

The 10 Best Fertility Centers

In the first data-driven comparison of in-vitro fertilization rates at fertility centers, *Child* found the chance of a woman under 35 bringing home a baby varies from about 10% to 60%, depending on the center. If you're among the 6.1 million Americans who are having trouble conceiving, see which facilities offer the greatest chance of success despite treating difficult cases.



uterus," says Hal Danzer, M.D., a reproductive endocrinologist at the Southern California Reproductive Center (SCRC). The center is one of the few nationwide that use four-dimensional ultrasound for every transfer; it provides 3-D images in real time. A new SCRC study on more than 100 patients suggests the new technology does slightly increase pregnancy rates.

Another way the center makes transfers smoother: "Before every transfer, women are given the option of having an acupuncture treatment to help them relax," says Dr. Danzer. "Some research suggests that acupuncture helps improve pregnancy rates in women undergoing IVF."

10 Center for Reproductive Medicine of New Mexico, Albuquerque

Number of ART cycles and transfers in 2002: 183

Percentage of ART cycles from non-donor fresh embryos resulting in live births in 2002: 57% (under age 35), 55% (ages 35–37), 29% (ages 38–40); there were too few cycles in women ages 41–42 to report the results as a percentage

- Opened in 1986, making it one of the oldest fertility centers; at that time, there were approximately 40 centers in the U.S., compared to the more than 400 today

- Is one of five U.S. facilities collaborating on the development of quality-control measures in the analysis of sperm samples

- Boasts a 2002 live-birth rate of 72% for fresh embryo transfers from donor eggs, above the national average of 50%

Running the Center for Reproductive Medicine of New Mexico in a poor state that doesn't require insurers to cover infertility, Jim Thompson, M.D., focuses on giving patients value for their money. "My exam rooms and waiting areas have no frills," says Dr. Thompson, the center's director. "Instead, we try to keep our costs low and our success rates high."

He seems to be doing a good job at both: In 2002, the center's live-birth rate for women ages 35 to 37 using their own eggs was about 70% above the national average—55% compared to 30%—though its price for a standard IVF cycle (not including medications) is \$8,500, less than the typical charge. He also has stellar success rates for women under age 35 and those who are 38 to 40 years old.



Go to www.child.com/web_links to see which fertility centers didn't report their data to the CDC in 2002 and which ones filled out *Child's* extensive original survey.

