

F-2015-00040- number of cases of infertility by ethnicity

16th February 2017

Summary of request

The Authority was asked for information on a number of points relating to people of mixed race ancestry.

HFEA response

Please find these questions with individual responses listed below:

1. Information in regard to people of mixed race ancestry - often called 'white and black Caribbean', 'white and black African', 'white and Asian', 'other mixed'- being at increased risk of suffering from fertility problems in their adult lives, which is related to their mixed race, biological parentage.

The HFEA is the regulator of Licensed UK clinics and does not deal directly in the treatment of individual patients. Therefore it does not hold information on this matter. It might be useful to contact individual fertility centres and enquire of the information that is offered to people of mixed race ancestry.

2. Information relating to the policy and practice of HFEA, in regard to the advising of interracial couples, who are prospective parents, about the increased risk of their child being born with an increased risk of being infertile in adult life, which would be related to their mixed race, biological parentage.

The HFEA does not hold information on this matter. Again, it might useful to contact some fertility centres to enquire of the information they offer their patients.

3. The percentage of overall cases of infertility, which is attributable to each ethnic group.

Please find attached a spreadsheet of which shows the number of times each type of infertility has been recorded within each of the racial groups you have provided above. The ethnicities of patients and partners have only been collected since October 2007. The data given is for patients and partners recorded as having had at least one assisted conception treatment cycles. Patients and partners that have had treatment at more than one clinic will appear in the data each time they change clinic.

Please note that I have replaced numbers between 1 and 4 with a '<5' figure because there is a significant possibility that this information, when combined with other information to which you may reasonably be expected to have access, could lead to the identification of a person to whom the HFEA owes a duty of confidentiality. To disclose this information in these circumstances may therefore result in a breach of the confidentiality provisions of section 33A of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990 (as amended), and the

information is therefore exempt from disclosure under section 44 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.