TABLE I: Prevalence of and factors associated with infertility by sex

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **TABLE I** | **WOMEN** | | | | | | **MEN** | | | | | |
|  | **Pregnancy attempt 12 months or longer** | | **Age-adjusted regression** | | |  | **Pregnancy attempt 12 months or longer** | | **Age-adjusted regression** | | |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | **%** | **95% CI** | **AOR** | **95% CI** | **p-value** | ***Denominators (unweighted, weighted)*** | **%** | **95% CI** | **AOR** | **95% CI** | **p-value** | ***Denominators (unweighted, weighted)*** |
| **ALL** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | **12.5%** | **(11.7-13.3)** |  |  |  | *8066, 7052* | **10.1%** | **(9.2-11.1)** |  |  |  | *5553, 6811* |
| **Age at interview** |  |  |  |  | <0.0001 |  |  |  |  |  | <0.0001 |  |
| 16-24 | 5.3 | (4.3-6.6) | 1.00 |  |  | *1695, 944* | 3.7 | (2.6-5.1) | 1.00 |  |  | *1325, 971* |
| 25-34 | 12.0 | (10.7-13.5) | 2.43 | (1.87-3.17) |  | *2366, 1306* | 8.5 | (7.0-10.2) | 2.44 | (1.62-3.67) |  | *1421, 1274* |
| 35-44 | 17.7 | (15.7-20.0) | 3.85 | (2.92-5.06) |  | *1173, 1403* | 14.9 | (12.4-17.8) | 4.62 | (3.10-6.87) |  | *780, 1377* |
| 45-54 | 12.5 | (10.6-14.7) | 2.56 | (1.90-3.45) |  | *1062, 1374* | 14.5 | (11.8-17.7) | 4.48 | (2.95-6.81) |  | *741, 1328* |
| 55-64 | 13.2 | (11.0-15.6) | 2.71 | (2.00-3.66) |  | *972, 1170* | 7.8 | (5.9-10.3) | 2.24 | (1.41-3.56) |  | *697, 1094* |
| 65-74 | 11.4 | (9.2-14.0) | 2.29 | (1.65-3.18) |  | *798, 854* | 8.2 | (6.1-11.0) | 2.35 | (1.47-3.74) |  | *589, 767* |
| **Relationship history** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Relationship status at interview** |  |  |  |  | <0.0001 |  |  |  |  |  | <0.0001 |  |
| Married/cohabiting | 15.2 | (14.1-16.4) | 1.00 | - |  | *4348, 4669* | 12.6 | (11.3-14.0) | 1.00 | - |  | 2925, 4640 |
| Non-cohabiting partnership | 6.1 | (4.8-7.8) | 0.39 | (0.29-0.51) |  | *1355, 786* | 4.0 | (2.7-5.8) | 0.29 | (0.18-0.45) |  | 941, 755 |
| No 'steady' partner | 7.6 | (6.5-9.0) | 0.46 | (0.38-0.57) |  | *2326, 1573* | 5.3 | (4.2-6.7) | 0.39 | (0.29-0.51) |  | 1653, 1384 |
| **Ever cohabited with a partner** |  |  |  |  | <0.0001 |  |  |  |  |  | <0.0001 |  |
| Never | 2.2 | (1.5-3.2) | 1.00 |  |  | *1499, 855* | 2.1 | (1.3,3.3) | 1.00 |  |  | *1481, 1151* |
| Ever | 13.8 | (12.9-14.8) | 7.50 | (5.01-11.25) |  | *6350, 6013* | 11.8 | (10.7,13.0) | 6.91 | (4.13-11.55) |  | *3920, 5465* |
| **Age at first cohabitation** |  |  |  |  | 0.0685 |  |  |  |  |  | 0.8975 |  |
| Under 20 | 12.9 | (11.3-14.7) | 1.00 |  |  | *1970, 1685* | 11.6 | (9.0-14.9) | 1.00 |  |  | *574, 677* |
| 20-29 | 13.8 | (12.7-15.1) | 1.09 | (0.91-1.30) |  | *3972, 3856* | 11.9 | (10.6-13.4) | 1.05 | (0.77-1.44) |  | *2852, 3982* |
| 30 or older | 17.6 | (13.9-22.0) | 1.45 | (1.06-1.99) |  | *402, 464* | 11.1 | (8.5-14.5) | 0.98 | 0.65-1.48) |  | *465, 763* |
| **Reproductive history** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Ever had a child** |  |  |  |  | 0.0880 |  |  |  |  |  | 0.0070 |  |
| Yes | 13.2 | (12.2-14.3) | 1.00 |  |  | *5248, 5110* | 11.7 | (10.4-13.2) | 1.00 |  |  | *2694, 4031* |
