

Facts and Figures 2006

Fertility Problems and Treatment

October 2008



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About these statistics

The information collected and published by the HFEA is a snap shot of data provided by licensed clinics at a particular time. This information may be subject to change as individual clinics notify the HFEA of amendments.

The figures supplied in this document are derived from the HFEA data warehouse containing Register data as at 02/10/2008 unless otherwise stated and include treatments carried out between 1st January and 31st December 2006. Some minor changes may have been made to the data for individual clinics since then and these will be reflected in the data provided by Find a Clinic. The national figures given in this document may be updated in due course. Any changes are likely to be very minor and not make a significant difference to the versions published on 08 October 2008.

Before publication, a preliminary validation process is performed on the data, and clinics are asked to confirm its accuracy, for which they remain responsible.

The latest HFEA statistics, including information about individual clinics, can be found on www.hfea.gov.uk

The HFEA website – www.hfea.gov.uk – provides further information about fertility treatments including a glossary of terms.

HFEA Facts & Figures 2006 – Fertility Problems and Treatment

Latest annual figures - 2006*

	2004 [†]	2005 [‡]	2006 [§]	% change 2005-2006
In vitro fertilisation (IVF)				
Number of cycles of IVF treatment	40,164	41,932	44,275	Up 5.6%
Number of patients undergoing IVF	30,861	32,626	34,855	Up 6.8%
Number of babies born through IVF	<i>8,251 successful births – giving rise to 10,242 babies</i>	<i>9,058 successful births – giving rise to 11,262 babies</i>	10,242 successful births giving rise to 12,596 babies	Births up 13.1% Babies up 11.9%
Live birth rate per cycle started	20.5%	21.6%	23.1%	Up 1.5%
Multiple birth rate following IVF	22.7%	24%	22.7%	Down 1.3%
Donor insemination (DI)				
Number of donor insemination treatment cycles	6,893	5,865	4,225	Down 28.0%
Number of patients undergoing Donor Insemination	2,953	2,624	2,106	Down 19.8%
Number of babies born through donor insemination	<i>749 successful births – giving rise to 707 babies</i>	<i>606 successful births - giving rise to 645 babies</i>	455 successful births giving rise to 489 babies	Births down 25.0% Babies down 24.2%
Live birth rate per cycle started	10.9%	10.3%	10.8%	Up 0.5%
Multiple birth rate following DI	5.5%	6.3%	6.8%	Up 0.5%

* IVF figures include all IVF, ICSI, PGD, natural cycles, treatments using donated eggs and those where fresh and frozen embryos were transferred in the same cycle.

[†] 2004 figures published 2 June 2006

[‡] 2005 figures published 7 December 2007

[§] Treatments carried out between 1 January and 31st December 2006

Success rates by age group

The average success rate 2006 (2005) for **IVF treatment** using own fresh eggs in the UK is:

2006	(2005)
• 31% for women under 35	(29.6%)
• 26.4% for women aged 35-37	(23.6%)
• 18.6% for women aged 38-39	(18.2%)
• 11.1% for women aged 40-42	(10%)
• 4.6 % for women aged 43-44	(3.2%)
• 4.0% for women aged 44+	(0.8%)

For a detailed breakdown see table 2.

The average success rate for **Donor Insemination** treatment in the UK in 2006 (2005) is:

2006	(2005)
• 13.5% for women under 35	(13.4%)
• 9.2% for women aged 35-39	(9.7%)
• 5.3% for women aged 40-42	(3.9%)
• 1.2% for women aged 43-44	(1.7%)
• 0% for women aged 44+	(0%)

For a detailed breakdown see table 6.

Additional figures

- ICSI represents 47% of all IVF treatment in the UK in 2006. The remainder is conventional IVF
- Around 1.4% of all births and 1.7% of all babies born in the UK are the result of IVF and donor insemination.
- The current number of licensed clinics has increased since 2006. The HFEA now also licenses those clinics offering treatments such as Intra Uterine Insemination (IUI) using husband's or partner's sperm, and Gamete Intra Fallopian Transfer (GIFT). These came under HFEA regulation following the introduction of the EU Tissues and Cells Directive in July 2007.
- In Sept 2008, there were 116 HFEA-licensed treatment clinics in the UK, 91 of which state that they see NHS patients (further details on Find a Clinic). In 2006, the year to which these latest statistic relate, there were 85 licensed treatment clinics for DI and IVF.

