

## Fertility in Norwegian women -results from population-based health surveys

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**Introduction:** Women's reproductive health has received little attention in population based health surveys. Fertility patterns based on demography do not consider the changes in women's life course.

**Objectives:** To describe final fertility status in menopausal Norwegian women.

**Methods:** The study subjects were 9983 women aged 50-69 years , selected from population based health surveys conducted in the mid 1980s and 1990s.

**Results:** 89% of the women were parous, 5% were subfertile, 2% were infertile, and 4% were voluntary childless. There were significant differences in reproductive status between the age groups, with increased subfertility with decreasing age, while voluntary childlessness increased with advancing age.

**Conclusions:** Fertility problems were quite common, and have increased, though fewer women remained childless past their reproductive age in the youngest age group.