

Series 21

No. 56



Vital and Health Statistics

From the CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION / National Center for Health Statistics

Trends in Pregnancies and Pregnancy Rates by Outcome: Estimates for the United States, 1976-96

January 2000



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Center for Health Statistics



Copyright information

All material appearing in this report is in the public domain and may be reproduced or copied without permission; citation as to source, however, is appreciated.

Suggested citation

Ventura SJ, Mosher WD, Curtin SC, Abma JC, Henshaw S. Trends in pregnancies and pregnancy rates by outcome: Estimates for the United States, 1976–96 . National Center for Health Statistics. Vital Health Stat 21(56). 2000.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Trends in pregnancies and pregnancy rates by outcome: estimates for the United States, 1976–96.

p. cm. — (Vital and health statistics. Series 21, Data on natality, marriage, and divorce; no. 56) (DHHS publication ; no. (PHS) 2000-1934)

Includes bibliographical references.

ISBN 0-8406-0561-7

1. Pregnancy—United States—Statistics. 2. Childbirth—United States—Statistics. 3. Abortion—United States—Statistics. 4. Fetal death—United States—Statistics. I. National Center for Health Statistics (U.S.). II. Series. III. Series: DHHS publication ; no. (PHS) 2000-1934.

HA211 .A3 no. 56

[RG530.3.U5]

304.6'3'0973021 s—dc21

304.6'3'0973021

99-088898

CIP

For sale by the U.S. Government Printing Office
Superintendent of Documents
Mail Stop: SSOP
Washington, DC 20402-9328
Printed on acid-free paper.

Vital and Health Statistics

Trends in Pregnancies and Pregnancy Rates by Outcome: Estimates for the United States, 1976–96

Series 21:
Data From the
National Vital Statistics System
No. 56

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Center for Health Statistics

Hyattsville, Maryland
January 2000
DHHS Publication No. (PHS) 2000-1934

National Center for Health Statistics

Edward J. Sondik, Ph.D., *Director*

Jack R. Anderson, *Deputy Director*

Jack R. Anderson, *Acting Associate Director for International Statistics*

Lester R. Curtin, Ph.D., *Acting Associate Director for Research and Methodology*

Jennifer H. Madans, Ph.D., *Acting Associate Director for Analysis, Epidemiology, and Health Promotion*

P. Douglas Williams, *Acting Associate Director for Data Standards, Program Development, and Extramural Programs*

Edward L. Hunter, *Associate Director for Planning, Budget, and Legislation*

Jennifer H. Madans, Ph.D., *Acting Associate Director for Vital and Health Statistics Systems*

Douglas L. Zinn, *Acting Associate Director for Management*

Charles J. Rothwell, *Associate Director for Data Processing and Services*

Division of Vital Statistics

Mary Anne Freedman, *Director*

James A. Weed, Ph.D., *Deputy Director*

James A. Weed, Ph.D., *Acting Chief, Reproductive Statistics Branch*

Nicholas F. Pace, *Chief, Systems, Programming, and Statistical Resources Branch*

Ronald Chamblee, *Chief, Data Acquisition and Evaluation Branch*

Contents

Abstract	1
Highlights	1
Number of Pregnancies	1
Pregnancy Rates	1
Pregnancy Outcomes	1
Trends in Teenage Pregnancy	2
Variations by Marital Status	2
Lifetime Pregnancies	2
Factors Affecting Variations and Trends in Pregnancy Rates	3
Introduction	3
Sources and Methods	3
Results	4
Trends	4
Pregnancy Rates in 1995 and 1996	8
Outcomes in 1995–96	10
Factors Associated with Pregnancy Rates	12
Pregnancy Rates by Age	14
Pregnancy Rates for Hispanic, Non-Hispanic Black, and Non-Hispanic White Women	16
Other Factors Affecting Pregnancy Rates	18
Teenage Pregnancy	20
References	22
Appendix	45
Technical Notes	45

Text Tables

A. Birth rates by age and parity of mother: United States, 1975, 1980, 1985, and 1990–97	7
B. Estimated lifetime pregnancy, live birth, and induced abortion rates by race and Hispanic origin, 1990 and 1995	11
C. 1-year probability of unintended pregnancy, according to contraceptive method used: United States, 1995	14
D. Percent of women who are seeking pregnancy and pregnancy rate by age: United States, 1995	15
E. Percent distribution of contraceptive users aged 15–44 years, by method, according to age and intent to have more children: United States, 1995	16
F. Total pregnancy rates and total fertility rates by wantedness of pregnancy, by race and Hispanic origin: United States, 1995	16
G. Pregnancy rates for unmarried women in 1995, using 3 different denominators: per 1,000 unmarried women aged 15–44 years; per 1,000 unmarried women 15–44 years who have ever had intercourse; and per 1,000 unmarried women aged 15–44 years who had intercourse in the last 12 months: United States, 1995	18

Figures

1. Pregnancy rates by age: United States, 1980–96	5
2. Pregnancy, birth, and abortion rates for teenagers 15–17 years	5
3. Pregnancy, birth, and abortion rates for teenagers 18–19 years	6

4.	Pregnancy, live birth, induced abortion, and fetal loss rates by race and Hispanic origin, 1990 and 1995	7
5.	Pregnancy and birth rates by age: United States, 1996	8
6.	Pregnancy rates by age, race, and Hispanic origin of woman, 1995	9
7.	Birth rates by age, race, and Hispanic origin of mother, 1995	10
8.	Pregnancy, birth, and abortion rates, by marital status, race, and Hispanic origin, 1995	11
9.	Total pregnancy and fertility rates by race and Hispanic origin, 1990 and 1995	12
10.	Percent of pregnancies ending as a live birth, induced abortion, or fetal loss, by age of woman, 1996	12
11.	Percent of pregnancies by outcome, race, and Hispanic origin of woman, 1995	13
12.	Percent of pregnancies ending in abortion by marital status, 1980, 1990, and 1995	13
13.	Factors affecting birth rates	14
14.	Percent of females aged 15–19 years who have ever had sexual intercourse by median family income of community and race, 1995	19
15.	Percent of births unwanted by the mother, by education and race and Hispanic origin: United States, 1995	20
16.	Teenage pregnancy rates by race and Hispanic origin, 1995	21

Detailed Tables

1.	Numbers and rates of pregnancies, live births, induced abortions, and fetal losses, and number of women: United States, 1976–96	25
2.	Numbers of pregnancies, live births, induced abortions, and fetal losses, by age and race of woman: United States, 1976 and 1980–96	26
3.	Pregnancy, live birth, induced abortion, and fetal loss rates by age and race of woman: United States, 1976 and 1980–96	28
4.	Pregnancy, live birth, induced abortion, and fetal loss rates by age, race, and Hispanic origin of woman: United States, 1990–95	30
5.	Numbers and rates of pregnancies, live births, induced abortions, and fetal losses for teenagers, by age, race, and Hispanic origin: United States, 1996	32
6.	Pregnancy, live birth, and induced abortion rates by marital status and race and Hispanic origin: United States, 1980 and 1990–95	33
7.	Percent distribution of pregnancies by outcome of pregnancy, according to age, race, and Hispanic origin of woman: United States, 1995	34
8.	Percent of never married males and females 15–19 years of age who have had sexual intercourse, by selected age groups and sociodemographic characteristics: United States, 1988 and 1995	35
9.	Percent distribution of women 15–44 years of age, by frequency of sexual intercourse in the last 3 months, according to age, marital status, and race and Hispanic origin: United States, 1988 and 1995	36
10.	Percent of females 15–19 years of age who have ever had sexual intercourse, by specified contextual characteristics measured in the 1990 census: United States, 1995	37
11.	Number of women 15–44 years of age and percent distribution by marital and cohabitation status, according to age, parity, and race and Hispanic origin: United States, 1995	38
12.	Number of women 15–44 years of age and percent distribution by sexual experience, according to marital status, and by race and Hispanic origin and age for unmarried women: United States, 1995	39
13.	Number of sexually experienced women 15–44 years of age and percent distribution by interval between first sexual intercourse and first contraceptive method use, according to year of first intercourse and race and Hispanic origin: United States, 1995	40
14.	Number of non-Hispanic white women 15–44 years of age and percent distribution by current contraceptive status and method, according to age at interview and parity: United States, 1988 and 1995	41
15.	Number of non-Hispanic black women 15–44 years of age and percent distribution by current contraceptive status and method, according to age at interview and parity: United States, 1988 and 1995	42
16.	Measures of teenage sexual activity and pregnancy for women aged 15–19 years by age: United States, 1995	43
17.	Measures of teenage sexual activity and pregnancy for women 15–19 years of age, by race and Hispanic origin: United States, 1995	43
18.	Number of women 15–19 years of age and measures of sexual activity, pregnancy, and births for women aged 15–19 years: United States, 1982, 1988, 1990, and 1995	43
19.	Selected indicators of sexual activity and condom use among never-married males aged 15–19 years from the National Survey of Adolescent Males, 1988 and 1995	44

Appendix Tables

I.	Estimated number of pregnancies by outcome of pregnancy by age, race, and Hispanic origin of woman: United States, 1995	46
II.	Estimated number of pregnancies by outcome of pregnancy, marital status, and race and Hispanic origin of woman: United States, 1995	46
III.	Percent of teenage females 15–19 years who have ever had sexual intercourse, according to 2 measures of age from the National Survey of Family Growth: United States, 1982, 1988, 1990, and 1995	47

Abstract

Objectives

This report presents national estimates of pregnancies and pregnancy rates according to women's age, race, and Hispanic origin, and by marital status, race, and Hispanic origin. Data are presented for 1976–96. Data from the National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG) are used to show information on sexual activity, contraceptive practices, and infertility, as well as women's reports of pregnancy intentions.

Methods

Tables of pregnancy rates and the factors affecting pregnancy rates are presented and interpreted. Birth data are from the birth-registration system for all births registered in the United States and reported by State health departments to NCHS; abortion data are from The Alan Guttmacher Institute (AGI) and the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); and fetal loss data are from pregnancy history information collected in the NSFG.

Results

In 1996 an estimated 6.24 million pregnancies resulted in 3.89 million live births, 1.37 million induced abortions, and 0.98 million fetal losses. The pregnancy rate in 1996 was 104.7 pregnancies per 1,000 women aged 15–44 years, 9 percent lower than in 1990 (115.6), and the lowest recorded since 1976 (102.7). Since 1990 rates have dropped 8 percent for live births, 16 percent for induced abortions, and 4 percent for fetal losses.

The teenage pregnancy rate has declined considerably in the 1990's, falling 15 percent from its 1991 high of 116.5 per 1,000 women aged 15–19 years to 98.7 in 1996. Among the factors accounting for this decline are decreased sexual activity, increases in condom use, and the adoption of the injectable and implant contraceptives.

Keywords: *pregnancy rates • teenage pregnancy • birth • sexual activity • contraception*

Trends in Pregnancies and Pregnancy Rates by Outcome: Estimates for the United States, 1976–96

by *Stephanie J. Ventura, M.A.; William D. Mosher, Ph.D.; Sally C. Curtin, M.A.; Joyce C. Abma, Ph.D.; Division of Vital Statistics; and Stanley Henshaw, Ph.D.; The Alan Guttmacher Institute*

Highlights

This report presents comprehensive information on pregnancies and pregnancy rates in the United States. The study incorporates birth, abortion, and fetal loss data to compile national estimates of pregnancy rates according to characteristics such as age, race and Hispanic origin, and marital status. Trends and variations in pregnancy rates are described and interpreted. Summary data on pregnancies by age are presented for 1976–96; 1996 is the most recent year for which abortion data by age are available. Pregnancy estimates by age, race and Hispanic origin, and by marital status, race, and Hispanic origin are shown for 1995, the latest year for which national abortion data are available by these characteristics.

Number of Pregnancies

An estimated 6,240,000 pregnancies resulted in a live birth, induced abortion, or fetal loss in the United States in 1996, half a million fewer than the number estimated for 1990 (6,778,000), when the number of pregnancies reached its peak. Since 1990 the total

number of pregnancies has declined steadily, by an average of more than 1 percent per year.

The 1996 total of 6.24 million pregnancies included 3.89 million live births, 1.37 million induced abortions, and 0.98 million fetal losses. This means that 62 percent of pregnancies in the U.S. ended in live birth, 22 percent in induced abortion, and 16 percent in fetal loss.

Pregnancy Rates

The pregnancy rate, defined as the number of pregnancies per 1,000 women aged 15–44 years, was 104.7 in 1996, 9 percent lower than the rate in 1990 (115.6). The 1996 pregnancy rate is the lowest recorded since 1976 (102.7 per 1,000).

Pregnancy rates are highest for women in their early twenties, with a rate in 1996 of 183 pregnancies per 1,000 women aged 20–24 years. Rates are also high among women aged 25–29 years (171 per 1,000) and older teenagers 18–19 years (146 per 1,000).

Pregnancy Outcomes

Trends in the three components of the pregnancy rates (live births, induced

This report was prepared in the Division of Vital Statistics. The authors gratefully acknowledge the special tabulations prepared by Anjani Chandra and Linda Piccinino of the Reproductive Statistics Branch (RSB), and the thoughtful review of the manuscript by Christine Bachrach of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. Tables were reviewed by Janet Gutierrez of RSB. This report was edited by Demarius V. Miller, typeset by Jacqueline M. Davis, and graphics produced by Jarmila Ogburn of the Publications Branch, Division of Data Services.

abortions, and fetal losses) have varied somewhat during the two decades, 1976–96. However, since 1990, rates for all components have declined. The rate for live births (fertility rate) fell 8 percent from 1990 to 1997; the 1997 rate matched the record low recorded in 1976 (65.0 births per 1,000 women aged 15–44 years). According to preliminary data, the fertility rate increased 1 percent in 1998 to 65.6 per 1,000. The generally downward trend in the fertility rate reflects generally stable or declining birth rates for women in all age groups under 30 years. The only age groups for which birth rates have consistently increased are women aged 30 years and over.

The rate for induced abortions declined 16 percent from 1990 to 1996—27.4 induced abortions per 1,000 women aged 15–44 years to 22.9. This rate has fallen fairly steadily since its peak in 1980, at 29.4. Abortion rates generally declined for all age groups under 40 years between 1990 and 1995. Rates for teenagers continued to decline between 1995 and 1996, while rates for women aged 20 years and over held steady or increased slightly in 1996. Also contributing to the long-term decline in the overall rate was the shift in the age composition of women in the childbearing ages to older ages, when abortion rates are lower.

The fetal loss rate has also declined since 1990, but more modestly (4 percent), from 17.2 to 16.5 per 1,000 in 1996. The comparatively smaller changes in fetal loss rates also reflect the shifting age distribution of women of reproductive age, to ages at which fetal losses are relatively more likely.

Trends in Teenage Pregnancy

Teenage pregnancy rates have declined considerably in the 1990's with declines found for all three pregnancy outcomes. The overall pregnancy rate was 98.7 per 1,000 women aged 15–19 years in 1996, down 15 percent from its high point of 116.5 in 1991. The 1996 rate is the lowest recorded in the two decades for which this series of pregnancy rates is available.

The rate for live births to teenagers 15–19 years dropped 12 percent from 62.1 to 54.4 per 1,000 during 1991–96, and has continued to decline. The teenage birth rate has fallen a total of 18 percent from 1991 to 1998 (51.1), according to preliminary data. The first birth rate for teenagers was virtually unchanged in 1991–95; nearly all of the total 10-percent decline since 1991 occurred in 1996 and 1997. In contrast, the rate of second births to teenagers who have had one birth has fallen sharply, 21 percent since 1991. This decline was especially evident for black teenagers, for whom the second birth rate dropped 28 percent.

In contrast to the decline in the teenage birth rate which began after 1991, the induced abortion rate for teenagers began to decline after 1988. From 1988 to 1996, the abortion rate fell 33 percent from 43.5 to 29.2 per 1,000. The fetal loss rate for teenagers declined 10 percent between 1991 and 1996 (15.2 per 1,000).

Among the factors accounting for the overall falling teenage pregnancy rates are decreased sexual activity, increases in condom use, and the adoption of the injectable and implant contraceptives. The switch from the pill to Depo-Provera and Norplant among black teenage mothers may be an important factor in the recent sharp decline in their second birth rates during the 1990's.

The pregnancy rates for non-Hispanic black and Hispanic teenagers are about twice as high as the rates for non-Hispanic white teenagers. The lower pregnancy rate for non-Hispanic white teenagers is due to both the lower proportion sexually active and the lower pregnancy rate for those who are sexually active. In 1995, 57 percent of non-Hispanic black teenagers and 52 percent of Hispanic teenagers compared with 46 percent of non-Hispanic white teenagers were sexually active. In 1995 about 1 out of 3 sexually active black and Hispanic teenagers became pregnant compared with about 1 out of 6 sexually active non-Hispanic white teenagers.

Variations by Marital Status

The pregnancy rate for married women in 1995 was 113 per 1,000, 18 percent higher than for unmarried women, 96 per 1,000. But the differences in birth and abortion rates for married and unmarried women were much larger: The birth rate for married women was 84 per 1,000, nearly 10 times their abortion rate of 9 per 1,000 in 1995. For unmarried women, birth and abortion rates were nearly equal: Their birth rate was 45 per 1,000 and their abortion rate was 39 per 1,000.

About three-quarters of pregnancies among married women ended in live births during the period 1980–95. In contrast to this relative stability, the proportion of pregnancies among unmarried women ending in live birth has increased from 33 percent in 1980 to 47 percent in 1995. These nonmarital pregnancies are now much less likely to end in abortion—4 in 10 in 1995 compared with 6 out of 10 in 1980.

Changes in marital status and cohabitation are important factors accounting for trends and variations in pregnancy rates for married and unmarried women. In fact, an analysis of birth patterns among unmarried women from the National Survey of Family Growth shows that almost all of the increase from the early 1980's to the early 1990's in births to unmarried women was in births to unmarried *cohabiting* women. In the period 1980–84, 29 percent of births to unmarried women were to cohabiting women. By 1990–94, this proportion increased to 39 percent. Most of the increase was found for non-Hispanic white women.

Lifetime Pregnancies

Overall, U.S. women are currently expected to average 2.0 live births, 0.7 induced abortions, and 0.5 miscarriages and stillbirths (fetal losses), or 3.2 pregnancies each over their lifetimes, if they experience the age-specific pregnancy rates observed in 1995 throughout their childbearing ages. Lifetime pregnancy rates, including rates

for each pregnancy outcome, declined since 1990.

Estimates of lifetime pregnancy rates are also available for non-Hispanic white, non-Hispanic black, and Hispanic women. In 1995 the rates were 2.7 pregnancies per woman for non-Hispanic white women, and 4.6 pregnancies each for non-Hispanic black and Hispanic women. Since 1990, when these rates were first computed (when abortion data by race and Hispanic origin became available), the rate has declined considerably for non-Hispanic black women (12 percent from 5.2 to 4.6 per woman), almost twice the decline reported for non-Hispanic white women (7 percent from 2.9 to 2.7 per woman). The lifetime pregnancy rate for Hispanic women increased slightly, from 4.5 to 4.6.

Factors Affecting Variations and Trends in Pregnancy Rates

Data on sexual activity and contraceptive use based on information from the National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG) can help explain trends and variations in pregnancy rates. NSFG data on another aspect of pregnancy, whether the pregnancy was considered “wanted” by the woman when it happened, is closely linked to contraceptive use at the time of the pregnancy. Overall, U.S. women have an average of 3.2 pregnancies of which 1.8 are wanted births. On average, non-Hispanic white and black women report that they want about the same number of babies (1.7 and 1.8 births each, respectively), but black women have about 70 percent more pregnancies (4.6 compared with 2.7 pregnancies). Pregnancies among non-Hispanic black women are more than twice as likely to end in abortion as pregnancies among non-Hispanic white and Hispanic women. Hispanic women want and have substantially more births than either non-Hispanic white or black women.

Differences in pregnancy wantedness among non-Hispanic white, non-Hispanic black, and Hispanic women are due in part to socioeconomic factors at the individual, family, and

neighborhood levels. For example, women with more education have fewer unwanted births. This pattern is found especially for non-Hispanic white and non-Hispanic black women, with a smaller effect found for Hispanic women. Women with more education use contraception more regularly and use more effective methods than their less educated counterparts. Differences in cultural factors help account for differences in pregnancy wantedness between Hispanic and non-Hispanic women.

In reviewing the declines in pregnancy, birth, and abortion rates for women in general and for teenagers in particular, it may be useful to consider several possible factors. One is changing attitudes toward premarital sex. Many public and private efforts have focused teenagers’ attention on the importance of pregnancy prevention through abstinence and responsible behavior. Another is the adoption of new, easier-to-use, effective birth control methods by some sexually active teenagers. Third is the long economic expansion in the 1990’s, increasing economic opportunity for teenagers as well as older women. Sexual activity of teenagers, for example, is closely associated with simple measures of economic prosperity. Economic opportunity may have given teenagers a reason to more highly value education and work. Thus the educational and occupational goals of teenagers may have changed over the period and the changing attitudes and new contraceptive methods may have helped them attain their new goals. These factors may help explain the declines in teenage pregnancy rates during the 1990’s.

Introduction

Detailed national data on live births and birth rates from birth certificates are published annually by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS). It is more challenging to assemble data on pregnancies and pregnancy rates because of difficulty in obtaining timely data for the remaining two types of pregnancy

outcome, induced abortions and fetal losses.

This is the fifth in a series of reports that combine data on registered births with estimates of induced abortions and fetal losses to estimate the number of pregnancies and pregnancy rates according to women’s age, race, and Hispanic origin, and by marital status. The previous reports covered the periods 1976–81, 1976–85, 1980–88, and 1980–92 (1–4). This report includes data on pregnancies and pregnancy rates for the period 1976–96, with emphasis on the period 1990–96. Variations in pregnancies and pregnancy rates by age are shown for 1996. Data by age, race and Hispanic origin, and marital status are available, and are shown for 1990–95. Estimates of pregnancy rates for teenagers, calculated in different ways, have been published for 1980 and 1990–95 for most States, and for the United States for 1973–96 (5–8).

Sources and Methods

The estimates of pregnancies in this report are the sum of the three outcomes: live birth, induced abortion, and fetal loss.

- The live birth data are complete counts of all live births tabulated from the birth-registration system. These data are published annually by NCHS (9–12).
- Estimates of the numbers and rates of induced abortions are derived from published and unpublished reports from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and The Alan Guttmacher Institute (AGI) (8, 13–18). The AGI estimates the national number of abortions from surveys it conducts of all known abortion providers, but it does not collect data on the characteristics of women having abortions (8, 13–15,17). The CDC’s National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (NCCDPHP) gathers data on the characteristics of women having abortions from most State health departments (16,18). In 1996, for

example, information on the age of abortion patients was provided to CDC by 44 States and New York City (18). The AGI national totals are distributed by age, race, Hispanic origin, and by marital status, race, and Hispanic origin according to tabulations prepared by CDC's NCCDPHP.

States with no data or incomplete data on abortions, however, included California and Florida, which together accounted for an estimated 29 percent of abortions in 1996 (14,18). This means that the characteristics of a large proportion of abortion patients are not known. Several other States have data that are known to be incomplete. The AGI estimates shown in this report assume that the women whose characteristics are known are representative of all women who had abortions. Detailed information on the adjustment procedures is provided in the [Technical Notes](#).

- Estimates of fetal loss rates are based on sample survey data from the 1982, 1988, and 1995 National Surveys of Family Growth (NSFG), conducted by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) (19–21). National samples of women aged 15–44 years were asked to report the dates and outcomes of each of their pregnancies, including spontaneous fetal losses from recognized pregnancies. Estimates of fetal loss rates for individual years 1976–81 are based on the 1982 NSFG; estimates for 1982–87 are based on averages for the 5 years before the 1982 and 1988 surveys; estimates for 1988 and 1989 are based on averages from the 1988 and 1995 surveys; and estimates for 1990–96 are based on the 1995 NSFG. For the small numbers of pregnancies to teenagers under 15 years, and for women aged 35 years and over, estimates of fetal loss are based on relatively small numbers of sample cases and should, therefore, be interpreted with caution. (See [Technical Notes](#).)

The rate of fetal loss is highest in the early weeks of gestation (22). Most fetal losses reported here therefore are miscarriages; relatively few are stillbirths occurring late in pregnancy. Ectopic pregnancies are also included in the fetal losses. Because some women are not aware of very early fetal losses, the estimates in this report are estimates of fetal losses from recognized pregnancies. Estimates using special methods of detecting these very early losses would be higher. The estimates shown here incorporate age and race and Hispanic origin-specific rates of fetal loss from the NSFG. Other studies have estimated fetal losses differently; see [Technical Notes](#) (8,17).

NSFG data on fetal losses, rather than fetal loss registration data, have been used in this report because registration data are generally limited to losses occurring at 20 weeks or more, whereas NSFG data include all gestations.

- Estimates of pregnancies and pregnancy rates previously published for 1988–92 (4) have been revised for this report. The revisions take into account more complete estimates of fetal losses as reported in the 1995 NSFG. It is believed that the higher levels of fetal losses reported in the 1995 NSFG represent more complete reporting rather than actual increases in the rate of fetal loss. The revisions are discussed in more detail in the [Technical Notes](#).

Data shown by age of woman refer to her age at the outcome of the pregnancy. Some studies of abortion have used age at conception (13,23). Pregnancy estimates by marital status in this report are based on the woman's marital status at the time the pregnancy ended rather than at time of conception; the effect of this methodology on the estimates is described in the section on trends in pregnancy rates by marital status.

Since 1990 the CDC's NCCDPHP has obtained information on the race and Hispanic origin of abortion patients

from most State health departments. Therefore, pregnancy data for 1990–95 are shown for non-Hispanic white women, non-Hispanic black women, and Hispanic women. Prior to 1990, information on induced abortion was available only for white women and women of all other races combined. Trend data for the period 1976–95, therefore are limited to the categories “white” and “all other.”

The trend data for the “all other” category are affected by compositional changes. In 1995, 75 percent of “all other” births were to black women, down somewhat from 84 percent in 1980. This reflects the growing proportions of American Indian and Asian or Pacific Islander births in the United States (9). The proportion of abortions to “all other” women that were to black women was 85 percent in 1995, compared with 89 percent in 1990. This information is not available for years prior to 1990.

Results

Trends

An estimated 6,240,000 pregnancies resulted in a live birth, induced abortion, or fetal loss in 1996, more than half a million fewer than the peak number estimated for 1990 (6,778,000) ([table 1](#)). The total number of pregnancies has declined steadily since 1990, by an average of a little more than 1 percent annually. During the years 1976–90, the estimated number of pregnancies increased in all but 2 years.

