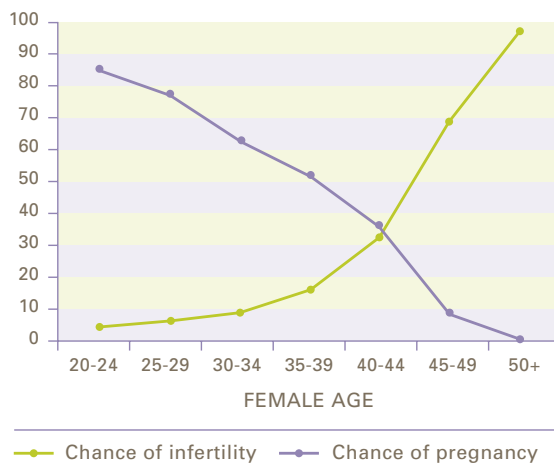


Studies of pregnancy rates and age support the idea that female fertility declines with age. If you have not considered age as a factor in your infertility, you may be unaware of these pregnancy trends.

- Pregnancy rates begin to decline slowly, beginning in the late 20s
- Few pregnancies are recorded after the age of 45
- By the female age of 30, 7% of couples are infertile
- By the female age of 40, 33% of couples are infertile

Effect of female age on natural chance of pregnancy.  
Normal ranges over the course of one year.



## Why do women lose their fertility as they age?

### Egg quantity

At birth, each woman has about 1,000,000 eggs available for fertilization. Each month you may produce several eggs for ovulation, but many will never have the opportunity to achieve fertilization. By the time menopause arrives, most women only have a few hundred eggs left in their ovaries. Because the number of eggs that you have available for fertilization declines with age, this can make it more difficult to become pregnant as you grow older.

### Egg quality

As you age, your eggs are more susceptible to DNA damage, and less able to form a healthy embryo. A woman of 40 typically has lower egg quality than a woman of 20. This is not to say that your eggs are of poor quality just because you're aging. Many younger women have poor quality eggs while some older women have very high quality eggs. On average however, egg quality does decline with age.