

## Supplementary Information

In our study of young Faroese men, the sperm concentration was assessed using a Bürker-Türk haemocytometer (Paul Marienfeld GmbH & Co. KG, Lauda-Königshofen, Germany) as described in the main text. As stated there, a second delivery of Bürker-Türk chambers were 0.05 mm in depth rather than the standard 0.1 mm and therefore, 59 samples from F2 were analyzed without knowing whether 0.05 mm or 0.1 mm deep counting chambers were used. As the semen samples had been stored in our bio-bank, the 59 samples were measured again with the 0.1 mm deep chamber to indicate if the original concentration assessment was correct (assuming that the 0.1 mm counting chamber was used originally) or should be doubled (assuming that the 0.05 mm counting chamber was used originally). This was done manually by investigating the agreement between the values of the two measures. Based on these re-analyses, the obtained original sperm concentrations were doubled for 23 samples (table 1):

**Table 1**

ID number	Original count (mill/ml)	Recount (mill/ml)	Factor	Final concentration (mill/ml)
1	31,05	75,19	x2	62,10
2	63,28	61,33	x1	63,28
3	56,64	96,09	x2	113,28
4	44,14	76,95	x2	88,28
5	35,94	31,41	x1	35,94
6	57,42	66,02	x1	57,42
7	62,50	58,98	x1	62,50
8	37,73	36,17	x1	37,73
9	29,06	27,11	x1	29,06
10	37,50	77,93	x2	75,00
11	86,72	86,52	x1	86,72
12	76,17	78,52	x1	76,17
13	23,59	22,97	x1	23,59
14	109,76	104,3	x1	109,76
15	19,33	40,82	x2	38,66
16	27,34	28,13	x1	27,34
17	42,18	46,09	x1	42,18
18	37,89	31,25	x1	37,89
19	23,44	20,31	x1	23,44
20	75,39	63,67	x1	75,39
21	43,75	92,19	x2	87,50
22	29,69	29,69	x1	29,69
23	28,30	27,42	x1	28,30
24	112,50	88,67	x1	112,50
25	126,18	95,31	x1	126,18
26	20,90	41,02	x2	41,80
27	20,31	18,95	x1	20,31
28	40,43	46,88	x1	40,43
29	48,05	90,23	x2	96,10
30	44,53	102,34	x2	89,06

31	23,05	44,53	x2	46,10
32	44,53	55,07	x1	44,53
33	49,80	41,79	x1	49,80
34	30,86	53,52	x2	61,72
35	28,05	31,56	x1	28,05
36	80,47	220,3	x2	160,94
37	27,93	47,85	x2	55,86
38	28,91	56,45	x2	57,82
39	2,69	2,46	x1	2,69
40	54,49	66,01	x1	54,49
41	24,02	47,46	x2	48,04
42	22,46	39,45	x2	44,92
43	91,02	180,07	x2	182,04
44	13,13	37,89	x2	26,26
45	3,18	8,28	x2	6,36
46	14,84	14,38	x1	14,84
47	9,09	6,33	x1	9,09
48	6,57	9,22	x1	6,57
49	1,96	1,73	x1	1,96
50	15,31	35,23	x2	30,62
51	3,22	0,85	x1	3,22
52	5,27	3,95	x1	5,27
53	5,63	10,47	x2	11,26
54	10,55	22,42	x2	21,10
55	5,16	5,39	x1	5,16
56	17,34	17,27	x1	17,34
57	4,18	8,16	x1	4,18
58	5,30	4,35	x1	5,30
59	19,30	41,02	x2	38,60

To ascertain that the concentration could be replicated in thawed samples, 15 thawed samples known to be counted in 0.1 mm deep chamber were counted again. As anticipated, the results were replicated and shown to be accurate (Table 2):

**Table 2:**

Sample	Original count (mill/ml)	Recount (mill/ml)	Factor
1	224,4	203,9	1,10
2	8,55	7,03	1,22
3	20,74	20,31	1,02
4	21,64	20,39	1,06
5	33,7	31,4	1,07
6	62,9	60,5	1,04
7	51,4	56,8	0,91
8	35,9	46,7	0,77
9	55,5	60,2	0,92

10	37,89	27,89	1,36
11	5,39	4,2	1,28
12	8,52	1,84	4,63
13	1,78	1,21	1,47
14	154,3	149,22	1,03
15	13,91	11,44	1,22