

INTRODUCTION TO THE 2012 NATIONAL REPORT

Data provided by United States clinics that use assisted reproductive technology (ART) to treat infertility are a rich source of information about the factors that contribute to a successful ART treatment—the delivery of a healthy live-born infant. Pooling the data from all reporting clinics provides an overall national picture that could not be obtained by examining data from an individual clinic.

A woman's chances of having a pregnancy and a live birth when using ART are influenced by many factors, some of which are patient-related and outside a clinic's control (e.g., the woman's age, the cause of infertility). Because the national data set includes information on many of these factors, it can give potential ART users an idea of the average chances of success. Average chances, however, do not necessarily apply to a particular individual or couple. People considering ART should consult their physician to discuss all the factors that apply in their particular case.

The data for this national report come from the 456 fertility clinics in operation in 2012 that provided and verified data on the outcomes of all ART cycles started in their clinics. Of the 176,247 ART cycles performed in 2012 at these reporting clinics, 157,662 cycles were performed with the intent to transfer at least one embryo. These 157,662 cycles resulted in 51,267 live births (deliveries of one or more living infants) and 65,160 infants. Of the 176,247 cycles performed in 2012, 18,585 cycles were started with the intent of cryopreserving (freezing and banking) all resulting eggs/embryos for potential future use. However, because these cycles did not result in an embryo transfer, they are not included in the majority of this national report. The 176,247 total cycles performed in 2012 excludes 27 cycles started in which a new treatment procedure was being evaluated.

The 2012 National Summary table on page 5 combines data from all 176,247 ART cycles reported by the 456 clinics included in the *2012 Assisted Reproductive Technology Fertility Clinic Success Rates Report* (hereafter called the *2012 Fertility Clinic Success Rates Report*). For an explanation of how to read this table, see pages 11–22 of the *2012 Fertility Clinic Success Rates Report* available at <http://www.cdc.gov/art/ARTReports.htm>.

The national report consists of graphs and charts that use 2012 data to answer specific questions related to ART success rates. These figures are organized according to the type of ART procedure used. Some ART procedures use a woman's own eggs, and others use donated eggs or embryos. (Although sperm used to create an embryo also may be either from a woman's partner or from a sperm donor, information in this report is presented according to the source of the egg.) In some procedures, the embryos that develop are transferred back to the woman (fresh embryo transfer); in others, the embryos are frozen (cryopreserved) for transfer at a later date. This report includes data on embryos that might have been frozen in previous years, but were thawed and transferred in 2012.

The national report has five sections:

- Section 1 (Figures 1 through 5) presents information from all ART procedures reported with the intention to transfer at least one embryo (157,662 cycles of the 176,247 total ART cycles performed in 2012). Figures 1 through 3 (and Figure 44 in Section 5) are the only figures in this report that include data for ART cycles started with the intention of freezing and banking all resulting eggs or embryos (18,585 cycles of the 176,247 total). Figure 2 is the only figure in this report that includes additional cycles in which a new treatment procedure was being evaluated (27 total new treatment procedures in 2012 that are not counted as part of the 176,247 total ART cycles performed in 2012).
- Section 2 (Figures 6 through 34) presents information on the ART cycles that used only fresh nondonor eggs or embryos from nondonor eggs or, in a few cases, a mixture of fresh and frozen embryos from nondonor eggs (99,665 cycles resulting in 80,783 transfers).
- Section 3 (Figures 35 through 37) presents information on the ART cycles that used only frozen embryos from nondonor eggs (38,150 cycles resulting in 35,508 transfers).
- Section 4 (Figures 38 through 42) presents information on the ART cycles that used only donated eggs or embryos (19,847 cycles resulting in 18,154 transfers).
- Section 5 (Figures 43 through 56) presents trends in the number of ART procedures and success rates over the past 10 years, from 2003 through 2012.