

Consent

Thank you for participating in this survey. Please read about our project below -

Basic Study Information

Title of the Project: *Fertility Ed: Evaluating the effectiveness of social media as a tool to increase fertility awareness among graduate students.*

Principal Investigator:

Faculty Advisor:

Invitation to be Part of a Research Study

You are invited to be part of a research study. This consent form will help you in choosing whether or not to participate in the study. Feel free to ask if anything is not clear in this consent document.

What is the study about and why are we doing it?

Data shows that women and men in the United States have low levels of fertility awareness. Other studies have shown that tools like pamphlets and blog posts have the potential to increase fertility knowledge. There is no data to show if social media posts share this ability to disseminate information. The purpose of the study is to examine the efficacy of social media as a tool to enhance fertility awareness among students.

What will happen if you take part in this study?

If you agree to take part in this study, you will be asked to provide basic demographic information and contact information which will be kept confidential and protected. During the 2022-2023 academic year, participants will be randomized to receive one of two interventions- a plain text document with fertility-related information or a series of brief TikTok video posts with similar information. Once randomized to a group, participants will receive an email with a brief pre-intervention assessment based on a validated fertility assessment tool. After taking the assessment, the intervention will be administered. Immediately after the receiving the information, there will be an additional brief post-test assessment using the same tool. Additionally, six-months after the initial intervention, participants will again be contacted by email to take the assessment on a third instance in

order to examine retention rates of the provided information. This study will be conducted in a fully virtual manner, no in-person meetings will be required.

How long will this study take and how many people will be in the study?

Participation in this study will take approximately five minutes to provide demographic information, approximately 30-45 minutes for the initial encounter (pre-intervention assessment, viewing the interventional materials, and taking the post-intervention assessment), and approximately 20 minutes to take the six-month follow up assessment. Our goal is to include at least 300 participants in this study.

What risks and discomforts might you experience from being in this study?

There are some risks you might experience from being in this study. This is namely the risk for loss of confidentiality, which is addressed below. The risks are no greater than those experienced in daily life.

How could you benefit from this study?

You will receive no direct benefit from participating in this study; however, your participation will help determine effective methods in which to more effectively disseminate fertility-related information to the general population in order to enhance awareness of fertility and infertility-related issues in the general population. Increasing awareness empowers people with ovaries and families to make informed decisions regarding their health.

What data will we collect from you?

As part of this study we will collect your name, email address, age, education level, program within the University of Texas, sex assigned at birth, self-identified gender, self-defined race, self-defined sexual orientation, and pregnancy history.

How will we protect your information?

We will protect your information by maintaining all identifying information and demographics. Only members of the research team will have access to the data. All data will remain confidential through maintenance in a password-protected sponsored Qualtrics or Box account. Your name and any other information that can directly identify you will be stored separately from the data collected as part of the project. The data that we will collect about you will not be shared with any other researchers. We plan to publish the results of this study. To protect your privacy, we will/will not include any information that could directly identify you.

Information about you may be given to the following organizations:

- Representatives of Institutional Review Board

What will happen to the information we collect about you after the study is over?

We will keep your research data to use future research. Your name and other information that can directly identify you will be kept secure and stored separately from the research data collected as part of the project.

How will we compensate you for being part of the study?

You will not receive any type of payment for your participation.

Your Participation in this Study is Voluntary

It is totally up to you to decide to be in this research study. Participating in this study is voluntary. Your decision to participate will not affect your relationship with The [add as appropriate: and your school, your doctor, or healthcare provider, etc.]. You will not lose any benefits or rights you already had if you decide not to participate. Even if you decide to be part of the study now, you may change your mind and stop at any time. You do not have to answer any questions you do not want to answer.

If you decide to withdraw before this study is completed, your identifying information and study data will be deleted.

Contact Information for the Study Team and Questions about the Research

If you have any questions about this research, you may contact:

Contact Information for Questions about Your Rights as a Research Participant

If you have questions about your rights as a research participant, or wish to obtain information, ask questions, or discuss any concerns about this study with someone other than the researcher(s), please contact the following:

Please reference the protocol number found at the top of this document.

Your Consent

Before agreeing to be part of the research, please be sure that you understand what the study is about. We will give you a copy of this document for your records [or you can print a copy of the document for your records]. If you have any questions about the study later, you can contact the study team using the information provided above.

By clicking the button below, you are agreeing to be in this study. If at any time you wish to stop participating, simply close your browser window.

Yes, I agree to participate

No, I do not wish to participate

Baseline

At what age are women most fertile?

