



A Lifetime of Women's Reproductive Health

Women today have more equality in many aspects of their lives than ever before, but unfortunately, the 3.5 billion women on this earth are not equal when it comes to lifetime health. There are many diseases or conditions that affect women differently, or to a greater extent than men. One such area: reproductive health.

Many women only think about their reproductive health in terms of fertility or infertility. But, think again: reproductive health is a life-long consideration.



Puberty

For females, puberty is marked by the onset of menstruation. Having regular menstrual cycles is a sign that the body is working normally.

All periods aren't created equal! Many women experience problems during their period, including amenorrhea (lack of menstrual period), dysmenorrhea (painful periods, including severe cramps), and abnormal uterine bleeding.



▲ Average duration of puberty

12&13

▲ Average age most girls in the U.S. have their first menstrual period

Abnormal uterine bleeding ▶ affects ~5–15% of women of reproductive age in developing countries



Infertility

A condition defined by the failure to achieve a clinical pregnancy after 12 months or more of regular, unprotected sexual intercourse.

Common blood tests can be used to help find out the cause of infertility. The main causes of infertility in females are ovulation problems, blocked fallopian tubes, and physical problems with the uterus.

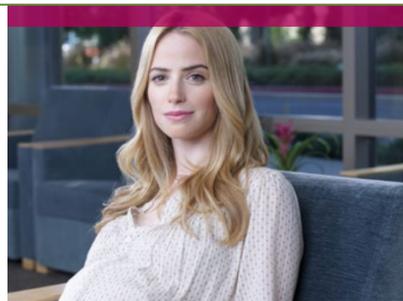


▲ Infertility affects ~10% of the population

\$12,400 + medications

Average price of an in vitro fertilization cycle ▶ in the U.S.

(source: American Society of Reproductive Medicine)



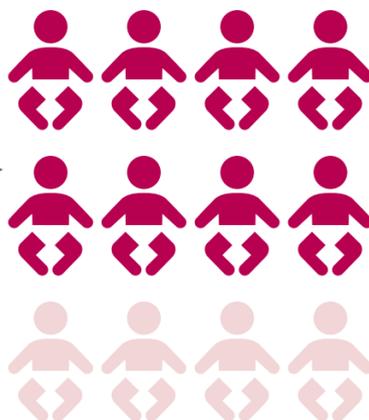
Pregnancy

The 40-week period (on average) during which a woman carries a developing embryo and fetus in her womb.

During pregnancy, complications such as gestational diabetes, pre-eclampsia, infectious diseases, nutrient deficiency, and thyroid disease can impact the health of the fetus, and bring risk to the mother's well-being, both during and after pregnancy.



◀ Every day, approximately 800 women die from preventable causes related to pregnancy and childbirth. (source: WHO)



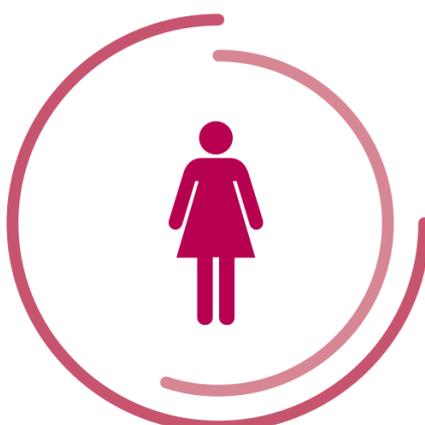
Up to two-thirds of ▶ infant mortality can be prevented if effective health measures are provided at birth and during the first weeks of life



Menopause

A turning point in a woman's life, it marks the permanent end of menstruation, and can have a big impact on a woman's well-being.

Changes in reproductive hormone levels later in life appear to have a greater impact on the health of women compared to their male counterparts. The decrease in estrogen levels in women increases the risk of osteoporosis, cardiovascular disease, and an increased risk of Alzheimer's disease.



◀ 55% of women experiencing menopause do not treat their symptoms

◀ 75% of women experience hot flashes and night sweats at some point during perimenopause

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What can you do?

Get checked! Did you know that simple diagnostic testing can change your life?

It is important that you talk to your doctor about reproductive health—through good times and bad. Don't wait for a problem to have the discussion. Early testing can lead to discovery of a root problem or underlying causes to many health issues related to a women's reproductive system.

Prevent, detect, and treat the most threatening disease affecting women—throughout all stages of life.

To learn more, visit www.siemens.com/women-and-reproductive-health