The scale of fertility problems

- Infertility is the commonest reason for women aged 20-45 to see their GP, after pregnancy itself. Table 12 provides a list of the reasons given for infertility at the time of treatment.
- The National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) define infertility as failing to get pregnant after two years of regular unprotected sex.
- It is estimated that around one in six or one in seven UK couples have difficulty conceiving – approximately 3.5 million people (see table 11). Although 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
- A typical cost of a cycle of IVF treatment alone is approximately £5000. This figure is may vary depending on the various consultations, drugs and tests that may be required for an individual's treatment. Procedures such as embryo freezing and ICSI may also be charged separately.

NICE guidelines and NHS provision

- 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 recommend that it is appropriate to fund IVF treatment when the chances of success are more than 10%. See www.nice.org.uk
- 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.
- In August 2008, the Department of Health's expert group on commissioning NHS infertility provision published an interim report on the barriers to the implementation of the NICE fertility guideline. This can be downloaded from www.dh.gov.uk.

Multiple births - the single biggest risk of treatment

- The single biggest risk to mothers and babies following 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
- In 2006, 22.7% of IVF births were a twin or a triplet, down from 24% in 2005. For all UK births in 2006 (including naturally conceived births) only 1 in every 66 are twins or more.
- See table 8 for details of the number of multiple births in 2006.

One at a time – the national strategy to reduce the number of multiple births following fertility treatment

- In June 2008, doctors, embryologists, nurses, other clinical staff, patient groups and the HFEA launched a new national strategy to reduce the number of multiple pregnancies. Those involved in the development of the national strategy believe that change will only be facilitated through improved funding for assisted conception treatment
- Focusing initially on IVF, the strategy aims to reduce the rate of multiple births from the 2005 national average of 24 per cent of all IVF births to 10 per cent over three years. In the first year (from January 2009), all clinics will be expected not to exceed the 24 per cent maximum.
- The strategy includes:
 - the [One at a Time](#) website providing authoritative information for professionals and patients;
 - a series of regional workshops for health professionals;
 - new professional guidelines published by the British Fertility Society (BFS) and the Association of Clinical Embryologists (ACE), setting out professional best practice.

Understanding Patients

- [Find a Clinic](#), the HFEA's interactive clinic search facility, gives patients detailed information about every licensed fertility clinic in the UK, including details of the services offered by each clinic and statistical information on the treatments carried out. The details of each clinic's licence and its latest inspection report can also be access through Find a Clinic.
- Fertility Views is the HFEA's regular survey of people who are having or have had fertility treatment in the UK. Surveys are carried out twice a year to help the HFEA understand the views of patients. The latest survey found that 27% of those given information about the cost of their treatment were subsequently charged additional costs they weren't expecting. Further information about Fertility Views can be found on the [HFEA website](#).
- The [HFEA Guide to Infertility](#) is written for people who are having, or considering, IVF or other fertility treatments. The HFEA is committed to providing patients with the treatment and support that they deserve, free of charge. In compiling the Guide, we have talked to hundreds of patients about what they wished they had known when they started treatment.
- The [HFEA website](#) also offers additional information to help patients make an informed decision about which clinic to choose and to help them understand what the various treatments involve. The site provides detailed answers to questions that are often asked by patients who approach the HFEA and includes information for donors and donor conceived people.

ONS statistics

This table shows the number of all live births and babies registered in the UK in 2006, whether conceived naturally or through fertility treatment.

Published by the Office for National Statistics (England and Wales), the General Registry Office Scotland and the General Registry Office Northern Ireland.

