nancy by first adding the number of women who had an unplanned birth to the number who had had an abortion, and then subtracting those who were counted twice because they had had both an unplanned birth and an abortion. Tabulations of the NSFG indicate that the proportion of women who have had an unintended birth and also reported having had an abortion ranged from 9% among women aged 15–19 to 28% among women aged 30–34. Since comparisons with national data indicate that the actual number of abortions experienced is about 56% higher than the number reported in the NSFG for the period 1976–1994,\(^19\) we used this figure as a correction factor and adjusted the proportion experiencing both unintended birth and abortion upward for each age-group. Since the rate of abortion underreporting was the same for women younger than 35 and those aged 35–44, we used the same correction factor in all age-groups.\(^19\)

### Miscarriages

Except where otherwise specified, we excluded miscarriages from all calculations of the number of pregnancies and of pregnancy rates. With miscarriages omitted, the proportion of unintended pregnancies that ended in abortion reflects actual decisions to terminate or continue pregnancies. In addition, it assumes that all tables in this article are consistent, since it would be difficult to calculate the proportion of women who have ever had an unintended pregnancy while at the same time taking into account the overlap between women who have had unintended pregnancies that ended in miscarriage, birth and abortion. (However, the number of miscarriages after 6–7 weeks of pregnancy—the point at which miscarriages are likely to be noted by the woman—can be estimated by adding 20% of births to 10% of abortions.\(^20\) Miscarriages may also be estimated using NSFG data.\(^21\))

### Results

#### Rates and Outcomes

Approximately 3.95 million births and 1.43 million abortions occurred in 1994, for a total of 5.38 million pregnancies, not including miscarriages. (Use of the estimation procedure mentioned above produces an estimated 930,000 miscarriages during the year as well.) The largest number of pregnancies occurred among women aged 20–29 among currently married women, among those with an income 200% or more of the federal poverty level, and among white and non-Hispanic women (Table 1).

During the five years preceding the 1995 NSFG interview, 31% of births were reported as unintended—that is, the woman did not want to have children when she did (21%) or wanted no more births ever (10%). Applying the same proportions to 1994 births, we estimated that 1.22 million births resulted from unintended pregnancies. Adding abortions, there were 2.65 million unintended pregnancies, or 49% of all pregnancies for that year. (If we include an estimated 390,000 miscarriages that would have otherwise ended in abortion or unintended birth, we find that a total of 3.04 million unintended pregnancies occurred during 1994.) Of all pregnancies in 1994 (excluding miscarriages), 23% ended in unintended births and 27% in abortions. Thus, among women who experienced an unintended pregnancy in 1994 (excluding miscarriages), 54% had an abortion and 46% carried the pregnancy to term.

Forty-eight percent of the women who had an unplanned birth had been using a contraceptive method during the month immediately before the pregnancy ended.