

**N3432. DOSE IN 90 DAYS BEFORE CONCEPTION MEANT MORE BOYS BORN AT SELLAFIELD**

A 40% to 50% increased likelihood of fathering a son instead of a daughter has been reported in a study of workers at British Nuclear Fuels plc's (BNFL) Sellafield reprocessing complex exposed to a radiation dose of more than 10 milliSieverts ( mSv, 1 rem) in the 90 days prior to the child's conception.

The study's authors caution, however, that the statistical results might be partly skewed by the younger age distribution of the Sellafield workforce. Fathers in the age range 20-29 naturally produce more boys than other fathers.

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