	<i>England and Wales</i>	<i>Scotland</i>	<i>Northern Ireland</i>	<i>UK Total</i>
All live birth events in 2006*	659,527	55,108	23,044	737,679
All babies born in 2006	669,602	55,690	23,272	748,564

A table giving a further breakdown by geographic region is published by the [UK Statistics Authority](#).

HFEA tables showing the number of IVF and DI babies born in the UK regions and estimates of the number of people experiencing infertility in each region can be found in tables 9 to 11.

IVF & ICSI 2006

Table 1: Overall statistics, own eggs

Success rates = births per cycles started. Does not include natural cycles, PGD cycles or cycles where both fresh and frozen embryos were used in the same cycle.

2006	Success rate %	Number of patients*	Number of cycles	Number of births	Number of babies
Both fresh and frozen cycles					
All cycles	23.1%	33,051	41,827	9,655	11,884
<i>Under 35 only</i>	29.0%	14,103	17,526	5,089	6,440
Fresh cycles only					
All fresh IVF cycles	24.4%	29,304	33,916	8,280	10,248
<i>Under 35 only</i>	31.0%	12,651	14,337	4,447	5,660
Frozen cycles only					
All frozen IVF cycles	17.4%	6,894	7,911	1,375	1,636
<i>Under 35 only</i>	20.1%	2,795	3,189	642	780

Other figures

IVF versus ICSI - IVF - 53%, ICSI - 47%

Multiple births - 77.6% singleton births, 22.4% multiple births (22.1% twins, 0.3% triplets and more)

Number of IVF clinics in 2006 - 70

* Total number of patients is less than the sum of fresh plus frozen because some patients had both types of cycles in the same year.

IVF & ICSI 2006

Table 2: Success rates by age group, own eggs

Does not include natural cycles, PGD cycles or cycles where both fresh and frozen embryos were used in the same cycle.

Age range	Success rate (Live births / cycles started)	Total live births	Cycles started
Fresh Cycles			
Below 35	31.0%	4,447	14,337
35-37	26.4%	2,311	8,753
38-39	18.6%	982	5,290
40-42	11.1%	490	4,418
43-44	4.6%	41	894
Over 44	4.0%	9	224
Frozen Cycles			
Below 35	20.1%	642	3,189
35-37	18.5%	408	2,205
38-39	16.4%	203	1,240
40-42	9.5%	93	979
43-44	9.5%	20	210
Over 44	10.2%	9	88

HFEA Facts & Figures 2006 – Fertility Problems and Treatment

IVF & ICSI 2006

Table 3: Detailed figures, own eggs

Does not include natural cycles, PGD cycles or cycles where both fresh and frozen embryos were used in the same cycle.

