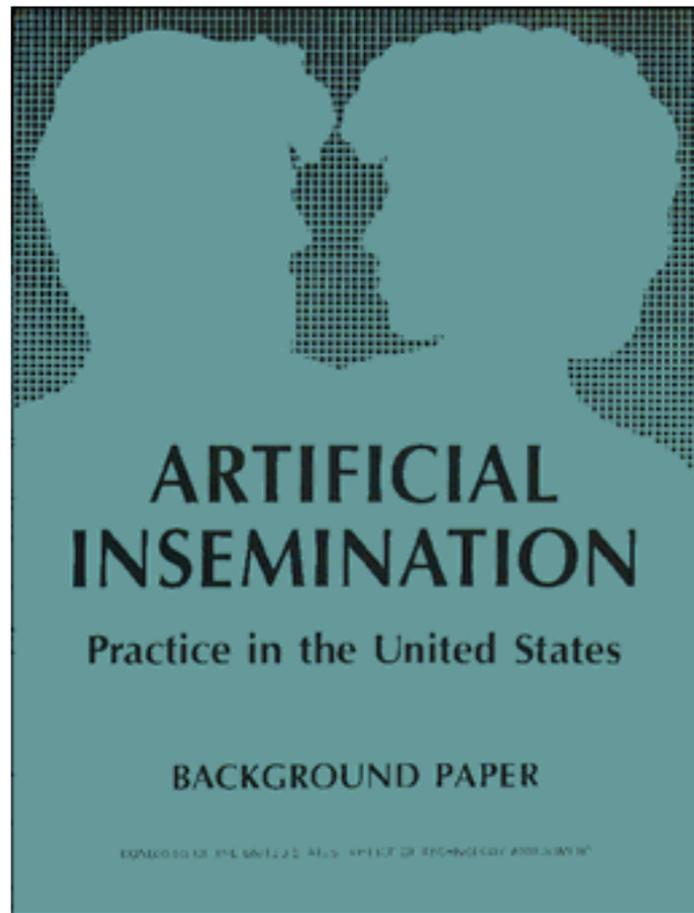


*Artificial Insemination: Practice in the
United States: Summary of a 1987 Survey*

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Foreword

Artificial insemination is the oldest of the “new” reproductive technologies, yet surprisingly little is known about its practice. This background paper presents the results of a study of physician and sperm bank practice of artificial insemination in the United States. It documents the number of women undergoing artificial insemination each year, the annual cost, medical and social screening criteria for women seeking artificial insemination and men who donate semen, the genealogical recordkeeping available to the resulting children, and physician attitudes toward possible changes in artificial insemination practice.

This national survey was commissioned by OTA to complement its work on the recently published assessment *Infertility: Medical and Social Choices*, a report requested by the Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs and the Subcommittee on Human Resources and Governmental Relations of the House Committee on Government Operations. That report presents a technical, economic, ethical, and legal analysis of the latest developments in infertility prevention and treatment, including use of new techniques such as in vitro fertilization, gamete intrafallopian transfer, and surrogate motherhood. Highlights from the artificial insemination survey were incorporated into the report. This background paper presents the survey results in more depth.

In gathering information for the development of this survey, OTA staff made site visits to 3 sperm banks and 10 in vitro fertilization clinics. OTA was assisted in the preparation of the survey instrument and the background paper by a panel of 37 advisors and reviewers selected for their expertise in survey methodology, infertility research and treatment, artificial insemination services and protocols, civil rights, and regulation of medical services.

OTA gratefully acknowledges the contribution of each of these individuals. As with all OTA background papers, responsibility for the content is OTA’s alone.


u JOHN H. GIBBONS
Director

**Artificial Insemination Practice in the United States
Summary of a 1987 Survey**

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