12-19

20-29

30-39

40-49

Over which age range does a woman's ability to get pregnant decline most precipitously?

25-29

30-34

35-39

40-45

Over the course of 1 month, what is the percent chance that a 30yo woman who is trying to get pregnant will get pregnant?

10%

20%

30%

40%

Over the course of 1 month, what is the percent chance that a 40yo woman who is trying to get pregnant will get pregnant?

 $\leq 5\%$

6-10%

11-15%

16-20%

A woman and a man can both contribute to a couple's infertility:

True

False

A man's age is a factor that affects a couple's fertility:

True

False

Having less than 9 periods in a year can be normal for some women and doesn't require any further evaluation:

False

Neither true nor false

True

When is the optimal time to have sexual intercourse in order to get pregnant?

Right before the period starts

First few days of the period

About halfway through the cycle

It doesn't matter

The following are likely to decrease a woman's chance of fertility:

	False	True
Smoking	☐	☐
Occasional caffeine intake	☐	☐
Moderate alcohol consumption	☐	☐
Safely-conducted pregnancy termination	☐	☐
Obesity	☐	☐
Gonorrhea or Chlamydia infection	☐	☐
Prior use of oral contraceptive pills	☐	☐
Being underweight due to frequent exercise or limited caloric intake	☐	☐
Using certain types of sexual lubricants	☐	☐

The remainder of questions relate to infertility treatment:

In vitro fertilization (IVF) refers to an infertility treatment in which:

A thin catheter is used to deposit a man's sperm past the cervix directly into the uterus

A man's sperm and a woman's egg are combined inside a laboratory and the resulting embryo is transferred into the uterus*

When a woman carries a pregnancy for another couple who cannot get pregnant

Surgery is performed to harvest sperm from the man

For a woman over 44 years old, undergoing IVF with her own eggs, what is the pregnancy rate per cycle?

≤5%

6-20%

21-40%

41-60%

≥ 60%

What is the average cost of an IVF cycle in the USA?

\$5,000

\$12,000

\$20,000

\$50,000

Text

Please click on the link below to view the brochure:

CLICK HERE



Video

Please click on the link below to view the video:



Post 1

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Being underweight due to frequent exercise or limited caloric intake	☐	☐
Using certain types of sexual lubricants	☐	☐

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Do you believe most reproductive-aged people are under-informed regarding the course of their natural fertility

No

Yes

How effective was this method of receiving information for improving your understanding of fertility and infertility?

Extremely unlikely

Somewhat unlikely

Neither likely nor unlikely

Somewhat likely

Extremely likely

Did these educational materials change your perceptions of your own fertility or current family plan?

No

Yes

Feel free to share how:

How likely would you be to share this information with a friend or family member who has questions about fertility?

- Extremely unlikely
- Somewhat unlikely
- Neither likely nor unlikely
- Somewhat likely
- Extremely likely

Do you feel like learning this information through a different media, like a plain text document would be more, less, of similar efficacy.

- Not effective at all
- Slightly effective
- Moderately effective
- Very effective
- Extremely effective

Do you feel like this information would be more, less, or equally effective if it were presented through social media posts with graphics and informative text captions?

- Not effective at all
- Slightly effective
- Moderately effective
- Very effective
- Extremely effective

Demographics

How old are you?

- Under 18
- 18-24 years old
- 25-34 years old

35-44 years old

45-54 years old

55-64 years old

65+ years old

How do you describe yourself?

Male

Female

Non-binary / third gender

Prefer to self-describe

Prefer not to say

Choose one or more races that you consider yourself to be

White or Caucasian

Black or African American

American Indian/Native American or Alaska Native

Asian

Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

Other

Prefer not to say

Are you of Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino origin?

Yes

No

What is the highest level of education you have completed?

Some high school or less

High school diploma or GED

Some college, but no degree

Associates or technical degree

Bachelor's degree

Graduate or professional degree (MA, MS, MBA, PhD, JD, MD, DDS etc.)

Prefer not to say

Do you work in a science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM) field?

No

Yes

Have you or a partner experienced infertility?

No

Yes

Prefer not to say

Do you use social media to learn about infertility in general?

No

Yes

What is your identified sexual orientation?

Straight

LGBTQIA+

Prefer not to say

What is your current marital status?

Married

Living with a partner

Widowed

Divorced/Separated

Never been married

Do you have children?

No

Yes

Are you or your partner actively trying to conceive?

No

Yes

Prefer not to say

Prior to this study, have you used the TikTok application as a source of information?

Yes

No

Powered by Qualtrics