	Below 35	35-37	38-39	40-42	43-44	Over 44
Fresh eggs						
Cycles started	31.0% (4,447 / 14,337)	26.4% (2,311 / 8,753)	18.6% (982 / 5,290)	11.1% (490 / 4,418)	4.6% (41 / 894)	4.0% (9 / 224)
Egg collections	32.7% (4,447 / 13,606)	27.9% (2,311 / 8,279)	20.0% (982 / 4,920)	12.1% (490 / 4,051)	5.2% (41 / 795)	4.7% (9 / 191)
Embryo transfers	35.3% (4,447 / 12,612)	29.8% (2,311 / 7,752)	21.4% (982 / 4,594)	13.2% (490 / 3,725)	5.8% (41 / 713)	5.4% (9 / 167)
Implantation rate*	26.8% (6,436 / 2,4017)	22.1% (3,236 / 14,670)	15.9% (1,369 / 8,604)	9.3% (741 / 7,950)	4.0% (60 / 1,515)	2.9% (10 / 345)
Singleton live births	22.6% (3,247 / 14,337)	20.7% (1,809 / 8,753)	15.7% (828 / 5,290)	9.5% (421 / 4,418)	4.5% (40 / 894)	3.6% (8 / 224)
Twin live births	8.3% (1,187 / 14,337)	5.7% (496 / 8,753)	2.9% (152 / 5,290)	1.4% (63 / 4,418)	0.1% (1 / 894)	0.4% (1 / 224)
Triplet & higher live births	0.1% (13 / 14,337)	0.1% (6 / 8,753)	0.0% (2 / 5,290)	0.1% (6 / 4,418)	0	0
Frozen embryos						
Thaw cycles	20.1% (642 / 3,189)	18.5% (408 / 2,205)	16.4% (203 / 1,240)	9.5% (93 / 979)	9.5% (20 / 210)	10.2% (9 / 88)
Embryo transfers	21.3% (642 / 3,015)	20.0% (408 / 2,035)	17.8% (203 / 1,140)	10.3% (93 / 899)	10.5% (20 / 191)	11.7% (9 / 77)
Implantation rate*	16.0% (887 / 5,533)	14.9% (543 / 3,653)	13.5% (276 / 2,046)	8.0% (139 / 1742)	8.5% (31 / 366)	8.3% (12 / 145)
Singleton live births	15.8% (504 / 3,189)	15.2% (336 / 2,205)	14.5% (180 / 1,240)	8.2% (80 / 979)	9.0% (19 / 210)	8.0% (7 / 88)
Twin live births	4.3% (138 / 3,189)	3.1% (68 / 2,205)	1.8% (22 / 1,240)	1.3% (13 / 979)	0.5% (1 / 210)	2.3% (2 / 88)
Triplet & higher live births	0	0.2% (4 / 2,205)	0.1% (1 / 1,240)	0	0	0

* This figure shows the number of clinical pregnancies recorded as a percentage of the number of embryos transferred. An implantation rate is an alternative form of pregnancy rate which takes into account the risks associated with multiple embryo transfer. Some people regard this as a fairer measure of a clinic's success as once an embryo has implanted the clinic is less able to control the progress of the pregnancy.

Donor insemination and donor egg IVF 2006

Success rates = live births per cycles started

Table 4: Donor insemination

	Success rate %	Number of patients	Number of cycles	Number of births	Number of babies
All DI cycles	10.9%	2104	4,175	455	487
<i>Under 35 only</i>	14.5	943	1,795	260	256

Table 5: IVF using donated eggs

	Success rate %	Number of patients	Number of cycles	Number of births	Number of babies
All donated egg IVF cycles (both fresh & frozen)*	28.9%	1,622	1,762	510	637
<i>FRESH cycles only</i>	31.5%	1,237	1,224	386	490
<i>FROZEN cycles only</i>	23.0%	517	538	124	147

* Total number is less than the sum of fresh plus frozen because some patients had both types of cycles in the same year.

Other figures

% multiple births following DI - 93.3% singletons, 6.2% twins, 0.5% triplets and higher multiples

% multiple births following donor egg IVF - 75.5% singletons, 24.1% twins, 0.4% triplets and higher multiples

Number of clinics carrying out DI in 2006 - 82

Table 6: Donor insemination success rates by age group

Success Rate (per cycle started) 2006

	Below 35	35-39	40-42	43-44	Over 44
Treatment cycles	14.5% (260 / 1,795)	9.9% (161 / 1,624)	5.4% (32 / 594)	1.2% (2 / 162)	++ (0 / 42)
Singleton live births	13.5% (243 / 1,795)	9.1% (148 / 1,624)	5.2% (31 / 594)	1.2% (2 / 162)	0
Twin live births	0.9% (16 / 1,795)	0.7% (12 / 1624)	0.2% (1 / 594)	0	0

Table 7: IVF using donated eggs - detailed figures

Success Rate (per cycle started) 2006

	Fresh embryos	Frozen embryos
Transfers	31.5% (386 / 1,224)	23.0% (124 / 538)
Implantations*	24.4% (572 / 2,346)	18.2% (172 / 947)

* This figure shows the number of clinical pregnancies recorded as a percentage of the number of embryos transferred. An implantation rate is an alternative form of pregnancy rate which takes into account the risks associated with multiple embryo transfer. Some people regard this as a fairer measure of a clinic's success as once an embryo has implanted the clinic is less able to control the progress of the pregnancy.

