

April 2012



Unintended Pregnancy: Incidence and Outcomes Among Young Adult Unmarried Women in the United States, 2001 and 2008

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This report was written by Mia Zolna and Laura Lindberg, both of the Guttmacher Institute. The authors would like to thank Lawrence Finer and Kathryn Kost for reviewing the manuscript, and Haley Ball for editing it. The report was made possible by a grant from the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy.

The Guttmacher Institute also gratefully acknowledges the general support it receives from individuals and foundations, including major grants from The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation and the Ford Foundation, which undergirds all of the Institute's work. This content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the National Campaign.

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Suggested citation: Zolna MR and Lindberg LD, *Unintended Pregnancy: Incidence and Outcomes Among Young Adult Unmarried Women in the United States, 2001 and 2008*, New York: Guttmacher Institute, 2012, <<http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/unintended-pregnancy-US-2001-2008.pdf>>.

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Background

The United States has a high rate of unintended pregnancy,¹ and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has prioritized reducing it in an effort to improve the nation's health.² Most individuals and couples want to plan the timing and spacing of their childbearing. Doing so helps them avoid unintended pregnancies and achieve a range of social, economic and family goals. It also protects women's and children's health by preventing unwanted or mistimed births, which are associated with such adverse maternal and child health outcomes as delayed prenatal care, premature birth, and negative physical and mental health effects for children.³⁻⁵

Since the first estimates of unintended pregnancy became available in the early 1980s, young adult women have been recognized as being at high risk;^{6,7} the most recent data indicate that, in 2006, women in their early 20s had an unintended pregnancy rate that was more than twice the national rate. Redefinition of the 20s as a distinct life stage has been gaining momentum both among researchers and in the public eye.⁸⁻¹¹ The concept of a discrete phase between adolescence and adulthood has clear relevance for the reproductive health field, in part because it identifies an extended period of exposure to the risk of unintended pregnancy. The fact that young women in their 20s have higher rates of unintended pregnancy than do women in any other age-group suggests that new strategies are needed both to understand this transitional period and to assist young people in maintaining their reproductive health during this time.

Recent trends in nonmarital childbearing heighten the need to focus on unmarried young adult women. Delays in marriage among women in their 20s have contributed to the fact that this group has the highest rate of birth outside of marriage. In addition, women aged 20–29 accounted for 72% of nonmarital births in 2009, compared with 44% in 1970.¹² Recent analyses found that unmarried women have higher rates of unintended pregnancy than married women do;¹ more information is needed to identify the role of unintended pregnancy underlying the high rate of nonmarital births among young women.

Because both young women and unmarried women are particularly vulnerable to unintended pregnancy, recent studies have focused on identifying behavioral and other factors that contribute to unintended pregnancy among these groups. In particular, a 2009 nationally representative telephone survey of 1,800 18–29-year-old unmarried women and men found that low levels of contraceptive use, fear of side effects, contraceptive use norms and attitudes, pregnancy ambivalence, and mistrust of government's role in promoting contraception were significantly associated with contraceptive behavior and thus the risk of unintended pregnancy.^{13,14} Although such research helps to tease apart knowledge, attitudes and behaviors related to risk, detailed estimates of the level of unintended pregnancy among unmarried women in their 20s have never been published.

For 2001 and 2008, we present numbers and rates of unintended pregnancy among all women aged 20–29, by marital status, and among unmarried women aged 20–29, by key population subgroups. We also present the proportion of unintended pregnancies ending in abortion, the percentage of all births that were unintended and the rate of unintended births. While similar to our previous reports on unintended pregnancy, which focused on all women of reproductive age in the United States, this report presents a more detailed measure of unintended pregnancy by distinguishing between pregnancies that were mistimed (occurred sooner than desired) and those that were unwanted. The information in this report may inform the work of groups interested in reducing unintended pregnancy among young adult unmarried women, as well as enhance our recognition of the contribution of pregnancy intentions in nonmarital births.

Methodology and Data Sources*

Overview

Drawing on data from multiple high-quality national data sources for all women in the U.S. aged 20–29, by marital status, and among unmarried women aged 20–29, by subgroup (age-group, race and ethnicity, income and educational attainment), we determined the number of pregnancies that ended in birth, induced abortion and miscarriage during 2001 and 2008 and calculated the number of each of these pregnancies (by outcome) that were intended and unintended. We then divided the total number of unintended pregnancies by the population to obtain an unintended pregnancy rate overall and for each group.

