

Attitudes to reproductive technologies and their availability

This questionnaire is part of a research project being undertaken at the University of Exeter. All questionnaires collected will remain anonymous and will be destroyed after collation of the data. Any questions you feel you either unable to answer or wish not to answer, please leave blank. In answering the questions it will be assumed that you give consent for your views to be anonymously used in the data sets for the project. We thank you for taking the time to help us with our research.

Questions

1. Are you Male / Female (*Delete as appropriate*)
2. Are you: under 18, 18-24, 25-34, 35-44, 45-59, 60+? (*Delete as appropriate*)
3. What country are you currently living in?.....
4.
 - a. Do you follow/ adhere to a particular religion or belief system? Yes / No (*Delete as appropriate*)
 - b. If you answered yes to the above please state which religion or belief system
 - c. If you are not a follower of any religion or belief system, are you: atheist / agnostic / don't know (*Delete as appropriate*)
5.
 - a. What is your highest level of education (*Delete as appropriate*):
G.C.S.E or equivalent,
A-level or equivalent,
Bachelor degree or equivalent,
Higher degree
 - b. If you have completed or are studying for a degree or equivalent or a higher degree please state the subject read.....

Your opinions...

Please read the following informative paragraph before answering the following questions.

Reproductive technologies were effectively pioneered in 1978, with the birth of Louise Brown, the first baby to be conceived through *in vitro* fertilization (IVF). Since then, IVF and artificial insemination (AI) have been used to treat tens of thousands of women unable to conceive through normal coital means and also, increasingly, those wanting to eliminate the risk of passing on a hereditary disease to their offspring. Furthermore, many new and more sophisticated technologies, including direct injection of a sperm into an egg, have been developed in order to increase the efficiency of the process especially when the sperm show sub-optimal activity.

Assisted reproductive technologies (ART) may also involve one or more of the following,

- Gamete (sperm or egg) and/or embryo donation
- Surrogate motherhood
- Prenatal genetic manipulation
- Discarding of spare embryos

With the continuing evolution of ART, society is being offered far greater procreative choices. The Human Fertilization and Embryology Authority (HFEA) issue codes of practice to fertility clinics. Clinics are at liberty to refuse treatment to any patient on the grounds that the welfare of the child may not be adequately met. However, ART is potentially available to all women in the U.K. and there is no legislation to directly prevent lesbian couples, single women, and older women from receiving treatment. Current legislation in the UK however, prohibits the availability of assisted reproduction and surrogacy to gay males.

In addition it is now possible for people receiving IVF treatment to select the sex of their child. At present such choice is only available to those who may pass on a sex-related hereditary disease to their child.

Please carefully read the following statements, and then write a number which corresponds to how strongly you agree or disagree with each, in the box provided.

1= strongly agree

2= agree

3= neutral / do not know

4= disagree

5= strongly disagree

1. Nobody has the right to receive infertility treatment.

2. Reproductive technology should only be available to heterosexual couples.

3. Single heterosexual women should be allowed access to reproductive technologies.

4. People receiving IVF should be allowed to select the sex of their baby.

5. Reproductive technology should be available to single homosexual women.

6. An upper age limit should be set for the infertility treatment of women.

7. Infertility can be classed as an illness.

8. Reproductive technology should be available to homosexual couples.

9. It is an intrinsic human right to be able to have children.

10. Human life begins at the point of fertilization.