Table 8: Multiple Births 2006

	All Births		Singleton		Twins		Triplets or more		All multiples	
	Births	Babies	Births	Babies	Births	Babies	Births	Babies	Births	Babies
All IVF and ICSI live births**										
Number	10,242	12,596	7,922	7,922	2,286	4,572	34	102	2,320	4,674
As a percentage of all IVF/ICSI births	100.00%	100.00%	77.35%	62.89%	22.32%	36.30%	0.33%	0.81%	22.65%	37.11%
As a percentage of all UK births of that type	1.39%	1.68%	1.09%	1.09%	20.85%	20.85%	22.82%	22.47%	20.88%	20.88%
All DI live births										
Number	455	489	424	424	29	58	2	7	31	65
As a percentage of all DI births	100.00%	100.00%	93.19%	86.71%	6.37%	11.86%	0.44%	1.43%	6.81%	13.29%
As a percentage of all UK births of that type	0.06%	0.07%	0.06%	0.06%	0.26%	0.26%	1.34%	1.54%	0.28%	0.29%
All UK births (those conceived naturally and following fertility treatment) 2006^{††}										
Number	737,679	748,564	726,482	726,186	10,963	21,926	149	454	11,112	22,380
IVF/DI births as percentage of all UK births of each type	1.45%	1.75%	1.15%	1.15%	21.12%	21.12%	24.16%	24.01%	21.16%	21.18%
Percentage of all UK births of each type	100.00%	100.00%	98.48%	97.01%	1.49%	2.93%	0.02%	0.06%	1.51%	2.99%

** Includes natural cycles, PGD cycles, fresh, frozen and mixed fresh/frozen cycles

^{††} Maternities or confinements where one, two three or more babies were live born at a single birth event. Source: Office of National Statistics (England and Wales), General Registry Office Scotland and General Registry Office Northern Ireland

Regional figures 2006

Table 9: IVF & ICSI by region

Own eggs. INCLUDES natural cycles, PGD cycles or cycles where both fresh and frozen embryos were used in the same cycle

Region	Number of IVF clinics in 2006	Patients		Cycles		Births				Babies
		Number	% patients	Number	% cycles	Singleton	Twin	Triplet +	All births	Total live babies
East Midlands	4	2,473	7.1%	3,103	7.0%	564	160	1	725	887
East of England	4	2,266	6.5%	2,835	6.4%	509	159	1	669	830
London	17	10,332	29.6%	12,949	29.2%	2,543	756	18	3,317	4,109
North East	5	1,188	3.4%	1,456	3.3%	248	75	2	325	404
North West	4	3,541	10.2%	4,711	10.6%	705	191	3	899	1,096
Northern Ireland	2	910	2.6%	1,082	2.4%	179	54	1	234	290
Scotland	6	2,737	7.9%	3,680	8.3%	700	206	2	908	1,118
South East	7	2,807	8.1%	3,686	8.3%	698	172	0	870	1,042
South West	7	1,879	5.4%	2,385	5.4%	406	116	2	524	644
Wales	2	1,005	2.9%	1,170	2.6%	131	33	1	165	200
West Midlands	7	2,911	8.4%	3,716	8.4%	656	177	2	835	1,016
Yorkshire & the Humber	5	2,806	8.1%	3,502	7.9%	583	187	1	771	960
UK total	70	34,855	100.0%	44,275	100.0%	7,922	2,286	34	10,242	12,596