Pregnancy counts

The total number of U.S. births that occurred in 2001 and 2008, by mothers' age, marital status, race and ethnicity, and educational attainment, came from the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS).^{15–17} The number of births, by mothers' income group, were calculated using proportions estimated from the 2002 and 2006–2010 National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG), a nationally representative survey of women of reproductive age conducted by the NCHS. The total number of abortions[†] performed in 2001 and 2008 came from the Guttmacher Institute's national Abortion Provider Census,¹⁸ and proportions by age came from the 2001 and 2008 abortion surveillance reports published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).^{19,20} Abortion counts for all other demographic groups for 2008 were based on distributions from a 2008 nationally representative Abortion Patient Survey (APS) conducted by the Guttmacher Institute, and the 2001 counts were based on an interpolation of estimates from the 2000 and 2008 APS surveys.^{††21,22} We estimated counts of miscarriages[‡] for 2008 by combining miscar-

*For more details on the methodological approach, see our previous report (see reference 1).

†Includes surgically and medically induced abortions.

‡2000 APS n=6,019 aged 20–29; 2008 APS n=5,514 aged 20–29.

§Miscarriage includes stillbirth and spontaneous fetal loss.

What is unintended pregnancy?

An **unintended pregnancy** is a pregnancy that was either mistimed or unwanted. If a woman did not want to become pregnant at the time of conception, but did want to become pregnant in the future, the pregnancy is considered **mistimed**. If a woman did not want to become pregnant at conception or at anytime in the future, the pregnancy is considered **unwanted**.

An **intended pregnancy** is a pregnancy that was desired at the time it occurred or sooner.

When calculating unintended pregnancy rates, we included women who were indifferent about becoming pregnant with women who had intended pregnancies, so that the unintended pregnancy rate only includes pregnancies that are unambiguously unintended.

riages and births from the 2002 and 2006–2010 NSFG and multiplying the ratio of miscarriages to births in the NSFG by the total number of U.S. births in 2008.²³ For 2001, we combined miscarriages and births from the 1995, 2002 and 2006–2010 NSFG, and applied the ratio to the birth counts for 2001.**

Pregnancy intentions

Pregnancy intention information for conceptions ending in birth or miscarriage came from the 2002 and 2006–2010 NSFG, and intentions for conceptions ending in abortion for 2001 and 2008 came from the 2008 APS.^{††22} Both surveys asked women retrospective questions to determine

**Miscarriage estimates are based on an approach used by the CDC to increase sample size and validity. For more information about how miscarriages were calculated, refer to the example in our previous report (see reference 1).

††The 2008 survey was first year in which the APS included questions on women's pregnancy intentions, and is considered to be the most valid source—even in comparison to the 2002 NSFG which is known for abortion underreporting—of such information among abortion patients.

if each of their pregnancies was intended or unintended at the time it occurred. The NSFG also gathered information on how early each mistimed pregnancy occurred (i.e., the number of weeks or months too soon).^{**} Following the approach of prior research, we distinguish between pregnancies mistimed by less than two years versus two or more years.²⁴

To identify the share of unintended pregnancies that women chose to terminate—the percentage of unintended pregnancies that ended in abortion—we excluded unintended pregnancies that ended in miscarriage from the denominator.

Population denominators

Population estimates for 2001 and 2008 used to calculate pregnancy and birth rates by age came from the U.S. Census Bureau.²⁵ Population distributions by relationship status, race and ethnicity, and educational attainment were based on interpolations of the March 2001 and 2002 Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASES) of the Current Population Survey for 2001, and the 2008 and 2009 ASES for 2008. Distributions by income came from the 2002 and 2009 ASES, since this survey asks women about their previous year's income. Rates were calculated as the number of events per 1,000 women overall or in the particular subgroup. These groups are smaller than the subgroups we analyzed in our previous report of national estimates,¹ and therefore there may be more variance over time within each subgroup.