The pregnancy rate has also declined steadily in the 1990's—by 9 percent overall—from 115.6 pregnancies per 1,000 women aged 15–44 years in 1990 to 104.7 in 1996. The 1996 rate is the lowest recorded since 1976 (102.7) ([table 1](#)). While the estimated *number* of pregnancies in 1996 was 25 percent higher than in 1976, the pregnancy *rate* was just 2 percent higher. Much of the increase in the number of pregnancies over the two decades 1976–96 is due to the

22-percent growth in the population of women in the childbearing ages; this increase was most rapid during the late 1970's and early 1980's (24,25).

The trends in the components of the pregnancy rates have varied somewhat during the period 1976–96. From 1976 to 1980, the overall pregnancy rate rose 9 percent. This increase is reflected in a 21-percent increase in the induced abortion rate and 5 percent increases each in the live birth rate and the fetal loss rate. During the 1980's, the pregnancy rate initially declined by 5 percent through 1986, and then increased 8 percent to 1990. The trends in the live birth and fetal loss rates were parallel to the overall pregnancy rate. In contrast, the induced abortion rate declined fairly steadily beginning in 1980, with an overall reduction of 7 percent from 1980 to 1990. The 9-percent decline in the overall pregnancy rate between 1990 and 1996 was reflected in reductions in all components—the fertility rate (live births) (down 8 percent), the induced abortion rate (down 16 percent), and the fetal loss rate (down 4 percent).

Trends by Age

Pregnancies and pregnancy rates were lower in 1996 than in 1990 for women in all age groups under age 30 years (tables 2 and 3 and figures 1–3). Over the time period 1976–96, pregnancy rates for women under age 30 peaked in 1990 or 1991. Rates for women in their thirties have risen fairly steadily since 1976; rates in 1996 for these women were the highest ever recorded. Rates for women in their forties have generally increased since 1984. More of the increase in the pregnancy rate for older women is associated with the substantial rise in first birth rates for women in their thirties and early forties, than in the second birth rates for these women. There has been an increasing tendency for many women in this age group to postpone their first birth. For example, the first birth rate for childless women aged 30–34 years rose by more than two-thirds from 1975 (53.4 first births per 1,000) to 1996 (90.1) and continued to rise in 1997 to 92.1 (table A) (11,26).

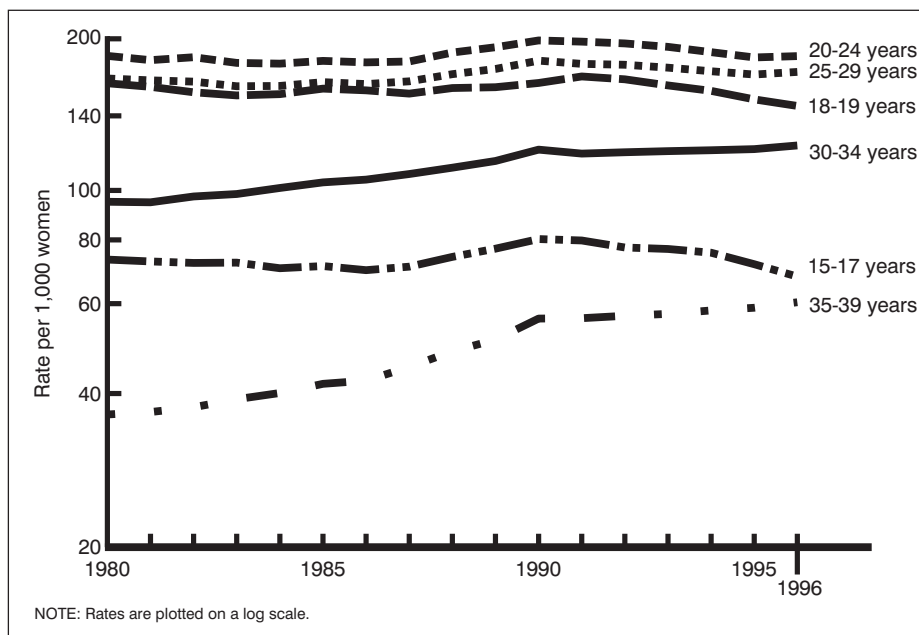


Figure 1. Pregnancy rates by age: United States, 1980–96

Changes in rates of live births by age were quite similar to the changes in pregnancy rates. In contrast, rates of induced abortion have generally

declined since 1990 for all age groups, although there was a slight upturn in 1996 in the rates for women in age group 20–39 years. The most dramatic

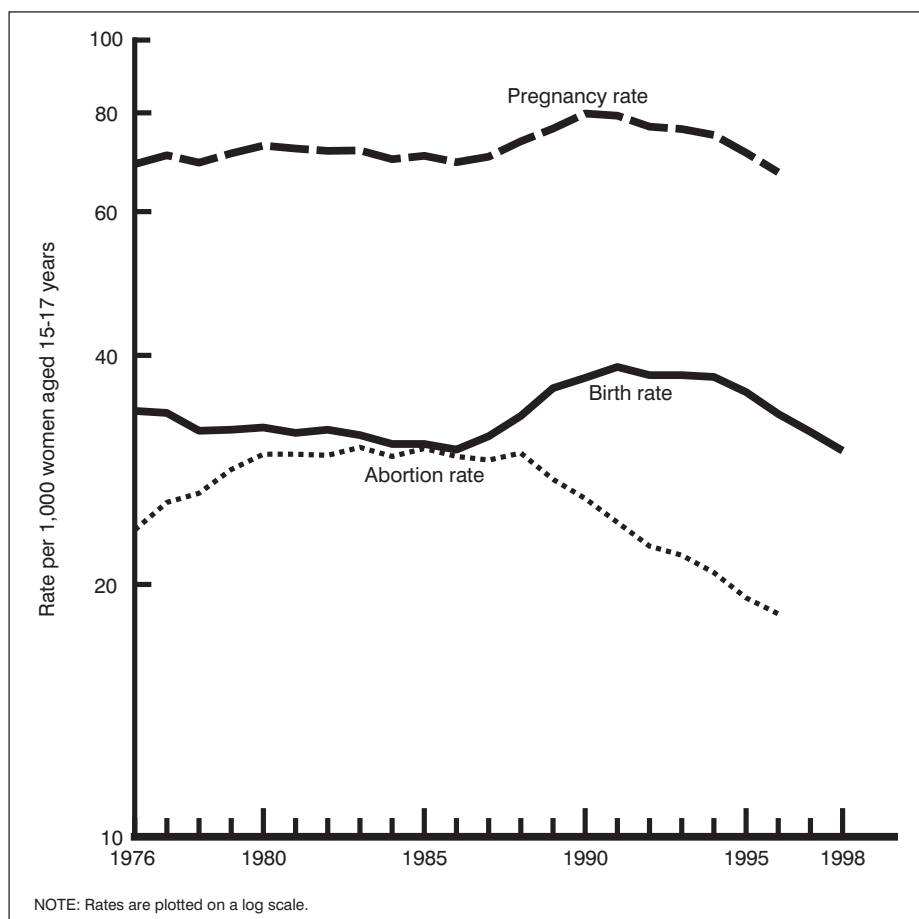


Figure 2. Pregnancy, birth, and abortion rates for teenagers 15–17 years

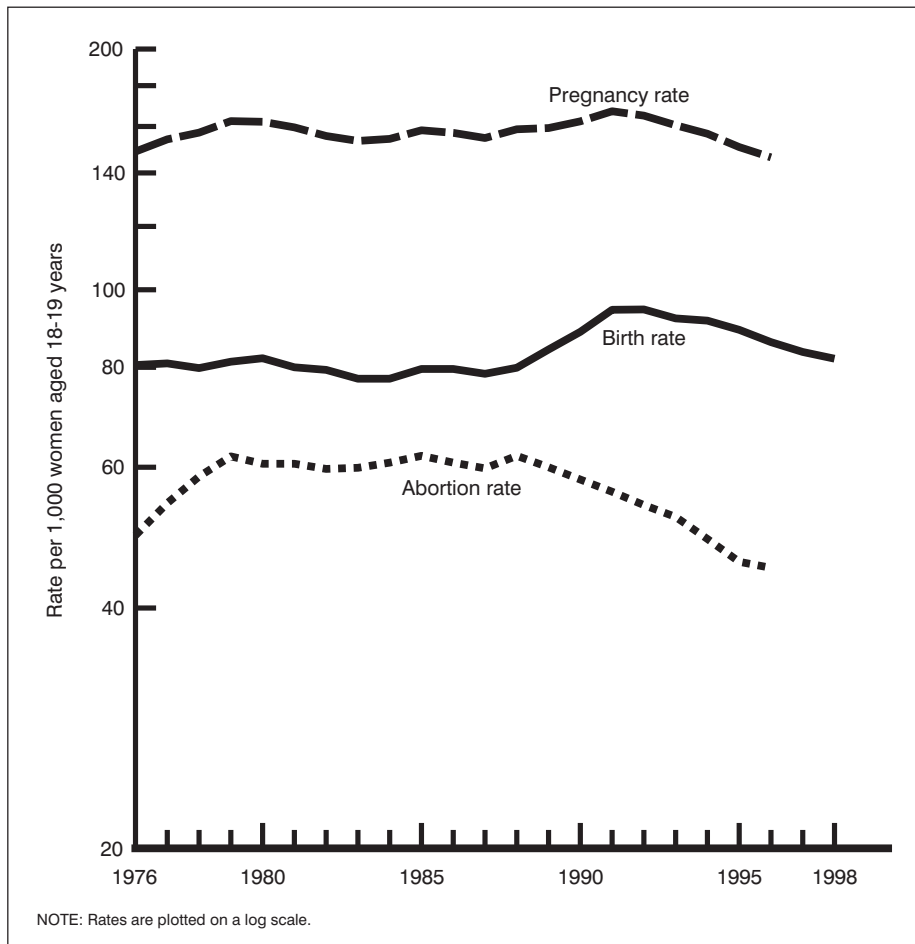


Figure 3. Pregnancy, birth, and abortion rates for teenagers 18–19 years

decline in abortion rates since 1990 has been for teenagers 15–17 years—down 28 percent (figure 2). The rate for older teenagers 18–19 years fell 22 percent (figure 3). Rates for women aged 20–24 years, the ages when abortion rates are highest, were 11 percent lower in 1996 than in 1990, and rates for women in their thirties were 8 percent lower. The rate for women aged 25–29 years in 1996 was just 1 percent lower than in 1990. While induced abortion rates for teenagers in 1996 were substantially lower than in 1980, rates for women aged 20–39 years in 1996 were about the same as in 1980, despite the declines since 1990.

The drop in abortion rates for all age groups has resulted in a decline in the overall abortion rate from 1990 through 1995 (the rate held steady in 1996). The decline was reinforced and strengthened by changes in the age distribution of women in the childbearing ages. For example, the

proportion of all women aged 15–44 years who were 18–29 years of age (the age group when abortion rates are highest) declined from 40 percent in 1990 to 36 percent in 1996 (24).

Trends in First and Second Births

The trends in birth rates for first and second births in the United States by age for 1975–97 are striking (table A). According to birth certificate data, the first birth rate for teenagers (first births to teenagers per 1,000 childless teenagers) changed very little between 1991 when it peaked and 1995 (49.6 in 1991 and 49.2 in 1995). Nearly all the decline in the first birth rate for teenagers from 1991 to 1997 (a 10-percent decline) occurred in 1996 and 1997 (44.7 per 1,000). In the 1990's, the second birth rate for teenagers (second births per 1,000 women who have had a first birth) did change dramatically; the second birth

rate peaked in 1991 at 220.9, and declined to 173.7 in 1997—a decline of 21 percent in just 6 years.

For women aged 20–24 years, the first birth rate changed very little during the early 1990's and declined just 3 percent from 1995 to 1997. The second birth rate for women aged 20–24 years has declined but at a somewhat slower pace than observed for teenagers; the rate fell 13 percent from its peak in 1990 through 1996 and then increased slightly in 1997. For women aged 25–29 years, the first birth rate declined 5 percent from its 1990 peak to 1995, followed by a slight increase during 1995–97. The second birth rate fell 7 percent between 1990 and 1997.

The first and second birth rates at ages 30–34 and 35–39 years both continued to increase in the 1990's, although at a slower pace than during the years 1975–90. The first birth rate for childless women aged 30–34 years increased from 81.0 per 1,000 in 1990 to 92.1 per 1,000 in 1997, an increase of about 14 percent; the second birth rate only increased about 6 percent.

At ages 35–39 years, the first birth rate increased from 36.1 per 1,000 in 1990 to 44.5 in 1997, up 23 percent, while the second birth rate at age 35–39 years increased 18 percent from 50.7 per 1,000 to 59.7. Both rates more than doubled from 1975 to 1997. Clearly, birth rates for women aged 35–39 years increased because of delayed first *and* second births.

Trends in Pregnancy Rates by Race and Hispanic Origin

For both white women and women of all other races, pregnancy rates generally declined in the early 1980's, then increased until 1990, and have since fallen (table 3). (The most recent year for which detailed abortion data by age, race, and Hispanic origin are available is 1995; data specific for teenagers are available for 1996. (See tables 4 and 5.) The rate for white women in 1995 was 97.5 pregnancies per 1,000 women aged 15–44 years, 8 percent lower than in 1990 (106.2 per 1,000). The 1995 rate for white women matched the recent low point, in 1987. The pregnancy rate for women of all

Table A. Birth rates by age and parity of mother: United States, 1975, 1980, 1985, and 1990–97

Year	15–19 years	20–24 years	25–29 years	30–34 years	35–39 years
First births per 1,000 childless women					
1997	44.7	79.5	95.4	92.1	44.5
1996	46.7	80.9	94.4	90.1	42.6
1995	49.2	81.8	94.0	87.8	40.8
1994	50.0	81.5	93.4	85.2	39.5
1993	49.3	80.6	94.2	83.2	37.8
1992	48.9	80.4	95.3	81.4	37.3
1991	49.6	81.4	96.4	80.5	36.4
1990	47.9	81.6	98.6	81.0	36.1
1985	42.1	78.6	91.7	69.0	29.3
1980	44.5	87.5	96.8	64.8	20.9
1975	47.3	86.4	98.2	53.4	19.8
Second births per 1,000 women who have had one child					
1997	173.7	172.9	157.6	131.4	59.7
1996	173.5	171.7	158.7	129.8	58.4
1995	177.5	172.3	158.5	127.8	56.6
1994	189.6	178.7	161.2	126.2	54.8
1993	203.6	184.5	162.9	125.1	53.5
1992	216.9	190.9	164.2	124.0	52.1
1991	220.9	193.8	164.7	122.5	51.4
1990	218.2	196.8	168.8	124.4	50.7
1985	192.1	185.0	162.9	111.5	38.0
1980	187.8	189.9	165.5	99.4	30.0
1975	171.9	178.7	158.4	92.1	28.0

other races was 137.4 per 1,000 in 1995, 14 percent lower than in 1990 (159.2), and lower than in any year during the 1976–95 period (table 3).

Trends in pregnancy rates for non-Hispanic white, non-Hispanic black, and Hispanic women are available for 1990–95 (table 4 and figure 4).

(Numbers of pregnancies by outcome, age, race, and Hispanic origin for 1995 are shown in table I in the Technical Notes.) Pregnancy rates have fallen steadily in the 1990's for non-Hispanic white and black women. The rate for non-Hispanic white women was 86.4 per 1,000 women aged 15–44 years in 1995, 12 percent lower than in 1990 (97.7). The rate for non-Hispanic black women was 153.4 in 1995, 15 percent lower than in 1990 (180.2). The pregnancy rate for Hispanic women declined only after 1992, dropping from 169.0 to 159.6 in 1995. From 1990 to 1995, the live birth rate dropped much more for non-Hispanic black women (16 percent) than for non-Hispanic white (8 percent) or Hispanic women (2 percent). In contrast, the induced abortion rate fell much more for non-Hispanic white women (28 percent) than for non-Hispanic black (13 percent), or Hispanic women (2 percent).

Trends in Pregnancy Rates by Marital Status

Pregnancy rates for married and unmarried women have been estimated for 1980 and 1990–95 and are shown in table 6. Rates by marital status, race, and

Hispanic origin are available for 1993–95. (Numbers of pregnancies by outcome, marital status, race, and Hispanic origin are shown in table II in the Technical Notes.) Although birth rates by marital status, age, race, and Hispanic origin are available (10–12),

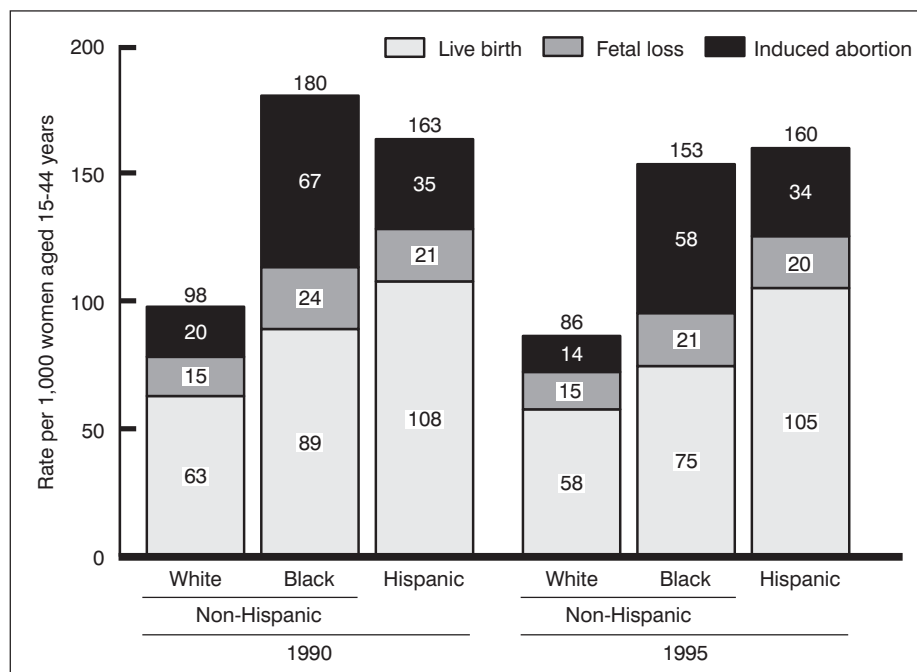


Figure 4. Pregnancy, live birth, induced abortion, and fetal loss rates by race and Hispanic origin, 1990 and 1995

unfortunately, pregnancy rates by marital status and age cannot be computed because data on abortions by marital status and age are not available.

For married women, pregnancy and live birth rates generally declined since 1980 and dropped 10 percent each between 1990 and 1995. The induced abortion rate for married women also declined, from 10.6 to 8.5 per 1,000 women aged 15–44 years from 1990 to 1995.

Unlike married women, whose pregnancy rates generally declined, the pregnancy rate for unmarried women rose 16 percent between 1980 and 1990, and then dropped 6 percent from 1990 to 1995. The birth rate for unmarried women increased 49 percent from 1980 to 1990, and remained about the same during 1990–95. In contrast, the induced abortion rate declined 24 percent between 1980 and 1995.

Rates by marital status are affected to some extent by the fact that they reflect marital status at the time the pregnancy ends. Traditionally, some unwed couples have married following the discovery of a premarital conception, often before the woman gives birth. However, these “shotgun” marriages declined steeply between the mid-1960’s and the mid-1980’s and have continued to drop (27). In fact, the increase in nonmarital birth rates over this period is due in large part to the decline in these marriages (28).

Changes in pregnancy, live birth, and induced abortion rates between 1990 and 1995 for married women were fairly similar for white and all other women. However, pregnancy and live birth rates (and fetal loss rates (data not shown)) declined more for all other women than for white women between 1990 and 1995. In contrast, the relative decline in the abortion rate was somewhat greater for white women (from 8.5 to 6.6 per 1,000) than for women of all other races (from 24.7 to 20.2 per 1,000).

Trends between 1990 and 1995 in pregnancy, live birth, and induced abortion rates for unmarried women differed somewhat for white and all other women. The overall pregnancy rate changed very little for unmarried white women, but dropped from 175.0

to 151.9 per 1,000 for unmarried women of all other races in the 1990’s. The live birth rate for unmarried white women increased 14 percent, whereas the rate for unmarried women of all other races fell 15 percent. The induced abortion rate fell 23 percent for white women, and 12 percent for all other women. Variations in pregnancy, live birth, and induced abortion rates for 1995 by race and Hispanic origin are described in the next section of this report.

Pregnancy Rates in 1995 and 1996

Variations by Age

Women aged 20–24 years have had the highest pregnancy rate throughout the 1976–96 period (table 3 and figures 1 and 5). The rate in 1996 was 183.3 pregnancies per 1,000 women aged 20–24 years. Rates for women aged 25–29 and 18–19 years were the next highest at 170.7 and 146.4 per 1,000, respectively. The rate for women aged 30–34 years was 122.5 per 1,000, and for women aged 35–39 years, it was 60.4 per 1,000. Rates for women under age 18 years were 67.8 per 1,000 for those aged 15–17 years and 2.8 per 1,000 for ages 10–14 years.

The patterns by age for live birth and induced abortion rates differ in that abortion rates are higher at younger ages in comparison with birth rates (figure 5 and table 3). Live birth rates are highest for ages 20–24 and 25–29 years; birth rates for these groups in 1996 were 110.4 and 113.1 per 1,000, respectively. The peak ages for induced abortion rates have been ages 18–19 and 20–24 years; abortion rates for these groups in 1996 were 44.9 and 50.7 per 1,000, respectively. Abortion rates drop off sharply for women in age groups 30 years and over.

Race and Hispanic Origin Variations in 1995

As noted earlier, pregnancy rates by outcome of pregnancy for Hispanic and non-Hispanic white and black women are available for 1990–95 (table 4). The text discussion in this section focuses on variations in these rates for 1995, the most recent year for which detailed statistics are available for induced abortions for all age groups. Age-specific rates for teenagers recently became available for 1996 (table 5). The overall pregnancy rates for non-Hispanic black and Hispanic women are fairly similar (figure 4). In 1995, the rates for these groups were

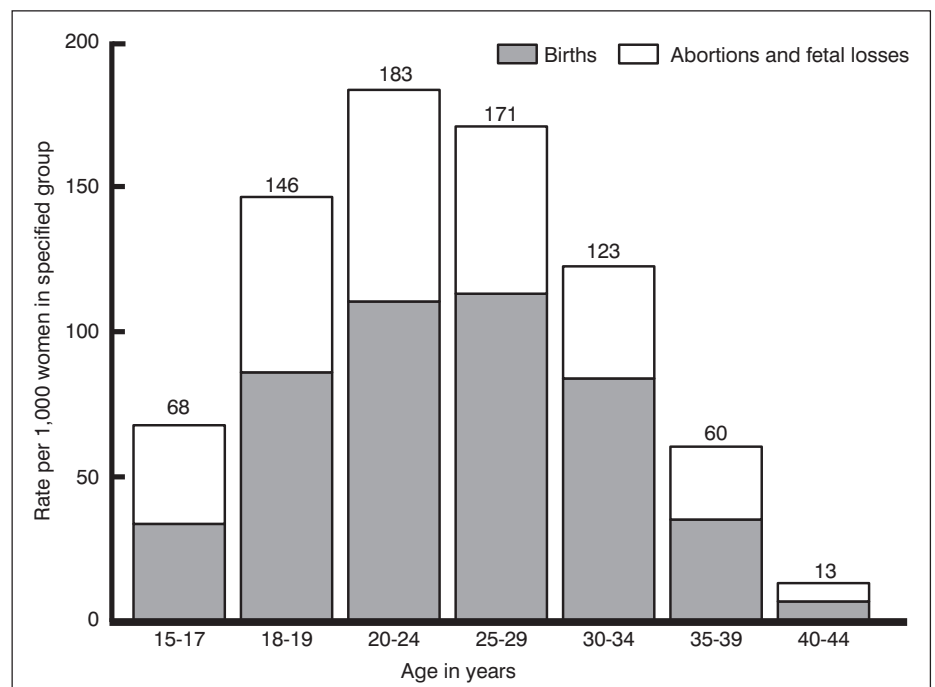


Figure 5. Pregnancy and birth rates by age: United States, 1996

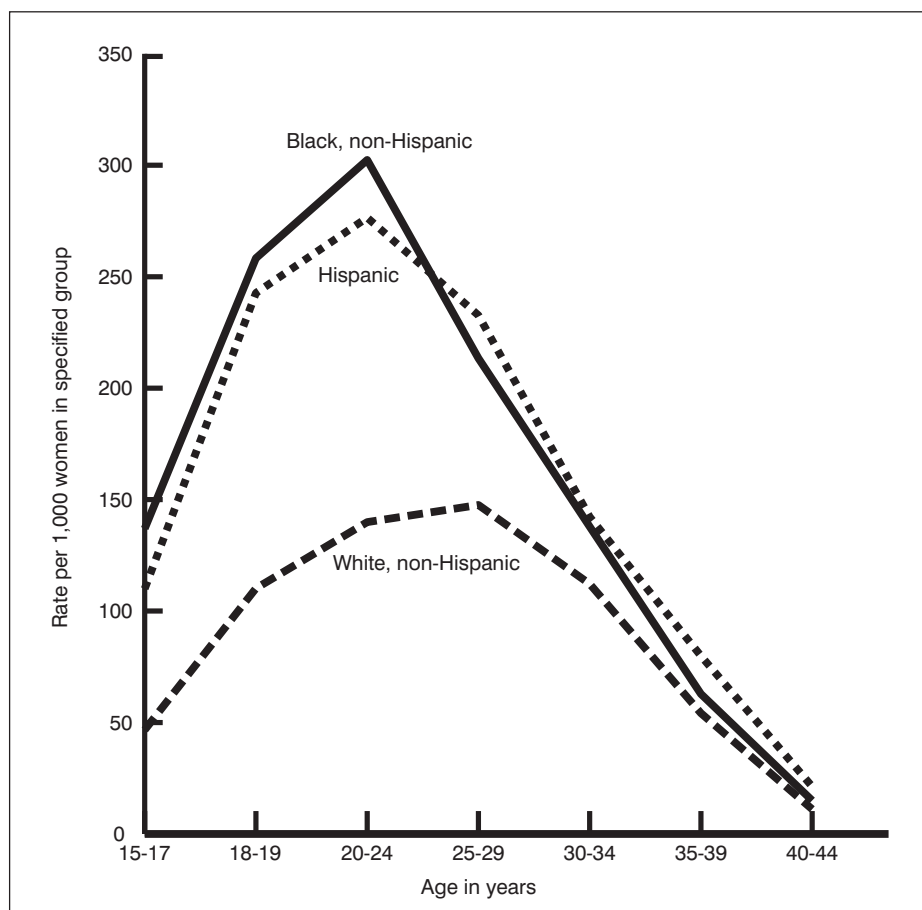


Figure 6. Pregnancy rates by age, race, and Hispanic origin of woman, 1995

153.4 and 159.6 pregnancies per 1,000 women aged 15–44 years, respectively. The rate for non-Hispanic white women was much lower, at 86.4 per 1,000.

