



International Federation of Fertility Societies

Fédération internationale des sociétés de fertilité

Federación internacional de las sociedades de fertilidad

IFFS comment on the paper and press release from the ASRM Congress, Orlando, FL., October 18, 2011

Hurricane Katrina Led to Increased Miscarriage and Preterm Births for ART Patients – All Across the Country

Commenting, IFFS Board member Dr David Adamson, (Palo Alto, California), said

“These results show a significant association between Katrina and increased miscarriage and preterm birth rates for ART patients. This is an association, so we can’t definitively say that one caused the other, although we may speculate that the stress of Katrina may have been involved. If these patterns are repeated across the world, then one can see how people living in stressful environments, or people exposed to natural disasters, may have poorer outcomes.

However, the real message is that there is much still to understand about the factors which lead to a successful outcome in ART, and the factors which might cause problems. Over the last 35 years we have found that there are many unexpected factors which affect the success of ART. We need to continue to look at these associations, and we need to continue with the research which will help us understand how best to achieve pregnancy, and successfully carry pregnancies to full term”.