Regional figures 2006

Table 10: Donor insemination by region

Region	Number of DI clinics in 2006	Patients		Cycles		Births				Babies
		Number	% all patients	Number	% of all cycles	<i>Singleton</i>	<i>Twin</i>	<i>Triplet +</i>	All births	Total live babies
East Midlands	6	122	5.8%	237	5.6%	19	3	0	22	25
East of England	6	79	3.8%	137	3.2%	17	0	0	17	17
London	19	752	35.7%	1430	33.8%	125	6	0	131	137
North East	7	103	4.9%	192	4.5%	28	3	1	32	38
North West	5	263	12.5%	609	14.4%	68	3	0	71	74
Northern Ireland	2	3	0.1%	15	0.4%	0	0	0	0	0
Scotland	6	133	6.3%	318	7.5%	30	2	0	32	34
South East	8	148	7.0%	327	7.7%	29	2	0	31	33
South West	8	156	7.4%	336	8.0%	29	4	0	33	37
Wales	2	64	3.0%	83	2.0%	10	2	0	12	14
West Midlands	7	147	7.0%	261	6.2%	27	1	1	29	32
Yorkshire and the Humber	6	136	6.5%	280	6.6%	42	3	0	45	48
UK total	82	2,106	100.0%	4,225	100.0%	424	29	2	455	489

Table 11: Couples experiencing infertility by region

Based on 2001 ONS population estimates. NHS figures suggest that around 1 in 6 or 1 in 7 couples are likely to experience problems conceiving. See notes on page 4.

	TOTAL UK population aged 16-45	Estimated people experiencing fertility problems	Estimated couples with difficulty conceiving – 1 in 7	HFEA licensed treatment clinics 2006* (DI and IVF)	HFEA licensed treatment clinics 2008* (DI, IVF, GIFT, IUI)
East Midlands	1,693,105	250,000	125,000	6	6
East of England	2,166,977	300,000	150,000	6	5
London	3,487,035	500,000	250,000	21	25
North East	1,018,655	150,000	75,000	7	9
North West	2,722,999	400,000	200,000	5	11
Northern Ireland	728,647	100,000	50,000	2	3
Scotland	2,096,719	300,000	150,000	7	9
South East	3,259,664	500,000	250,000	8	14
South West	1,838,416	250,000	125,000	8	13
Wales	1,125,021	150,000	75,000	2	5
West Midlands	2,125,068	300,000	150,000	7	10
Yorkshire & the Humber	2,026,872	300,000	150,000	6	6
UK Total	24,289,178	3,350,000	1,750,000	85	116

*Following the introduction of the EU Tissues and Cells Directive in July 2007, clinics carrying out Intra Uterine Insemination (IUI) using partner sperm and Gamete Intra Fallopian Transfer (GIFT) are also licensed by the HFEA.

Table 12: Reasons for infertility

Reasons for infertility as indicated on patient registration forms for IVF treatment

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	% change 2000-06
Male factor - various	27.6%	29.7%	31.5%	31.8%	31.9%	32.6%	32.5%	+4.9%
Female factor - all	34.9%	34.4%	34.1%	34.2%	34.1%	33.7%	32.5%	-2.4%
<i>Female factor - tubal disease</i>	19.1%	17.6%	16.7%	16.1%	16.2%	15.7%	15.3%	-3.8%
<i>Female factor - ovulatory disorder</i>	7.4%	7.9%	8.1%	8.5%	8.6%	8.9%	8.4%	+1.0%
<i>Female factor - multiple factors</i>	5.7%	5.6%	6.0%	6.5%	6.2%	5.9%	5.5%	-0.2%
<i>Female factor - endometriosis</i>	2.5%	3.0%	3.0%	2.8%	2.8%	2.9%	2.9%	+0.4%
<i>Female factor - uterine</i>	0.2%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.4%	+0.2%
Multiple male and female factors	19.1%	16.1%	14.6%	13.4%	12.2%	11.5%	10.8%	-8.3%
Unexplained	17.5%	19.1%	19.1%	19.8%	21%	21.7%	23.1%	+5.6%
Other	0.8%	0.7%	0.7%	0.8%	0.8%	0.7%	1.1%	+0.3%

Table 13: Average age of women treated

	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
IVF	33.6	33.8	33.8	33.8	33.7	33.8	33.9	33.9	34.0	34.2	34.3	34.5	34.6	34.8	34.9	35.1	35.2
DI	31.9	31.9	32.1	32.2	32.4	32.5	32.6	33.0	33.3	33.6	34.1	34.2	34.4	34.6	34.6	35.0	35.1