of the CDC data. For example, according to the CDC, Georgia had the highest pregnancy rate for women aged 15–19, while our data show five states with rates higher than Georgia’s. The CDC shows a rate of 77 pregnancies per 1,000 teenagers for Maryland and 23 states with higher rates; our data indicate a rate of 118 per 1,000 (or 103 per 1,000 when miscarriages are excluded, as in the CDC data) and only 12 states with higher rates.

Overall, the birthrate among women 15–19 years old was 61 per 1,000 in 1992; the rate per 1,000 teenagers varied from 84 in Mississippi to 31 in New Hampshire. Six of the 10 highest birthrates were in the South (Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas), three were in Mountain states (Arizona, New Mexico and Nevada) and one was in the Pacific division (California). The 10 lowest birthrates were in five New England states (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont), four West North Central states (Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska and North Dakota) and one Middle Atlantic state (New Jersey).

Statewide rates for women aged 15–17 and women aged 18–19 followed similar patterns, with some minor differences. For example, Arizona and New Mexico replaced Mississippi as the states with the highest birthrates among women 18–19.

Patterns of abortion rates were distinctly different. The highest rates per 1,000 women 15–17 years old were in Hawaii (67), California (64) and New York (60). The 10 highest rates were in three Pacific states (California, Hawaii and Washington), three South Atlantic states (Delaware, Florida and Maryland), two Middle Atlantic states (New Jersey and New York), Connecticut and Nevada. The 10 lowest abortion rates were in relatively rural states: four in the West North Central division (Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota), four in the South (Kentucky, Louisiana, Oklahoma and West Virginia) and two in the Mountain division (Idaho and Utah).

As with pregnancy rates and birthrates, the relative rankings of the states with respect to abortion rates among 15–17-year-olds and 18–19-year-olds are similar (r = .97, excluding states for which the proportion of teenage abortions was estimated). The same 10 states have the highest rates for both age-groups, and differences among the 10 states with the lowest rates are generally minor. One exception is Kentucky, which has the eighth lowest rate for women 18–19 but the 20th lowest for 15–17-year-olds. The reason for the relatively higher rate among the younger teenagers may be the lack of a parental involvement law in Kentucky in 1992 and the ability of minors from Indiana, Ohio and West Virginia to avoid restrictions in those states by obtaining abortions in Kentucky.

Abortion rates showed much greater variation by state than did birthrates. The highest rate of abortions per 1,000 teenagers (67 in Hawaii) was 74 times the lowest rate (9 in Utah), while the highest birthrate per 1,000 (84 in Mississippi) was only 2.7 times the lowest rate (31 in New Hampshire).

The proportion of teenage pregnancies that were terminated by abortion also varied considerably by state—from 57% in New York to 16% in Utah. The abortion rate tended to be highest in the states with the highest abortion rates. Of the 10 highest abortion ratios, three each were in New England (Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island) and Pacific states (California, Hawaii and Washington), and two were in the Middle Atlantic division (New Jersey and New York); the remaining two were in Maryland and Nevada. Except Massachusetts and Rhode Island, these states also had the highest abortion rates.

Two of the lowest abortion ratios were in Utah and Idaho, possibly in part because these states have large populations of Mormons, who generally value high fertility and oppose abortion. The remainder of the 10 lowest abortion ratios (including three that tied for 10th) were in four West South Central states (Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas), five states elsewhere in the South (Kentucky, Mississippi, Tennessee, South Carolina and West Virginia) and South Dakota.

For comparison, the last column of Table 4 shows the 1988 pregnancy rate for women aged 15–19. In general, the rates were similar in the two years (r = .95). However, decreases of 10% or more occurred in six states, all in the Northeast (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey and Vermont), and increases at least that large were found in the District of Columbia and three states (Mississippi, Montana and Rhode Island).

For U.S. teenagers as a whole, the birthrate was 15% higher in 1992 than in 1988; all but three states (Maine, Maryland and New Hampshire) also had higher rates in 1992. The District of Columbia experienced the greatest increase—57%. Rates were 20–77% higher in five states: California, Colorado, Iowa, North Dakota and Rhode Island.

Between 1988 and 1992, the national abortion rate among women aged 15–19 decreased by 18%. Only Mississippi and the District of Columbia registered in-