

SECTION 2: ART CYCLES USING FRESH NONDONOR EGGS OR EMBRYOS

What are the steps for an ART cycle using fresh nondonor eggs or embryos?

Figure 6 presents the steps for an ART cycle using fresh nondonor eggs or embryos and shows how ART users in 2012 progressed through these stages toward pregnancy and live birth.

An ART **cycle is started** when a woman begins taking medication to stimulate the ovaries to develop eggs or, if no drugs are given, when the woman begins having her ovaries monitored (using ultrasound or blood tests) for natural egg production.

If eggs are produced, the cycle then progresses to **egg retrieval**, a surgical procedure in which eggs are collected from a woman's ovaries.

Once retrieved, eggs are combined with sperm in the laboratory. If fertilization is successful, one or more of the resulting embryos are selected for **transfer**, most often into a woman's uterus through the cervix (IVF), but sometimes into the fallopian tubes (GIFT or ZIFT) (see Appendix B: Glossary of Terms on pages 72–73 for descriptions of IVF, GIFT, or ZIFT).

If one or more of the transferred embryos implant within the woman's uterus, the cycle then may progress to clinical **pregnancy**.

Finally, the pregnancy may progress to a **live birth**, the delivery of one or more live-born infants. (The birth of twins, triplets, or more is counted as one live birth.)

A cycle may be stopped at any step for specific medical reasons (e.g., no eggs are produced, the embryo transfer was not successful) or by patient choice.

Figure 6

Outcomes of ART Cycles Using Fresh Nondonor Eggs or Embryos, by Stage, 2012