While the overall pregnancy rates for non-Hispanic black and Hispanic women are similar, the rates by outcome differ considerably (table 4 and figure 4). The live birth rate in 1995 was higher for Hispanic women, 105.0 per 1,000, compared with 74.5 for non-Hispanic black women. But the induced abortion rate was higher for non-Hispanic black women (58.2 per 1,000) than for Hispanic women (34.4 per 1,000). In sum, non-Hispanic black and Hispanic women were about equally likely to be pregnant in 1995, but Hispanic women were more likely to carry the pregnancy to term. Live birth and induced abortion rates for Hispanic women were about double the rates for non-Hispanic white women (figure 4).

Patterns by age in pregnancy rates were similar for non-Hispanic black and Hispanic women (figure 6). Rates for both groups were highest for women

aged 20–24 years and dropped sharply thereafter: The rate for non-Hispanic black women aged 20–24 years was 302.4 per 1,000 and the rate for Hispanic women was 276.5 per 1,000. Pregnancy rates for non-Hispanic white women varied less by age and were consistently lower in each age group than rates for non-Hispanic black or Hispanic women. The highest pregnancy rate for non-Hispanic white women was for those aged 25–29 years, with a rate of 147.6 per 1,000.

For women under age 25 years, pregnancy rates were highest for non-Hispanic black women. In age groups 25 and older, rates were highest for Hispanic women. The variations by age for birth rates are similar except that rates for Hispanic women age 15 years and over are consistently higher than for non-Hispanic white or black women (figure 7). The gap is greatest for women in their twenties. Abortion rates are highest for non-Hispanic black women in every age group.

Differences by Marital Status in 1995

The pregnancy rate for married women in 1995 was 113.2 per 1,000, 18 percent higher than the rate for unmarried women, 95.8 per 1,000. Differences in the overall pregnancy rates, however, are much smaller than the differences in birth and abortion rates for married and unmarried women. The birth rate for married women was nearly 10 times the abortion rate, 83.7 compared with 8.5 per 1,000 married women, respectively, in 1995. For unmarried women, birth and abortion rates were relatively similar, 45.1 and 39.3 per 1,000, respectively (table 6).

Pregnancy rates by marital status for black and Hispanic women were quite different from the rates for non-Hispanic white women (figure 8). (Rates cannot be computed for non-Hispanic black women because the necessary populations by marital status are not available; see Technical Notes.) Pregnancy rates were higher for unmarried black and Hispanic women than for married black and Hispanic women, the opposite of the findings for non-Hispanic white women. The gap was especially large for black women: The pregnancy rate for unmarried women was 169.4 per 1,000, compared with 104.5 per 1,000 for married women. Both birth and abortion rates were higher for unmarried than for married women: The birth rate for unmarried black women was 17 percent higher, while the induced abortion rate for unmarried black women was more than 3 times the rate for married black women.

While the overall pregnancy rate for unmarried Hispanic women, 171.7 per 1,000, was 15 percent higher than the pregnancy rate for married Hispanic women (149.6), the birth rate for unmarried Hispanic women (95.0 per 1,000) was 16 percent lower. This variation is associated with the greater use of abortion by unmarried Hispanic women—4 times the rate for married Hispanic women (58.4 compared with 14.6 per 1,000).

Live birth rates for married women ranged from 65.1 births per 1,000 married black women to 80.1 per 1,000

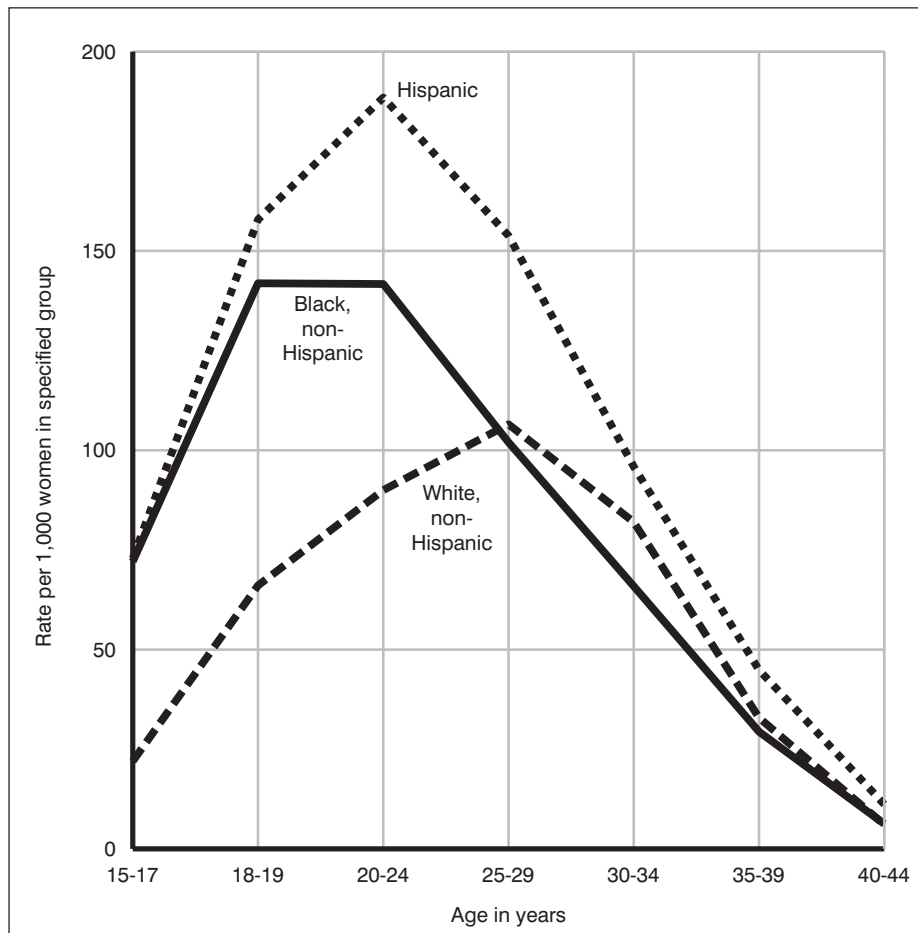


Figure 7. Birth rates by age, race, and Hispanic origin of mother, 1995

married non-Hispanic white women and 113.2 per 1,000 married Hispanic women. The range in induced abortion rates for married women was relatively greater: from 5.3 per 1,000 for non-Hispanic white women to 14.6 for Hispanic women, and 21.5 for black women (table 6).

Among unmarried women, live birth rates were 28.2 per 1,000 for non-Hispanic white women; 75.9 for black women; and 95.0 for Hispanic women. Induced abortion rates for unmarried women were 25.6 for non-Hispanic white women; 58.4 for Hispanic women; and 72.7 for black women. To summarize, pregnancy rates are highest for married and unmarried Hispanic women and unmarried black women. Birth rates are highest for married Hispanic women and lowest for married black women. Induced abortion rates were consistently higher for unmarried women.

Lifetime Pregnancy Experience

The most recent report on pregnancies and pregnancy rates included estimates of the number of lifetime pregnancies per woman for 1991 (4). These estimates are, methodologically, extensions of the better-known total fertility rate (TFR). The TFR suggests the number of births per woman implied by the current age-specific birth rates; the TFR is published routinely by NCHS. Extending this approach, a total abortion rate and a total fetal loss rate can also be calculated. Summing these rates yields a total pregnancy rate, and answers the question, “How many pregnancies would a woman have in her lifetime if she experiences the age-specific pregnancy rates observed in the current year?” (Details of the method of computation are described in the [Technical Notes](#).)

The data shown in [table B](#) and [figure 9](#) represent the average number of

lifetime pregnancies, live births, and induced abortions per woman implied by the age-specific rates in 1990 and in 1995 for each group. Given the age-specific rates for 1995, non-Hispanic black and Hispanic women would have an average of 4.6 pregnancies each during their lifetimes, with non-Hispanic white women averaging about 2.7 pregnancies each. Non-Hispanic black and Hispanic women have the same number of pregnancies, but Hispanic women average about 3.0 births each, about one-third more than non-Hispanic black women (2.2). The differences in estimated lifetime abortions are striking: Non-Hispanic white women average about 0.5 lifetime abortions per woman compared with 1.0 abortions per Hispanic woman and 1.8 abortions per non-Hispanic black woman. Differences in lifetime fetal losses are small: 0.4 for non-Hispanic white women and 0.6 each for non-Hispanic black and Hispanic women.

The total pregnancy, live birth, and induced abortion rates declined between 1990 and 1995 in total and for non-Hispanic white and black women. Overall, the total pregnancy rate (TPR) fell from 3.4 to 3.2 per woman, reflected in declines in live births and induced abortions ([table B](#)). While lifetime pregnancies fell for non-Hispanic white and black women, the declines were substantial for black women. Black women averaged 4.6 pregnancies in 1995, compared with 5.2 per woman in 1990. Estimated lifetime live births dropped more (from 2.6 to 2.2 per woman) than induced abortions (from 2.0 to 1.8) for black women. Rates for Hispanic women were essentially the same in 1990 and 1995.

Outcomes in 1995–96

Pregnancies in 1996 were about as likely to end as live births (62 percent) as in 1980 and 1990 (61 percent) (data for 1996 shown in [table 7](#)). The proportion ending in induced abortion fell slightly, from 26 percent in 1980 to 24 percent in 1990 to 22 percent in 1996 (basic data in [tables 2](#) and [3](#)). Fetal losses increased slightly, possibly reflecting more complete reporting in

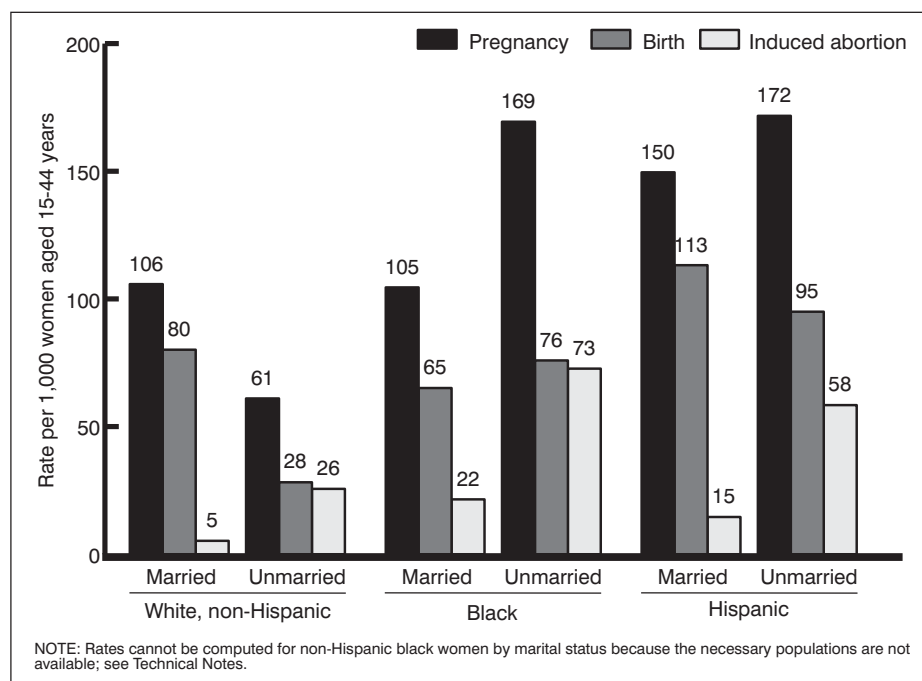


Figure 8. Pregnancy, birth, and abortion rates, by marital status, race, and Hispanic origin, 1995

recent years, earlier pregnancy detection, and a shift within the childbearing ages to ages when the risk of fetal loss is higher. The changes since 1990 reflect declines in the live birth (fertility) rate and fetal loss rate that occurred concurrently with slightly greater declines in the induced abortion rate (table 1).

Pregnancy Outcomes by Age

Just as live birth and induced abortion rates vary considerably by age, the percent of pregnancies ending in birth, abortion, and fetal loss also varies sharply by age. The proportion of pregnancies ending in live births

increased with age from under 15 years to ages 30–34 years—to more than two-thirds—and then declined (table 7 and figure 10). The lowest proportions of pregnancies ending in live births—about 50 percent—were for teenagers 17 years and under and women aged 40 years and over.

Variations in Pregnancy Outcomes by Race and Hispanic Origin

Pregnancy outcomes differ considerably by race and Hispanic origin. Overall, about two-thirds of pregnancies among non-Hispanic white women and Hispanic women ended in

live births in 1995 (table 7 and figure 11). About 16 percent of pregnancies among non-Hispanic white women ended in abortion (one in six pregnancies) compared with 22 percent for Hispanic women (one in five), and 38 percent of pregnancies among non-Hispanic black women (two in five).

Among pregnancies to women aged 20 years and over, the proportion ending in induced abortion was somewhat higher for pregnancies among non-Hispanic black women compared with non-Hispanic white and Hispanic women. At age 20 years and over, more than one-third of pregnancies among black women ended in induced abortion (33 to 41 percent).

Pregnancies among Hispanic teenagers were more likely to end in live births (nearly two-thirds for each age group 15–17 and 18–19 years) than were pregnancies among non-Hispanic white and black teenagers. For pregnancies among non-Hispanic white women, the percent ending in live births was much higher for older teenagers (60 percent) than for younger teenagers (47 percent). The percent of pregnancies ending in live births among non-Hispanic black teenagers was similar for teenagers 15–17 (53 percent) and 18–19 years (55 percent).

Among the youngest teenagers under 15 years, pregnancies among non-Hispanic white teenagers were most likely to end in induced abortion, 46 percent, followed by non-Hispanic black teenagers, 43 percent, with the likelihood of an induced abortion lowest for Hispanic teenagers, 29 percent.

Table B. Estimated lifetime pregnancy, live birth, and induced abortion rates by race and Hispanic origin, 1990 and 1995

[Rates are sums of rates for 5-year age groups (in table 5) multiplied by 5 and divided by 1,000; see Technical Notes]

Race and Hispanic origin	Pregnancies ¹		Live births		Induced abortions	
	1990	1995	1990	1995	1990	1995
Total ²	3.4	3.2	2.1	2.0	0.8	0.7
Non-Hispanic:						
White	2.9	2.7	1.9	1.8	0.6	0.5
Black	5.2	4.6	2.6	2.2	2.0	1.8
Hispanic ³	4.5	4.6	3.0	3.0	1.0	1.0

¹Includes estimates of fetal losses not shown separately.

²Includes races other than white and black.

³Includes all persons of Hispanic origin of any race.

NOTE: Total pregnancy rates are estimates of the number of pregnancies a woman would have if she experiences the age-specific pregnancy rates observed in a given year.

Differences in Pregnancy Outcomes by Marital Status

About three-quarters of pregnancies among married women ended in live births during each year from 1980 through 1995 (based on data in [table 6](#)). In contrast to the relative stability in pregnancy outcome for married women since 1980, among unmarried women, the proportion of pregnancies ending in live births has increased from 33 percent in 1980 to 47 percent in 1995. Conversely, the proportion ending in abortion was 59 percent in 1980 and 41 percent in 1995 ([figure 12](#)).

Race and Hispanic origin—About three-quarters of pregnancies among married white non-Hispanic and Hispanic women ended in live births in 1995 compared with about two-thirds of pregnancies among married black women. Among married women, pregnancies of non-Hispanic black women were most likely to end in abortion (21 percent), compared with Hispanic (10 percent) and non-Hispanic white women (5 percent).

Factors Associated with Pregnancy Rates

Information from the National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG), conducted by NCHS, can help explain trends and differences in pregnancy rates. The NSFG is a large population-based survey of women of childbearing age, focusing on factors associated with their childbearing and pregnancies, including sexual activity, contraceptive practices, and infertility. The most recent NSFG, which included interviews with more than 10,800 women, was conducted in 1995; earlier cycles of the survey were conducted in 1982 and 1988. A small and short reinterview of the 1988 respondents was conducted by telephone in 1990 (19–21). Data on the sexual activity and contraceptive use of teenage males are drawn from the 1988 and 1995 National Survey of Adolescent Males (NSAM) (29).

[Figure 13](#) presents a model of fertility known as “the proximate

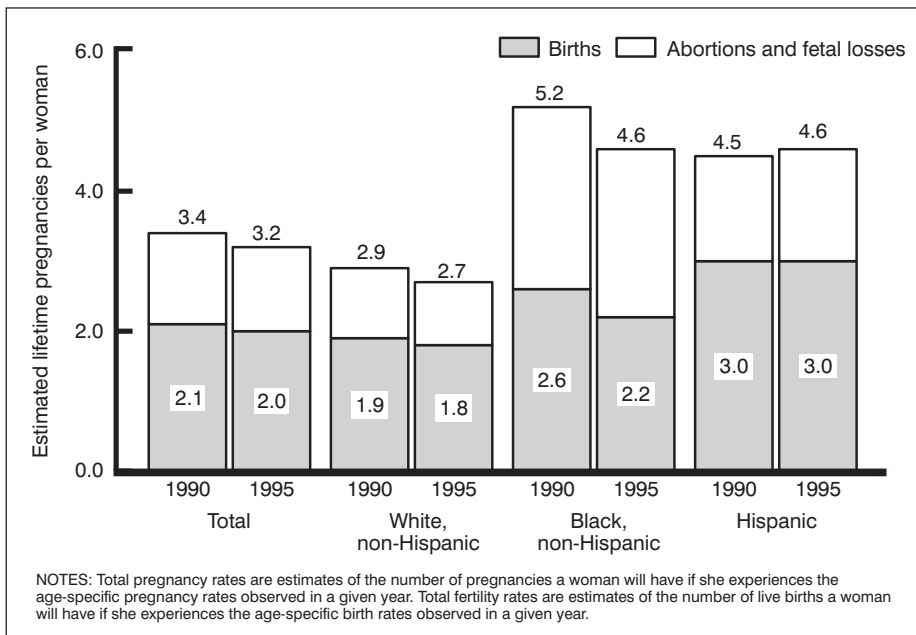


Figure 9. Total pregnancy and fertility rates by race and Hispanic origin, 1990 and 1995

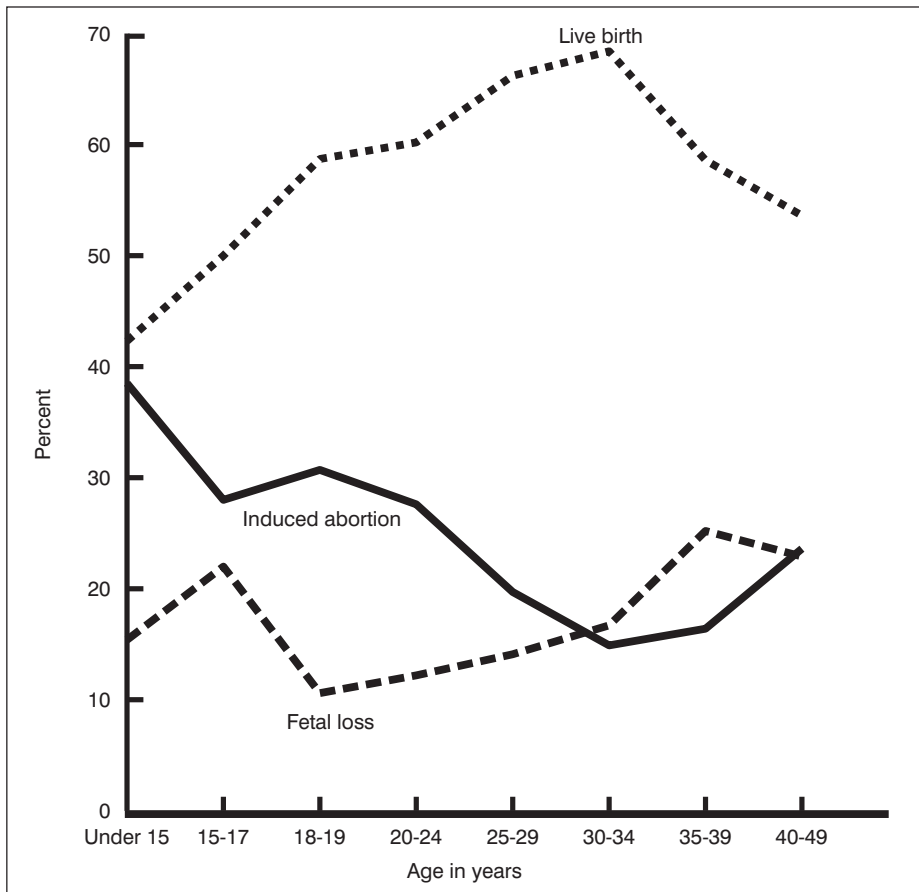


Figure 10. Percent of pregnancies ending as a live birth, induced abortion, or fetal loss, by age of woman, 1996

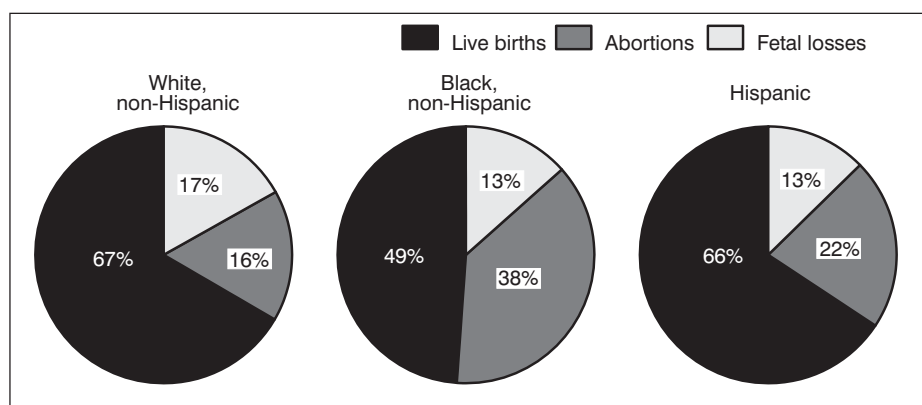


Figure 11. Percent of pregnancies by outcome, race, and Hispanic origin of woman, 1995

determinants of fertility” (20, 30–32). This framework is based on the idea that the process leading to a live birth can be divided into three parts: the occurrence of sexual intercourse, the occurrence of pregnancy as a result of intercourse, and the occurrence of a live birth from a pregnancy. (Exceptions because of reproductive technologies such as artificial insemination or in vitro fertilization are still rare enough that they can be ignored for this purpose.)

The perspective outlined in figure 13 suggests that a variety of social factors (such as race and ethnicity, income, education, work, access to health care, and the community environment) affect birth rates primarily by affecting the probability:

1. That intercourse will occur (“intercourse variables”)
2. That intercourse will result in pregnancy (“conception variables”)
3. That pregnancy will result in live birth (“gestation variables”)

One central purpose of the NSFG is to provide national data on all of these social and intermediate variables from a single source. This report uses the NSFG data in combination with information on registered births and induced abortions. Thus, the following sections that discuss trends and differences in pregnancy rates are necessarily limited to variables that are available from information on registered births and induced abortions: age,

marital status (married and unmarried), and race and origin (Hispanic, non-Hispanic black, and non-Hispanic white). Because the NSFG and the NSAM are sample surveys, the data from the surveys have some sampling variability (or sampling error) so small differences between percents from the surveys may be a result of sampling error. As a result, the following text will focus only on the larger differences.

Following a brief general discussion of contraceptive use, this section will focus on differences in pregnancy rates by age and among Hispanic, non-Hispanic black, and non-Hispanic white women. The intermediate variables of sexual intercourse and contraceptive use will be the focus for explaining these differences. Selected details of the intermediate variables will be discussed: the age at first intercourse and the frequency of intercourse (tables 8–10); marital status and cohabitation (tables 11 and 12); first use of contraception (table 13); and current contraceptive use and method choice (tables 14 and 15). Also briefly discussed are other factors that are important for understanding pregnancy rates and differentials: pregnancy rates among unmarried women, the impact of characteristics of the community on pregnancy rates, and whether pregnancies are wanted or unwanted. The final section is devoted to proximate determinants associated with teenage pregnancy (tables 16–19).

For ease and clarity, in the discussions of differences among non-Hispanic white, non-Hispanic black, and Hispanic women, non-Hispanic white women are usually referred to as “white,” and non-Hispanic black women are usually referred to as “black.” Hispanic women may be of any race.

