

TABLE 1. Means (and standard deviations) and percentages reflecting cognitive, reproductive and social characteristics of women in case-control studies of early and repeat early childbearing, National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (NLSY), 1979–1990

Characteristic	Early			Repeat		
	Cases (N=706)	Controls (N=1,383)	χ^2 or t	Cases (N=336)	Controls (N=379)	χ^2 or t
Cognitive						
Mean score as NLSY percentile rank	21.6 (25.5)	37.0 (26.9)	15.0***	18.2 (16.8)	24.6 (20.0)	4.6***
% in first quartile	38.0	17.0	na	46.0	32.0	na
% in second quartile	28.0	26.0	na	26.0	29.0	na
% in third quartile	23.0	25.0	na	21.0	25.0	na
% in fourth quartile	11.0	32.0	163.9***	7.0	15.0	21.6***
Reproductive						
Mean age at first sex (range, 9–26 yrs.)	15.2 (1.2)	17.5 (1.9)	32.2***	14.9 (1.2)	15.5 (1.1)	6.5***
% who had sexuality education	47.0	65.0	13.2***	43.9	49.9	ns
% with right answer to pregnancy question	25.2	36.4	26.6***	22.2	27.9	ns
Social						
Mean yrs. of expected schooling (range, 1–18)	12.1 (2.3)	14.1 (2.2)	18.8***	11.6 (2.3)	12.5 (2.2)	4.9***
Mean self-esteem score (range, 15–32)	23.7 (2.3)	23.8 (2.2)	ns	23.6 (2.4)	23.8 (2.3)	ns
% in poverty	48.0	30.8	105.6***	57.4	51.8	ns

*** $p < .001$. Notes: Early childbearing is defined as having a first birth before age 18; repeat early childbearing is defined as having a first birth before age 18 and a second birth before age 20. Percentages were compared through chi-square analyses, means through t-tests. na=not applicable. ns=not significant.