

Information Sheet: Assisted Reproductive Technology in New Zealand 2012

Purpose of the report

Assisted Reproductive Technology in New Zealand 2012 provides data and analysis about the uses and perinatal outcomes of assisted reproductive technology (ART) in New Zealand in 2012. This report is the fourth in a series that began with a report in 2009. All previous reports are available on ACART's website.

A New Zealand-specific report

This report presents a single source of New Zealand-specific information about assisted reproductive procedures. New Zealand has previously lacked a single source of information about ART. The Ethics Committee on Assisted Reproductive Technology reports information about procedures requiring ethical approval; District Health Boards hold information about publicly funded cases; and individual fertility services providers hold information about cases. This series of reports addresses gaps in publicly available information.

Highlights from the report

- There were 5,117 ART cycles performed in New Zealand in 2012.
- 2.1% (1,272 babies) of all live births in New Zealand in 2012 were a result of ART.
- 5.2% of births resulting from ART were multiple births. The number of multiple births in New Zealand continues to decrease – this reflects the strong emphasis in New Zealand's ART practice on single embryo transfer. Single embryo transfer reduces risks to pregnancies, babies and mothers. It also reduces the short term and long term impacts on health resources.
- 25.3% of women receiving treatment were 40 years or older.
- 27.4% of women receiving treatment had previously given birth.
- 23.4% of treatment cycles resulted in a live delivery.
- Surrogacy cycles represented 0.5% of all ART cycles. While this proportion remains very low, the data will not have captured the recent growth in numbers of people travelling overseas for surrogacy arrangements.

- 0.8% of cycles used pre-implantation genetic diagnosis (a procedure used to test for serious genetic disorders and chromosomal abnormalities). There is limited public funding for PGD in New Zealand thereby restricting the number of cycles with PGD that can be undertaken. We are seeing an increasing number of couples eligible to use this technology, which means there is now a long waiting list for this.
- There were 390 donor insemination (DI) cycles carried out in New Zealand in 2012.
- The average age of women who had a DI cycle was 35.9 years.

Data source

The data for this report is sourced from the well regarded annual Australian and New Zealand Assisted Reproduction Database (ANZARD) from the University of New South Wales. ANZARD uses combined data contributed by New Zealand and Australian fertility clinics.

For any queries please contact the ACART Secretariat at acart@moh.govt.nz