

New Donor Sibling Registry Research A Study of 2,013 Donor-Conceived People

Background/Aims

In 2009 and again in 2018 surveys were collected reporting on the experiences of being a donor-conceived person, including disclosure, terminology, anonymity, missing father/male figure, feelings about being donor-conceived, and curiosity about and contact with previously unknown genetic (donor) relatives.

Methods/Participants

1268 | individuals responded to the survey designed for donor-conceived people raised in non-LGBTQ households (**HET**) (**467** in **2009** and **801** in **2018**).

745 | individuals responded to the survey designed for donor-conceived people raised in LGBTQ households (**LGBT**) (**287** in **2009** and **458** in **2018**).

64% of **LGBT** and **74%** of **HET** respondents were female.

14 LGBT and **69 HET** respondents were egg donor conceived

and **the balance** were conceived with a sperm donor.

39% of the **HET** respondents were raised by a single mother.

49% by a mother and father, the balance were raised in other family situations.

73% of **LGBT** respondents were raised by two mothers.

16% by one mother, and the balance in other family situations.



52% of respondents to the **HET** survey and **42%** respondents of the **LGBT** survey reported that they are **Donor Sibling Registry members**.

Potential participants in 2018 were asked to not take the survey again if they already had in 2009.

Some Results

Disclosure **69% of LGBT offspring** and **32% of HET offspring** indicate that they have “**always known**” about being donor-conceived.

In the **HET** families, over **50%** of those **under 18** have **“always known.”**

This number is considerably less for older cohorts. There are clear data points to suggest that individuals who find out they are donor-conceived from before they can remember are better adjusted to the circumstances of their conception than those who find out as an adult. Results also suggest that telling a child that they are donor-conceived from the beginning **can reduce anxiety over not knowing** who that donor is later in life.

In the **HET** survey of those who desired a relationship with their donor, **50%** use the term **“biological father.”**

They are also more likely to use the words **“father”** and **“donor dad.”** Of those without a desire to contact their donor, there is less likelihood of using the terms **“biological father,” “father,”** and **“donor dad.”** This group is much more likely to use the terms **“donor”** or **“sperm donor”**.

Terminology

SPERM DONOR OFFSPRING

LGBT | HET

DONOR

53% | 41%

SPERM DONOR

30% | 39%

DONOR DAD

14% | 12%

FATHER

8% | 7%

BIOLOGICAL FATHER

18% | 41%

GENETIC FATHER

2% | 6%

OTHER

10% | 8%

HET EGG DONOR CHILDREN

DONOR	23%
EGG DONOR	58%
BIOLOGICAL MOTHER	20%
GENETIC MOTHER	17%
OTHER	22%

LGBT EGG DONOR OFFSPRING

DONOR	14%
EGG DONOR	29%
BIOLOGICAL MOTHER	14%
OTHER	50%

Anonymity

87% of HET offspring, **69%** of LGBT offspring said that their parents used an **anonymous donor**.

When asked, **“If your donor is anonymous, do you wish that your parent(s) would have used a willing-to-be-known or known donor?”** **59%** of LGBT offspring and **73%** of HET offspring answered **“Yes”**.



Missing Father/Male Figure

For HET offspring: We asked, **“If you are conceived via sperm donation, and have been raised by a single mom, have you felt something missing from your not being parented by a father/male figure?”** **52.6%** answered **“Yes”**.

For LGBT offspring: We asked, **“If you are conceived via sperm donation, have you felt something missing from your not being parented by a father/male figure?”** **37%** answered **“Yes”**.

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DONOR SIBLING REGISTRY
EDUCATING, CONNECTING AND SUPPORTING DONOR FAMILIES