

## What are egg/embryo banking cycles and are they increasing?

An egg/embryo banking cycle is an ART cycle started with the intention of cryopreserving (freezing) all resulting eggs/embryos for potential future use, when they may be thawed, fertilized (if eggs), and transferred. This may be performed to avoid potentially negative effects of stimulation, or when it is necessary to wait for results of genetic testing. Egg/embryo banking may also be used when only a small number of eggs/embryos develop during one cycle. In this case, women may undergo several banking cycles to improve availability of good-quality eggs/embryos for transfer. In other situations, patients may choose to freeze eggs/embryos because the patient or partner needs to undergo medical treatment that may be harmful for their future reproduction capabilities or to delay childbearing for other reasons. These cycles are referred to as fertility preservation cycles.

Figure 44 shows that the number of cycles performed for banking all fresh nondonor eggs or embryos increased dramatically from 2003 through 2012.

**Figure 44**

Numbers of ART Cycles Performed for Banking All Fresh Nondonor Eggs or Embryos, 2003–2012

