

Preface

For many people who want to start a family, the dream of having a child is not easily realized; about 12% of women of childbearing age in the United States have used an infertility service. Assisted reproductive technology (ART) has been used in the United States since 1981 to help women become pregnant, most commonly through the transfer of fertilized human eggs into a woman's uterus. However, for many people, deciding whether to undergo this expensive and time-consuming treatment can be difficult.

The goal of this report is to help potential ART users make informed decisions about ART by providing some of the information needed to answer the following questions:

- What are my chances of having a child by using ART?
- Where can I go to get this treatment?

The Society for Assisted Reproductive Technology (SART), an organization of ART providers affiliated with the American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM), has been collecting data and publishing annual reports of pregnancy success rates for fertility clinics in the United States and Canada since 1989. In 1992, the US Congress passed the Fertility Clinic Success Rate and Certification Act. This law requires the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to publish pregnancy success rates for ART in fertility clinics in the United States. (For more details about the law, see <http://www.cdc.gov/art/Policy.htm>.) Since 1995, CDC has worked in consultation with SART and ASRM to report ART success rates.

The 2012 report of pregnancy success rates is the eighteenth to be issued under the law. This report is based on the latest available data on the type, number, and outcome of ART cycles performed in US clinics.

The 2012 ART report has three major sections:

- ***Commonly Asked Questions About the US ART Clinic Reporting System***

This section provides background information on infertility and ART and an explanation of the data collection, analysis, and publication processes.

- ***Fertility Clinic Tables***

Many factors contribute to the success of ART, including the training and experience of the ART clinic and laboratory professionals, the quality of services, and the characteristics of the patient population. The Fertility Clinic Tables section displays ART results and success rates for individual US fertility clinics in 2012. The section also includes the 2012 National Summary table, which combines data from all clinics.

- ***Appendixes***

Appendix A provides information about 2012 data validation activities.

Appendix B provides definitions for technical and medical terms used throughout the report.