

In vitro births continue to rise in US

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Image: U.S. National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

Researchers also report drop in number of multiple embryo transfers, twin and triplet birth rates.

(HealthDay)—More babies in the United States are being conceived by in vitro fertilization, a new report shows.

Nearly 2,000 more infants were born with the help of this [assisted reproductive technology](#) in 2013, compared with 2012, the researchers reported.

Almost 175,000 in vitro fertilization (IVF) cycles led to the birth of slightly more than 63,000 babies, compared with just over 165,000 IVF cycles that led to the birth of slightly fewer than 62,000 [babies](#) in 2012.

Babies conceived through fertility treatments account for more than 1.5 percent of children born in the United States, according to the report from the Society for Assisted Reproductive Technology.

The society also said more women, regardless of age, chose to have a single embryo transferred. The rise in the number of women making this choice was greatest among women under 35. In that age group, 22.5 percent decided to have a single embryo transferred, compared with almost 15 percent in 2012.

"We are extremely encouraged to see the number of embryos transferred per cycle continue to go down and that more and more patients are

choosing single embryo transfer," said Dr. James Toner, president of the Society for Assisted Reproductive Technology.

"The goal of reducing the incidence of [multiple pregnancies](#) is extremely important, and patients can see from the data that fewer embryos transferred do not mean a lower chance of pregnancy," he said in a news release from the group.

Trends noted in previous years continued in 2013, the report said. There were fewer embryos transferred per cycle among women of all ages, an increase in [embryo implantation](#) rates in all age categories, and an overall decline in multiple births.

The number of twins resulting from IVF fell from 12,436 in 2012 to 12,085 in 2013, and the number of triplets resulting from IVF dropped from 411 to 376.

More information: The U.S. National Library of Medicine has more about [in vitro fertilization](#).

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