Contraceptive use—Contraceptive use and specific method choice are among the most critical factors affecting the likelihood that sexual intercourse will result in a pregnancy. Contraceptive methods have different rates of effectiveness, so the decision to use a contraceptive method, and the method that is chosen, may help to explain

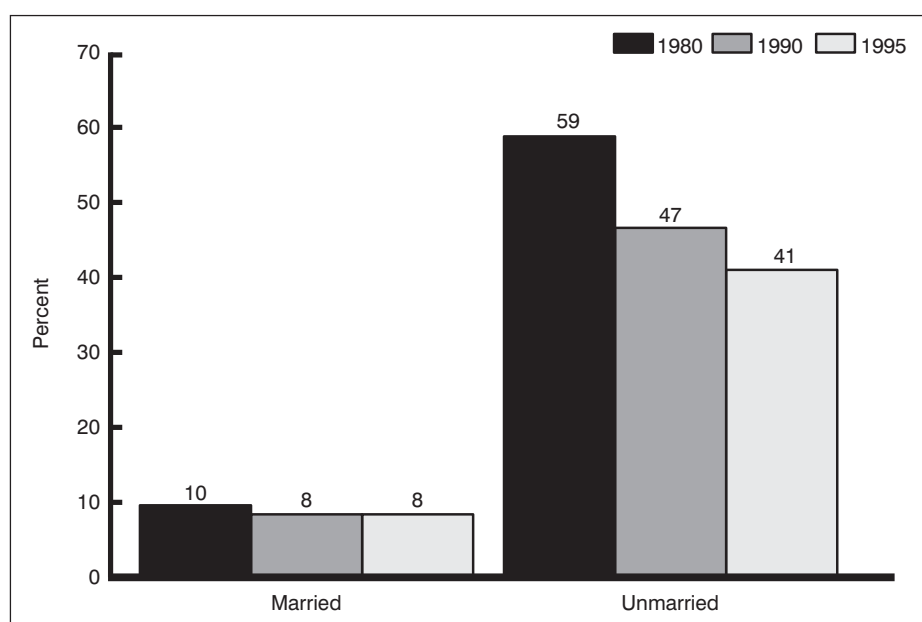


Figure 12. Percent of pregnancies ending in abortion by marital status, 1980, 1990, and 1995

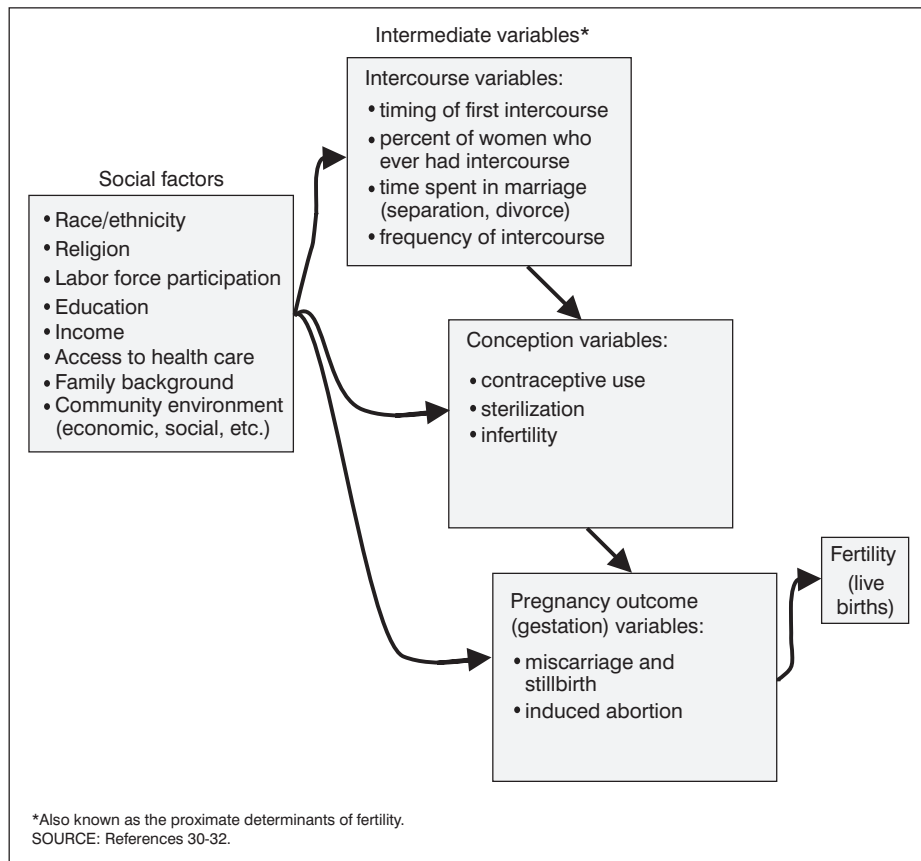


Figure 13. Factors affecting birth rates

group differences in pregnancy rates. Data from the NSFG have been used to calculate contraceptive “failure” rates, which show the probability of having an unintended pregnancy within the first year of use of a given contraceptive method (33). These rates represent “typical use” of contraception, rather than “perfect use” (34). That is, a contraceptive failure may be due to (a) failure of the method or to (b) failure of the user to use the method correctly or consistently. Inconsistent use of the pill—forgetting to take them some days, for example—is relatively common (35); inconsistent use of the condom—not using it during every act of intercourse—is also quite common (21). In other words, many users of contraception found it difficult to consistently use the methods that were available in 1995.

A recent analysis of the 1995 NSFG data (33) shows 1-year probabilities of unintended pregnancy during use of each method. The rates are corrected for underreporting of abortion and standardized for characteristics of users

(controlling for duration of use, age, marital status, and poverty status), so that they are as comparable to each other as possible. The data show clearly that the choice of contraceptive method is an important factor in determining pregnancy rates (33,34). The overall unintended pregnancy rates for each method, expressed in percents, vary

Table C. 1-year probability of unintended pregnancy, according to contraceptive method used: United States, 1995

Method	Percent becoming pregnant
Total, all reversible methods	13
Norplant implants	1
Depo-Provera Injectable.	3
Pill	8
Condom	15
Diaphragm/cervical cap	16
Withdrawal	27
Periodic abstinence	25
Spermicides	29
No method	85

SOURCES: Specific methods: reference 32. The rates cited here are labeled “corrected, standardized” in table 1 of the article (see Internet release: <http://www.agi-usa.org/pubs/journals/3105699.html>). No method: reference 33.

from 1 percent for the Norplant implant to 29 percent for spermicides (table C). For injectable contraception, the probability of an unintended pregnancy in 12 months was 3 percent; for the pill, it was 8 percent, probably because some women sometimes forgot to take the pill. In contrast, other methods have substantially higher rates of unintended pregnancy: condoms have a rate of 15 percent, while diaphragms have a rate of 16 percent per year. Withdrawal (27 percent), periodic abstinence (25 percent) and spermicides (29 percent) have the highest “failure” rates, which means that many users find it difficult to use them properly. However, the estimated pregnancy rate for those not using any method for a year is around 85 percent, so choosing any method sharply reduces the pregnancy rates compared with using no method.

Pregnancy Rates by Age

There is a distinct and long-standing age pattern in pregnancy rates in the United States (1996 rates shown in figure 5) (1–4). The rate increases with age to a peak of 183 at ages 20–24 years and then declines. In this section, the factors behind these age variations are considered. These factors include sexual activity, marital status, parity, contraceptive use, and infertility. Along with marital status, current parity is a key factor in determining whether a woman wants to have a(nother) child.

Sexual activity—Overall 49 percent of females aged 15–19 years have had intercourse at least once—and thus, have been exposed to the chance of becoming pregnant (table 8). At age 15, about one-fourth of females have ever had intercourse; by age 19, about three-fourths have had intercourse at least once. The figures for males follow the same pattern but are somewhat higher at each age (table 8).

About 47 percent of teenage females have had intercourse in the last 12 months (prior to the 1995 interview) (table 9). Among women in their twenties, 86 percent have had sex in the last 12 months; 89 percent of women aged 30–44 years have had intercourse in the last 12 months.

The frequency of intercourse is another factor that affects pregnancy rates: according to 1995 data, 13 percent of teenagers 15–17 years, 31 percent of teenagers 18–19 years, and 52–53 percent of women aged 20 years and over report having had intercourse once a week or more (table 9).

Marital status and parity—A higher percent of adult women have intercourse regularly because they are more likely to be married. The effect of marital status on pregnancy is tempered with age as women reach their desired number of children (tables 9 and 11). In each successive age group, an increasing proportion of women is married and an increasing proportion has had children; women aged 30 years and over are more likely than younger women to have had the number of children they want, so more of them take steps to prevent themselves from having more pregnancies (35). Only 4 percent of females aged 15–19 years are currently married, but about 8 percent of teenagers have already had a child. Among women aged 20–24 years, 27 percent are married and 35 percent have had a child (basic data are shown in table 11). In part because more women in their twenties are sexually active and more are married, the pregnancy rate of 183 per 1,000 for women aged 20–24 years is nearly double the pregnancy rate for women aged 15–19 years. At ages 30–44 years, the pregnancy rate declines despite the fact that more women are married and sexually active than women in their twenties, in part because 79 percent of women aged 30–44 years have already had children.

First contraceptive use—Information for women who have ever had intercourse according to the year in which they had their first intercourse and the interval, in months, between their first intercourse and their first use of contraception is shown in table 13. Timing of first use of contraception is associated with variations in pregnancy rates for teenagers, as shown in a recent study which found that 40 percent of teenagers who did not use contraception at their first intercourse became pregnant

as teenagers, compared with 24 percent of teenage women who did use contraception at first intercourse (36).

Use of contraception at first intercourse has become more common in recent decades. This could be a factor influencing recent declines in pregnancy rates at the youngest teen ages presented in this report. In the 1970's, 49 percent used a method at first intercourse, compared with 61 percent in the early 1980's, 65 percent in the late 1980's, and 77 percent in the early 1990's (table 13). Most of this increase was due to large increases in use of the male condom at first intercourse, which was in turn closely associated with public concern and education about the spread of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases (21).

Nonuse of contraception—Even after contraceptive use has been initiated, occasional and short-term nonuse of contraception is very common in the United States, according to data from the NSFG. A typical woman using contraception during all of her reproductive life “will discontinue use for a method-related reason nearly 10 times. Such high rates of discontinuation almost surely reflect dissatisfaction with current methods” (37). In addition, the proportion of women who are not using contraception because they are trying to become pregnant is closely related to age, as shown in table D. The proportion peaks at 6 percent at ages 25–34 years and declines to about 2.2 percent at ages 40–44 years. The pattern of pregnancy rates by age is similar (table D).

Infertility—At ages 15–34 years, most women who remain nonusers of contraception will become pregnant

within a few months. By ages 35–39 and 40–44 years, women's physical ability to conceive and carry a baby to term declines (21,38). Thus, nonuse of contraception is not as likely to result in a pregnancy at ages 35–44 years as it is for younger women. In 1995, 13 percent of women aged 35–44 years had “impaired fecundity”—that is, difficulty or inability to get pregnant or carry a baby to term. An additional 7 percent were surgically sterile for reasons other than contraception (for a total of 20 percent with inability or difficulty having a live birth) (21). The proportion who had impaired fecundity or were surgically sterile for noncontraceptive reasons was only 6 percent among women aged 15–24 years; among women aged 25–34 years, it was 12 percent. Thus, as depicted in figure 13, in addition to sexual activity, marital status, parity, and contraceptive use, the ability of the woman to become pregnant is a factor in determining pregnancy rates, especially at older ages.

Contraceptive method choice—In 1995, as in previous years, the pill was the method chosen most often by young women and by women who intend to have more children: 51 percent of contraceptive users who intend to have more children use the pill, and 32 percent have partners who use condoms (a total of 83 percent, or 5 out of 6) (table E). Use of the pill and condom are highest at 15–29 years of age (39).

Many women who do not intend to have any more births were using female sterilization or male sterilization (46 percent and 18 percent of users, respectively, for a total of 64 percent). By age 40–44 years, 70 percent of contraceptive users are using female or

Table D. Percent of women who are seeking pregnancy and pregnancy rate by age: United States, 1995

Age	Seeking pregnancy	Pregnancy rate
Percent in each age group		
15–19 years	0.9	9.9
20–24 years	3.4	18.3
25–29 years	6.1	17.1
30–34 years	6.2	12.3
35–39 years	4.6	6.0
40–44 years	2.2	1.3

SOURCES: table 3; reference 21(table 41).

Table E. Percent distribution of contraceptive users aged 15–44 years, by method, according to age and intent to have more children: United States, 1995

Age and birth intentions	Total	Contraceptive method				
		Female sterilization	Male sterilization	Pill	Condom	All other
Total, 15–44 years	100	28	11	27	20	14
15–19 years	100	0	0	44	37	19
20–24 years	100	4	1	52	26	17
25–29 years	100	17	5	39	24	15
30–34 years	100	29	10	28	18	15
35–39 years	100	41	19	11	17	12
40–44 years	100	50	20	6	12	12
Intends to have more children:						
Yes	100	0	0	51	32	17
No	100	46	18	13	13	10

SOURCE: reference 39.

male sterilization. This use of sterilization along with greater difficulty in conceiving helps explain the decline of pregnancy rates as age increases and the very low rates for women aged 40 years and over.

Imperfect use of reversible contraceptive methods— The effectiveness of contraceptive use increases with age. Overall, the probability of having an unintended pregnancy in the first year of contraceptive use was about 13 percent in the early 1990’s, according to a recent study (33). For teenagers, the probability was 16 percent; at ages 20–24 years, it was 15 percent; at ages 25–29 years, it was 13 percent; and at ages 30–44 years, the probability of unintended pregnancy was 9 percent—about half the figure for teenagers. (These figures represent reversible contraceptive methods only; that is, sterilization is excluded.)

Pregnancy Rates for Hispanic, Non-Hispanic Black, and Non-Hispanic White Women

This section will focus on factors associated with differences in birth and pregnancy patterns by race and Hispanic origin. As was noted earlier, the total pregnancy rates (TPR) of black and Hispanic women (4.6 pregnancies per woman) are about 70 percent higher than for white women (2.7 per woman). Later in this report, we will show that

higher levels of unwanted births and abortions among black and Hispanic women account for this difference (tables B and F). This section will attempt to explain how the disparity occurs.

Sexual Experience

One reason that black and Hispanic women have more pregnancies and births and more unwanted pregnancies than white women is that they are at risk of becoming pregnant at earlier ages, hence the disparity in pregnancy rates during the teenage years as shown in figure 6. One important reason for this difference is that they begin their sexual activity at an earlier age than white women. In 1995, 59 percent of black teenage females had ever had sexual intercourse, compared with 53 percent of Hispanic and 49 percent of white teenagers (table 8).

Differences between Hispanic, white, and black individuals, such as in

sexual experience, are often associated with characteristics other than race and ethnicity *per se*, such as socioeconomic and family background characteristics. The data in table 8 illustrate the associations of individual characteristics with teenage sexual experience, using data from the 1995 NSFG and the 1995 NSAM (29, 40).

For example, among teenage females in 1995, about 60 percent had ever had intercourse if their mother did not complete high school compared with just 37 percent of teenage females whose mothers were college graduates. This difference by mother’s education was found for both male and female teenagers in 1988 and in 1995, but the educational disparity was larger in 1995.

Teenage females who lived with both of their parents at age 14 were much less likely than their counterparts who lived with a single parent to have had intercourse (43 compared with 59 percent). For teenage males, a similar pattern was found.

Table F. Total pregnancy rates and total fertility rates by wantedness of pregnancy, by race and Hispanic origin: United States, 1995

[Rates are pregnancies and births per woman; see Technical Notes for method of calculation]

	1995 TPR	1995 TFR	Percent wanted	Wanted TFR
Total ¹	3.2	2.0	90.1	1.8
White non-Hispanic	2.7	1.8	93.3	1.7
Black non-Hispanic	4.6	2.2	80.9	1.8
Hispanic ²	4.6	3.0	89.6	2.7

¹Includes races other than white and black.

²Includes all persons of Hispanic origin of any race.

NOTE: Figures for percent wanted include births that are intended as well as births that are mistimed. See reference 21 (table 14).

Contraception

First use—In each time period, Hispanic women were much less likely than white and black women to use a contraceptive method at their first intercourse ([table 13](#)). In the 1990's, 54 percent of Hispanic women used a method at first intercourse—compared with 74 percent of black women and 84 percent of white women. Similarly, in the 1990's, 16 percent of Hispanic women began their first contraceptive use more than a year after first intercourse compared with 9 and 4 percent, respectively, for black and white women.

The proportion of black women and their partners who used a method at first intercourse nearly doubled in recent decades, from 38 percent in the 1970's to 74 percent in the 1990's. This rapid increase may be related to the decline in the black teenage birth rate in the 1990's (12).

Contraceptive choice—As discussed previously, choice of a contraceptive method is a very important factor affecting pregnancy rates, due to the varying levels of effectiveness of methods. Examination of differences in methods used by white, black, and Hispanic women can thus contribute to an understanding of pregnancy differentials. It is also useful to examine method choice by parity, because methods tend to differ between childless women and women with children. Data on contraceptive method(s) women were using at the time of the survey (“current contraceptive status”) are shown for 1988 and 1995 by age and parity for white women ([table 14](#)), and for black women ([table 15](#)). (Sample sizes for Hispanic women, especially in 1988, are too small to show reliable trend data by age and parity.)

Differences in methods may help to explain why 20 percent of black women experience an accidental pregnancy (i.e., a contraceptive failure) during the first year of use, compared with 16 percent for Hispanic women and 11 percent for white women (33). This leads to the relatively high rate of unwanted births and abortions among black and Hispanic women, and the preference of these

groups for female sterilization as a contraceptive method (21,39).

Methods for childless contraceptive women—Among teenagers with no births (zero parity), that is, over 90 percent of teenage females, the pill and condom are the leading methods for both whites and blacks.

Among women aged 20–24 years with no births (parity 0) in 1995, black women were more likely than white women to rely on the male condom and less likely to use the pill ([tables 14 and 15](#)). Given that the condom's failure rate (15 percent) is about double that of the pill (8 percent), this difference may be a factor in the higher pregnancy and abortion rates for black women in their early twenties, compared to white women in that age group ([table 4](#)).

Among childless women in the age groups 25–29 and 30–44 years in 1995, white and black women had similar patterns of contraceptive choice ([tables 14 and 15](#)). For these childless women, the pill is generally the predominant method, with condom use also common.

Changes in contraceptive use among white childless women aged 20–24, 25–29, and 30–44 years were relatively small, except for increases in use of the condom. Among black childless women aged 20–24 years, the proportion using the pill dropped from 78 percent in 1988 to 52 percent in 1995; use of the male condom was reported by 39 percent in 1995.

Contraceptive use among women contraceptors with one or more children—The sample sizes in [tables 14 and 15](#) are small for teenagers with one or more births, so caution in interpreting estimates is warranted. For white teenage mothers (parity 1+) in 1995, the pill was the leading method (44 percent), followed by the condom at 28 percent. About 22 percent of white teenage mothers using contraception used Depo-Provera (injectable contraception) or Norplant (implant contraception), two hormonal methods newly introduced to the United States in 1993.

Black teenage mothers are very distinctive in the predominance of Depo-Provera and Norplant (with failure rates of only 1 to 3 percent) among the

methods they were using in 1995 ([table 15](#)). Pill use by black teenagers dropped dramatically. In 1988, 86 percent were using the pill, while in 1995 the number was too small to estimate proportions reliably. This shift from the pill to Depo-Provera and Norplant (methods with lower failure rates) among black teenage mothers may be an important factor in the recent sharp decline (28 percent) in their second birth rates from 251 per 1,000 in 1991 to 181 in 1997.

Among white mothers aged 20–24 years, there was no significant change in condom use, pill use declined, and 16 percent were using Depo-Provera or Norplant by 1995. Among white mothers aged 25 years and over, there were few significant changes in contraceptive practice.

For black women aged 20–24 years with children, the proportion using the pill dropped from 63 to 33 percent. In 1995, 22 percent were using Depo-Provera or Norplant, and the proportion using the condom soared to 28 percent.

In addition to shifts toward more reliable contraception, the proportion of all black women having intercourse and not using any contraception dropped in every age group (data not shown). This drop in unprotected intercourse also contributed to the decline in the second birth rates for black women aged 15–19, 20–24, and 25–29 years.

In summary, black women with children changed their contraceptive choices significantly between 1988 and 1995, in a way that should have reduced their risk of unintended pregnancies:

- the proportion having intercourse and not using a method dropped; and
- use of injectables and implants (which have very low failure rates) became quite common, apparently replacing pill use (which has somewhat higher failure rates).

Sterilization is the predominant contraceptive method among women who have had children. The data in [tables 14 and 15](#) demonstrate a well-established pattern: Nearly all sterilizations to black women were

female operations, while among white women, about one-third of sterilizations were male operations (41).

Other Factors Affecting Pregnancy Rates

Three other factors that help us understand trends and differentials in pregnancy rates are discussed in the sections that follow. These include pregnancy rates for unmarried women, community characteristics associated with pregnancy differentials, and wanted and unwanted births. Data on these topics are drawn from the NSFG.

Pregnancy Rates Among Unmarried Women

Substantial proportions of women of childbearing age are unmarried. Overall, about 49 percent of women 15–44 years of age were currently married in 1995; another 7 percent were cohabiting (living with a man in a sexual relationship, but not married); 33 percent were never married (and not cohabiting), and 10 percent were separated, divorced, or widowed (table 11). Only 25 percent of black women are currently married, compared with 47 percent of Hispanic women and 54 percent of white women (table 11, lower panel).

Pregnancy rates for unmarried women are affected by differences in sexual activity. Included in table 12 is information on unmarried women according to whether they had sexual intercourse in the last 12 months. About 65 percent of unmarried women had intercourse in the last 12 months. For unmarried black women aged 20 years and over, 83 percent had had intercourse in the last 12 months, compared with 74 percent of unmarried white women in this age group.

The rise in cohabitation is an important factor when examining trends in nonmarital pregnancy. In fact, a recent analysis of birth patterns among unmarried women from the NSFG found that almost all of the increase from the early 1980's to the early 1990's in births to unmarried women was in births to unmarried *cohabiting* women (42). In the period 1980–84, 29 percent of births

to unmarried women were to cohabiting women. By 1990–94, this proportion increased to 39 percent. Most of the increase was found for non-Hispanic white women.

It is useful to calculate pregnancy rates for unmarried women limited to women who have had intercourse, as shown in table G. The overall rate for all unmarried women was 96 pregnancies per 1,000 unmarried women. When the same number of births is divided by the number of unmarried women who have ever had intercourse, the rate was 26 percent higher, at 121 per 1,000.

Limiting the rate further to women who had intercourse in the last 12 months represents a close approximation to the population who were actually at risk of pregnancy in 1995. The pregnancy rate computed on this basis was 147 per 1,000 unmarried women, or about 15 percent. But these rates differ substantially for white, black, and Hispanic women: 95 for unmarried white women (per 1,000 who had intercourse in the last 12 months), 222 for unmarried black women, and 291 for unmarried Hispanic women. In sum, nearly 30 percent of sexually active unmarried Hispanic women became pregnant in 1995, almost triple the rate for unmarried white women. The rate for sexually active unmarried black women is about double the rate for unmarried sexually active white women. Thus, factors other than just sexual activity account for the racial disparity in pregnancy rates for unmarried women.

Community Characteristics

Differences in pregnancy rates among white, black, and Hispanic persons are associated with characteristics of the communities in which they live as well as the characteristics of individuals (43–45). Information on the characteristics of the communities in which women live is available in the NSFG contextual data file (see Technical Notes). Three of those characteristics are shown in table 10: median family income, the unemployment rate, and the percent of households receiving welfare assistance, all taken from 1990 census data. (There were not enough Hispanic teenagers or teenagers of other races in the sample to compute these statistics reliably.)

In neighborhoods (defined here as block groups) with a median family income less than \$20,000, 69 percent of teenage females had ever had sexual intercourse; in neighborhoods in which the median family income was between \$20,000 and \$50,000, 51 percent had ever had intercourse; and in neighborhoods with median family incomes of \$50,000 or more, only 37 percent had ever had intercourse. (See also figure 14.) These differences are found for both white and black teenagers. In addition, these findings show that the white and black differences tend to be smaller when the characteristics of the community are taken into account (table 10 compared with table 8).

If the unemployment rate in the teenager's neighborhood in 1990 was 10 percent or higher, a larger proportion of teenage females had ever had intercourse (by 1995) than in

Table G. Pregnancy rates for unmarried women in 1995, using 3 different denominators: per 1,000 unmarried women aged 15–44 years; per 1,000 unmarried women aged 15–44 years who have ever had intercourse; and per 1,000 unmarried women aged 15–44 years who had intercourse in the last 12 months: United States, 1995

Race and origin	Pregnancy rates per 1,000 unmarried women 15–44 years		
	All	Who ever had intercourse	Who ever had intercourse in the last 12 months
All women ¹	96	121	147
Non-Hispanic white	61	78	95
Black	169	192	222
Hispanic ²	172	222	291

¹Includes races other than white and black.

²Includes all persons of Hispanic origin of any race.

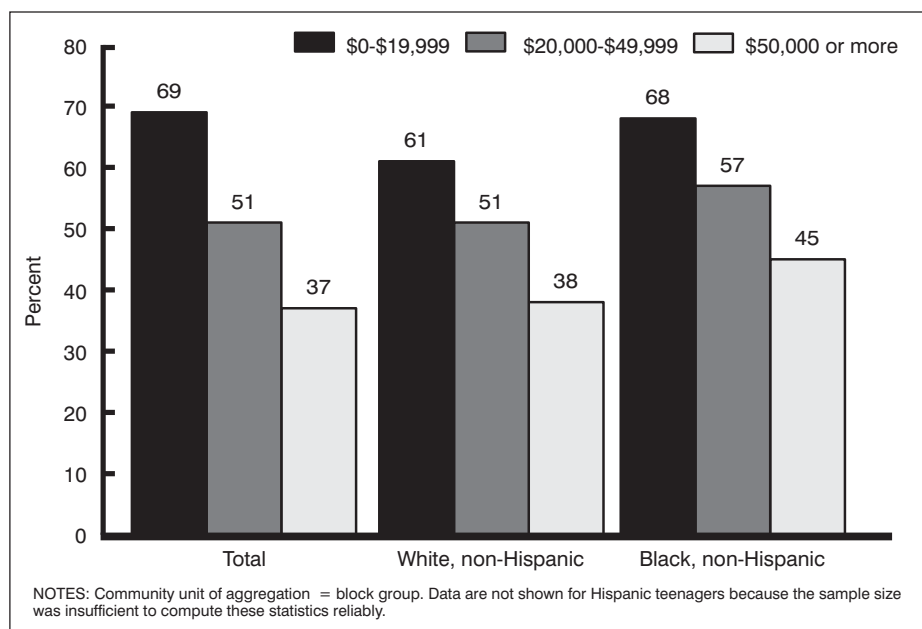


Figure 14. Percent of females aged 15–19 years who have ever had sexual intercourse by median family income of community and race, 1995

neighborhoods in which the unemployment rate was less than 5 percent. Again, this was true for both white and black teenagers. The same pattern was found for the proportion of households receiving welfare in 1990. The proportion of teenage females, both white and black, who had ever had intercourse was substantially higher in communities with 9 percent or more of the households receiving welfare than in communities with 8 percent or fewer households receiving welfare in 1990.

Thus, early sexual activity is closely associated with these simple measures of the economic prosperity of the neighborhood: its average family income, the percent unemployed, and the percent receiving welfare assistance. The findings for these three measures are consistent with theories suggesting that teenage sexual behavior is affected significantly by the social environment and by economic opportunity (43–47). A multivariate analysis of the 1988 NSFG data, for example, also found that, *controlling for the effects of other variables*, use of contraception at first intercourse among black and white women was significantly higher when the teenage girl's mother had higher levels of education, when the teenager lived in a two-parent family, and when the socioeconomic status of her neighborhood was higher (48).

Wanted and Unwanted Births

Despite widespread availability of contraceptive methods, women's ability to control their own reproduction is far from perfect. The measure of unwanted births can be combined with birth rates to show the effect on population growth of women having more children than they want—overall and in various subgroups of the population.

