

# THIRTY embryos created for every baby born by IVF... and thousands are thrown away

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**Mass production: More than three million embryos have been created since 1991**

More than 30 human embryos are created for every successful birth by IVF, official figures have revealed.

**Hundreds of thousands have been simply thrown away or destroyed in the name of scientific research over the past 20 years.**

The figures show that British scientists have created more than three million human embryos by IVF since 1991. But fewer than 100,000 have been successfully implanted into women to result in live births in that period.

Nearly a million and a half were discarded in the course of treatment and more than 100,000 were given for research in destructive experiments.

Lord Alton of Liverpool, a veteran pro-life campaigner, said he found the Department of Health figures 'staggering'.

He said: 'We are creating and destroying human embryos on an industrial scale.'

Josephine Quintavalle, of pressure group Comment on Reproductive Ethics, said: 'Human life begins at the point of conception. It should not be created as a surplus in such a careless way.'

The figures show that 3,144,386 embryos have been created in UK laboratories since the passage of the 1991 Human Fertilization and Embryology Act. A total of 1,455,832 embryos were discarded in the course of treatment, 101,605 were given for research in destructive experiments, and 764,311 were frozen for later use.

The rest were implanted, resulting in 94,090 births, meaning that in the region of 32 embryos are created for every live birth.

Lord Alton said the figures revealed the folly of spending huge amounts of money on treatments which usually fail at a time when there are 600 abortions a day and only 70 babies put up for adoption each year.



**Terrible waste: Hundreds of thousands of embryos have been discarded in the last 20 years**

‘We would be less than human if we didn’t feel joy for the parents of a newborn baby and even if IVF has helped them to have that child it is right to celebrate with joy that they have a child in that family,’ said the crossbench peer.

‘But we shouldn’t remove from the debate how many other human embryos are discarded without any thought in order to achieve that object.’

Lord Alton added: ‘I think the real work that should be going on in fertility treatment is to fund the development of implantation techniques which don’t require the destruction of human embryos.’

The figures were revealed by Health Minister Lord Howe in a written answer to a question posed by Lord Alton. IVF has a notoriously low success rate of only 15 per cent, though the numbers of babies born as a result of the technique has risen in the last three years to about 12,000 a year.

The cost of a single cycle of treatment is usually more than £4,000, which is sometimes met by the NHS.