| No | 10.5 | (9.2-11.9) | 0.83 | (0.68-1.03) |  | *2808, 1935* | 7.9 | (6.7-9.3) | 0.68 | (0.52-0.90) |  | *2857, 2775* |
| **Age at birth of first child 2** |  |  |  |  | <0.0001 |  |  |  |  |  | <0.0001 |  |
| <25 | 9.0 | (7.9-10.3) | 1.00 |  |  | *3047, 2709* | 7.6 | (5.9-9.7) | 1.00 |  |  | *946, 1234* |
| 25-29 | 13.2 | (11.3-15.3) | 1.54 | (1.23-1.92) |  | *1337, 1392* | 10.2 | (8.1-12.7) | 1.44 | (1.00-2.06) |  | *902, 1363* |
| 30-34 | 20.9 | (17.6-24.6) | 2.63 | (2.03-3.40) |  | *616, 709* | 14.5 | (11.4-18.3) | 2.08 | (1.41-3.08) |  | *520, 852* |
| 35+ | 35.1 | (28.6-42.1) | 5.57 | (3.97-7.83) |  | *227, 278* | 19.8 | (15.3-25.4) | 3.27 | (2.16-4.96) |  | *301, 550* |
| **Abortion ever** |  |  |  |  | 0.5855 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| No | 12.4 | (11.5-13.3) | 1.00 | - |  | *6853, 6046* |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Yes | 12.9 | (10.7-15.5) | 1.07 | (0.84-1.35) |  | *1176, 968* |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Socio-economic position** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Educational level1** |  |  |  |  | 0.0006 |  |  |  |  |  | 0.5684 |  |
| Degree | 14.5 | (12.8-16.3) | 1.00 |  |  | *1938, 1755* | 12.0 | (10.1-14.2) | 1.00 |  |  | *1375, 1904* |
| A-level/equivalent | 13.5 | (11.6-15.7) | 0.90 | (0.72-1.14) |  | *1546, 1420* | 11.0 | (9.1-13.1) | 0.90 | (0.68-1.19) |  | *1336, 1762* |
| GCSE, O-level or equivalent | 13.9 | (12.4-15.6) | 0.93 | (0.76-1.13) |  | *2496, 2294* | 10.3 | (8.6-12.4) | 0.84 | (0.64-1.12) |  | *1382, 1750* |
| Foreign or other | 11.3 | (5.8-21.0) | 0.76 | (0.36, 1.62) |  | *86, 67* | 12.9 | (5.8-26.5) | 1.11 | (0.44-2.77) |  | *46, 57* |
| None | 8.8 | (7.1-10.9) | 0.53 | (0.40, 0.71) |  | *966, 950* | 9.2 | (6.7-12.4) | 0.73 | (0.48-1.09) |  | *530, 701* |
| **Social Class (NS-SEC)** |  |  |  |  | <0.0001 |  |  |  |  |  | 0.0003 |  |
| Managerial and prof occupations | 15.2 | (13.5-17.0) | 1.00 |  |  | *2341, 2230* | 12.8 | (11.1-14.6) | 1.00 |  |  | *1786, 2514* |
| Intermediate occupations | 13.5 | (11.6-15.7) | 0.87 | (0.70, 1.09) |  | *1586, 1426* | 10.0 | (7.9-12.6) | 0.76 | (0.55-1.03) |  | *871, 1159* |
| Semi-routine/,routine occupations | 11.1 | (9.7-12.7) | 0.70 | (0.58, 0.86) |  | *2282, 1874* | 9.3 | (7.9-11.0) | 0.71 | (0.55-0.91) |  | *1926, 2235* |
| No job (10+ hrs/week) or not in the last 10 years | 11.7 | (9.8-14.0) | 0.71 | (0.55, 0.93) |  | *1098, 1045* | 7.4 | (4.7-11.4) | 0.52 | (0.31-0.88) |  | *387, 426* |
| Student in full-time education | 2.9 | (1.8-4.7) | 0.18 | (0.11, 0.30) |  | *721, 443* | 2.3 | (0.9-5.8) | 0.18 | (0.07-0.49) |  | *565, 456* |
| **Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) - quintile** |  |  |  |  | 0.5362 |  |  |  |  |  | 0.2590 |  |
| 1-2 (least deprived) | 13.2 | (11.9-14.6) | 1.00 |  |  | *3062, 2909* | 11.1 | (9.6-12.8) | 1.00 |  |  | *2197, 2870* |
| 3 | 12.5 | (10.7-14.5) | 0.96 | (0.78-1.18) |  | *1570, 1371* | 8.7 | (6.9-11.0) | 0.78 | (0.57-1.05) |  | *1080, 1329* |
| 4-5 (most deprived) | 11.7 | (10.5-13.1) | 0.91 | (0.76-1.08) |  | *3434, 2772* | 9.8 | (8.4-11.4) | 0.90 | (0.71-1.15) |  | *2276, 2613* |