Generated from a series of questions in the NSFG interview, an unwanted birth refers to a birth resulting from a pregnancy that a woman had despite wanting no more pregnancies at the time she became pregnant. This concept is closely linked to contraceptive use at the time of pregnancy. For example, if a woman had two children and did not want to have any more, but became pregnant with her third child, that pregnancy would be classified as unwanted. Women were asked to report the wantedness of pregnancies retrospectively, that is, thinking back to the time the pregnancy was conceived. For the purposes of this exercise, “wanted” births are all those not falling into this “unwanted” category. It should be noted that births that were unwanted at conception do not necessarily become unwanted children. Mothers who report a pregnancy as unwanted at the time of

conception may later cherish the child born as a result of that pregnancy.

Among births occurring during 1990–95, 93.3 percent of births to non-Hispanic white women, 80.9 percent of births to non-Hispanic black women, and 89.6 percent of births to Hispanic women were wanted ([table F](#)) (21). A wanted total fertility rate can be computed by multiplying the TFR for 1995 ([table B](#)) by the percent of births that were wanted as shown in [table F](#). Black and white women want about the same number of children (1.8 and 1.7), but black women average almost 2 pregnancies more per woman than white women (4.6 compared with 2.7). These pregnancies to black women ended primarily in abortions or in unwanted births. Hispanic women want more births (2.7 per woman) than either black women or white women, but they also have about two pregnancies more (4.6) than they wanted. Thus, while more of their births are wanted, they still have a substantial proportion of pregnancies that end in abortion and unwanted births (49).

Differences in pregnancy wantedness among white, black, and Hispanic women are associated with measures of socioeconomic status such as the woman's education. The percents of births unwanted by the woman's education and her race and origin are shown in [figure 15](#).

At least two facts are clear from this figure. First, women with more education have fewer unwanted births. The reduction in the percent of births that were unwanted as education rises is very clear for all women (18 to 5 percent), white women (13 to 3 percent), and black women (34 to 11 percent). It is much less apparent for Hispanic women (14 to 10 percent). Second, the white-black difference in the percent of births that were unwanted when they were conceived persists at every educational level. Thus, part, but not all, of the overall disparity in unwanted pregnancies between white and black women is associated with the lower educational attainment of black women (50). Other factors besides education may include marital status ([table 11](#)) and age at first birth (12).

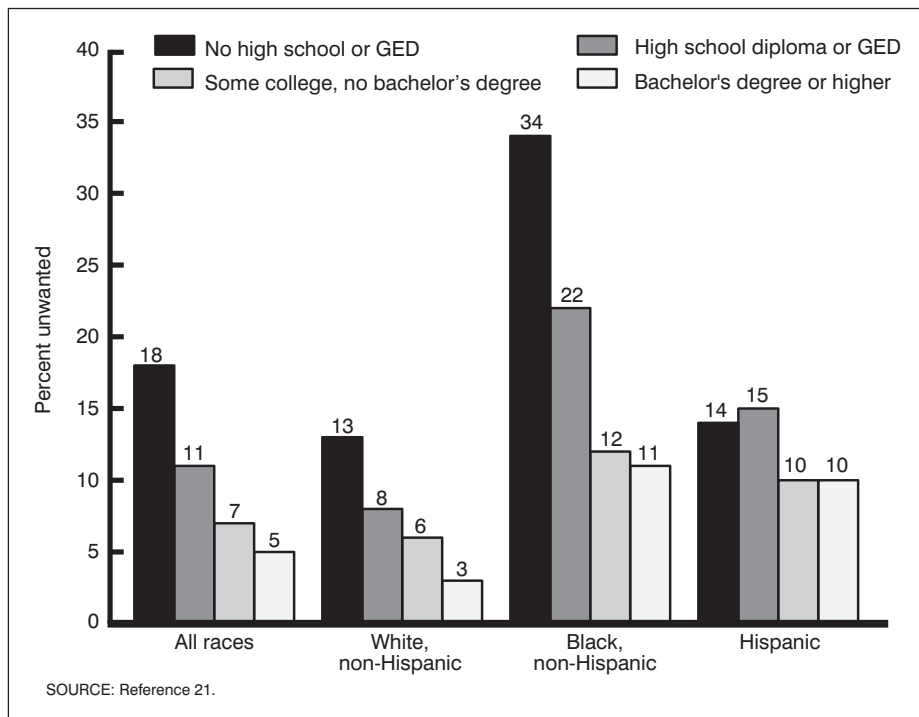


Figure 15. Percent of births unwanted by the mother, by education and race and Hispanic origin: United States, 1995

Teenage Pregnancy

In two previous reports on pregnancy rates (3,4), the rate of teenage pregnancy was calculated in two ways: per 1,000 teenage women 15–19 years, and per 1,000 women aged 15–19 years who had ever had intercourse. In this report, another refinement has been introduced: the pregnancy rate per 1,000 teenagers who had intercourse in the last 12 months. Also used in [table G](#), this is a better approximation of the population at risk of a pregnancy *in the last year* than those who have “ever had intercourse.” A recent study defined the population “at risk” for teenage pregnancy more narrowly, as teenagers who had intercourse in the 3 months before the survey (51).

Pregnancy rates for unmarried women sexually active in the last 12 months were described earlier ([table G](#)). As mentioned previously, estimates of sexual activity in these data are based on sample surveys, so small differences—up to 20 per 1,000 or 2 percent—should be attributed to sampling variability, not to real change.

Pregnancy rates by teenage groups— Pregnancy rates in 1995 for teenage

women aged 15–19 years and for age groups 15–17 and 18–19 years are shown in [table 16](#). For teenagers 15–17 years, the rate was 72 per 1,000 (7 percent). Limiting to sexually experienced teenagers 15–17 years old (38 percent of 15–17 year-olds), the pregnancy rate was 187 per 1,000, or 19 percent. Further limiting the population to 15–17 year-olds who had intercourse in the 12 months before the interview (34 percent of 15–17 year-olds), 212 out of 1,000 younger teenagers, or 21 percent, became pregnant.

The pregnancy rate per 1,000 teenagers 18–19 years is much higher than at age 15–17 years: 151 in 1995, or 15 percent, which is more than twice the rate among those aged 15–17 years. Limiting the population to sexually experienced 18–19 year-olds (71 percent of 18–19 year-olds), 213 per 1,000 became pregnant. Finally, limiting to only those who had intercourse in the 12 months prior to the survey (67 percent of 18–19 year-olds), the rate was 227 per 1,000.

Thus, in 1995, pregnancy rates were more than twice as high for older teenagers as for younger teenagers, but mainly because about twice as many

older teenagers (over two-thirds) were sexually active in the last 12 months.

Pregnancy rates for teenage racial and ethnic groups— Looking now at the differences by race and ethnicity, the overall pregnancy rates in 1995 were 72 per 1,000 for non-Hispanic white teenagers, 184 for black teenagers, and 163 for Hispanic teenagers ([table 17](#) and [figure 16](#)). The pregnancy rates for sexually experienced teenagers—those who ever had intercourse—were 142 for non-Hispanic white, 305 for non-Hispanic black, and 291 for Hispanic teenagers.

About 46 percent of white, 57 percent of black, and 52 percent of Hispanic teenagers had intercourse in the last 12 months. For teenagers sexually active in the last year, the pregnancy rates were 156 for non-Hispanic white, 326 for non-Hispanic black, and 314 for Hispanic teenagers.

In summary, the pregnancy rates for non-Hispanic black and Hispanic teens were about twice as high as those for non-Hispanic white teenagers: one out of three of sexually active black and Hispanic teens became pregnant in a year, compared with one out of six non-Hispanic white teenagers. Thus the lower pregnancy rate for non-Hispanic white teenagers is due to both the lower proportion sexually active and the lower pregnancy rate for those who are sexually active.

What produced these differences in behavior between white and black teenagers? The answer is not clear-cut. Differences between white and black teenagers in current contraception are not large ([tables 14](#) and [15](#)). The only differences that are large are use at first intercourse (84 percent of white teenagers and 74 percent of black teenagers), and the percent who first began using contraception more than 1 year after first intercourse (4 percent white, and 9 percent black). Differences are due to multiple factors, involving previously mentioned contraceptive use, effectiveness of contraceptive use, and the magnitude of sexual activity-related risk. As suggested earlier these behaviors could be related to measures of economic opportunity and family

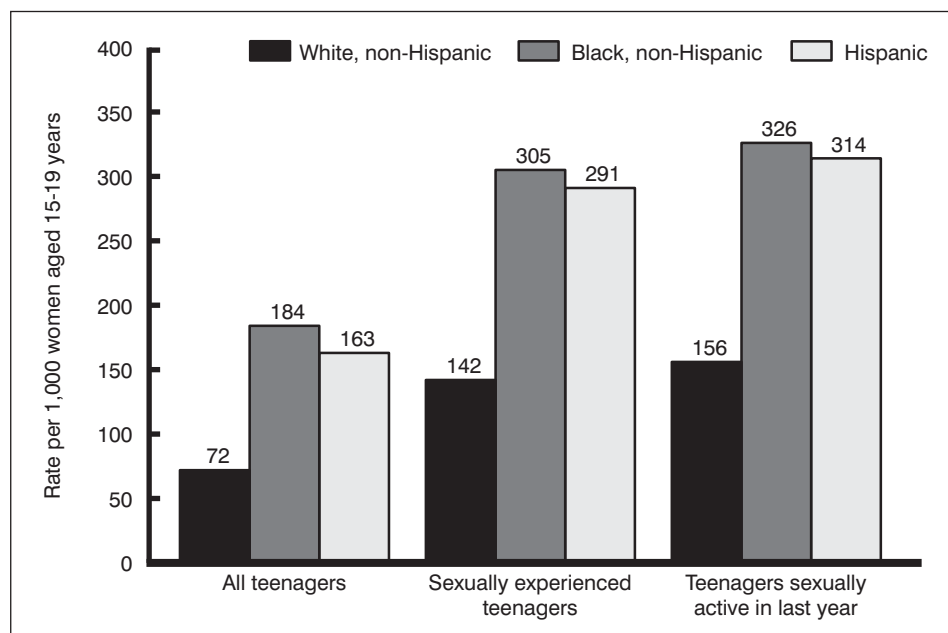


Figure 16. Teenage pregnancy rates by race and Hispanic origin, 1995

stability that are correlated with teen sex and pregnancy (43,44,46,47). One of the most thorough demonstrations of this finding was authored by Hogan and Kitagawa, using a representative sample of black teenagers in Chicago (47). They showed that black teenagers from “high-risk social environments” are at greatly elevated risk of becoming pregnant compared with black teenagers from low-risk environments.

Trends in pregnancy-related variables for teenagers 15–19 years—Table 18

shows a wealth of data related to sexual activity and pregnancy rates and outcomes for all females 15–19 years of age. (Please note that data on sexual experience rates and the number of sexually experienced teenagers are based on small samples from the NSFG. Therefore, small changes in either direction of 2 percent or 100,000 women should be interpreted with caution.) Although the number of females aged 15–19 years fell 11 percent from 1982 to 1990 and has only recently begun to increase, the number of births to teenagers 15–19 years remained fairly constant at about 500,000 per year throughout the 13-year period 1982–95 (lines 1,2). Births were stable because fluctuations in the teenage birth rate during this period were substantial enough to compensate for the changes in the teenage population. Births to

unmarried teenagers, however, rose steadily throughout this period—by 44 percent (line 3 of table 18).

The increase in the 1980’s in nonmarital teenage births coincides with the steady increases in teenage sexual activity (1982–90) (21,52). The proportion of teenage females who had ever had intercourse rose from 47 percent in 1982 to 55 percent in 1990 before declining to 51 percent in 1995 (line 4). There was no particular trend in the number of sexually experienced teenagers; it ranged from 4.5 to 4.8 million during this period (line 5).

The teenage pregnancy rate increased 8 percent between 1982 and 1990 (107.8 to 116.3) before declining to 102.9 in 1995 (and 98.7 in 1996) (line 6). Changes in the number of pregnancies were not consistent, reflecting the varying numbers of sexually experienced teenage women (lines 5 and 7 of table 18).

One clear pattern during the period 1982–95 was the steady and substantial decline in abortions among teenagers (table 18 and figures 2, 3). The number of abortions to teenagers fell 37 percent (line 8). Combining information on pregnancies, live births, and abortions, it is clear that teenage pregnancies were increasingly less likely to end in abortion, but more likely to end as nonmarital teenage births (lines 9 and 10 of table 18).

While most of the information available relates to teenage females, some important data on teenage males are available from the National Surveys of Adolescent Males (NSAM), conducted in 1988 and 1995, the same years as the NSFG (table 19) (29). Two indicators of sexual activity and two indicators of condom use from the 1988 and 1995 NSAM are shown for male teenagers in table 19. The findings are:

1. For non-Hispanic white males, sexual activity decreased: the proportion who ever had intercourse dropped from 57 to 50 percent among non-Hispanic white teenage males; there was no significant change for black or Hispanic teenage males.
2. For non-Hispanic white teenage males, the proportion who had intercourse in the last 3 months before the interview decreased from 41 to 32 percent. There was no significant change for black or Hispanic males.
3. The proportion of males who used a condom at last intercourse increased significantly for both black (66 to 74 percent) and non-Hispanic white (54 to 67 percent) teenage males.
4. Finally, the proportion who used a condom every time they had intercourse with a female in the last 12 months, increased for black (37 to 47 percent) and for non-Hispanic white (32 to 48 percent) teenage males.

Additional, more recent evidence of some declines in teen sexual experience is available from the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. According to the YRBS, the percent of high school students in grades 9 through 12 who were sexually experienced declined significantly between 1991 and 1997, from 54 to 48 percent (53). Statistically significant declines were found for males, for white students, and for black students. Declines for females were not statistically significant.

Ideally, survey data on sexual activity and contraceptive use would be available to provide data for teenagers at risk of pregnancy that would correspond

directly to key years of peaks and valleys in their pregnancy rates. According to the vital statistics data, the teenage pregnancy rate began to decline after 1990. NSFG data are available only for 1988 and 1995 (the 1990 NSFG telephone follow-up was too small to produce reliable data for subgroups of teenagers). Thus, trends in sexual and contraceptive behavior based on snapshots of these 2 single years cannot shed light on the significant recent decline in pregnancy rates, especially because the 1988 NSFG was conducted during the period when teenage sexual activity was on an upswing. Responding to the need for more frequent indicators, or “snapshots” of sexual and contraception behavior, the NSFG could be conducted more frequently beginning with the Cycle 6 survey in 2001 (54). However, indicators of sexual activity and contraceptive use that pertain to cohorts of teenagers and signify broad changes in behavior may help to explain pregnancy and birth rate declines.

According to the data that are available, then, at least for non-Hispanic white teenagers, some of the decrease in pregnancy and birth rates in the 1990's was due to more consistent condom use, and some to a postponement of sexual activity. More consistent condom use, and the increasing use of injectable and implant contraception, appear to have produced the reduction in the non-Hispanic black teenage birth rate. The birth rate for black teenagers has continued to fall in the mid-1990's, dropping to 85.3 per 1,000 in 1998 (down 26 percent since 1991), according to preliminary data (55). The Hispanic teenage birth rate did not change much between 1988 and 1995, but has fallen 12 percent from 1995 (106.7) to 1998 (93.7) (55,56).

Several possible explanations can be offered for these changes in contraceptive use and sexual activity among teenagers in the 1990's. One is changing attitudes toward premarital sex. A large variety of public and private initiatives at the Federal, State, and local level have focused teenagers' attention on the importance of pregnancy prevention through abstinence and responsible behavior (54). Another

factor is the introduction of effective new birth control methods (implants and injectables); some sexually active teenagers have switched to these methods (33,39). A third factor is the long economic expansion of the 1990's, increasing economic opportunity for teenagers. The sexual activity of both white and black teenagers has been shown to be closely associated with simple measures of economic prosperity (table 10 and figure 14). Economic opportunity may have given teenagers reasons to more highly value education and work (45–47). Thus the educational and occupational goals of some teenagers may have changed over the period. Changing attitudes, new contraceptive methods and new programs may have helped make these goals more attainable. These factors may help to explain the declines in teenage pregnancy rates during the 1990's.

References

- Ventura SJ, Taffel S, Mosher WD. Estimates of pregnancies and pregnancy rates for the United States, 1976–81. *Public Health Rep* 100(1):31–4. 1985.
- Ventura SJ, Taffel SM, Mosher WD. Estimates of pregnancies and pregnancy rates for the United States, 1976–85. *Am J Public Health* 78(5):506–11. 1988.
- Ventura SJ, Taffel SM, Mosher WD, Henshaw S. Trends in pregnancies and pregnancy rates, United States, 1980–88. *Monthly vital statistics report*; vol 41 no 6, supp. Hyattsville, Maryland: National Center for Health Statistics. 1992.
- Ventura SJ, Taffel SM, Mosher WD, et al. Trends in pregnancies and pregnancy rates: Estimates for the United States, 1980–92. *Monthly vital statistics report*; vol 43 no 11, supp. Hyattsville, Maryland: National Center for Health Statistics. 1995.
- Spitz AM, Ventura SJ, Koonin LM, et al. Surveillance for pregnancy and birth rates among teenagers, by State, United States, 1980 and 1990. In: *CDC Surveillance Summaries*, December 17, 1993. *MMWR* 1993; (No. SS-6):1–27.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. State-specific pregnancy and birth rates among teenagers—United States, 1991–92. *MMWR* 44(37):677–84. 1995.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. State-specific pregnancy and birth rates among adolescents—United States, 1992–1995. *MMWR* 47(37):497–504. 1998.
- The Alan Guttmacher Institute. Teenage pregnancy: Overall trends and state-by-state information. New York, New York: The Alan Guttmacher Institute. 1999.
- National Center for Health Statistics. Vital statistics of the United States, 1993, vol I, natality. Washington: Public Health Service. 1999. Also annual issues for 1980–92.
- Ventura SJ, Martin JA, Curtin SC, Mathews TJ. Report of final natality statistics, 1995. *Monthly vital statistics report*; vol 45 no 11, supp. Hyattsville, Maryland: National Center for Health Statistics. 1997.
- Ventura SJ, Martin JA, Curtin SC, Mathews TJ. Report of final natality statistics, 1996. *Monthly vital statistics report*; vol 46 no 11, supp. Hyattsville, Maryland: National Center for Health Statistics. 1998.
- Ventura SJ, Martin JA, Curtin SC, Mathews TJ. Births: Final data for 1997. *National vital statistics reports*; vol 47 no 18. Hyattsville, Maryland: National Center for Health Statistics. 1999.
- Henshaw SK, Van Vort J, eds. Abortion factbook, 1992 edition: Readings, trends, and State and local data to 1988. New York, New York: The Alan Guttmacher Institute. 1992.
- Henshaw SK. Abortion incidence and services in the United States, 1995–96. *Fam Plann Persp* 30(6):263–70, 287. 1998.
- Henshaw SK, Van Vort J. Abortion services in the United States, 1991 and 1992. *Fam Plann Persp* 26(3):100–12. 1994.
- Koonin LM, Smith JC, Ramick M, Strauss LT. Abortion surveillance—United States, 1995. *CDC Surveillance Summaries MMWR* 47(No.SS-2):31–68. 1998.
- Henshaw SK. U.S. teenage pregnancy statistics. New York, New York: The Alan Guttmacher Institute. 1998.
- Koonin LM, Strauss LT, Chrisman CE, et al. Abortion surveillance—United States, 1996. *CDC Surveillance Summaries MMWR* 48(No.SS-4):1–42. 1999.
- Judkins DR, Mosher WD, Botman S. National Survey of Family Growth:

- Design, estimation, and inference. National Center for Health Statistics. *Vital Health Stat* 2(109). 1991.
20. Pratt WF, Mosher WD, Bachrach CA, Horn MC. Understanding U.S. fertility: Findings from the National Survey of Family Growth, Cycle III. *Popul Bull* 39(5). 1984.
 21. Abma JC, Chandra A, Mosher WD, Peterson LS, Piccinino LJ. Fertility, family planning, and women's health: New data from the 1995 National Survey of Family Growth. National Center for Health Statistics. *Vital Health Stat* 23(19). 1997.
 22. Wood JW. Dynamics of human reproduction. New York, New York: Aldine de Gruyter. 1994.
 23. Henshaw SK, Binkin NJ, Blaine E, Smith JC. A portrait of American women who obtain abortions. *Fam Plann Persp* 17(2):90–96. 1985.
 24. Hollmann FW. U.S. population estimates, by age, sex, race, and Hispanic origin: 1980 to 1991. U.S. Bureau of the Census. Current population reports; P-25–1095. Washington: U.S. Department of Commerce. 1993.
 25. Hollmann FW, Kuzmeskus LB, Perkins RC, Weber EA. U.S. population estimates by age, sex, race, and Hispanic origin: 1990 to 1997. PPL-91R. U.S. Bureau of the Census. Rounded populations consistent with U.S. Bureau of the Census. Census file Ressa-1. 1998.
 26. Ventura SJ. Trends and variations in first births to older women, 1970–86. National Center for Health Statistics. *Vital Health Stat* 21(47). 1989.
 27. Bachu A. Trends in premarital childbearing: 1930 to 1994. U.S. Bureau of the Census. Current population reports; P-23–197. Washington: U.S. Department of Commerce. 1999.
 28. Morgan SP, Offutt K, Rindfuss RR. Education, marital status and the changing age pattern of American fertility. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Population Association of America, San Francisco. April 1995.
 29. Sonenstein FL, Ku L, Lindberg LD, et al. Changes in sexual behavior and condom use among teenaged males: 1988 to 1995. *AJPH* 88(6):956–59. 1998.
 30. Davis K, Blake J. Social structure and fertility: An analytic framework. *Economic Development and Cultural Change* 4(3):211–35. 1956.
 31. Bongaarts J. A. Framework for analyzing the proximate determinants of fertility. *Population and Development Review* 4(1):105–32. 1978.
 32. Stover J. Revising the proximate determinants of fertility framework: What have we learned in the past 20 years? *Studies in Family Planning* 29(3):255–67. 1998.
 33. Fu H, Darroch JA, Haas T, Ranjit N. Contraceptive failure rates: New estimates from the 1995 National Survey of Family Growth. *Fam Plann Persp* 31(2): 56–63. Corrected data in Internet release: <http://www.agi-usa.org/pubs/journals/3105699.html>.
 34. Hatcher RA, Trussell J, Stewart F, et al. Contraceptive technology (17th revised edition). New York: Ardent Media. 1998.
 35. Peterson LS, Oakley D, Potter LS, Darroch JE. Women's efforts to prevent pregnancy: Consistency of contraceptive use. *Fam Plann Persp* 30(1):19–23. 1998.
 36. Moore KA, Driscoll AK, Lindberg, LD. A statistical portrait of adolescent sex, contraception, and childbearing. National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. March 1998.
 37. Trussell J, Vaughan B. Contraceptive failure, method-related discontinuation and resumption of use: Results from the 1995 National Survey of Family Growth. *Fam Plann Persp* 31(2):64–72,93. 1999.
 38. Chandra A, Stephen E. Impaired fecundity in the United States: 1982–1995. *Fam Plann Persp* 30(1):34–42. 1998.
 39. Piccinino LJ, Mosher WD. Trends in contraceptive use in the United States: 1982–1995. *Fam Plann Persp* 30(1):4–10, 46. 1998.
 40. Abma JC, Sonenstein F. Sexual activity and contraceptive practices among teenagers in the United States, 1988 and 1995. *Vital Health Stat* 23 (forthcoming). 2000.
 41. Chandra A. Surgical sterilization in the United States: Prevalence and characteristics, 1965–95. National Center for Health Statistics. *Vital Health Stat* 23(20). 1998.
 42. Bumpass L, Lu HH. Trends in cohabitation and implications for children's family contexts in the U.S. *Population Studies*. Forthcoming, 1999.
 43. Brewster KL. Race differentials in sexual activity among adolescent women: The role of neighborhood characteristics. *Am Soc Rev* 59(3):408–24. 1994.
 44. Brewster KL. Neighborhood context and the transition to sexual activity among young black women. *Demography* 31(4):603–14. 1994.
 45. Wilson WJ. The truly disadvantaged: the inner city, the underclass, and public policy. University of Chicago Press, Chicago, 1987.
 46. Hogan DP, Astone NM, Kitagawa EM. Social and environmental factors influencing contraceptive use among black adolescents. *Fam Plann Persp* 17(4):165–69. 1985.
 47. Hogan DP, Kitagawa EM. The impact of social status, family structure, and neighborhood on the fertility of black adolescents. *Am J Soc* 90:825–55, 1985.
 48. Mosher WD, McNally JW. Contraceptive use at first premarital intercourse: United States, 1965–1988. *Fam Plann Persp* 23 (3):108–16. 1991.
 49. Henshaw S. Unintended pregnancy in the United States. *Fam Plann Persp* 30(1):24–9, 46. 1998.
 50. Day JC, Curry AE. Educational attainment in the United States, March 1998 (Update). Current population reports P-20–513. Washington: U.S. Department of Commerce. 1998.
 51. Kaufmann RB, Spitz AM, Strauss LT, et al. The decline in U.S. teen pregnancy rates, 1990–1995. *Pediatrics* 102(5): 1141–47. 1998.
 52. Singh S, Darroch JE. Trends in sexual activity among adolescent American women: 1982–1995. *Fam Plann Persp* 31(5):212–19. 1999.
 53. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Trends in sexual risk behaviors among high school students—United States, 1991–1997. *MMWR* 47(36):749–52. 1998.
 54. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. A national strategy to prevent teen pregnancy: Annual report, 1998–99. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. 1999.
 55. Martin JA, Smith BL, Mathews TJ, Ventura SJ. Births and deaths: Preliminary data for 1998. National vital statistics reports; vol 47, no 25. 1999.
 56. Ventura SJ, Mathews TJ, Curtin SC. Declines in teenage birth rates, 1991–98: Update of national and State trends. National vital statistics reports; vol 47 no 26. 1999.
 57. Atrash HK, Lawson HW, Smith JC. Legal abortion in the United States: trends and mortality. *Contemp Ob Gyn* 35:58–69. 1990.

