The ideal number of children is a strong indicator of the demand for children, and it tends to be highly correlated with the total fertility rate (TFR). Women in almost half of 34 countries from sub-Saharan Africa have a TFR greater than their mean ideal number of children. However, when populations in these countries are disaggregated by years of schooling, women with no or modest schooling tend to show this pattern, while among women with high levels of schooling, the TFR typically is less than the mean ideal number of children. This suggests that well-educated women in the region are often failing to achieve their fertility goals. When data are examined at the micro level, the prevalence of women whose number of children is less than their ideal number is found to be widespread. The discussion explores several factors that are likely to contribute to fertility being lower than the mean ideal number of children among highly-educated women in Sub-Saharan Africa.