

TABLE 1. Percentage of all births, first births and later births that were unintended, unwanted and seriously mistimed, by women's race and ethnicity and birth cohort, 2002 National Survey of Family Growth

Measure	All			White			Black			Hispanic		
	1958– 1962 (N=1,831)	1965– 1969 (N=2,219)	% difference	1958– 1962 (N=936)	1965– 1969 (N=1,060)	% difference	1958– 1962 (N=481)	1965– 1969 (N=493)	% difference	1958– 1962 (N=356)	1965– 1969 (N=571)	% difference
All births												
Unintended	33.5	36.8	9.6*	31.3	31.0	-1.0	45.0	56.9	26.4**	31.8	37.8	18.9†
Unwanted	12.3	15.4	25.6*	10.3	9.7	-5.5	20.5	32.3	57.8**	16.3	18.7	14.3
Seriously mistimed	11.4	12.2	6.4	9.9	11.7	17.8	16.1	17.7	10.2	8.2	9.8	19.2
First births												
Unintended	35.5	35.9	0.9	33.9	32.0	-5.4	48.2	54.1	12.3	30.4	36.9	21.3
Unwanted	7.1	8.3	17.8	5.3	5.0	-6.1	12.4	21.5	73.8*	13.9	11.4	-18.1
Seriously mistimed	18.4	19.0	3.2	17.2	18.5	7.6	28.4	28.4	0.0	8.9	14.7	64.7
Later births												
Unintended	31.9	37.5	17.6**	29.0	30.0	3.2	42.8	58.9	37.7***	32.7	38.3	17.3
Unwanted	16.4	21.3	29.6**	14.6	14.2	-2.7	26.3	39.7	50.8**	17.9	23.3	29.9
Seriously mistimed	5.8	6.4	10.9	3.6	5.2	44.4	7.2	10.4	44.6	7.8	6.7	-13.8

*p<.05. **p<.01. ***p<.001. †p<.10. Notes: Data include only births that occurred by ages 33–37 (i.e., by 1995 for the 1958–1962 cohort and 2002 for the 1965–1969 cohort). Sum of percentages unwanted and seriously mistimed does not equal percentage unintended, as unintended births also include those that are mistimed by less than two years. The numbers of white, black and Hispanic women do not add up to the total number of women because the total includes women of other racial and ethnic groups.

TABLE 2. Percentage of parous women aged 33–37 who had had unintended, unwanted or seriously mistimed births, by number of such births; and mean number of unintended and total births among those women, by birth history—all according to women’s race and ethnicity and birth cohort

Measure	All			White			Black			Hispanic		
	1958–1962	1965–1969	% difference									
PERCENTAGES	(N=960)	(N=1,017)		(N=539)	(N=530)		(N=226)	(N=206)		(N=165)	(N=232)	
Unintended												
Any	44.9	49.1	9.3†	41.6	43.2	3.7	60.9	72.7	19.3*	47.7	53.3	11.7
1	28.6	29.2	2.2	28.0	28.2	0.7	35.5	32.3	-8.9	27.3	31.4	15.1
≥2	16.3	19.9	22.0*	13.7	15.0	10.1	25.4	40.4	58.7**	20.4	21.9	7.2
≥2, if any	36.3	40.5	11.6	32.8	34.8	6.1	41.8	55.6	33.0†	42.8	41.1	-4.0
Unwanted												
Any	17.2	21.7	25.9*	13.4	15.4	14.5	31.8	45.3	42.4*	26.8	25.0	-6.7
1	11.8	14.7	24.0†	8.9	12.0	35.3†	21.8	25.9	18.6	20.0	15.8	-21.0
≥2	5.4	7.0	30.0	4.6	3.4	-25.2	10.0	19.4	94.0*	6.7	9.1	35.7
≥2, if any	31.3	32.3	3.2	34.1	22.2	-34.9†	31.5	42.9	36.2	25.2	36.6	45.2
Seriously mistimed												
Any	20.4	22.1	8.7	18.0	20.5	13.5	31.9	34.9	9.4	17.7	20.2	14.1
1	17.6	18.5	4.9	16.4	17.6	7.8	27.1	28.2	3.7	15.9	15.7	-1.3
≥2	2.8	3.7	33.0	1.7	2.8	69.0	4.7	6.8	42.4	1.8	4.5	152.0
≥2, if any	13.6	16.6	22.1	9.3	13.9	49.5	14.9	19.3	29.5	10.0	22.2	122.0
MEANS‡												
No. of unintended births												
Any	0.7	0.8	12.9†	0.6	0.6	-1.6	1.0	1.4	35.0***	0.8	1.0	27.6*
Unintended	1.6	1.6	3.2	1.5	1.5	-4.0	1.7	1.9	13.0*	1.6	1.8	16.0
Unwanted	2.1	2.1	-0.5	2.2	1.9	-15.4	2.1	2.3	7.1	1.8	2.4	31.3*
Seriously mistimed	1.7	1.7	-1.7	1.7	1.6	-5.4	1.9	2.0	5.3	1.4	1.8	26.6*
No. of births												
Any	2.5	2.3	-9.3***	2.4	2.1	-13.6***	2.5	2.5	-0.8	2.7	2.7	-0.7
Unintended	2.8	2.6	-7.7*	2.8	2.4	-12.0*	2.8	2.8	-1.4	3.1	3.1	-0.3
Unwanted	3.2	3.0	-5.6	3.2	2.9	-9.9	3.1	3.0	-3.5	3.2	3.4	4.3
Seriously mistimed	2.8	2.5	-10.6*	2.7	2.3	-16.6*	2.9	2.9	0.4	2.9	3.2	10.3