58. Koonin LM, Smith JC, Ramick M. Abortion surveillance—United States, 1990. CDC Surveillance Summaries, 1993. MMWR 1993; 42(No. SS-6): 29–57.
59. Koonin LM, Smith JC, Ramick M. Abortion surveillance—United States, 1991. CDC Surveillance Summaries, 1995. MMWR 1995; 44(No. SS-2): 23–53.
60. Koonin LM, Smith JC, Ramick M. Abortion surveillance—United States, 1992. CDC Surveillance Summaries, 1996. MMWR 1996; 45(No. SS-3).
61. Koonin LM, Smith JC, Ramick M, et al. Abortion surveillance—United States, 1993 and 1994. CDC Surveillance Summaries, 1997. MMWR 1997; 46(No. SS-4):37–98.
62. U.S. Bureau of the Census. United States population estimates, by age, sex, race, and Hispanic origin: 1992. Census file RESPO792. Washington: U.S. Department of Commerce. 1994.
63. U.S. Bureau of the Census. United States population estimates, by age, sex, race, and Hispanic origin: 1993. Census file RESPO793. Washington: U.S. Department of Commerce. 1995.
64. Deardorff KE, Hollmann FW, Montgomery P. U.S. population estimates, by age, sex, race, and Hispanic origin: 1990 to 1994. U.S. Bureau of the Census. PPL-21. Washington: U.S. Department of Commerce. 1995.
65. Deardorff KE, Montgomery P, Hollmann FW. U.S. population estimates, by age, sex, race, and Hispanic origin: 1990 to 1995. U.S. Bureau of the Census. Census file RESPO795, PPL-41. Washington: U.S. Department of Commerce. 1996.
66. Deardorff KE, Hollmann FW. U.S. population estimates, by age, sex, race, and Hispanic origin: 1990 to 1996. U.S. Bureau of the Census. PPL-57. Washington: U.S. Department of Commerce. 1997.
67. Ventura SJ. Births to unmarried mothers: United States, 1980–92. National Center for Health Statistics. Vital Health Stat 21(53). 1995.
68. U.S. Bureau of the Census. Marital status and living arrangements: March 1980. Current population reports; P-20–365. Washington: U.S. Department of Commerce. 1981.
69. U.S. Bureau of the Census. Marital status and living arrangements: March 1990. Current population reports; P-20–450. Washington: U.S. Department of Commerce. 1991.
70. Saluter AF. Marital status and living arrangements: March 1991. U. S. Bureau of the Census. Current population reports; P-20–461. Washington: U.S. Department of Commerce. 1992.
71. Saluter AF. Marital status and living arrangements: March 1992. U. S. Bureau of the Census. Current population reports; P-20–468. Washington: U.S. Department of Commerce. 1992.
72. Saluter AF. Marital status and living arrangements: March 1993. U. S. Bureau of the Census. Current population reports; P-20–478. Washington: U.S. Department of Commerce. 1994.
73. Saluter AF. Marital status and living arrangements: March 1994. U. S. Bureau of the Census. Current population reports; P-20–484. Washington: U.S. Department of Commerce. 1996.
74. Saluter AF. Marital status and living arrangements: March 1995. U. S. Bureau of the Census. Current population reports; P-20–491. Washington: U.S. Department of Commerce. 1997.
75. Mathews TJ, Ventura SJ, Curtin SC, Martin JA. Births of Hispanic origin, 1989–96. Monthly vital statistics report; vol 46 no 6 supp. Hyattsville, Maryland: National Center for Health Statistics. 1995.
76. U.S. Bureau of the Census. Statistical Abstract of the United States: 1998 (116th edition). Washington: U.S. Department of Commerce. 1998.
77. Campbell JA. Health insurance coverage. U.S. Census Bureau. Current population reports; P60–208. Washington: U.S. Department of Commerce. 1999.

Table 1. Numbers and rates of pregnancies, live births, induced abortions, and fetal losses, and number of women: United States, 1976–96

Year	All pregnancies								Women aged 15–44 years
	Total	Live births	Induced abortions	Fetal losses ¹	Total	Live births	Induced abortions	Fetal losses ¹	
	Number in thousands				Rate per 1,000 women aged 15–44 years ²				
1996	6,240	3,891	1,366	983	104.7	65.3	22.9	16.5	59,606
1995	6,245	3,900	1,364	982	105.1	65.6	22.9	16.5	59,442
1994	6,373	3,953	1,431	989	107.5	66.7	24.1	16.7	59,284
1993	6,494	4,000	1,500	993	109.8	67.6	25.4	16.8	59,143
1992	6,596	4,065	1,529	1,002	111.8	68.9	25.9	17.0	59,020
1991	6,674	4,111	1,557	1,007	113.0	69.6	26.3	17.0	59,079
1990	6,778	4,158	1,609	1,011	115.6	70.9	27.4	17.2	58,619
1989	6,527	4,041	1,567	919	111.8	69.2	26.8	15.7	58,367
1988	6,393	3,910	1,591	893	110.0	67.3	27.4	15.4	58,120
1987	6,183	3,809	1,559	815	106.8	65.8	26.9	14.1	57,901
1986	6,129	3,757	1,574	798	106.7	65.4	27.4	13.9	57,430
1985	6,144	3,761	1,589	795	108.3	66.3	28.0	14.0	56,716
1984	6,019	3,669	1,577	773	107.4	65.5	28.1	13.8	56,031
1983	5,977	3,639	1,575	763	108.0	65.7	28.5	13.8	55,359
1982	6,024	3,681	1,574	769	110.1	67.3	28.8	14.1	54,700
1981	5,958	3,629	1,577	751	110.5	67.3	29.3	13.9	53,926
1980	5,912	3,612	1,554	746	111.9	68.4	29.4	14.1	52,833
1979	5,714	3,494	1,498	722	109.9	67.2	28.8	13.9	52,016
1978	5,433	3,333	1,410	690	106.7	65.5	27.7	13.5	50,921
1977	5,331	3,327	1,317	687	107.0	66.8	26.4	13.8	49,814
1976	5,002	3,168	1,179	655	102.7	65.0	24.2	13.4	48,721

¹Spontaneous fetal losses from recognized pregnancies of all gestational periods as reported by women in the 1982, 1988, and 1995 National Surveys of Family Growth conducted by the National Center for Health Statistics. The rate of pregnancy loss depends on the degree to which losses at very early gestations are detected.

²Rates computed by relating the number of events to women of all ages to women aged 15–44 years.

NOTES: Due to rounding, figures may not add to totals. Rates for 1988–1992 have been revised on the basis of new information on fetal loss from the 1995 National Survey of Family Growth. The revised estimates differ, therefore, from those previously published (see Technical Notes and reference 4).

Table 2. Numbers of pregnancies, live births, induced abortions, and fetal losses, by age and race of woman: United States, 1976 and 1980-96

Pregnancy outcome and year	Age of woman										Race	
	Total	Under 15 years	15-19 years			20-24 years	25-29 years	30-34 years	35-39 years	40 years and over	White	All other
			Total	15-17 years	18-19 years							
All pregnancies												
Number in thousands												
1996	6,240	26	893	372	521	1,570	1,617	1,312	683	140	---	---
1995	6,245	28	904	384	520	1,602	1,598	1,322	659	132	4,692	1,553
1994	6,373	30	923	392	531	1,682	1,637	1,333	642	127	4,755	1,618
1993	6,494	30	928	387	542	1,762	1,701	1,332	622	119	4,834	1,660
1992	6,596	30	939	384	556	1,813	1,771	1,326	603	113	4,924	1,671
1991	6,674	29	975	388	587	1,843	1,827	1,313	581	106	5,006	1,668
1990	6,778	29	1,013	393	620	1,847	1,908	1,319	562	100	5,117	1,660
1989	6,527	28	999	383	616	1,808	1,858	1,244	501	89	4,923	1,603
1988	6,393	27	993	389	600	1,805	1,832	1,191	465	80	4,838	1,555
1987	6,183	28	957	386	571	1,784	1,783	1,136	424	71	4,688	1,495
1986	6,129	29	964	385	579	1,828	1,765	1,081	399	62	4,683	1,446
1985	6,144	30	981	385	596	1,891	1,764	1,045	373	60	4,733	1,411
1984	6,019	30	983	378	605	1,894	1,718	993	343	58	4,657	1,362
1983	5,977	29	1,020	392	628	1,913	1,692	947	319	57	4,628	1,350
1982	6,024	27	1,058	405	653	1,970	1,695	919	298	56	4,682	1,341
1981	5,958	28	1,103	424	678	1,945	1,663	897	268	54	4,613	1,345
1980	5,912	29	1,146	446	699	1,956	1,626	844	258	54	4,585	1,328
1976	5,002	32	1,073	439	635	1,644	1,381	602	214	56	3,871	1,131
Live births												
1996	3,891	11	492	186	306	945	1,071	898	400	75	3,093	798
1995	3,900	12	500	193	307	966	1,064	905	384	70	3,099	801
1994	3,953	13	505	195	310	1,001	1,089	906	372	66	3,121	832
1993	4,000	13	501	191	311	1,038	1,129	901	357	61	3,150	850
1992	4,065	12	505	188	318	1,070	1,179	895	345	58	3,202	863
1991	4,111	12	520	188	331	1,090	1,220	885	331	54	3,241	870
1990	4,158	12	522	183	338	1,094	1,277	886	318	50	3,290	868
1989	4,041	11	507	181	325	1,078	1,263	842	294	46	3,192	849
1988	3,910	11	478	177	302	1,067	1,239	804	270	41	3,102	807
1987	3,809	10	462	173	290	1,076	1,216	761	248	36	3,044	766
1986	3,757	10	462	169	293	1,102	1,200	721	230	31	3,019	737
1985	3,761	10	467	168	300	1,141	1,201	696	214	29	3,038	723
1984	3,669	10	470	167	303	1,142	1,166	658	196	28	2,967	702
1983	3,639	10	489	173	317	1,160	1,148	625	180	27	2,946	692
1982	3,681	10	514	181	333	1,206	1,152	605	168	26	2,985	696
1981	3,629	10	527	187	340	1,212	1,128	581	146	25	2,948	682
1980	3,612	10	552	198	354	1,226	1,108	550	141	24	2,936	676
1976	3,168	12	559	215	343	1,092	972	392	116	26	2,594	574
Induced abortions												
1996	1,366	10	264	104	160	434	318	195	112	33	---	---
1995	1,364	11	264	106	157	442	308	196	110	32	820	544
1994	1,431	12	276	111	165	478	316	205	111	32	861	570
1993	1,500	12	289	113	175	514	332	211	111	31	911	589
1992	1,529	13	295	114	181	526	341	213	110	31	944	585
1991	1,557	12	314	118	196	533	348	213	107	29	982	574
1990	1,609	13	351	130	221	532	360	216	108	29	1,039	570
1989	1,567	13	371	139	232	509	345	203	99	26	1,006	561
1988	1,591	14	393	158	234	520	347	197	96	24	1,026	565
1987	1,559	14	382	161	221	518	337	192	93	23	1,017	542
1986	1,574	16	389	165	224	531	339	186	92	21	1,045	529
1985	1,589	17	399	166	234	548	336	181	87	21	1,076	513
1984	1,577	17	399	161	238	551	332	176	82	20	1,087	491
1983	1,575	16	411	166	245	548	328	172	78	21	1,084	491
1982	1,574	15	419	168	250	552	326	168	73	21	1,095	479
1981	1,577	15	433	176	257	555	316	167	70	21	1,108	470
1980	1,554	15	445	183	261	549	304	153	67	21	1,094	460
1976	1,179	16	363	153	210	392	221	110	57	21	785	394

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Numbers of pregnancies, live births, induced abortions, and fetal losses, by age and race of woman: United States, 1976 and 1980-96—Con.

Pregnancy outcome and year	Age of woman										Race	
	Total	Under 15 years	15-19 years			20-24 years	25-29 years	30-34 years	35-39 years	40 years and over	White	All other
			Total	15-17 years	18-19 years							
Fetal losses ¹	Number in thousands											
1996	983	4	137	82	55	191	228	219	172	32	- - -	- - -
1995	982	5	140	85	55	195	226	221	165	30	773	209
1994	989	5	141	86	56	202	232	221	160	28	773	216
1993	993	5	139	83	56	210	240	220	153	26	773	220
1992	1,002	5	138	82	57	216	251	219	148	25	779	223
1991	1,007	5	141	82	59	220	259	216	142	23	783	223
1990	1,011	5	140	79	61	221	271	216	137	22	788	222
1989	919	4	121	63	59	221	250	199	108	17	725	193
1988	893	3	122	54	63	218	245	190	100	15	710	183
1987	815	3	113	53	61	190	229	184	83	12	627	187
1986	798	3	113	51	62	194	226	174	77	10	619	180
1985	795	3	114	51	63	201	226	168	72	10	620	175
1984	773	3	114	51	64	201	220	159	66	9	603	170
1983	763	3	119	53	66	205	216	151	61	9	597	167
1982	769	3	125	55	70	213	217	146	56	9	602	167
1981	751	3	142	61	81	178	218	148	53	9	558	193
1980	746	3	149	65	84	180	214	140	51	9	555	192
1976	655	4	152	70	82	160	188	100	42	9	492	163

- - - Data not available.

¹Spontaneous fetal losses from recognized pregnancies of all gestational periods as reported by women in the 1982, 1988, and 1995 National Surveys of Family Growth conducted by the National Center for Health Statistics. The rate of fetal loss depends on the degree to which losses at very early gestations are detected.

NOTES: Due to rounding, figures may not add to totals. Figures for 1988-92 have been revised on the basis of new information on fetal loss from the 1995 National Survey of Family Growth. The revised estimates differ, therefore, from those previously published (see Technical Notes and reference 4).

Table 3. Pregnancy, live birth, induced abortion, and fetal loss rates by age and race of woman: United States, 1976 and 1980–96

Pregnancy outcome and year	Age of woman										Race	
	Total ¹	Under 15 years ²	15–19 years			20–24 years	25–29 years	30–34 years	35–39 years	40 years and over ³	White	All other
			Total	15–17 years	18–19 years							
All pregnancies												
1996	104.7	2.8	98.7	67.8	146.4	183.3	170.7	122.5	60.4	13.4	---	---
1995	105.1	3.0	102.7	71.7	150.8	182.2	168.7	120.5	58.9	12.9	97.5	137.4
1994	107.5	3.3	107.6	75.5	156.7	186.6	171.2	119.9	58.2	12.7	98.8	145.0
1993	109.8	3.3	110.4	76.8	160.6	191.1	174.0	119.4	57.3	12.2	100.4	150.8
1992	111.8	3.4	112.8	77.3	165.1	194.1	176.3	118.8	56.8	11.9	102.2	153.9
1991	113.0	3.4	116.5	79.8	167.2	195.7	177.0	118.1	56.2	11.1	103.4	156.2
1990	115.6	3.5	116.3	80.3	162.4	196.7	179.6	120.2	56.1	11.3	106.2	159.2
1989	111.8	3.4	113.0	76.9	159.3	190.8	173.0	114.2	51.0	10.3	102.4	156.2
1988	110.0	3.4	109.9	74.1	158.7	186.3	169.0	110.8	48.4	9.8	100.6	154.7
1987	106.8	3.5	104.8	70.9	154.8	178.9	163.6	107.7	45.1	9.0	97.5	152.0
1986	106.7	3.6	104.7	69.8	157.1	178.2	161.6	105.0	42.4	8.5	97.9	150.6
1985	108.3	3.6	106.9	71.1	158.3	179.4	163.0	103.7	41.8	8.4	99.9	150.9
1984	107.4	3.5	105.8	70.4	154.4	177.2	160.2	101.1	40.1	8.3	99.3	149.4
1983	108.0	3.3	107.2	72.2	153.5	177.8	160.0	98.4	39.0	8.6	99.6	151.9
1982	110.1	3.1	107.8	72.1	155.7	182.4	163.4	97.3	37.6	8.8	101.7	154.9
1981	110.5	3.1	109.2	72.6	159.6	180.0	164.3	94.8	36.8	8.8	101.3	159.9
1980	111.9	3.2	110.0	73.2	162.2	183.5	165.7	95.0	36.4	9.1	102.4	164.4
1976	102.7	3.2	101.4	69.4	148.9	166.1	150.8	82.2	35.3	9.9	92.8	161.6
Live births												
1996	65.3	1.2	54.4	33.8	86.0	110.4	113.1	83.9	35.3	7.1	64.3	69.5
1995	65.6	1.3	56.8	36.0	89.1	109.8	112.2	82.5	34.3	6.8	64.4	70.8
1994	66.7	1.4	58.9	37.6	91.5	111.1	113.9	81.5	33.7	6.6	64.9	74.5
1993	67.6	1.4	59.6	37.8	92.1	112.6	115.5	80.8	32.9	6.3	65.4	77.3
1992	68.9	1.4	60.7	37.8	94.5	114.6	117.4	80.2	32.5	6.1	66.5	79.5
1991	69.6	1.4	62.1	38.7	94.4	115.7	118.2	79.5	32.0	5.7	67.0	81.5
1990	70.9	1.4	59.9	37.5	88.6	116.5	120.2	80.8	31.7	5.6	68.3	83.2
1989	69.2	1.4	57.3	36.4	84.2	113.8	117.6	77.4	29.9	5.3	66.4	82.7
1988	67.3	1.3	53.0	33.6	79.9	110.2	114.4	74.8	28.1	5.0	64.5	80.3
1987	65.8	1.3	50.6	31.7	78.5	107.9	111.6	72.1	26.3	4.6	63.3	77.9
1986	65.4	1.3	50.2	30.5	79.6	107.4	109.8	70.1	24.4	4.2	63.1	76.8
1985	66.3	1.2	51.0	31.0	79.6	108.3	111.0	69.1	24.0	4.1	64.1	77.3
1984	65.5	1.2	50.6	31.0	77.4	106.8	108.7	67.0	22.9	4.0	63.2	77.0
1983	65.7	1.1	51.4	31.8	77.4	107.8	108.5	64.9	22.0	4.0	63.4	77.9
1982	67.3	1.1	52.4	32.3	79.4	111.6	111.0	64.1	21.2	4.1	64.8	80.3
1981	67.3	1.1	52.2	32.0	80.0	112.2	111.5	61.4	20.0	4.0	64.8	81.1
1980	68.4	1.1	53.0	32.5	82.1	115.1	112.9	61.9	19.8	4.1	65.6	83.7
1976	65.0	1.2	52.8	34.1	80.5	110.3	106.2	53.6	19.0	4.5	62.2	82.0
Induced abortions												
1996	22.9	1.1	29.2	19.0	44.9	50.7	33.6	18.2	9.9	3.2	---	---
1995	22.9	1.2	30.0	19.9	45.7	50.3	32.6	17.9	9.8	3.2	17.0	48.1
1994	24.1	1.3	32.2	21.4	48.8	53.0	33.1	18.4	10.0	3.2	17.9	51.1
1993	25.4	1.4	34.3	22.5	52.0	55.8	33.9	18.9	10.2	3.2	18.9	53.5
1992	25.9	1.5	35.5	23.1	53.8	56.3	33.9	19.0	10.4	3.2	19.6	53.9
1991	26.3	1.4	37.6	24.3	55.9	56.6	33.7	19.1	10.4	3.0	20.3	53.8
1990	27.4	1.5	40.3	26.5	57.9	56.7	33.9	19.7	10.8	3.2	21.6	54.6
1989	26.8	1.6	42.0	28.0	60.0	53.8	32.2	18.6	10.1	3.0	20.9	54.7
1988	27.4	1.7	43.5	30.2	62.0	53.6	32.0	18.4	10.0	3.0	21.3	56.2
1987	26.9	1.8	41.8	29.6	59.8	52.0	31.0	18.2	9.9	2.9	21.2	55.1
1986	27.4	2.0	42.3	29.9	60.8	51.8	31.1	18.0	9.7	2.8	21.8	55.1
1985	28.0	2.0	43.5	30.6	62.0	52.0	31.1	17.9	9.7	2.9	22.7	54.9
1984	28.1	2.0	42.9	29.9	60.8	51.6	31.0	17.9	9.6	2.9	23.2	53.8
1983	28.5	1.9	43.2	30.7	59.9	50.9	31.0	17.8	9.5	3.2	23.3	55.2
1982	28.8	1.6	42.7	30.0	59.7	51.1	31.5	17.8	9.3	3.3	23.8	55.3
1981	29.3	1.7	42.9	30.1	60.6	51.4	31.3	17.7	9.5	3.4	24.3	55.8
1980	29.4	1.7	42.7	30.1	60.6	51.6	31.0	17.2	9.4	3.5	24.4	57.0
1976	24.2	1.6	34.3	24.2	49.3	39.6	24.1	15.0	9.3	3.7	18.8	56.3

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 3. Pregnancy, live birth, induced abortion, and fetal loss rates by age and race of woman: United States, 1976 and 1980–96—Con.

Pregnancy outcome and year	Age of woman										Race	
	Total ¹	Under 15 years ²	15–19 years			20–24 years	25–29 years	30–34 years	35–39 years	40 years and over ³	White	All other
			Total	15–17 years	18–19 years							
Fetal losses ⁴												
1996	16.5	0.5	15.2	15.0	15.5	22.3	24.1	20.5	15.2	3.1	---	---
1995	16.5	0.5	15.9	15.9	16.0	22.1	23.9	20.1	14.8	2.9	16.1	18.5
1994	16.7	0.6	16.5	16.5	16.4	22.4	24.2	19.9	14.5	2.8	16.1	19.3
1993	16.8	0.5	16.5	16.5	16.5	22.8	24.6	19.7	14.1	2.7	16.1	20.0
1992	17.0	0.5	16.6	16.4	16.9	23.2	25.0	19.6	13.9	2.6	16.2	20.5
1991	17.0	0.5	16.8	16.8	16.9	23.4	25.1	19.4	13.8	2.4	16.2	20.9
1990	17.2	0.5	16.1	16.2	15.9	23.5	25.5	19.7	13.6	2.4	16.4	21.3
1989	15.7	0.5	13.7	12.6	15.2	23.3	23.3	18.3	11.0	2.0	15.1	18.8
1988	15.4	0.4	13.5	10.3	16.8	22.5	22.7	17.7	10.4	1.8	14.8	18.2
1987	14.1	0.4	12.4	9.6	16.5	19.0	21.0	17.4	8.8	1.5	13.0	19.1
1986	13.9	0.4	12.3	9.3	16.7	19.0	20.7	16.9	8.2	1.4	12.9	18.7
1985	14.0	0.4	12.4	9.4	16.7	19.1	20.9	16.7	8.1	1.4	13.1	18.7
1984	13.8	0.4	12.3	9.5	16.2	18.9	20.5	16.2	7.7	1.4	12.9	18.6
1983	13.8	0.3	12.5	9.7	16.2	19.0	20.4	15.7	7.4	1.4	12.8	18.8
1982	14.1	0.3	12.7	9.8	16.7	19.7	20.9	15.5	7.1	1.4	13.1	19.3
1981	13.9	0.4	14.1	10.5	19.0	16.5	21.6	15.7	7.2	1.4	12.2	23.0
1980	14.1	0.4	14.3	10.6	19.5	16.9	21.8	15.8	7.2	1.5	12.4	23.7
1976	13.4	0.4	14.4	11.1	19.1	16.2	20.5	13.6	6.9	1.6	11.8	23.3

--- Data not available.

¹Rates computed by relating the number of events to women of all ages to women aged 15–44 years.²Rates computed by relating the number of events to women under 15 years to women aged 10–14 years.³Rates computed by relating the number of events to women aged 40 years and over to women 40–44 years.⁴Spontaneous fetal losses from recognized pregnancies of all gestational periods as reported by women in the 1982, 1988, and 1995 National Surveys of Family Growth conducted by the National Center for Health Statistics. The rate of fetal loss depends on the degree to which losses at very early gestations are detected.

NOTES: Due to rounding, figures may not add to totals. Rates for 1988–92 have been revised on the basis of new information on fetal loss from the 1995 National Survey of Family Growth. The revised estimates differ, therefore, from those previously published (see Technical Notes and reference 4).

Table 4. Pregnancy, live birth, induced abortion, and fetal loss rates by age, race, and Hispanic origin of woman: United States, 1990–95

Pregnancy outcome and race and Hispanic origin and year	Age of woman									
	Total ¹	Under 15 years ²	15–19 years			20–24 years	25–29 years	30–34 years	35–39 years	40–44 years ³
			Total	15–17 years	18–19 years					
Non-Hispanic										
White:										
All pregnancies:										
1995	86.4	1.2	71.6	46.7	110.2	139.9	147.6	112.2	54.2	11.1
1994	87.8	1.3	74.5	48.7	114.0	142.6	149.2	110.9	53.2	10.8
1993	89.7	1.3	76.9	49.9	117.3	147.1	151.9	109.8	52.0	10.3
1992	91.7	1.4	79.3	50.4	121.8	150.4	154.9	109.1	51.2	9.9
1991	94.0	1.4	84.7	54.1	126.9	155.2	157.7	109.0	51.1	9.2
1990	97.7	1.5	87.4	56.3	126.4	159.7	162.0	111.3	51.1	9.4
Live births:										
1995	57.6	0.4	39.3	22.0	66.1	90.0	106.5	82.0	32.9	6.1
1994	58.3	0.5	40.4	22.8	67.4	90.9	107.9	80.7	32.1	5.9
1993	59.0	0.5	40.7	22.7	67.7	92.1	109.2	79.4	31.1	5.5
1992	60.2	0.5	41.7	22.7	69.8	93.9	111.5	78.7	30.5	5.3
1991	61.0	0.5	43.4	23.6	70.5	95.7	112.7	77.9	30.2	4.8
1990	62.8	0.5	42.6	23.3	66.9	97.9	115.3	79.2	29.9	4.8
Induced abortions:										
1995	14.1	0.6	20.3	13.3	31.3	31.2	19.3	11.0	6.7	2.3
1994	14.7	0.6	21.7	14.0	33.4	32.9	19.3	11.4	6.7	2.3
1993	16.0	0.6	23.8	15.3	36.5	35.8	20.3	11.9	7.0	2.3
1992	16.6	0.7	25.0	15.9	38.5	37.0	20.6	12.1	7.1	2.3
1991	17.9	0.7	28.4	18.1	42.6	39.6	22.0	12.9	7.4	2.2
1990	19.6	0.8	32.3	21.0	46.5	41.5	23.1	13.7	7.9	2.4
Fetal losses⁴:										
1995	14.6	0.2	12.0	11.5	12.9	18.7	21.7	19.1	14.7	2.7
1994	14.7	0.2	12.4	11.9	13.1	18.9	22.0	18.8	14.3	2.6
1993	14.8	0.2	12.4	11.8	13.2	19.1	22.3	18.5	13.9	2.5
1992	14.9	0.2	12.5	11.8	13.6	19.5	22.8	18.3	13.6	2.4
1991	15.0	0.2	12.9	12.3	13.7	19.9	23.0	18.2	13.5	2.2
1990	15.3	0.2	12.5	12.1	13.0	20.3	23.5	18.5	13.3	2.1
Black:										
All pregnancies:										
1995	153.4	9.6	184.4	137.0	258.3	302.4	213.4	137.9	62.8	15.0
1994	163.4	10.8	201.2	149.8	280.9	323.5	222.4	141.3	63.9	14.9
1993	171.7	11.0	211.7	158.0	292.4	340.3	230.4	145.5	64.9	14.9
1992	175.5	11.3	217.3	160.4	300.5	346.1	232.9	145.2	64.5	14.4
1991	177.4	11.4	221.7	164.6	299.8	347.0	231.5	144.3	63.2	14.2
1990	180.2	11.8	221.3	165.0	295.3	342.5	233.2	145.9	63.3	14.4
Live births:										
1995	74.5	4.3	99.3	72.1	141.9	141.7	102.0	65.9	29.4	6.3
1994	79.0	4.7	107.7	78.6	152.9	150.3	107.0	67.5	29.5	6.2
1993	82.7	4.7	112.2	82.5	156.7	157.4	111.5	69.0	29.8	6.2
1992	85.5	4.8	116.0	83.9	162.9	163.0	114.6	69.1	29.4	5.9
1991	87.6	4.9	118.9	86.7	163.1	166.1	116.3	69.3	28.9	5.7
1990	89.0	5.0	116.2	84.9	157.5	165.2	118.3	70.2	28.6	5.8
Induced abortions:										
1995	58.2	4.1	66.2	45.8	98.1	122.7	86.0	45.5	21.9	6.2
1994	62.6	4.8	73.0	50.3	108.2	133.0	88.8	46.7	22.8	6.3
1993	66.2	5.0	78.3	53.6	115.4	140.8	91.0	48.7	23.5	6.3
1992	66.6	5.2	79.5	54.2	116.5	139.5	89.8	48.2	23.6	6.2
1991	65.9	5.1	80.5	54.9	115.7	136.4	86.3	47.1	23.0	6.2
1990	67.0	5.4	83.5	57.7	117.4	133.1	85.4	47.5	23.5	6.4
Fetal losses⁴:										
1995	20.7	1.2	18.8	19.1	18.3	37.9	25.4	26.5	11.5	2.5
1994	21.9	1.3	20.4	20.9	19.8	40.2	26.6	27.1	11.6	2.5
1993	22.8	1.3	21.2	21.9	20.3	42.1	27.8	27.7	11.7	2.4
1992	23.4	1.3	21.8	22.3	21.1	43.6	28.5	27.8	11.5	2.3
1991	23.9	1.3	22.2	23.0	21.1	44.5	29.0	27.9	11.3	2.3
1990	24.2	1.3	21.6	22.5	20.4	44.2	29.5	28.2	11.2	2.3

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 4. Pregnancy, live birth, induced abortion, and fetal loss rates by age, race, and Hispanic origin of woman: United States, 1990–95—Con.