Denominator: All those who reported having experience of heterosexual sex and who gave a valid answer to the question on experience of infertility

1Participants aged 21 and older only

2Only those who had a child

TABLE II: Prevalence of and factors associated with help seeking among those with experience of infertility by sex

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **TABLE II** | **WOMEN** | | | | | |  | | | |  | | **MEN** | |
|  | **%** | **95% CI** | **AOR** | **95% CI** | **p-value** | ***Denominators (unweighted, weighted)*** | **%** | **95% CI** | **AOR** | **95% CI** | | **p-value** | | ***Denominators (unweighted, weighted)*** |
| **ALL** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  | |  |
|  | **57.3** | **(53.6-61.0)** |  |  |  | ***923,879*** | **53.2** | **(48.1-58.1)** |  |  | |  | | *470,691* |
| **Age group** |  |  |  |  | <0.0001 |  |  |  |  |  | | 0.0004 | |  |
| 16-24 | 32.6 | (22.9-44.0) | 0.49 | 0.28-086 |  | *93, 50* | 14.1 | (6.8-27.1) | 0.17 | 0.07- 0.41 | |  | | *47, 36* |
| 25-34 | 49.5 | (43.1-55.9) | 1.00 |  |  | *278, 157* | 49.6 | (40.1-59.1) | 1.00 |  | |  | | *112, 108* |
| 35-44 | 63.3 | (56.0-70.0) | 1.76 | 1.18-2.63 |  | *208, 249* | 56.9 | (47.2-66.2) | 1.34 | 0.78-2.33 | |  | | *116, 206* |
| 45-54 | 58.0 | (49.0-66.5) | 1.41 | 0.91-2.20 |  | *136, 172* | 56.1 | (45.4-66.3) | 1.30 | 0.73-2.30 | |  | | *94, 193* |
| 55-64 | 58.3 | (48.8-67.2) | 1.43 | 0.90-2.27 |  | *120, 154* | 58.1 | (43.8-71.1) | 1.41 | 0.71-2.80 | |  | | *54, 86* |
| 65-74 | 64.9 | (54.0-74.4) | 1.89 | 1.13-3.15 |  | *88, 97* | 53.1 | (38.7-67.0) | 1.15 | 0.57-2.30 | |  | | *47, 63* |
| **Relationship history** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Relationship status at interview** |  |  |  |  | <0.0001 |  |  |  |  |  | | 0.0049 | |  |
| Married/cohabiting | 60.5 | (56.3-64.5) | 1.00 |  |  | *660, 710* | 56.1 | (50.5-61.6) | 1.00 |  | |  | | *348, 585* |
| Non-cohabiting partnership | 47.5 | (35.6-59.7) | 0.68 | 0.40-1.13 |  | *88, 48* | 28.9 | (15.2-48.1) | 0.35 | 0.15-0.81 | |  | | *34, 30* |
| No 'steady' partner | 43.2 | (35.1-51.7) | 0.43 | 0.30-0.64 |  | *173,120* | 39.9 | (29.1-51.7) | 0.53 | 0.32-0.89 | |  | | *85, 74* |
| **Ever cohabited with a partner** |  |  |  |  | 0.0202 |  |  |  |  |  | | 0.0017 | |  |
| Never | 26.7 | (12.3-48.7) | 1.00 |  |  | *37,,19* | 14.9 | (6.1-32.3) | 1.00 |  | |  | | *25,24* |
| Ever | 58.1 | (54.3-61.9) | 3.10 | 1.19-8.07 |  | *853,832* | 54.7 | (49.3-59.9) | 5.63 | 1.91-16.58 | |  | | *424,643* |
| **Age at first cohabitation** |  |  |  |  | 0.0838 |  |  |  |  |  | | 0.0259 | |  |
| Under 20 | 51.8 | (44.6-59.0) | 1.00 |  |  | *253,217* | 36.9 | (25.3-50.2) | 1.00 |  | |  | | *68,78* |
| 20-29 | 61.4 | (56.7-65.8) | 1.44 | 1.03-2.04 |  | *532,533* | 56.6 | (50.3-62.7) | 2.11 | 1.13-3.93 | |  | | *298,474* |
| 30 or older | 53.7 | (41.0-66.0) | 1.05 | 0.58-1.91 |  | *68,82* | 64.0 | (49.8-76.1) | 2.83 | 1.26-6.35 | |  | | *55,85* |
| 3+ | 61.9 | (49.5-72.9) | 1.14 | 0.67-1.96 |  | *71, 70* | 41.6 | (27.7-56.8) | 0.47 | 0.24-0.92 | |  | | *51, 69* |
| **Reproductive history** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Ever had a child** |  |  |  |  | 0.0452 |  |  |  |  |  | | 0.3770 | |  |
