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### **Bias for Sons in Some Asians?**

In a front page article by Sam Roberts, *The New York Times* today reports that “experts expressed surprise to see evidence in United States Census data that the preference for sons among Asian-Americans has been so significantly carried over to this country.” Especially in Americans of Chinese, Indian and Korean descent these cultural biases still appear maintained even after immigration to the U.S.”

Experts, however, should not have been surprised by these data because already in 2007 investigators from *The Center for Human Reproduction (CHR)* in New York City reported in a study in the prestigious medical journal *Human Reproduction* exactly the same results. (Gleicher N, Barad D. *The choice of gender: is elective gender selection, indeed, sexist?* *Human Reproduction* 2007;22:3038-41).

These authors in their study investigated couples seeking elective gender selection via in vitro fertilization (IVF) and preimplantation genetic diagnosis (PGD) for family balancing reasons and determined, based on ethnic background, gender preferences. Primarily Chinese, Middle Easterners and South Asians of Muslim persuasion and Asian-Indians almost uniformly selected for male offspring. In contrast Caucasians of European descent in a majority of cases preferably selected for females.

The authors concluded that certain minorities carried their gender biases with them even after immigrating to the U.S. They also suggested that it may take generations to overcome such cultural biases.

Drs Gleicher and Barad are available for further comments on the topic. CHR is a leading, academically affiliated, infertility center in New York City.