description:	<p>Depending on the aims of the project and feasibility, there are three widely used methods to assess difficulty getting pregnant or impaired fecundity. These include: retrospective assessment, prospective assessment, and the current duration approach.</p> <p>For the retrospective approach (also the approach used for cross-sectional studies), women or couples are asked if the pregnancy was planned and if yes, how many months it took to get pregnant. It is important to note that this approach can only be used with women/couples who planned their pregnancies.</p> <p>For prospective assessment, women/couples are followed over time as they try to get pregnant. Women/couples are asked to record exposure data, menstrual cycle data, intercourse, and pregnancy status prospectively over time. Again, this method can only be employed with women/couples who are planning a pregnancy.</p> <p>If investigators are interested in exposures among women/couples who are</p>

	not planning a pregnancy, the current duration approach can be used. For this approach, women/couples are asked about the date that they last used contraception.
Specific Instructions:	The PhenX Expert Review Panel recommends this question be asked of either males or females, ages 15 and older. The referenced publication, Slama et al., 2014, indicates that the questions can be slightly amended for men.
Protocol:	1) Was this pregnancy planned? <input type="checkbox"/> No 0 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes 1 GO TO Q2 2) How many months did it take you to get pregnant? _____ months 3) Has there ever been a time in your life during which you didn't become pregnant despite 12 or more months of regular unprotected intercourse? <input type="checkbox"/> No 0 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes 1
Selection Rationale:	These approaches were chosen to reflect the most modern widely accepted methods of measuring time to pregnancy.
Source:	Slama, R., Ballester, F., Casas, M., Cordier, S., Eggesbø, M., Iniguez, C., Nieuwenhuijsen, M., Philippat, C., Rey, S., Vandentorren, S., Vrijheid, M. (2014). Epidemiologic tools to study the influence of environmental factors on fecundity and pregnancy-related outcomes. <i>Epidemiol Rev</i> , 36:148-64.
Life Stage:	Adolescent Adult
Language:	English
Participant:	Women aged 18 to 39
Personnel and Training Required:	None
Equipment Needs:	If a computer-assisted instrument is used, computer software may be necessary to develop the instrument. The interviewer will require a laptop computer/handheld computer to administer a computer-assisted questionnaire.

<p>General References:</p>	<p>Buck Louis, G.M., Schisterman, E.F., Sweeney, A.M., Wilcosky, T.C., Gore-Langton, R.E., Lynch, C.D., Boyd Barr, D., Schrader, S.M., Kim, S., Chen, Z., Sundaram, R., on behalf of the LIFE Study. (2011). Designing prospective cohort studies for assessing reproductive and developmental toxicity during sensitive windows of human reproduction and development – the LIFE Study. <i>Paediatric and Perinatal Epidemiology</i>,: 413–424.</p> <p>Nguyen, R.H., Baird, D.D. (2005). Accuracy of men's recall of their partner's time to pregnancy. <i>Epidemiology</i>, 16(5):694-8.</p> <p>Slama R, Ballester F, Casas M, Cordier Set al., (2014). Epidemiologic tools to study the influence of environmental factors on fecundity and pregnancy-related outcomes. <i>Epidem Rev</i>, 36:148-64.</p> <p>Tingen, C., Stanford, J.B., Dunson, D.B. (2004). Methodologic and statistical approaches to studying human fertility and environmental exposure. <i>Environ Health Perspect</i>, 112(1):87-93.</p> <p>Weinberg, C.R., Baird, D.D., Wilcox, A.J. (1994). Sources of bias in studies of time to pregnancy. <i>Stat Med</i>. 13(5-7):671-81.</p>										
<p>Mode of Administration:</p>	<p>Interviewer-administered questionnaire</p>										
<p>Derived Variables:</p>	<p>None</p>										
<p>Requirements:</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="457 1129 1289 1178">Requirement Category</th> <th data-bbox="1289 1129 1422 1178">Required</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="457 1178 1289 1226">Major equipment</td> <td data-bbox="1289 1178 1422 1226">No</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="457 1226 1289 1274">Specialized training</td> <td data-bbox="1289 1226 1422 1274">No</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="457 1274 1289 1323">Specialized requirements for biospecimen collection</td> <td data-bbox="1289 1274 1422 1323">No</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="457 1323 1289 1402">Average time of greater than 15 minutes in an unaffected individual</td> <td data-bbox="1289 1323 1422 1402">No</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Requirement Category	Required	Major equipment	No	Specialized training	No	Specialized requirements for biospecimen collection	No	Average time of greater than 15 minutes in an unaffected individual	No
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<p>Annotations for Specific Conditions:</p>	<p>None at this time.</p>										
<p>Process and Review:</p>	<p>The Expert Review Panel #5 (ERP 5) reviewed the measures in the Reproductive Health domain.</p> <p>Guidance from ERP 5 includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replaced the protocol (different source) <p>Not back-compatible, requires new Data Dictionary</p>										

	Previous version in Toolkit archive (link)
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