

# Fertility problems and treatment – facts & figures

*(published in conjunction with 2006-2007 HFEA Guide to Infertility – treatment and success data based on treatment carried out between 1 Apr 2003 and 31 Mar 2004)*

## Latest annual figures

Number of Patients undergoing IVF	29688
Number of cycles of IVF treatment	38264
Number of Patients undergoing Donor Insemination	3158
Number of cycles of Donor Insemination treatment	7350
Number of children born through IVF	8251 successful births – giving rise to 10242 children
Number of children born through Donor Insemination	782 successful births - giving rise to 825 children

## The scale of fertility problems

It is estimated that one in seven UK couples have difficulty conceiving –approximately 3.5 million people. Though the majority of these will become pregnant naturally given time, a significant minority will not.

Of 100 couples trying to conceive naturally

- 20 will conceive within one month

- 70 will conceive within six months

- 85 will conceive within a year

- 90 will conceive within 18 months

- 95 will conceive within two years

The National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) define infertility as failing to get pregnant after a two years of regular unprotected sex.

Infertility is the commonest reason for women aged 20-45 to see their GP, after pregnancy itself.

## Treatment and success

The average success rate for IVF treatment using fresh eggs in the UK is

- 28.2% (for women under 35);

- 23.6% (for women aged 35-37)

- 18.3% (for women aged 38-39)

- 10.6% (for women aged 40-42)

The average success rate for Donor Insemination treatment in the UK is

- 14.1% (for women under 35);

- 8.3% (for women aged 35-39)

- 4.9% (for women aged 40-42)

ICSI represents 44% of all IVF treatment in the UK. The remainder is conventional IVF

Around 1% of all births are the result of IVF and Donor Insemination

In the UK, about 25% of IVF treatments are funded by the NHS.

The National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) guidelines suggest that couples should be offered up to 3 cycles of IVF on the NHS if the woman is aged 23-39 years and the couple has an identified cause for their infertility, or have not conceived after 3 years.

NICE recommended that it was appropriate to fund IVF treatment when the chances of success were more than 10%

The Government has said that, from 1 April 2005, all women with appropriate clinical need should have at least 1 cycle of treatment paid for by the NHS. Local health bodies will apply their own eligibility criteria

A typical cost of a cycle of IVF treatment alone is approximately £3000. On top of this, the couple will have to pay for the costs of consultation, drugs and tests. Other procedures, such as embryo freezing, will also be charged for separately.

There are currently 85 HFEA-licensed clinics in the UK, 52 of which see NHS patients.

### **The risk of treatment**

The single biggest risk from IVF treatment is multiple births, and particularly triplet births. These carry potential health effects for both the mother and the unborn child

Multiple birth babies are more likely to be premature and the babies below normal birth weight

The risk of death before birth or within the first week is more than 4 times greater for twins and almost 7 times greater for triplets than for single births

The incidence of cerebral palsy is approximately 5 times higher for twins and approximately 18 times higher for triplets than for single births

Currently 23.6% of IVF births are twins or triplets – down from almost 4% in the early 1990s.

## National IVF live birth rates – Guide to Infertility 2006-07

Fresh		Below 35	35-37	38-39	40-42	Over 42
	Cycles started	<b>28.2%</b> (3807/13489)	<b>23.6%</b> (1668/7077)	<b>18.3%</b> (728/3984)	<b>10.6%</b> (314/2965)	<b>3.2%</b> (27/836)
	Singleton live births	<b>71.6%</b> (2724/3807)	<b>76.9%</b> (1283/1668)	<b>81.5%</b> (593/728)	<b>87.6%</b> (275/314)	++ (26/27)
	Multiple birth rate	<b>28.4%</b> (1083/3807)	<b>23.1%</b> (385/1668)	<b>18.5%</b> (135/728)	<b>12.4%</b> (39/314)	++ (1/27)
	Twin live births	28.0% (1065/3807)	22.6% (377/1668)	18.3% (133/728)	11.5% (36/314)	++ (1/27)
	Triple & higher live births	0.5% (18/3807)	0.5% (8/1668)	0.3% (2/728)	1.0% (3/314)	0

Frozen		Below 35	35-37	38-39	40-42	Over 42
	Thaw cycles	<b>17.9%</b> (578/3233)	<b>15.5%</b> (285/1842)	<b>12.3%</b> (120/973)	<b>10.2%</b> (72/707)	<b>10.0%</b> (25/250)
	Singleton live births	<b>83.2%</b> (481/578)	<b>88.1%</b> (251/285)	<b>85.8%</b> (103/120)	<b>93.1%</b> (67/72)	++ (22/25)
	Multiple Births	<b>16.8%</b> (97/578)	<b>11.9%</b> (34/285)	<b>14.2%</b> (17/120)	<b>6.9%</b> (5/72)	++ (3/25)
	Twin live births	16.1% (93/578)	11.9% (34/285)	14.2% (17/120)	6.9% (5/72)	++ (2/25)
	Triple & higher live births	0.7% (4/578)	0	0	0	++ (1/25)

### Key to symbols

- ++ Percentages are not calculated where there are less than 50 cycles in each category
- N/A Either no clinic data available and/or no treatments performed for reporting period (1 April 03 to 31 March 04)

**Statistics based on treatments between 1 April 03 and 31 March 04**

# Regional breakdown - infertility and treatment\*

			IVF				DI			
	Estimated couples with difficulty conceiving	No of HFEA licensed treatment centres	Cycles	%	Patients	%	Cycles	%	Patients	%
London	250,000.00	22	11016	28.8%	8694	29.3%	1929	26.2%	884	28.0%
North West	200,000.00	4	4142	10.8%	2990	10.1%	716	9.7%	301	9.5%
West Midlands	150,000.00	8	3500	9.1%	2656	8.9%	565	7.7%	270	8.5%
East Midlands	125,000.00	6	2776	7.3%	2123	7.2%	415	5.6%	176	5.6%
South East	250,000.00	9	2657	6.9%	2056	6.9%	694	9.4%	309	9.8%
Yorkshire and The Humber	150,000.00	5	3272	8.6%	2650	8.9%	531	7.2%	228	7.2%
East of England	150,000.00	6	2484	6.5%	1939	6.5%	318	4.4%	139	4.4%
South West	125,000.00	7	1922	5.0%	1459	4.9%	850	11.6%	304	9.6%
North East	75,000.00	8	1442	3.8%	1185	4.0%	365	5.0%	166	5.3%
Scotland	150,000.00	6	2905	7.6%	2218	7.5%	753	10.2%	255	8.1%
Wales	75,000.00	2	806	2.1%	659	2.2%	122	1.7%	84	2.7%
N. Ireland	50,000.00	2	1342	3.5%	1059	3.6%	92	1.3%	42	1.3%
UK Total	1,750,000	85	38264	100.0%	29688	100.0%	7350	100.0%	3158	100.0%

\*Most recent verified data: 1 April 2003 - 31 March 2004