sures. For describing the trend in the birthrate in these countries, however, the 1995 adolescent birthrate is presented, if available, for comparability with other countries.

**Births, Abortions and Pregnancies**

In order to describe variation in the rates of birth, abortion and pregnancy, we divide countries into five groups, both to reflect the actual distribution across the ranges of the rates and to give an interpretation of what is a low or high rate within the context of the developed countries (Table 1). Very low describes a birthrate and an abortion rate under 10 per 1,000 per year, or a pregnancy rate of under 20 per 1,000. Low indicates a birthrate and an abortion rate of 10–19 per 1,000 per year, or a pregnancy rate of 20–39 per 1,000. Moderate is used to describe a birthrate and an abortion rate of 20–34 per 1,000, and a pregnancy rate of 40–69 per 1,000. High describes a birthrate and an abortion rate of 35–49 per 1,000, and a pregnancy rate of 70–99 per 1,000. Finally, very high indicates a birthrate and an abortion rate of 50 or more per 1,000, and a pregnancy rate of 100 or more per 1,000.

**Birthrate**

The range in the birthrate across industrialized countries in the mid-1990s is very wide, from a low rate of four births per 1,000 adolescents aged 15–19 per year in Japan to a high of 56 per 1,000 in Armenia (Table 2). Within this large range, some clusters are discernible. Very low rates are found in 10 countries, mostly in western, northern and southern Europe and in Japan. Low rates are found in another 10 countries, and moderate rates are found in 14 countries—mostly those in central and eastern Europe (Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Poland, the Slovak Republic and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia), a few western European countries (England and Wales, Iceland, Northern Ireland, Portugal and Scotland) and some other countries mainly populated by immigrants from the United Kingdom (Canada and New Zealand). A small cluster of seven countries in eastern Europe (Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Lithuania, Macedonia, Romania and Russian Federation) have high rates, and very high rates of 50 or more births per 1,000 adolescents per year are found in four eastern European countries—Armenia, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine—and in the United States.

**Abortion Rate**

Among 33 countries for which information on abortion among adolescents is available, the range in the abortion rate is as wide as that of the birthrate. A group of four countries with complete abortion reporting have very low adolescent abortion rates (Belgium, Germany, Israel and the Netherlands). In addition, in five other countries with incomplete reporting (Ireland, Italy, Japan, Spain and Northern Ireland), the reported rates are so low that the true rates would probably also be very low, even with a high level of underreporting (e.g., 40–50%).

A number of countries with complete abortion reporting have low adolescent abortion rates (Czech Republic, Denmark, England and Wales, Finland, Norway, Scotland, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia and Sweden). A few others with incomplete abortion reporting (France, Georgia and Moldova) also have rates at the low end of this range. Even with substantial underreporting (e.g., 40–50%), their adolescent abortion rates would probably still fall within the range of 10–19 abortions per 1,000. Moderate abortion rates are found in 10 countries with complete reporting (Australia, Belarus, Bulgaria, Canada, Estonia, Hungary, Iceland, Latvia, New Zealand and the United States) and one with incomplete reporting (Romania).

Among the represented countries, none fall into the high category for their abortion rate. However, the adolescent abor-