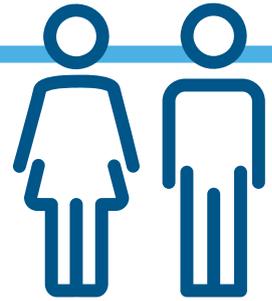


Fertility Health Summit

Choice not Chance

The Survey

A survey of 1,000 young people reveals **worrying gaps** in fertility knowledge and reproductive health, which medical experts believe may lead to many missing out on the opportunity to have children in the future.



94% of 16-24 year olds **want children** in the future



Young women

76% would **like children** before they are **30**



Young men

64% would **like children** before they are **30**


80%



More than 80% of both sexes believe women's fertility only starts to decline after the age of 35, and a quarter of young men thought a women's fertility starts to decline after the age of 40, compared with 16% of girls.

Two thirds of those surveyed thought men's fertility only starts declining after the age of 40, with a third believing it doesn't begin declining until after the age of 50.



While the change is less dramatic for men, fertility rates for both sexes actually decline gradually from the late 20s, and can be affected by genetic and environmental factors such as smoking, obesity and nutrition.



52% of all actual **births** are from **women over 30**
67% of all new **fathers** are **aged over 30**

Female fertility starts to decline gradually from the late 20s as the number of eggs a woman is born with are lost progressively over time.



1 in 6 adults experience fertility problems (approximately 15%).

1 in 6



The average age of first time mothers in 2014 was 28.5 years – a figure that has been increasing steadily from 24.0 years in 1971.



A steadily rising proportion of women in the UK have never had a child (20% in 2013).

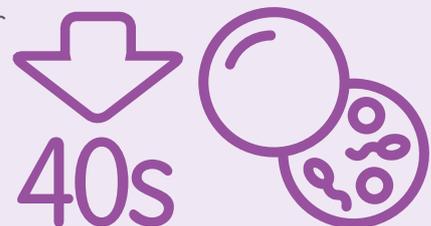
20%



Natural fertility among women in their 30s is considerably higher than for women in their 40s.



Even with assisted conception such as IVF, the success rates are much lower for women in their 40s than in their early 30s.



*Our aim is to ensure that sex and relationship education not only covers how to avoid pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases, but also includes information about fertility and planning for the right time to start a family. It should be **choice not chance** – we want to enable young people to make informed choices about pregnancy, whether that choice is to start a family or not.*

Professor Adam Balen, Chair of the British Fertility Society,