*p<.05. **p<.01. ***p<.001. †p<.10. ‡Means indicate number of unintended births (or number of all births) among women reporting at least one birth in the specified birth history category (any, unintended, unwanted, seriously mistimed). Notes: Data include only births that occurred by ages 33–37. Sum of percentages of women with unwanted and seriously mistimed births does not equal percentage with unintended births, as the latter also includes women with births that are mistimed by less than two years. The numbers of white, black and Hispanic women do not add up to the total number of women because the total includes women of other racial and ethnic groups.

TABLE 3. Mean parity and age at birth among parous women aged 33–37, by intendedness, according to women’s race and ethnicity and birth cohort

Measure	All			White			Black			Hispanic		
	1958– 1962	1965– 1969	Difference									
PARITY												
At unintended birth												
All	1.96	2.01	0.05	1.95	1.83	–0.12	2.01	2.14	0.13	1.98	2.34	0.36*
First	1.37	1.34	–0.03	1.35	1.40	0.05	1.40	1.32	–0.08	1.57	1.45	–0.12
At unwanted birth												
All	2.55	2.54	–0.01	2.72	2.45	–0.27	2.45	2.41	–0.04	2.18	2.83	0.65**
First	2.03	2.06	0.03	2.19	2.29	0.10	1.91	1.77	–0.14†	1.73	1.88	0.15
At seriously mistimed birth												
All	1.39	1.44	0.05	1.25	1.27	0.02	1.35	1.60	0.25*	1.81	1.87	0.06
First	1.19	1.19	0.00	1.13	1.12	–0.01	1.17	1.25	0.08	1.66	1.39	–0.27†
AGE												
At unintended birth												
All	23.5	24.3	0.8**	23.9	25.0	1.2*	23.4	22.6	–0.7†	22.7	23.6	1.0†
First	22.6	23.2	0.7†	22.8	24.0	1.2†	22.2	21.1	–1.1*	22.4	22.4	0.0
At unwanted birth												
All	25.0	24.9	–0.1	25.6	26.5	0.8	25.0	23.0	–2.1***	22.9	24.2	1.3
First	24.4	24.6	0.2	25.1	25.9	0.9	24.4	22.2	–2.2**	22.4	24.2	1.7†
At seriously mistimed birth												
All	20.7	22.0	1.3**	20.4	22.3	1.9*	20.6	21.0	0.4	21.9	22.2	0.3
First	20.3	21.4	1.1**	20.1	21.8	1.7*	20.1	20.2	0.1	21.5	21.0	–0.5

*p<.05. **p<.01. ***p<.001. †p<.10. Note: Cohort differences may not equal the differences shown because of rounding.