

How does the risk of miscarriage differ among women of different ages?

A woman's age not only affects the chance for pregnancy when her own eggs are used, but also affects her risk of miscarriage. Figure 16 shows percentages of ART cycles using fresh nondonor eggs or embryos in 2012 that resulted in miscarriage for women of different ages. Percentages of ART cycles that resulted in miscarriage were below 15% among women aged 35 or younger. The percentage of ART cycles that resulted in miscarriages began to increase rapidly among women in their mid- to late 30s and continued to increase with age, reaching more than 25% at age 40 and over 50% among women aged 44 or older.

Previous data show that most miscarriages occur before week 14 (i.e., during the first trimester) among women of all ages undergoing ART. The risk of miscarriage among women undergoing ART procedures using fresh nondonor eggs or embryos appears to be similar to those reported in various studies of other pregnant women in the United States.

Figure 16

Percentages of ART Cycles Using Fresh Nondonor Eggs or Embryos That Resulted in Miscarriage, by Age of Woman, 2012

