

Effect of socio-economic status on uptake of IVF procedures in Australia: A population-based study

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Background

- Australia is seen as an exemplar for its IVF funding model and resulting high rate of single embryo transfer which reduces the risk of twin pregnancy complications.
- Previous studies have shown significant disparity in access to IVF in Australia¹.

Objectives

- We aimed to determine whether this disparity in access to IVF in Australia was still present.

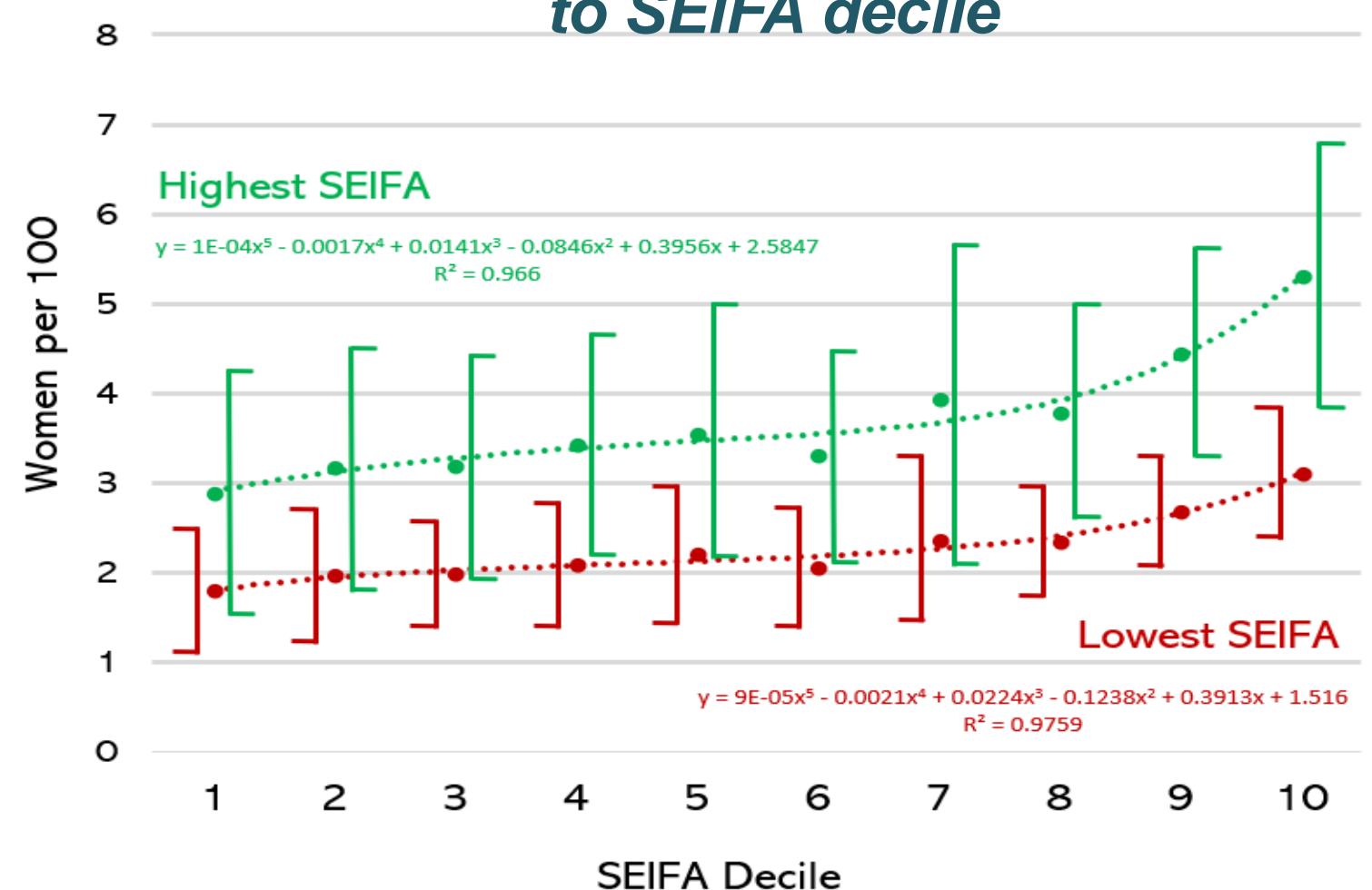
Methods

- MBS data were obtained regarding IVF between 2015 - 2017 inclusive.
- For each statistical area (SA3) in Australia, the number of individual women aged 30 - 40 years undergoing IVF and the total number of IVF procedures were obtained.
- The female population aged 30 - 40 years in each SA3 was obtained from the Australian Bureau of Statistics.
- The relative socio-economic status of each SA3 was assigned by SEIFA and data analysed by SEIFA deciles.

Results

- We found a significant increase in rates in both lowest (from 1.8/100 to 3.11/100, a rise of 73%, aR2 = 0.81, p < 0.005) to highest SEIFA deciles (from 2.9/100 to 5.3/100, an increase of 83%, aR2 = 0.77, p < aR2 = 0.005) (Figure 1).
- Similarly, there were significant increases in the number of procedures per 100 women in both the lowest (aR2 = 0.95, p < 0.005) and highest SEIFA deciles per SA3 (aR2 = 0.92, p < 0.005).

Figure 1: Rates of IVF according to SEIFA decile



References

- Harris K, et al. Socio-economic disparities in access to assisted reproductive technologies in Australia. *Reprod Biomed Online* 2016; 33(5): 575-84.

Conclusions

- This study suggests that despite increasing use of IVF in Australia, the disparity in incidence rates between women across the spectrum of socio-economic status is increasing compared to the 2009-12 epoch.
 - Our findings would suggest further studies into barriers to access are required.