

ART contributed to 12.5% of multiple births in US in 2018

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(HealthDay)—Assisted reproductive technology (ART) contributed to

12.5% of all multiple births in the United States in 2018, according to research published in the Feb. 18 issue of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*.

Saswati Sunderam, Ph.D., from the CDC in Atlanta, and colleagues compared [birth outcomes](#) in 2018 resulting from ART procedures performed in 2017 and 2018 with outcomes for all U.S.-born infants in 2018.

The researchers found that 203,119 ART procedures were performed in 456 U.S. fertility clinics in 2018, resulting in 73,831 live-birth deliveries and 81,478 infants born. The rate of ART procedures performed was 3,135 per 1 million women aged 15 to 44 years. ART contributed to 2.0% of all infants born in the United States in 2018 from procedures performed in 2017 and 2018; 78.6% of ART-conceived infants were singletons. ART contributed to 12.5% of all multiple births, including 12.5 and 13.3% of all twin births and all triplet and higher-order births, respectively. The percentage of multiple births was higher among infants conceived with ART than all infants in the total birth population (21.4 versus 3.3%). Infants conceived with ART contributed to 4.2% of all low birthweight infants; 18.3 and 8.3 of ART-conceived infants and all infants, respectively, were low birthweight. ART-conceived infants contributed to 5.1% of all [preterm infants](#), with the percentage of preterm births higher among ART-conceived infants versus all [infants](#) (26.1 versus 10.0%).

"This report provides information that allows state health departments to monitor and inform patients of the extent of ART use and ART-related adverse perinatal outcomes in their regions," the authors write.

More information: Saswati Sunderam et al, Assisted Reproductive Technology Surveillance—United States, 2018, *MMWR. Surveillance Summaries* (2022). [DOI: 10.15585/mmwr.ss7104a1](https://doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.ss7104a1)

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