



Fast Facts about Infertility

Infertility is a disease of the reproductive system which inhibits the ability to conceive after one year of unprotected intercourse (6 months if the woman is over age 35).

Infertility is also considered a disease that prevents a woman from carrying a child to term after multiple pregnancies.

Both the American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM) and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) recognize Infertility as a disease.

- Infertility affects over 7 million people in the U.S., representing 12% of women of childbearing age, or 1 in 8 couples. (2002 National Survey of Family Growth)
- The disease affects 60 – 80 million couples world-wide (<http://www.who.int/en/>)
- One-third of infertility is attributed to female factors, one-third to male factors and one-third to a combination of both or is unexplained. (<http://www.asrm.org/>)
- Twenty-five percent of infertile couples have more than one factor that contributes to their infertility. (<http://www.healthywomen.org/>)
- The sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) chlamydia and gonorrhea are the most important preventable causes of infertility. Left untreated, up to 40 percent of women with these conditions will develop pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), which can lead to infertility. (U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC))
- Fallopian tube blockage and/or peritoneal factors (abdominal wall) account for approximately 35% of all female infertility problems. Irregular or abnormal ovulation accounts for approximately 25% of all female infertility cases. Endometriosis is found in about 35% of infertile women who have laparoscopy as part of their infertility assessment. (<http://www.healthywomen.org/>)
- Primary reasons for male infertility include the number of sperm might be low (viability), the sperm might be abnormally shaped (morphology), or the sperm might move too slowly or sluggishly (motility). (<http://www.life.familyeducation.com>)
- Approximately 44% of women with infertility have sought medical assistance. Of those who seek medical intervention, approximately 65% give birth. (<http://www.resolve.org>)
- According to the Society for Assisted Reproductive Technology's 2008 Clinic Outcome Reports, 56,790 children were born in 2008 from Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART). (<http://www.asrm.org/>)
- About 85-90% of infertility cases are treated with drug therapy or surgical procedures. Less than 3% need advanced reproductive technologies such as vitro fertilization (IVF). (<http://www.asrm.org/>)
- The majority of health insurance plans currently do not offer coverage for the treatment of infertility. It is estimated that only 14% of large group plans, 16% of preferred provider organizations (PPOs), and 17% of point-of-service networks and health maintenance organizations (HMOs) routinely cover procedures related to assisted reproductive technologies (ARTs). (<http://www.nobabyonboard.com>)
- According to [Resolve](http://www.resolve.org), only 15 states have laws requiring insurance coverage for infertility treatment: Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Hawaii, Illinois, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Montana, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Rhode Island, Texas, and West Virginia. (<http://www.resolve.org>)