Fertilization

• Males
  – sperm produced every 24-48 hours
  – begins at puberty

• Females
  – ovum produced prenatally
  – 400 available for potential fertilization
  – Fertile period – several days before to one day after ovulation

• Process
  – End of menstrual cycle – pituitary gland secretes hormones
  – 1 ova ripens which leads to secretion of estrogen
  – Estrogen stimulates development of lining in uterus
Multiple Births

- If more than one ova ripens – dizygotic twins
- One zygote splits – monozygotic twins (or higher multiple)

Fertilization

![Image of fertilization process]

Fertilization
Infertility

• 1 in 6 couples
• Female infertility
  – Failure to ovulate
  – Endometriosis
• Male infertility
  – Low sperm count
  – Impeded sperm motility

Enhancing Fertility

• Natural Methods
  – Body temperature
  – Changes in cervical mucus

In Vitro Fertilization
In Vitro Fertilization