| Yes | 57.0 | (52.7-61.2) | 1.00 |  |  | *683,676* | 52.3 | (46.0-58.6) | 1.00 |  | |  | | *293,471* |
| No | 58.7 | (51.5-65.4) | 1.14 | 0.81-1.59 |  | *239,203* | 54.9 | (46.6-62.9) | 1.22 | 0.79-1.88 | |  | | *177,220* |
| **Age at birth of first child2** |  |  |  |  | <0.0001 |  |  |  |  |  | | 0.0092 | |  |
| <25 | 43.0 | ( 36.1- 50.1) | 1.00 |  |  | *297,245* | 32.3 | (21.2-45.8) | 1.00 |  | |  | | *74, 94* |
| 25-29 | 59.3 | ( 51.5-66.7) | 1.89 | 1.22-2.92 |  | *184,183* | 48.9 | (37.5-60.3) | 1.82 | 0.86-3.87 | |  | | *89,139* |
| 30-34 | 65.8 | ( 56.5-74.0) | 2.51 | 1.54-4.09 |  | *129,148* | 68.0 | (54.8-78.8) | 4.14 | 1.85-9.24 | |  | | *68,129* |
| 35 plus | 74.6 | ( 62.8-83.7) | 3.73 | 1.99-6.99 |  | *71, 98* | 56.4 | (43.0-68.8) | 2.42 | 1.08-5.41 | |  | | *57,109* |
| **Abortion ever** |  |  |  |  | 0.954 |  |  |  |  |  | |  | |  |
| No | 57.4 | ( 53.4-61.3) | 1.00 |  |  | *788,749* |  |  |  |  | |  | |  |
| Yes | 56.3 | ( 46.2-66.0) | 0.99 | 0.64-1.52 |  | *131,125* |  |  |  |  | |  | |  |
| **Socio-economic position** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Educational level1** |  |  |  |  | 0.0001 |  |  |  |  |  | | 0.0158 | |  |
| Degree | 65.5 | (58.8-71.7) | 1.00 |  |  | *242,255* | 66.9 | (57.4-75.1) | 1.00 |  | |  | | *131,228* |
| A-level/equivalent | 58.0 | (50.1-65.5) | 0.73 | 0.47-1.12 |  | *202,197* | 47.0 | (37.8-56.5) | 0.44 | 0.25-0.77 | |  | | *131,198* |
| GCSE, O-level or equivalent | 55.6 | (49.6-61.5) | 0.64 | 0.44-0.94 |  | *360,330* | 46.4 | (37.1-56.0) | 0.45 | 0.26-0.79 | |  | | *149,189* |
| Foreign or other | 7.1 | (0.9-38.1) | 0.05 | 0.01-0.41 |  | *11, 8* | 32.8 | (9.27-69.9) | 0.27 | 0.05-1.45 | |  | | *7,7.* |
| None | 42.9 | (32.9-53.5) | 0.33 | 0.20-0.56 |  | *106, 89* | 45.8 | (31.2-61.2) | 0.40 | 0.19-0.86 | |  | | *52, 68* |
| **Social Class (NS-SEC)** |  |  |  |  | 0.0069 |  |  |  |  |  | | 0.0136 | |  |
| Managerial and prof occupations | 63.0 | (56.9-68.6) | 1.00 |  |  | *312,338* | 60.2 | (52.6-67.4) | 1.00 |  | |  | | *195,322* |
| Intermediate occupations | 62.2 | (54.2-69.7) | 0.96 | 0.63-1.46 |  | *201,193* | 53.8 | (41.8-65.4) | 0.77 | 0.42-1.38 | |  | | *80,116* |
| Semi-routine/routine occupations | 47.0 | (39.8-54.2) | 0.54 | 0.37-0.81 |  | *256,209* | 42.8 | (34.5-51.6) | 0.53 | 0.33-0.85 | |  | | *161,208* |
| No job (10+ hrs/week) or not in the last 10 years | 52.3 | (42.7-61.8) | 0.56 | 0.35-0.89 |  | *131,123* | 37.0 | (18.7-60.1) | 0.34 | 0.13-0.91 | |  | | *24,32* |
| Student in full-time education | 46.2 | (24.0-70.0) | 0.64 | 0.23-1.80 |  | *18,13* | 78.2 | (40.6-94.9) | 2.85 | 0.59-13.90 | |  | | *8,11* |
| **Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) - quintile** |  |  |  |  | 0.0583 |  |  |  |  |  | | 0.0912 | |  |
| 1-2 (least deprived) | 63.3 | (57.7-68.6) | 1.00 |  |  | *360,383* | 60.5 | (53.0-67.6) | 1.00 |  | |  | | *193,319* |
| 3 | 54.6 | (46.1-62.8) | 0.71 | 0.47-1.09 |  | *175,171* | 47.1 | (35.2-59.3) | 0.60 | 0.34-1.09 | |  | | *79,116* |
| 4-5 (most deprived) | 51.8 | (45.7-57.8) | 0.67 | 0.47-0.94 |  | *388,326* | 46.7 | (38.8-54.9) | 0.62 | 0.39-1.00 | |  | | *198,256* |