Key Findings

Numbers, proportions and rates of unintended pregnancy among unmarried women aged 20–29

Of the 3.4 million pregnancies that occurred among women aged 20–29 in 2008, more than half (1.95 million) of these were among unmarried women (Table 1 and Appendix Tables 1 and 2). This number is up from about 1.6 million pregnancies in 2001. More than two-thirds (69%) of pregnancies among unmarried women aged 20–29 were unintended (see also Appendix Table 3), a proportion that was unchanged between 2001 and 2008. However, the unintended pregnancy rate increased from 92 unintended pregnancies for every 1,000 unmarried women aged 20–29 in 2001 to 95 per 1,000 in 2008. This means that close to 10% of women in this group had an unintended pregnancy in 2008. Nearly nine in 10 of these women had a pregnancy that was mistimed by two or more years or was unwanted.

Age. Nearly three-quarters of pregnancies among unmarried women aged 20–24 were unintended (73%), compared with 63% among unmarried women aged 25–29. Additionally, the unintended pregnancy rate among unmarried 20–24-year-olds was higher than that among unmarried 25–29-year-olds. The younger group's rate was relatively unchanged between 2001 and 2008. In contrast, the older group's rate increased from 76 to 84, due to a rise in their rate of pregnancies that were unwanted (as opposed to mistimed).

Race and ethnicity. There were large disparities in rates by race and ethnicity among unmarried women. Non-Hispanic black women and Hispanic women had unintended pregnancy rates that were more than twice the rate among their non-Hispanic white counterparts. The rate for black women decreased from 2001 to 2008, manifesting from a declining unwanted pregnancy rate. Both Hispanic and white women's unintended pregnancy rates increased over the time period. Among unmarried women aged 20–29, white and black women experienced a higher proportion of unintended pregnancies than did Hispanic women.

Income. There were large and increasing disparities in the unintended pregnancy rate according to unmarried women's income. In 2008, unintended pregnancy rates among low-income and poor women were more than three and four times the rate for women in the highest income group, respectively. These groups also experienced sharp increases in their unintended pregnancy rates between 2001 and 2008, while high-income women's rate declined.

Educational attainment. The 2008 data show evidence of substantial disparities in the unintended pregnancy rate according to unmarried women's education. Women with at least some college had an unintended pregnancy rate that was one-half that of high school graduates and one-third that of nongraduates. While the unintended pregnancy rate—specifically, rates of pregnancies that were unwanted or mistimed by more than two years—among women with no high school diploma increased sharply from 2001 to 2008, the rate among more highly educated women changed little. Moreover, of all the subgroups examined, unmarried women with no high school diploma had the highest unintended pregnancy rate, at 197 per 1,000 women.

Outcomes of unintended pregnancy

In 2008, just over half of all unintended pregnancies (excluding those ending in miscarriage) among unmarried 20–29-year-old women ended in abortion, down from 60% in 2001 (Table 2). The rate of unintended births among unmarried 20–29-year-olds increased to 40 per 1,000 women in 2008, up from 33 in 2001. Most of the increase was due to a rise in the rate of pregnancies mistimed by two or more years that end in birth. In both years, married women had higher rates of unintended births than did unmarried women. In 2008, 54% of births among unmarried women aged 20–29 were unintended, compared with 31% of births among their married counterparts.

Age. Compared with 20–24-year-old unmarried women, unmarried women in the latter half of their 20s ended a greater proportion of unintended pregnancies in abortion.

Although women aged 20–24 had a higher unintended birthrate than those aged 25–29, the rate increased from 2001 to 2008 for both age-groups. Nearly two-thirds of births to unmarried women aged 20–24 were unintended, compared with fewer than half among women aged 25–29.

Race and ethnicity. Among young unmarried women, the proportion of unintended pregnancies ending in abortion decreased the most between 2001 and 2008 for white women. In 2008, both black and Hispanic women had an unintended birthrate that was more than twice that of white women.

Income. The proportion of unintended pregnancies ending in abortion among young unmarried women stayed about the same for poor women between 2001 and 2008, and decreased for higher-income women. At the same time, the unintended birthrate for poor and low-income women increased substantially, while remaining relatively stable for women in the highest income group.

Educational attainment. In 2008, women with no high school diploma had the highest and fastest growing unintended birthrate across all education levels; their unintended birthrate was more than five times that of women with at least some college, which was related to the sharp increase in their rate of unwanted pregnancies. Moreover, of all the subgroups examined, unmarried women with no high school diploma had the highest unintended birthrate, at 115 per 1,000 women.

