Donor Sibling Registry Research

2018 Study of 485 Adult Donor-Conceived People

Context/Objective

The purpose of the study was to better understand donor-conceived adults and their individual differences with regards to viewing their own donor conception, their desire to search for the donor, search methodologies used, and if the donor was found, how they defined that relationship.

Methods

The questionnaire included both qualitative and quantitative questions. It was made available to Donor Sibling Registry members for a three week period from 12/17-1/18.

Participants

- **19** 3.9% of respondents were conceived with an egg donor.
- **466** 96% with the help of a sperm donor.
- 76.5% Female, 20.3% Male the balance preferred to not disclose gender.
- The Age Range was from 18-74 with 28.76 being the mean age of participants.
- LGBT parents raised 27% of the participants the balance were raised by Heterosexual parents.

Results

The great majority of participants, 85.1%, were told that they were donor-conceived by their parents. 3.3% said that someone else told them, and 11% reported that they found out “on their own.”

Searching for their donor.
- 70.3% Tried to locate/find their donor
- 29.6% did not try to locate/find their donor

The methods used for locating/finding donors.
(participants could select all that applied)
- 17.6% used a record search
- 24.1% utilized DNA testing
- 21.2% contacted the fertility clinic/doctor/sperm bank
- 31.6% used the DSR
- 0.6% hired a genealogist
- 4.9% used other means of searching
Knowing and contacting donors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contact Method</th>
<th>Attempted Contact</th>
<th>DNA Testing</th>
<th>Personal Letter/Email</th>
<th>Contacted Family</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Know their donor’s identity</td>
<td>30.9%</td>
<td>16.7%</td>
<td>11.8%</td>
<td>11.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social media (e.g. Facebook)</td>
<td>66.6%</td>
<td>11.3%</td>
<td>26.7%</td>
<td>15.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The DSR</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Called or texted</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Relationship with donor

84% AGREE: "I think a lot about the characteristics I might share with my donor."

60.7% AGREE: "I understand myself better because I have thought about who I am in relation to my parents and donor."

More than a third (37.3%) had established a relationship with their donor and described the closeness of the relationship in this way:

How close are you to your donor?

Using a scale of 1-7, with 1 being “Not Very Close” and 7 being “Extremely Close”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participant Answered</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>7</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td>12.73%</td>
<td>25.45%</td>
<td>14.55%</td>
<td>10.91%</td>
<td>16.36%</td>
<td>14.55%</td>
<td>5.45%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Feelings about being donor-conceived

"Being donor conceived makes me feel special."
- 53.2% Agreed
- 21.5% Disagreeing
- 25.3% Neither Agreeing or Disagreeing

17.3% Agreed
"I try to avoid the topic of donor conception because it raises a lot of questions."

17.2% tend to feel upset "after a conversation about donor conception."

10.4% felt embarrassed about being donor-conceived. 7.5% felt ashamed, and 15.3% like to keep it a secret. 69% are happy to tell anyone about their donor conception.

"I am still trying to figure out how donor conception relates to who I am."
- 50.4% Agreed
- 33.1% Disagreeing
- 16.3% Neither Agreeing or Disagreeing

74% indicated that they had thought a great deal about donor conception.

"Do you feel angry about being donor-conceived?"
- 15.5% Agreed
- 73.1% Disagreed
- 11.3% Neither Agreeing nor Disagreeing.