

Is the number of cycles using donor eggs or embryos increasing?

A donor egg cycle is a cycle in which an embryo is formed from the egg of one woman (the donor) and the sperm from her partner or a donor and then transferred to another woman (the recipient). A donor embryo cycle is a cycle in which an embryo is donated by a patient who previously underwent ART treatment; neither the sperm nor egg is genetically related to the parent(s) who will raise the child. Donor cycles are most commonly used by women with diminished ovarian reserve, usually as a result of advanced maternal age or premature ovarian insufficiency. Donors are usually younger women, which results in higher pregnancy and lower miscarriage rates among recipients.

Figure 45 shows that the number of cycles performed using donor eggs or embryos increased almost 40%, from 14,323 in 2003 to 19,847 in 2012.

Figure 45
Numbers of ART Cycles Using Donor Eggs or Embryo, 2003–2012