Discussion

Unintended pregnancy is high among unmarried young adult women. While it is good news that the overall proportion of pregnancies that were unintended did not increase between 2001 and 2008, the fact that it remained stagnant indicates that unintended pregnancies among this group are no less common than they were nearly a decade ago. Unmarried women in the highest income category reported the most progress in reducing the proportion of pregnancies that were unintended, which is likely due to their generally greater ability to obtain family planning services and increased use of highly effective contraceptive methods.²⁶

The rate of unintended pregnancy among unmarried young adult women in 2008 was twice the average rate among all women of reproductive age. Moreover, it increased slightly between 2001 and 2008, mirroring the national trend estimated for 2001 through 2006 for all women of reproductive age (i.e., women aged 15–44).¹ The majority of unintended pregnancies occurred much sooner than women wanted—two or more years sooner—or were not wanted at all. It is possible that the increase in the rate is partially due to changes in population composition towards groups known to have higher rates, such as poor and cohabiting women, as well as to issues around access to effective contraception.

The proportion of unintended pregnancies ending in abortion was lower in 2008 than in 2001. This may be a consequence of decreased access to abortion care, increased stigmatization of abortion, or increased acceptance of pregnancy or births more generally among unmarried women. This decrease overall and by most subgroups, along with increased unintended pregnancies rates, resulted in an increase in the rate of unintended pregnancies ending in birth overall and for nearly every subgroup examined.

Social and economic disadvantage, including low educational attainment and financial hardship, has long been associated with increased risk for unintended pregnancy,^{27–29} and continues to be its hallmark. In the 2008 analysis, poor women and those without a high school degree had the highest rates of unintended pregnancy and unintended pregnancy ending in birth. Both rates increased sharply for these groups and appear to have

contributed greatly to the increase in the overall unintended pregnancy rate. Non-Hispanic black women also had high rates of unintended pregnancy, but of all the groups we looked at, they made the greatest improvements, as indicated by their decreasing rates of unintended pregnancy—particularly those that were unwanted—and unwanted births.

These findings can inform the development of strategies and approaches to reduce unintended nonmarital childbearing among women in their 20s. First and foremost, policymakers must recognize that women report that only about half (as opposed to all) of nonmarital births are unintended, and this has not changed since 2001. Further research is needed to better understand and address the various influences on unintended nonmarital childbearing among this age-group if we are to make strides in lowering its incidence. Effective public health efforts that reduce unintended pregnancy in general should result in declines in the rate of nonmarital births.

Reducing the unintended pregnancy rate among women in their 20s requires focus on increasing and improving contraceptive use among women who want to avoid pregnancy. Since young women who have difficulty avoiding pregnancy often indicate desire for pregnancy in two or more years time, one possible solution may be increasing use of long-acting reversible methods, such as the IUD (i.e., the copper ParaGard or hormonal Mirena) or the implant. Long-acting reversible methods are highly effective, low-maintenance and (over time) relatively low-cost options recommended for women who want to avoid pregnancy for an extended period of time.³⁰ They are also considered appropriate and safe contraceptive methods for younger women, and provision is no longer limited to those who have previously given birth or who are in a long-term relationship.³¹ Uptake of long-acting methods has increased somewhat during the last decade,³² and groups with high and increasing rates of unintended pregnancy, such as poor women and women with less than a high school education, could potentially benefit greatly by using them. Each woman should consider her desires regarding the timing of future pregnancies when consulting with her health care provider about choosing a contraceptive method. The expansion of long-acting method use

among interested young adult unmarried women may be a key component in reducing high levels of unintended pregnancy for these groups and for the nation.

Given the high and increasing risk of unintended pregnancy among women in their 20s, preventing unintended pregnancy for this group continues to merit attention. Efforts are underway to ensure that all women, and particularly those who are most vulnerable, have access to the full range of education and counseling services, along with the most effective contraceptive methods available. But more can and should be done to educate women about their risk and how to plan the pregnancies they want and avoid the ones they are not prepared for, leading to healthier families and a healthier society. However, even in focusing our efforts on this vulnerable group, we cannot forget that older and married women continue to face challenges in achieving planned pregnancies throughout their lifetime as well, and also need access to a wide range of contraceptive services and supplies.