Pregnancy outcome and race and Hispanic origin and year	Age of woman									
	Total ¹	Under 15 years ²	15–19 years			20–24 years	25–29 years	30–34 years	35–39 years	40–44 years ³
			Total	15–17 years	18–19 years					
Hispanic ⁵										
All pregnancies:										
1995	159.6	4.4	162.8	110.0	242.7	276.5	232.7	142.3	79.9	21.3
1994	163.3	4.6	167.2	113.9	246.5	281.4	234.9	144.0	80.2	21.9
1993	165.1	4.5	166.1	110.2	249.3	281.8	235.7	145.7	80.5	21.5
1992	169.0	4.5	167.8	110.9	251.6	286.6	237.7	148.0	83.5	22.4
1991	164.8	4.2	164.6	107.0	247.6	273.8	231.1	143.7	80.5	21.3
1990	163.2	4.0	155.8	101.0	231.4	263.0	229.2	146.4	81.0	21.7
Live births:										
1995	105.0	2.7	106.7	72.9	157.9	188.5	153.8	95.9	44.9	11.2
1994	105.6	2.7	107.7	74.0	158.0	188.2	153.2	95.4	44.3	11.1
1993	106.9	2.7	106.8	71.7	159.1	188.3	154.0	96.4	44.7	11.0
1992	108.5	2.6	107.1	71.4	159.7	190.6	154.4	96.8	45.6	11.4
1991	108.1	2.4	106.7	70.6	158.5	186.3	152.8	96.1	44.9	11.1
1990	107.6	2.4	100.2	65.8	147.6	180.8	152.8	98.1	45.2	11.4
Induced abortions:										
1995	34.4	1.3	38.6	25.1	58.9	68.3	44.8	25.9	14.8	5.0
1994	37.3	1.4	41.7	27.8	62.5	73.5	47.8	28.2	16.0	5.8
1993	37.8	1.5	41.7	26.7	64.1	73.9	47.6	28.6	15.7	5.5
1992	39.7	1.6	43.1	27.8	65.7	76.1	49.1	30.5	17.4	5.9
1991	36.2	1.4	40.4	24.7	63.0	68.1	44.4	27.1	15.5	5.2
1990	35.1	1.1	39.1	24.3	59.5	63.4	42.6	27.2	15.4	5.2
Fetal losses ⁴ :										
1995	20.3	0.4	17.5	12.0	26.0	19.7	34.1	20.5	20.2	5.1
1994	20.3	0.4	17.7	12.2	26.0	19.6	34.0	20.4	19.9	5.0
1993	20.5	0.4	17.6	11.8	26.2	19.6	34.1	20.7	20.1	5.0
1992	20.8	0.4	17.6	11.7	26.3	19.9	34.2	20.7	20.5	5.1
1991	20.6	0.4	17.5	11.6	26.1	19.4	33.9	20.6	20.2	5.0
1990	20.5	0.4	16.5	10.8	24.3	18.9	33.9	21.0	20.4	5.1

¹Rates computed by relating the number of events to women of all ages to women aged 15–44 years.

²Rates computed by relating the number of events to women under 15 years to women aged 10–14 years.

³Rates computed by relating the number of events to women aged 40 years and over to women aged 40–44 years.

⁴Spontaneous fetal losses from recognized pregnancies of all gestational periods as reported by women in the 1995 National Survey of Family Growth conducted by the National Center for Health Statistics. The rate of fetal loss depends on the degree to which losses at very early gestations are detected.

⁵Includes all persons of Hispanic origin of any race.

NOTES: Due to rounding, figures may not add to totals. Rates for 1990–91 have been revised on the basis of information from the 1995 National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG). The revised estimates differ, therefore, from those previously published (see Technical Notes and reference 4).

Table 5. Numbers and rates of pregnancies, live births, induced abortions, and fetal losses for teenagers, by age, race, and Hispanic origin: United States, 1996

Pregnancy outcome and race and Hispanic origin	Number (in thousands)				Rate per 1,000 women			
	10–14 years	15–19 years			10–14 years	15–19 years		
		Total	15–17 years	18–19 years		Total	15–17 years	18–19 years
All races¹								
All pregnancies	26	893	372	521	2.8	98.7	67.8	146.4
Live births	11	492	186	306	1.2	54.4	33.8	86.0
Induced abortions.	10	264	104	160	1.1	29.2	19.0	44.9
Fetal losses ²	4	137	82	55	0.5	15.2	15.0	15.5
Non-Hispanic								
White:								
All pregnancies	7	416	163	253	1.1	68.1	43.9	105.6
Live births	3	229	76	153	0.4	37.6	20.6	63.7
Induced abortions.	3	117	46	71	0.5	19.1	12.5	29.4
Fetal losses ²	1	70	40	30	0.2	11.4	10.8	12.4
Black:								
All pregnancies	12	242	106	136	8.7	177.8	128.1	254.4
Live births	5	128	55	73	3.8	94.2	66.6	136.6
Induced abortions.	5	90	36	54	3.9	65.9	43.7	100.1
Fetal losses ²	1	24	15	9	1.0	17.7	17.7	17.7
Hispanic³								
All pregnancies	5	183	74	110	4.3	157.1	105.0	235.4
Live births	3	119	48	71	2.6	101.8	69.0	151.1
Induced abortions.	2	45	17	28	1.3	38.6	24.7	59.5
Fetal losses ²	1	20	8	12	0.4	16.7	11.3	24.8

¹Includes races other than white and black.²Spontaneous fetal losses from recognized pregnancies of all gestational periods as reported by women in the 1995 National Survey of Family Growth conducted by the National Center for Health Statistics. The rate of pregnancy loss depends on the degree to which losses at very early gestations are detected.³Includes all persons of Hispanic origin of any race.

NOTE: Due to rounding, figures may not add to totals.

Table 6. Pregnancy, live birth, and induced abortion rates by marital status and race and Hispanic origin: United States, 1980 and 1990–95

[Rates per 1,000 women aged 15–44 years in specified group]

Race and Hispanic origin and year	Married			Unmarried		
	All pregnancies ¹	Live birth	Induced abortion	All pregnancies ¹	Live birth	Induced abortion
All races						
1995.	113.2	83.7	8.5	95.8	45.1	39.3
1994.	113.7	83.8	9.0	100.4	46.9	41.6
1993.	117.9	86.8	9.6	100.4	45.3	43.7
1992.	120.5	89.0	9.7	101.4	45.2	44.9
1991.	122.0	89.9	10.1	102.2	45.2	45.8
1990.	126.3	93.2	10.6	102.3	43.8	47.7
1980.	128.7	97.0	12.3	88.3	29.4	52.0
White, total						
1995.	112.9	85.1	6.6	77.4	37.5	30.5
1994.	113.0	85.0	6.9	80.1	38.3	32.3
1993.	116.4	87.6	7.3	79.1	35.9	34.3
1992.	119.0	89.6	7.6	79.6	35.2	35.8
1991.	120.4	90.6	7.9	80.2	34.6	37.3
1990.	125.1	94.1	8.5	80.2	32.9	39.4
1980.	125.9	97.5	10.1	66.7	18.1	45.3
White, non-Hispanic						
1995.	105.8	80.1	5.3	61.0	28.2	25.6
1994.	106.6	80.7	5.4	63.1	28.5	27.4
All other²						
1995.	114.8	75.1	20.2	151.9	68.1	66.1
1994.	117.8	76.2	21.9	162.7	73.4	70.2
1993.	126.9	81.8	23.9	166.2	74.3	72.6
1992.	130.5	84.8	23.8	169.0	76.1	73.3
1991.	132.5	85.6	25.0	171.9	78.8	72.9
1990.	134.4	87.4	24.7	175.0	79.7	74.8
1980.	149.6	93.5	29.0	176.2	75.2	79.3
Black, total						
1995.	104.5	65.1	21.5	169.4	75.9	72.7
1994.	109.2	66.9	23.9	182.8	82.1	78.2
1993.	120.4	73.7	26.5	189.4	84.0	82.5
Hispanic³						
1995.	149.6	113.2	14.6	171.7	95.0	58.4
1994.	147.0	109.3	16.7	181.7	101.2	61.1
1993.	155.7	116.4	17.0	176.7	95.2	63.3

¹Includes pregnancies ending in fetal loss, not shown separately.²Includes black and other races.³Includes all persons of Hispanic origin of any race.

NOTES: Marital status is the woman's status as of the date the pregnancy ended, rather than at the time of conception. Rates for 1990 and 1991 have been revised on the basis of new information from the 1995 National Survey of Family Growth. The revised estimates differ from those previously published (4). See Technical Notes.

Table 7. Percent distribution of pregnancies by outcome of pregnancy, according to age, race, and Hispanic origin of woman: United States, 1995

Pregnancy outcome and race and Hispanic origin	Total	Under 15 years	15–19 years			20–24 years	25–29 years	30–34 years	35–39 years	40 years and over
			Total	15–17 years	18–19 years					
All races ¹										
Percent distribution										
All pregnancies	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Live births	62.4	43.7	55.3	50.2	59.1	60.3	66.6	68.5	58.3	52.9
Induced abortions	21.8	38.8	29.2	27.7	30.3	27.6	19.3	14.8	16.7	24.5
Fetal losses	15.7	17.4	15.5	22.1	10.6	12.1	14.1	16.7	25.1	22.6
Non-Hispanic										
White:										
All pregnancies	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Live births	66.7	35.7	54.8	47.1	59.9	64.4	72.2	73.1	60.6	55.1
Induced abortions	16.4	45.6	28.4	28.4	28.4	22.3	13.2	9.8	12.3	20.3
Fetal losses	17.0	18.6	16.8	24.5	11.7	13.4	14.7	17.0	27.0	24.6
Black:										
All pregnancies	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Live births	48.5	45.4	53.9	52.6	54.9	46.9	47.8	47.8	46.8	42.2
Induced abortions	38.0	42.5	35.9	33.4	38.0	40.6	40.3	33.0	34.8	41.3
Fetal losses	13.5	12.0	10.2	14.0	7.1	12.6	11.9	19.2	18.4	16.6
Hispanic ²										
All pregnancies	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Live births	65.8	61.0	65.5	66.3	65.0	68.2	66.1	67.4	56.2	52.6
Induced abortions	21.5	28.9	23.7	22.8	24.3	24.7	19.3	18.2	18.5	23.7
Fetal losses	12.7	10.0	10.8	10.9	10.7	7.1	14.7	14.4	25.3	23.7

¹Includes races other than white and black and origin not stated.²Includes all persons of Hispanic origin of any race.

Table 8. Percent of never married males and females 15–19 years of age who have had sexual intercourse, by selected age groups and sociodemographic characteristics: United States, 1988 and 1995

Characteristic	Females		Males	
	1988	1995	1988	1995
	Percent			
All teenagers 15–19 years ¹	51.1	49.3	60.4	**55.2
Age				
15	27.9	24.3	32.6	27.1
16	34.1	38.3	49.9	44.6
17	47.6	50.8	65.6	58.4
18	65.5	62.3	71.6	67.0
19	79.7	74.0	85.7	84.0
15–17	37.2	38.0	50.0	***43.1
18–19	72.6	**68.0	77.3	75.4
Age, race, and Hispanic origin				
White non-Hispanic	50.4	48.5	56.8	***49.5
15–17	34.7	35.6	44.4	***34.8
18–19	72.7	68.0	76.8	74.7
Black non-Hispanic	60.4	59.3	80.6	80.4
15–17	50.2	48.9	76.6	75.4
18–19	77.5	77.1	87.7	89.0
Hispanic ²	45.8	52.7	59.7	60.9
15–17	35.2	**49.0	57.1	49.7
18–19	67.5	59.0	63.6	**78.6
Mother's education				
0–11 years	55.4	60.2	67.3	59.8
12 years	49.4	47.2	65.3	**58.0
13–15 years	51.2	55.2	53.9	57.5
16 years or more	48.5	**37.2	50.9	45.5
Family structure at age 14				
Both biological/adoptive parents	44.9	42.5	57.0	**50.4
Single parent ³	58.7	58.9	71.1	67.6
Parent and stepparent	66.2	**55.3	56.5	54.0
Nonparental/other	72.8	64.2	91.0	80.3

** change from 1988 to 1995 is significant at the .10 level.

*** change from 1988 to 1995 is significant at the .05 level.

¹Includes races other than white and black.²Includes all persons of Hispanic origin of any race.³Includes parent and girl/boyfriend; also includes parent and other adults.

Table 9. Percent distribution of women 15–44 years of age, by frequency of sexual intercourse in the last 3 months, according to age, marital status, and race and Hispanic origin: United States, 1988 and 1995

	Total	Never had sex or no sex in last 12 months	Sex in last 12 months but no sex in last 3 months	Sex in the last 3 months			
				Once a month or less	2–3 per month	Once a week	More than once a week
Total, 15–44 years		Percent distribution					
All races ¹ :							
1988	100.0	18.5	4.1	7.1	18.6	20.3	31.4
1995	100.0	18.3	4.6	11.3	17.9	17.5	30.3
White non-Hispanic:							
1988	100.0	17.6	3.8	6.0	18.3	21.5	32.8
1995	100.0	16.9	4.3	10.7	18.1	18.9	31.0
Black non-Hispanic:							
1988	100.0	15.9	4.7	13.3	23.6	15.6	27.0
1995	100.0	18.4	5.6	16.1	19.1	13.4	27.5
Hispanic ² :							
1988	100.0	22.7	5.7	7.8	16.7	18.3	28.9
1995	100.0	22.1	4.7	11.2	15.4	14.3	32.2
All races, ¹ by age							
15–19 years:							
1988	100.0	51.1	7.4	8.2	11.9	7.7	13.8
1995	100.0	53.5	6.9	9.0	10.7	6.7	13.2
15–17 years:							
1988	100.0	66.2	6.8	6.6	9.4	3.7	7.2
1995	100.0	66.6	5.9	6.7	8.0	5.3	7.6
18–19 years:							
1988	100.0	29.0	8.3	10.4	15.4	13.5	23.5
1995	100.0	33.9	8.5	12.4	14.7	8.7	21.8
20–29 years:							
1988	100.0	15.0	4.0	7.1	18.3	19.6	36.1
1995	100.0	14.1	5.6	10.3	17.7	17.6	34.7
30–44 years:							
1988	100.0	10.5	2.9	6.9	21.0	24.9	33.7
1995	100.0	10.8	3.5	12.7	20.1	20.4	32.6
Married, 15–44 years							
All races ¹ :							
1988	100.0	0.5	0.6	5.3	22.3	28.5	42.8
1995	100.0	0.9	1.4	9.5	22.2	25.4	40.5
Unmarried, 15–44 years							
All races ¹ :							
1988	100.0	36.6	7.5	9.0	14.9	12.1	19.9
1995	100.0	35.2	7.7	13.1	13.7	9.9	20.4
White non-Hispanic:							
1988	100.0	38.5	7.5	7.2	13.6	12.5	20.7
1995	100.0	36.0	7.8	12.2	12.5	10.2	21.2
Black non-Hispanic:							
1988	100.0	21.8	6.4	15.1	23.6	13.3	19.9
1995	100.0	23.9	7.3	18.8	18.6	11.9	19.5
Hispanic ² :							
1995	100.0	41.4	8.2	11.2	13.1	6.7	19.5

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 9. Percent distribution of women 15–44 years of age, by frequency of sexual intercourse in the last 3 months, according to age, marital status, and race and Hispanic origin: United States, 1988 and 1995—Con.

	Total	Never had sex or no sex in last 12 months	Sex in last 12 months but no sex in last 3 months	Sex in the last 3 months			
				Once a month or less	2–3 per month	Once a week	More than once a week
Unmarried, all races, by age		Percent distribution					
15–19 years:							
1988	100.0	52.7	7.6	8.4	12.0	7.6	11.6
1995	100.0	55.7	7.1	9.2	10.5	6.5	11.0
20–29 years:							
1988	100.0	27.4	7.0	9.3	16.6	14.2	25.5
1995	100.0	23.2	7.9	13.1	15.9	12.6	27.2
30–44 years:							
1988	100.0	32.1	7.7	9.3	15.7	14.0	21.2
1995	100.0	30.6	8.2	16.4	14.2	9.6	21.1

¹Includes races other than white and black.²Includes all persons of Hispanic origin of any race.

NOTE: Sample sizes for Hispanic women were too small to provide these data for 1988 from the National Survey of Family Growth.

Table 10. Percent of females 15–19 years of age who have ever had sexual intercourse, by specified contextual characteristic measured in the 1990 census: United States, 1995

Community characteristic in 1990	Total ¹	White non-Hispanic	Black non-Hispanic
Median family income		Percent	
Under \$20,000	69	61	68
\$20,000 to 49,999	51	51	57
\$50,000 or more	37	38	45
Unemployment rate			
Under 5 percent	42	43	56
5–9 percent	54	57	56
10 percent and over	66	57	64
Percent of households on welfare			
Under 3 percent	43	44	55
3–8 percent	48	50	49
9 percent and over	63	58	65

¹Total includes races other than white and black and women of Hispanic origin, not shown separately because of insufficient sample size (for this table).

NOTE: All 3 community characteristics in this table were measured at the Block Group level, using Summary Tape Files from the 1990 census.

SOURCE: National Survey of Family Growth Contextual Data File.

Table 11. Number of women 15–44 years of age and percent distribution by marital and cohabitation status, according to age, parity, and race and Hispanic origin: United States, 1995

Characteristic	Number in thousands	Total	Currently married	Unmarried		
				Cohabiting	Never married	Widowed, divorced, separated
All women ¹	60,201	100.0	49.3	7.0	33.4	10.3
All races						
15–19 years	8,961	100.0	3.8	4.1	91.5	0.6
Parity 0	8,208	100.0	2.0	3.1	94.8	0.1
Parity 1+	752	100.0	24.0	14.9	55.5	5.6
20–24 years	9,041	100.0	27.2	11.2	56.1	5.5
Parity 0	5,905	100.0	16.9	10.2	70.2	2.7
Parity 1+	3,137	100.0	46.8	13.1	29.4	10.7
25–29 years	9,693	100.0	52.5	9.8	28.9	8.8
Parity 0	4,219	100.0	36.7	11.8	47.5	4.1
Parity 1+	5,474	100.0	64.7	8.3	14.6	12.5
30–44 years	32,506	100.0	67.0	5.8	12.4	14.9
Parity 0	6,911	100.0	43.1	7.5	37.8	11.6
Parity 1+	25,595	100.0	73.5	5.3	5.5	15.7
White non-Hispanic	42,522	100.0	54.3	7.0	29.4	9.3
15–19 years	5,962	100.0	3.6	4.6	91.0	0.8
20–24 years	6,062	100.0	29.2	12.8	52.7	5.3
25–29 years	6,694	100.0	57.3	10.8	24.4	7.5
30–44 years	23,803	100.0	72.5	5.0	9.5	13.0
Black non-Hispanic	8,210	100.0	25.2	6.9	52.5	15.5
15–19 years	1,392	100.0	2.9	1.2	96.0	–
20–24 years	1,328	100.0	11.3	5.7	76.6	6.4
25–29 years	1,346	100.0	23.8	8.7	52.5	15.0
30–44 years	4,144	100.0	37.6	8.5	30.1	23.8
Hispanic ²	6,702	100.0	47.4	8.2	32.8	11.6
15–19 years	1,150	100.0	6.0	6.7	87.0	0.3
20–24 years	1,163	100.0	37.9	11.5	45.3	5.3
25–29 years	1,217	100.0	55.6	8.4	25.4	10.7
30–44 years	3,173	100.0	62.8	7.4	11.4	18.4

– Quantity zero.

¹Includes races other than white and black.²Includes all persons of Hispanic origin of any race.

NOTE: Percents may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Table 12. Number of women 15–44 years of age and percent distribution by sexual experience, according to marital status, and by race and Hispanic origin and age for unmarried women: United States, 1995

Characteristic	Number in thousands	Total	Never had sex	Had sex but not in last 12 months	Had sex in last 12 months
All women	60,201	100.0	10.6	7.5	81.9
Married	29,673	100.0	–	0.9	99.1
Unmarried					
All ¹	30,528	100.0	21.0	13.8	65.2
White non-Hispanic	19,445	100.0	22.1	13.5	64.4
Black non-Hispanic	6,141	100.0	11.8	11.7	76.4
Hispanic ²	3,524	100.0	22.6	18.4	59.1
Unmarried, 15–19 years					
All ¹	8,566	100.0	50.4	4.9	44.7
White non-Hispanic	5,704	100.0	51.1	5.0	43.9
Black non-Hispanic	1,355	100.0	40.7	3.9	55.4
Hispanic ²	1,053	100.0	47.2	5.1	47.8
Unmarried, 20–44 years					
All ¹	21,909	100.0	9.1	17.4	73.5
White non-Hispanic	13,699	100.0	9.6	17.1	73.3
Black non-Hispanic	4,789	100.0	3.4	13.9	82.7
Hispanic ²	2,444	100.0	11.6	24.3	64.1

– Quantity zero.

¹Includes races other than white and black.²Includes all persons of Hispanic origin of any race.

NOTE: Percents may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Table 13. Number of sexually experienced women 15–44 years of age and percent distribution by interval between first sexual intercourse and first contraceptive method use, according to year of first intercourse and race and Hispanic origin: United States, 1995

Year of first intercourse	Number in thousands	Total	At or before first intercourse	Less than 3 months later	4–12 months later	13 months or longer	Never used a method
All women	53,630	100.0	58.8	10.2	9.2	19.3	2.5
1970's							
All ¹	24,338	100.0	49.0	11.4	11.0	26.1	2.5
White non-Hispanic	18,112	100.0	54.6	12.7	10.4	21.2	1.2
Black non-Hispanic	3,346	100.0	37.7	8.2	12.9	36.5	4.7
Hispanic ²	2,160	100.0	26.1	6.2	16.0	43.3	8.4
1980–84							
All ¹	10,434	100.0	60.6	10.8	8.4	18.0	2.2
White non-Hispanic	7,425	100.0	67.7	10.9	7.2	13.1	1.1
Black non-Hispanic	1,435	100.0	52.9	9.0	13.1	22.5	2.5
Hispanic ²	1,077	100.0	28.6	13.1	13.0	40.3	5.0
1985–89							
All ¹	9,962	100.0	64.6	8.9	8.9	15.5	2.1
White non-Hispanic	6,729	100.0	71.5	9.1	6.8	11.6	1.0
Black non-Hispanic	1,403	100.0	55.6	9.4	9.0	22.6	3.4
Hispanic ²	1,349	100.0	42.4	7.2	16.9	28.2	5.3
1990–95							
All ¹	8,896	100.0	76.8	7.9	5.4	6.8	3.1
White non-Hispanic	5,829	100.0	84.0	6.1	4.2	4.2	1.5
Black non-Hispanic	1,297	100.0	73.6	8.2	7.0	9.4	1.8
Hispanic ²	1,301	100.0	53.5	11.9	9.8	16.1	8.8

¹Includes races other than white and black.²Includes all persons of Hispanic origin of any race.

NOTES: Percents may not add to 100 due to rounding. "Sexually experienced" women are those who have ever had voluntary sexual intercourse since menarche. Twenty-three cases were excluded from this tabulation because they had either never had voluntary intercourse or never had intercourse since menarche.

