Social scientists have long debated how to best measure pregnancy intentions. The standard measure relies on mothers’ retrospective reports of their intentions at the time of conception. Because women have already given birth at the time of this report, their children’s health—including their vital status—may influence responses. Leveraging Demographic and Health Survey data from 31 sub-Saharan African countries, I demonstrate how children’s health and vital status are implicated in women's recall of their pregnancy intentions. The results question the reliability of retrospective reports of pregnancy intentions in high mortality settings, and thus our current knowledge of the levels and consequences of unintended pregnancies in these contexts.