The likelihood of delay of abortion until age 18 among minors aged 17 years and 8–9 months increased each year between 2000 and 2003 (Figure 5). The change in the proportion who have abortions at age 18 was an estimated eight percentage points between 1998–1999 and 2000, and it rose to 15 points between 1998–1999 and 2002 (p<01 for both changes). Although the change between 1998–1999 and 2003 (six percentage points) was the smallest, it was not statistically different from the change in 2000 or 2001 (p= 50 and p=.20, respectively). Thus, we have evidence of an average increase of almost 10 percentage points between 1998–1999 and each postlaw year, but no indication of a change in this behavior over time.

Minors who conceive at age 17 years and 8–9 months have to wait up to four months if they want to schedule an abortion after their 18th birthday. Thus, most of these abortions occur well into the second trimester. Our data reveal that all minors aged 17 years and eight months who delayed until age 18 had their abortion after the 12th week of gestation. The mean gestational age at the time of abortion was 18.2 weeks for this group, as opposed to 8.4 weeks among teenagers of the same age who had their abortion before they turned 18. Among teenagers aged 17 years and nine months at the time of conception who delayed, 50% were in the second trimester by the time the abortion was performed. We calculate that the mean gestational age was 13.3 weeks for them, compared with 7.5 weeks among those in the same age-group who did not delay.

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*All reported p values are from a two-tailed test, unless otherwise noted.*