Table 14. Number of non-Hispanic white women 15–44 years of age and percent distribution by current contraceptive status and method, according to age at interview and parity: United States, 1988 and 1995

Age, contraceptive status, and method	All		Parity 0		Parity 1+	
	1988	1995	1988	1995	1988	1995
	Number in thousands					
All women	42,575	42,522	19,113	18,512	23,462	24,009
	Percent distribution					
15–19 years						
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Percent not using	66.0	69.5	67.2	71.4	38.1	38.3
Percent using	34.0	30.5	32.8	28.6	61.9	61.7
All contraceptive users	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Female sterilization	1.8	—	—	—	*	—
Male sterilization	0.3	—	—	—	*	—
Pill	55.6	48.9	55.8	49.7	*	44.4
Depo/Norplant	---	8.5	---	7.0	---	22.2
Male condom	34.1	35.7	36.6	36.7	*	27.9
All other users	8.2	6.6	*	6.6	*	5.5
20–24 years						
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Percent not using	37.4	34.7	40.3	37.5	29.6	27.7
Percent using	62.6	65.3	59.7	62.5	70.4	72.3
All contraceptive users	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Female sterilization	3.7	3.2	—	—	*	10.1
Male sterilization	2.2	1.4	*	0.8	*	2.9
Pill	68.1	56.7	74.4	63.4	53.4	42.2
Depo/Norplant	---	7.7	---	3.7	---	16.2
Male condom	16.6	23.9	14.4	25.3	21.6	20.7
All other users	9.4	7.2	9.2	6.9	*	7.9
25–29 years						
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Percent not using	33.9	28.0	43.5	32.9	26.1	23.4
Percent using	66.1	72.0	56.5	67.1	73.9	76.6
All contraceptive users	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Female sterilization	14.2	14.3	—	0.3	23.3	25.3
Male sterilization	7.9	5.4	*	1.9	11.5	8.2
Pill	44.6	42.5	61.4	61.7	34.1	27.2
Depo/Norplant	---	5.1	---	1.3	---	8.0
Male condom	15.7	24.6	16.6	26.8	15.0	22.7
All other users	17.5	8.2	19.8	7.7	16.2	8.6
30–44 years						
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Percent not using	29.5	26.3	54.6	50.5	22.6	19.3
Percent using	70.5	73.7	45.4	49.5	77.4	80.7
All contraceptive users	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Female sterilization	38.9	34.7	11.7	8.1	43.0	39.5
Male sterilization	21.8	20.1	19.4	13.5	22.1	21.2
Pill	10.4	16.1	29.3	32.5	7.4	13.1
Depo/Norplant	---	1.4	---	1.6	---	1.4
Male condom	11.9	15.6	16.3	25.5	11.1	13.9
All other users	17.3	11.9	23.6	18.4	16.3	10.8

— Quantity zero.

--- Data not available.

* Fewer than 20 cases.

NOTES: Figures may not add to 100.0 due to rounding or because there were not enough cases to make stable estimates. The percent not using contraception includes women who have never had sex, women who are pregnant, and women who are having sex but not using contraception.

Table 15. Number of non-Hispanic black women 15–44 years of age and percent distribution by current contraceptive status and method, according to age at interview and parity: United States, 1988 and 1995

Age, contraceptive status, and method	All		Parity 0		Parity 1+	
	1988	1995	1988	1995	1988	1995
	Number in thousands					
All women	7,408	8,210	2,739	3,061	4,669	5,149
	Percent distribution					
15–19 years						
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Percent not using	64.4	65.1	72.1	72.3	25.5	34.0
Percent using	35.6	34.9	27.9	27.7	74.5	66.0
All contraceptive users	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Female sterilization	*	–	–	–	*	–
Male sterilization	–	–	–	–	–	–
Pill	75.6	32.4	69.9	37.5	85.5	*
Depo/Norplant	–	24.1	–	*	–	52.7
Male condom	21.3	38.4	27.6	46.2	*	*
All other users	*	*	*	*	–	–
20–24 years						
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Percent not using	38.3	32.1	42.8	36.2	33.5	28.1
Percent using	61.7	67.9	57.2	63.8	66.5	71.9
All contraceptive users	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Female sterilization	9.2	7.4	–	*	17.3	12.9
Male sterilization	–	*	–	–	–	*
Pill	70.2	41.8	78.3	51.6	62.9	33.4
Depo/Norplant	–	13.1	–	*	–	22.4
Male condom	9.7	33.3	*	39.2	*	28.1
All other users	11.0	*	*	*	*	*
25–29 years						
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Percent not using	36.5	35.5	52.1	54.2	29.9	25.2
Percent using	63.5	64.5	47.9	45.8	70.1	74.8
All contraceptive users	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Female sterilization	32.4	28.8	–	*	42.2	36.6
Male sterilization	–	*	–	*	–	*
Pill	45.8	30.4	64.1	47.4	40.5	24.7
Depo/Norplant	–	12.4	–	*	–	15.9
Male condom	9.9	18.3	*	*	7.6	15.1
All other users	11.7	8.7	*	*	9.7	*
30–44 years						
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Percent not using	39.3	31.5	67.7	59.0	34.1	24.9
Percent using	60.7	68.5	32.3	41.0	65.9	75.1
All contraceptive users	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Female sterilization	60.5	60.9	*	*	65.3	67.8
Male sterilization	1.8	2.6	*	*	*	2.5
Pill	12.7	14.6	*	29.3	11.4	12.8
Depo/Norplant	–	*	–	*	–	*
Male condom	7.7	13.4	*	34.1	6.4	10.8
All other users	17.3	6.9	*	*	15.3	5.3

– Quantity zero.

– – – Data not available.

* Fewer than 20 cases.

NOTE: Figures may not add to totals due to rounding or because there were not enough cases to make stable estimates. The percent not using contraception includes women who have never had sex, women who are pregnant, and women who are having sex but not using contraception.

Table 16. Measures of teenage sexual activity and pregnancy for women aged 15–19 years by age: United States, 1995

Measure	15–19 years		
	Total	15–17 years	18–19 years
Pregnancy rate (per 1,000 women)	102.7	71.7	150.8
Percent who ever had intercourse	51.3	38.3	70.8
Pregnancy rate of those who have ever had intercourse (per 1,000)	200	187	213
Percent who had intercourse in the last 12 months	46.9	33.8	66.5
Pregnancy rate for teens sexually active in the last 12 months (per 1,000)	219	212	227

Table 17. Measures of teenage sexual activity and pregnancy for women 15–19 years of age, by race and Hispanic origin: United States, 1995

Measure	Total ¹	White non-Hispanic	Black non-Hispanic	Hispanic ²
Number of women 15–19 years of age in the sample	1,396	842	289	210
Weighted number in millions ³	8.923	5.926	1.395	1.140
Pregnancy rate	102.7	71.6	184.4	162.8
Percent who ever had intercourse	51.3	50.4	60.5	56.0
Pregnancy rate for those who have ever had intercourse	200	142	305	291
Percent who had sex in the last 12 months	46.9	46.0	56.6	51.8
Pregnancy rate for those who had intercourse in the last 12 months	219	156	326	314

¹Includes races other than white and black.²Includes all persons of Hispanic origin of any race.³Estimated from the National Survey of Family Growth.**Table 18. Number of women 15–19 years of age, and measures of sexual activity, pregnancy, and births for women aged 15–19 years: United States 1982, 1988, 1990, and 1995**

[Rates per 1,000 women aged 15–19 years in specified group]

Measure	1982	1988	1990	1995
1. Number of women aged 15–19 (millions) ¹	9.809	9.029	8.709	8.799
2. Number of births to women aged 15–19	513,758	478,353	521,826	499,873
3. Number of births to unmarried women aged 15–19	260,626	312,499	349,970	375,738
4. Percent ever had sexual intercourse	46.9	52.6	54.7	51.3
5. Number of sexually experienced women aged 15–19 (millions)	4.600	4.749	4.764	4.514
6. Pregnancy rate, all teens	107.8	109.9	116.3	102.7
7. Number of pregnancies	1,058,000	993,000	1,013,000	904,000
8. Number of abortions	419,000	393,000	351,000	264,000
9. Percent of pregnancies to women aged 15–19 that ended in abortion	40	40	35	29
10. Percent of pregnancies to women aged 15–19 that ended in nonmarital births	25	31	35	42

¹U. S. Bureau of the Census, various reports.

NOTE: Data on sexual experience rates and the number of sexually experienced teenagers are based on small samples from the NSFG (lines 4 and 5 above). Therefore, small changes in either direction of 4 percent or 100,000 women should be interpreted with caution. Information on the proportion of teenagers who have had sexual intercourse in all years is based on tabulations from the National Surveys of Family Growth.

Table 19. Selected indicators of sexual activity and condom use among never-married males aged 15–19 years from the National Surveys of Adolescent Males, 1988 and 1995

Indicator	Sample <i>n</i>	Total 15–19 years ¹	Non-Hispanic		
			White male	Black male	Hispanic male ²
1. Percent who ever had intercourse with a female:					
1988	1,874	60.4	56.8	80.6	59.7
1995	1,708	**55.2	**49.5	80.4	60.9
2. Percent who had intercourse in the last 3 months:					
1988	1,869	43.2	40.8	59.6	40.9
1995	1,705	**37.8	**32.2	59.2	43.9
3. Percent who used a condom at last intercourse:					
1988	1,229	56.9	54.4	65.5	53.0
1995	943	**67.0	**66.8	**73.9	58.2
4. Percent who always used a condom in the last 12 months:					
1988	1,131	33.1	32.3	36.9	34.1
1995	892	**45.0	**47.9	**47.2	30.1

** Change from 1988 to 1995 is significant at the 10 percent level or better.

¹Includes races other than white and black.

²Includes all persons of Hispanic origin of any race.

SOURCE: References 29 and 40.

Appendix

Technical Notes

Sources of Data

Live births—Beginning in 1985 all live birth data are based on 100 percent of all births registered in the United States. Birth data for 1976–84 are based on 100 percent of births in selected States and on a 50-percent sample of births in all other States (9–12). Birth data are reported to the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) through the Vital Statistics Cooperative Program (VSCP).

Induced abortions—Abortion data shown in this report are national estimates compiled by The Alan Guttmacher Institute (AGI) from their surveys of all known abortion providers. The National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (NCCDPHP) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) also compiles abortion data mainly from State health agencies. The numbers of abortions published by NCCDPHP tend to be lower than the numbers published by AGI, which are obtained by direct surveys of abortion providers (8, 13–18, 57–61). For example, the total number of abortions reported by CDC was about 14 percent lower in 1988 and about 12 percent lower in 1996 than reported by AGI (13,14,16,18).

Estimates of the number of abortions performed in the United States in 1989, 1990, and 1993–94 were made by interpolations between AGI's 1988 and 1991 totals and between AGI's 1992 and 1995 totals, because AGI did not conduct surveys in 1989–90 and 1993–94.

The NCCDPHP publishes the number of abortions according to women's characteristics, including age, race, Hispanic origin, and marital status. These data were obtained from varying numbers of States, ranging from 21 States and New York City for the cross-tabulation of marital status by ethnicity to 44 States and New York City for age in 1996 (18). States were

excluded for the calculation of a particular characteristic if that characteristic was unknown for more than 15 percent of the abortions. The AGI used these data to calculate percent distributions, with adjustments to remove the influence of year-to-year changes in the States that report to CDC, changes in the definitions of items, and changes in the proportion of missing data (13). The adjusted percent distributions for these reporting areas were applied to the U.S. totals compiled by AGI. This means that the areas with data were considered representative of the country as a whole.

The numbers of abortions by marital status differ from those published previously (4) because separated women have been included with married women, whereas previously they were treated as unmarried. All Hispanic women are assumed to be white since the tabulations provided by the CDC do not show the race of Hispanic women having abortions; in 1997, 97 percent of Hispanic women who gave birth were reported as white (12).

Fetal losses—Information on fetal losses is based on the 1982, 1988, and 1995 National Surveys of Family Growth (NSFG), conducted by NCHS (19–21). In this report, the proportion of pregnancies (excluding induced abortions) ending in fetal loss in the 5 years preceding each survey are used (20,21). Fetal losses for years prior to 1982 were based on the 1982 NSFG. To increase the reliability of the estimates by age, race, and Hispanic origin, the proportions of pregnancies ending in fetal loss in the 1982 and 1988 surveys were averaged and used for 1982–87. Similarly, the proportions of pregnancies ending in fetal loss in the 1988 and 1995 surveys were averaged and used for 1988–89. Rates shown in this report for 1988 and 1989 therefore differ from those published earlier; the previously published estimates were based on averages of the 1982 and 1988 NSFG (4). Because sample sizes in the 1995 NSFG were much larger than in earlier surveys, the proportion of pregnancies ending in fetal loss in that survey were used for 1990–96. Rates shown in this

report for 1990–92 differ therefore from those published earlier, because fetal loss estimates previously published were based on averages of the 1982 and 1988 NSFG (4).

The proportion of pregnancies ending in fetal loss increased somewhat for all groups between the 1988 and 1995 surveys. It is believed that the increased proportion of fetal losses represents better and more complete reporting of fetal losses rather than an actual increase in the likelihood of a fetal loss. Some of this increase may be associated with the growth in the use of home pregnancy testing kits and other means of early pregnancy detection.

The NSFG data on fetal losses, rather than vital statistics reports of fetal losses, have been used in this report because vital statistics data are generally limited to losses occurring at gestations of 20 weeks or more, whereas NSFG data include all gestations. The vast majority of fetal losses occur early in pregnancy before the reporting requirements for fetal losses are in effect (22). Even fetal losses of 20 weeks or more are underreported in vital statistics data.

Other studies have used a formula to estimate the numbers of fetal losses (8, 17). For example, the AGI estimates of fetal losses are the sum of 20 percent of live births and 10 percent of induced abortions for each age, race, and Hispanic origin group. In contrast, the estimates in the NCHS series of reports incorporate actual reports of pregnancy losses which vary by age, race, and Hispanic origin ([table 7](#)) (1–4).

Frequency data on the numbers of pregnancies by outcome by age, race, and Hispanic origin, and the numbers of pregnancies by marital status, race, and Hispanic origin are shown in [tables I and II](#).

Population Denominators

The numbers of women by age, race, and Hispanic origin used to compute rates for 1981–89 are revised estimates that are consistent with 1990 census levels. These revised populations have been published in the U.S. Bureau of the Census reports (24). Populations used to compute rates for 1990–96 have

Table I. Estimated number of pregnancies by outcome of pregnancy by age, race, and Hispanic origin of woman: United States, 1995

[Numbers in thousands]

Pregnancy outcome and race and Hispanic origin	Total ¹	Under 15 years	15–19 years				20–24 years	25–29 years	30–34 years	35–39 years	40 years and over
			Total	15–17 years	18–19 years						
Non-Hispanic											
White non-Hispanic:											
All pregnancies	3,651	8	427	170	258	838	968	879	446	85	
Live births	2,435	3	234	80	154	539	699	643	270	47	
Induced abortions.	597	4	121	48	73	187	127	87	55	17	
Fetal losses ¹	619	1	72	42	30	112	143	150	121	21	
Black non-Hispanic:											
All pregnancies	1,222	13	245	111	134	385	274	197	89	18	
Live births	593	6	132	58	74	181	131	94	42	8	
Induced abortions.	464	5	88	37	51	156	110	65	31	8	
Fetal losses ¹	165	2	25	15	10	48	33	38	16	3	
Hispanic ²											
All pregnancies	1,034	5	181	73	107	305	270	171	84	18	
Live births	680	3	118	49	70	208	178	115	47	10	
Induced abortions.	223	2	43	17	26	75	52	31	15	4	
Fetal losses ²	161	1	19	8	11	22	40	25	21	4	

¹Spontaneous fetal losses from recognized pregnancies of all gestational periods as reported by women in the 1995 National Survey of Family Growth conducted by the National Center for Health Statistics. The rate of pregnancy loss depends on the degree to which losses at very early gestations are detected.

²Includes all persons of Hispanic origin of any race.

NOTES: Due to rounding, figures may not add to totals. Data for 1990 and 1991 have been revised based on new estimates of fetal losses from the 1995 National Survey of Family Growth. See text and Technical Notes.

Table II. Estimated number of pregnancies by outcome of pregnancy, marital status, and race and Hispanic origin of woman: United States, 1995

[Numbers in thousands]

Pregnancy outcome and race/Hispanic origin	Married				Unmarried			
	All pregnancies	Live birth	Induced abortion	Fetal loss ¹	All pregnancies	Live birth	Induced abortion	Fetal loss ¹
All races ²	3,578	2,646	269	664	2,666	1,254	1,095	318
White, total	3,071	2,314	180	577	1,621	785	640	196
White, non-Hispanic.	2,534	1,919	128	488	1,117	516	469	131
Black, total	292	182	60	50	941	421	404	116
Hispanic ³	532	402	52	78	502	278	171	54

¹Spontaneous fetal losses from recognized pregnancies of all gestational periods as reported by women in the 1995 National Survey of Family Growth, conducted by the National Center for Health Statistics.

²Includes races other than white and black.

³Includes all persons of Hispanic origin of any race.

NOTE: Figures shown refer to the woman's marital status when the pregnancy ended; see text and Technical Notes. Due to rounding figures may not add to totals.

been published by the Bureau of the Census (24,25,62–66).

Populations by marital status are those prepared by the Division of Vital Statistics, NCHS, to produce birth rates by marital status (10–12, 67). These population figures are based on annual reports of the population by marital status published by the Bureau of the Census (68–74) adjusted to annual population estimates as of July 1 (24,25,62–66).

Rates by marital status are shown for all black women because the necessary populations by marital status

are not available for non-Hispanic black women. However, because 95 percent of black women in the childbearing ages are non-Hispanic, the differences in the statistics for the two groups are minimal (25).

Race and Hispanic Origin

For births, race and Hispanic origin of the mother are reported independently on the birth certificate. Birth data in this report are tabulated by race of mother for 1980–96; data for 1976–79 are tabulated by race of child. Details of the

differences in tabulation procedures are described elsewhere (9). Beginning in 1993, all States have reported Hispanic origin of the mother on the birth certificate. Previously, in 1990, all States except New Hampshire and Oklahoma reported Hispanic origin; in 1991 and 1992, all States except New Hampshire reported Hispanic origin. In calculating rates, it is assumed that there were no Hispanic births in New Hampshire in 1990–92. Rates for 1990 by Hispanic origin include an estimate for Hispanic births to Oklahoma residents, which assumes proportionately the same level

of Hispanic births by age in 1990 as were reported in 1991, when this information became available (75).

Births for white non-Hispanic women in 1991 and 1992 include all white births in New Hampshire, and births for black non-Hispanic women include all black births in New Hampshire. In computing rates for all years beginning in 1990, births for white and black non-Hispanic women also include all white and black births with origin not stated in the total reporting area (1 to 1.5 percent annually) (75).

Interpretation of data by race and Hispanic origin—Differences by race and Hispanic origin in pregnancy rates and related factors may be associated with individual and community-level differences in socioeconomic status, including unemployment, income, and health insurance coverage. Some studies suggest that the greater marital instability found among black couples is a result of the economic difficulties that many black couples have (45). For example, the black male unemployment rate in 1995 was 10.6 percent, more than double the rate of white males (4.9 percent). Median income for both black and Hispanic families was just under \$25,000 in 1994, compared with about \$41,000 for white families—a gap of more than 60 percent (76). More than one-third of Hispanic persons and 22 percent of black persons had no health insurance coverage in 1998, compared with 12 percent of non-Hispanic white persons (77).

Lifetime Pregnancies, Live Births, and Abortions per Woman

The estimates of the number of lifetime pregnancies, live births, and induced abortions per woman shown in [table B](#) were computed by summing the 1990 and 1995 age-specific rates for each outcome, each multiplied by 5, and dividing the result by 1,000. The figure for live births per woman, therefore, is equivalent to the total fertility rate (TFR), a hypothetical measure that indicates how many births a woman would have if she experienced throughout her childbearing years the set

of age-specific birth rates observed in a given calendar year, 1990 and 1995 in this report (9,12). Similarly, the total pregnancy rate (TPR) for 1995 for example is the number of pregnancies a woman would have if the 1995 pregnancy rates continued through her lifetime; the total abortion rate (TAR) is the number of abortions a woman would have if the 1995 abortion rates by age continued. The TPR then, is the sum of the TFR, the TAR, and the TFLR (total fetal loss rate). The TFLR is not shown separately in this report.

Age Data from the NSFG

Data on age for respondents in the 1988 and 1995 NSFG are based on the woman's age as of the "central" date for each cycle of the NSFG—that is, the expected average date of the interview. Tabulations from the 1988 and 1995 NSFG in this report (except data for teenagers in [tables 8, 9, 12, and 16–18](#) and [figure 16](#)) show data by age based on the "central" date, which are the estimated midpoints of each interviewing period (21). The central dates were March 15 for the 1988 NSFG and April 1 for the 1995 NSFG. Data shown in [tables 8, 9, 12, and 16–18](#) and [figure 16](#), relating to proportions of sexually experienced teenagers, are based on the exact age of the woman at the time of her interview. The proportions of teenagers who have ever had sexual intercourse, based on age at interview and age as of the central date, are shown in [table III](#). It is evident that the differences are small and the trends are identical. Although the differences are small, they can affect the interpretation of trends in teenage

pregnancy. Tabulating the data on teenage sexual experience by age at interview rather than age at the central date helps to ensure comparability with other reports specifically for teenagers from NCHS (40), as well as other publications on teenage pregnancy, which incorporate data from NSFG (52).

NSFG Contextual Data File

The contextual data file is a compilation of neighborhood characteristics from the 1990 census and other data sources. These characteristics of the neighborhood are attached or linked to the characteristics of the woman who is interviewed so that the effects of the communities in which women live can be measured. The geographic unit used in this report is the block group. For the first time in the 1990 census, all areas in the U.S. were block-numbered. A census block is a small, usually compact area, bounded by streets and other prominent physical features as well as certain legal boundaries. A block group is a cluster of census blocks within a census tract. For the 1990 census, block groups averaged 452 housing units, or 1,100 people. A typical census tract contains 4 or 5 block groups. Researchers can apply to use this contextual data file by contacting the NSFG staff at NCHS.

Table III. Percent of teenage females 15–19 years who have ever had sexual intercourse, according to 2 measures of age from the National Survey of Family Growth: United States, 1982, 1988, 1990, and 1995

Measure of age	1982	1988	1990	1995
Age at "central" date	---	52.9	---	50.4
Age at interview	46.9	52.6	54.7	51.3

--- Data not available.

NOTE: Age at central date is not available in 1982 or 1990.

Vital and Health Statistics series descriptions

- SERIES 1. **Programs and Collection Procedures**—These reports describe the data collection programs of the National Center for Health Statistics. They include descriptions of the methods used to collect and process the data, definitions, and other material necessary for understanding the data.
- SERIES 2. **Data Evaluation and Methods Research**—These reports are studies of new statistical methods and include analytical techniques, objective evaluations of reliability of collected data, and contributions to statistical theory. These studies also include experimental tests of new survey methods and comparisons of U.S. methodology with those of other countries.
- SERIES 3. **Analytical and Epidemiological Studies**—These reports present analytical or interpretive studies based on vital and health statistics. These reports carry the analyses further than the expository types of reports in the other series.
- SERIES 4. **Documents and Committee Reports**—These are final reports of major committees concerned with vital and health statistics and documents such as recommended model vital registration laws and revised birth and death certificates.
- SERIES 5. **International Vital and Health Statistics Reports**—These reports are analytical or descriptive reports that compare U.S. vital and health statistics with those of other countries or present other international data of relevance to the health statistics system of the United States.
- SERIES 6. **Cognition and Survey Measurement**—These reports are from the National Laboratory for Collaborative Research in Cognition and Survey Measurement. They use methods of cognitive science to design, evaluate, and test survey instruments.
- SERIES 10. **Data From the National Health Interview Survey**—These reports contain statistics on illness; unintentional injuries; disability; use of hospital, medical, and other health services; and a wide range of special current health topics covering many aspects of health behaviors, health status, and health care utilization. They are based on data collected in a continuing national household interview survey.
- SERIES 11. **Data From the National Health Examination Survey, the National Health and Nutrition Examination Surveys, and the Hispanic Health and Nutrition Examination Survey**—Data from direct examination, testing, and measurement on representative samples of the civilian noninstitutionalized population provide the basis for (1) medically defined total prevalence of specific diseases or conditions in the United States and the distributions of the population with respect to physical, physiological, and psychological characteristics, and (2) analyses of trends and relationships among various measurements and between survey periods.
- SERIES 12. **Data From the Institutionalized Population Surveys**—Discontinued in 1975. Reports from these surveys are included in Series 13.
- SERIES 13. **Data From the National Health Care Survey**—These reports contain statistics on health resources and the public's use of health care resources including ambulatory, hospital, and long-term care services based on data collected directly from health care providers and provider records.
- SERIES 14. **Data on Health Resources: Manpower and Facilities**—Discontinued in 1990. Reports on the numbers, geographic distribution, and characteristics of health resources are now included in Series 13.
- SERIES 15. **Data From Special Surveys**—These reports contain statistics on health and health-related topics collected in special surveys that are not part of the continuing data systems of the National Center for Health Statistics.
- SERIES 16. **Compilations of Advance Data From Vital and Health Statistics**—Advance Data Reports provide early release of information from the National Center for Health Statistics' health and demographic surveys. They are compiled in the order in which they are published. Some of these releases may be followed by detailed reports in Series 10–13.
- SERIES 20. **Data on Mortality**—These reports contain statistics on mortality that are not included in regular, annual, or monthly reports. Special analyses by cause of death, age, other demographic variables, and geographic and trend analyses are included.
- SERIES 21. **Data on Natality, Marriage, and Divorce**—These reports contain statistics on natality, marriage, and divorce that are not included in regular, annual, or monthly reports. Special analyses by health and demographic variables and geographic and trend analyses are included.
- SERIES 22. **Data From the National Mortality and Natality Surveys**—Discontinued in 1975. Reports from these sample surveys, based on vital records, are now published in Series 20 or 21.
- SERIES 23. **Data From the National Survey of Family Growth**—These reports contain statistics on factors that affect birth rates, including contraception, infertility, cohabitation, marriage, divorce, and remarriage; adoption; use of medical care for family planning and infertility; and related maternal and infant health topics. These statistics are based on national surveys of women of childbearing age.
- SERIES 24. **Compilations of Data on Natality, Mortality, Marriage, Divorce, and Induced Terminations of Pregnancy**—These include advance reports of births, deaths, marriages, and divorces based on final data from the National Vital Statistics System that were published as supplements to the *Monthly Vital Statistics Report* (MVSR). These reports provide highlights and summaries of detailed data subsequently published in *Vital Statistics of the United States*. Other supplements to the MVSR published here provide selected findings based on final data from the National Vital Statistics System and may be followed by detailed reports in Series 20 or 21.

For answers to questions about this report or for a list of reports published in these series, contact:

Data Dissemination Branch
National Center for Health Statistics
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
6525 Belcrest Road, Room 1064
Hyattsville, MD 20782-2003
(301) 458-4636
E-mail: nchsquery@cdc.gov
Internet: www.cdc.gov/nchs/

**DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Center for Health Statistics
6525 Belcrest Road
Hyattsville, Maryland 20782-2003

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300

STANDARD MAIL (A)
POSTAGE & FEES PAID
CDC/NCHS
PERMIT NO. G-284