Effects of age, marital status and parity (Table 2). The shape of the curve of the postpartum abortion ratio did not vary significantly by age or marital status. However, there was some variation by parity: The higher abortion ratio closer to the index birth appeared more clearly among women with two children than among those at other parities (not shown).

An examination of temporal changes in the abortion risk and abortion ratio within the first eight postpartum months reveals that on the whole, the trends in both of these indicators paralleled those observed among all women of reproductive age: a decrease up to the mid-1990s and then a slight increase. However, the postpartum abortion risk among 25–34-year-old women increased sizably (Figure 5). Women aged 25–29 who gave birth in 1995 and 1996 had an abortion risk in the first eight months postpartum that was 1.5 times the risk for this group in 1987–1988. The corresponding relative risk among 30–34-year-olds was 1.2; in this age-group, most of the increase took place from 1992 onward. There was no such increase in the other age-groups, and the increase after eight months postpartum among 25–34-year-olds was smaller (not shown).

Among 25–29-year-olds, the increase in the postpartum abortion risk was accompanied by an increase in the abortion ratio; in contrast, among 30–34-year-olds, the postpartum abortion ratio increased only for the last few years examined (Figure 5). Parity and marital status made no difference in the temporal change in the abortion ratio.

Finally, the proportion of abortion patients who reported not having used any contraceptive method before getting pregnant was 39% if the pregnancy started 3–5 months after the index birth and was 32–35% later on. Among abortion patients who became pregnant within a year of the index birth, 52% had used a condom; the proportion was 46% after 18 months from the index birth. The share of those who had used the pill or IUD was 6% at 3–5 months.