

THE SHIFT TOWARD OPENNESS: MEETING THE NEEDS OF DONORS AND FAMILIES IN THE CHANGING LANDSCAPE

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BACKGROUND

- Use of donor gametes is a growing path to parenthood¹ marked by many **social, ethical, and clinical paradigm shifts in donor conception** and long-term implications for families²
- Advances in direct-to-consumer genetic testing, social media, and other technologies have effectively **eliminated donor anonymity and reshaped expectations** for donors, recipients, and donor-conceived persons (DCPs)³
- **DCPs increasingly report a desire for openness**, contact, and access to donors identifying and medical information⁴
- Legislative changes reflect this shift: **Colorado's SB22-224** allows DCPs to access donor identifying information at age 18, with similar laws anticipated in other states
- Donors also express evolving views on openness⁵, indicating that pre-donation counseling is only a preliminary preparatory step, and **ongoing education and supports for donors are needed**⁶

MATERIALS & METHOD

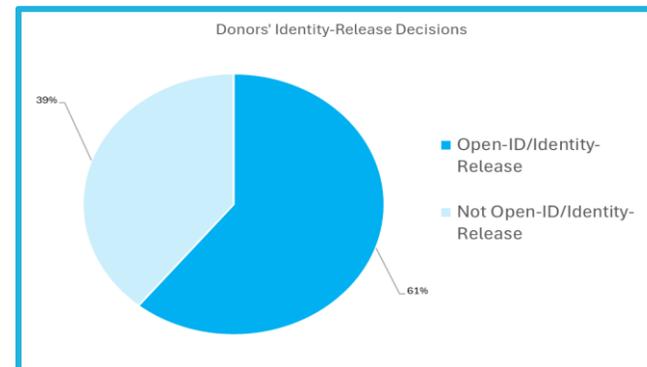
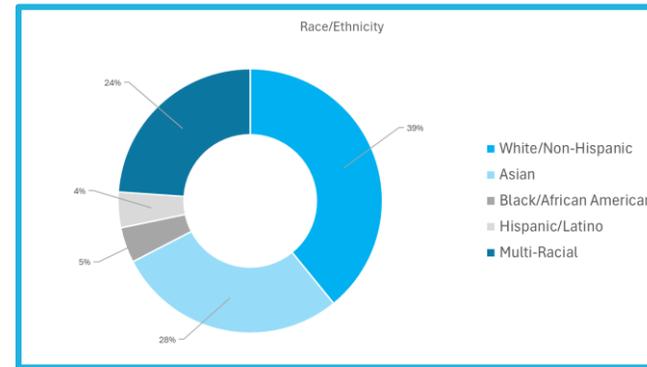
The archival study examined identity-release decisions among oocyte donors at a U.S. egg bank from 2022-2025.

Inclusion criteria included donor candidates who:

- Completed all required steps to donate gametes
- Provided informed consent
- Data extracted from internal egg bank archives and included demographics, time of consent, and donation cycle count.
- Analyses: Descriptive statistics and rate of occurrence were calculated.

RESULTS

- N= 46 (mean age= 26.5)
- The number of donation cycles ranged from 1 to 6



- 71% of donors who cycled in 2025 chose identity-release
- Since the option was introduced in 2022, data show a rising trend in identity-release participation

CONCLUSION

- Findings show a growing trend towards identity-release among oocyte donors with the **majority of donors consenting to open-ID/ID-release today**
- These findings along with the **research from the voices of DCPs can be used to inform best practice policies to support recipient parents' donor choices** and prepare them for **their children's future needs**
- Likewise, such policies can help prepare donors for the **"lifelong commitment" of donation**⁶
- As paradigm shifts continue, the **fertility field must implement forward-looking policies to support donors and families**

LIMITATIONS

- Limitations include retrospective design, selection bias, and bank-specific procedural changes over time

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