Denominator: all those who reported experience of heterosexual sex and of infertility

1Participants aged 21 and older only

2Only those who had a child

TABLE III: Associations between experience of infertility and aspects of current well-being and relationship quality among women aged 50 and younger at interview\*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **TABLE III** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **WOMEN** | **DEPRESSION1** | | | | | | **DISSATISFIED WITH SEX LIFE2** | | | | | **HAPPY IN RELATIONSHIP3** | | | | |
|  | **%** | **AOR** | | **95% CI** | **p-value** | ***Denominators (unweighted, weighted)*** | **%** | **AOR** | **95% CI** | **p-value** | ***Denominators (unweighted, weighted)*** | **%** | **AOR** | **95% CI** | **p-value** | ***Denominators (unweighted, weighted)*** |
| **Experience of infertility** |  |  |  | | 0.002 |  |  |  |  | 0.031 |  |  |  |  | 0.689 |  |
| No | 11.4 | 1.00 |  | |  | *5238, 3964* | 13.1 | 1.00 |  |  | 5230, 3962 | 62.4 | 1.00 |  |  | *3018, 2561* |
| Yes | 15.3 | 1.63 | 1.20-2.21 | |  | *667, 566* | 16.2 | 1.37 | 1.03-1.83 |  | 664, 563 | 64.2 | 1.05 | 0.83-1.34 |  | *482, 444* |

Denominator: all women 50 years and younger with experience of heterosexual sex

\* adjusted for age at interview, highest educational qualification, relationship status at interview, duration of relationship, age at first cohabitation and whether or not a parent.

1 Positive response to composite question on depressive symptoms in two weeks before interview.

2 Responded ‘disagree’ or ‘disagree strongly’ with statement: ‘I feel satisfied with my sex life’.

3 Responded 1 or 2 to question: ‘On a scale of 1 to 7, how happy or unhappy are you with your relationship with your partner, all things considered?’ (1=very happy and 7= very unhappy)