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TABLE 1. Among all women and unmarried women aged 20–29, the number of pregnancies, percentage that were unintended and pregnancy rates by intention, by demographic characteristic, 2001 and 2008

| Characteristic | No. of pregnancies, 2008 (in 000s) | | % of pregnancies unintended | | Pregnancy rate* | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|------------------------------------|------------|-----------------------------|------|-----------------|------|----------|----------|------------|------|----------|------|------|----|----|-----|
| | Total | Unintended | 2001 | 2008 | Total | | Intended | | Unintended | | Unwanted | | | | | |
| | | | | | 2001 | 2008 | <2 years | ≥2 years | 2001 | 2008 | | 2001 | 2008 | | | |
| ALL WOMEN AGED 20–29 | 3,440 | 1,867 | 50% | 54% | 171 | 166 | 87 | 76 | 84 | 89 | 16 | 17 | 35 | 40 | 33 | 32 |
| Married | 1,487 | 525 | 30% | 35% | 237 | 223 | 166 | 145 | 71 | 78 | 25 | 27 | 24 | 32 | 22 | 19 |
| Unmarried | 1,954 | 1,342 | 69% | 69% | 133 | 139 | 42 | 44 | 92 | 95 | 11 | 12 | 42 | 44 | 39 | 39 |
| UNMARRIED WOMEN AGED 20–29 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Age-group | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 20–24 | 1,194 | 866 | 72% | 73% | 141 | 142 | 39 | 39 | 101 | 102 | 11 | 13 | 50 | 54 | 41 | 35 |
| 25–29 | 760 | 476 | 63% | 63% | 122 | 134 | 46 | 50 | 76 | 84 | 12 | 11 | 29 | 29 | 35 | 44 |
| Race and ethnicity† | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| White non-Hispanic | 775 | 542 | 69% | 70% | 88 | 92 | 28 | 29 | 60 | 63 | 7 | 8 | 31 | 32 | 22 | 23 |
| Black non-Hispanic | 536 | 394 | 73% | 73% | 229 | 214 | 63 | 59 | 166 | 155 | 22 | 19 | 62 | 65 | 82 | 71 |
| Hispanic | 534 | 315 | 63% | 59% | 215 | 245 | 82 | 104 | 133 | 141 | 22 | 19 | 52 | 59 | 59 | 63 |
| Income level | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Poor (<100% of poverty) | 923 | 616 | 66% | 67% | 236 | 277 | 83 | 93 | 153 | 183 | 20 | 31 | 59 | 72 | 74 | 80 |
| Low income (100–199% of poverty) | 596 | 409 | 65% | 69% | 193 | 204 | 69 | 65 | 125 | 139 | 11 | 14 | 62 | 64 | 51 | 61 |
| High income (at least 200% of poverty) | 435 | 318 | 78% | 73% | 72 | 56 | 16 | 15 | 55 | 40 | 8 | 3 | 28 | 25 | 19 | 13 |
| Educational attainment | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Did not graduate high school | 435 | 261 | 57% | 60% | 261 | 331 | 113 | 134 | 147 | 197 | 21 | 19 | 56 | 75 | 70 | 103 |
| Graduated high school or equivalent | 713 | 475 | 67% | 67% | 205 | 205 | 68 | 69 | 137 | 135 | 16 | 25 | 60 | 58 | 61 | 53 |
| Had some college or more | 806 | 607 | 78% | 75% | 80 | 87 | 18 | 22 | 62 | 65 | 7 | 5 | 32 | 36 | 24 | 24 |

*Rates refer to the number of pregnancies per 1,000 women of the identified subgroup. †Excludes women who self-identify as belonging to another non-Hispanic racial or ethnic group.

TABLE 2. Among all women and unmarried women aged 20–29, proportion of unintended pregnancies ending in abortion, proportion of births that were unintended and rates of unintended births, by demographic characteristic, 2001 and 2008

| Characteristic | Birthrate† | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|------|------|------|------|------------------------|------|------|-------|------|------------|------|------|------|------|
| | % of unintended pregnancies ending in abortion* | | | | | % of births unintended | | | | | | | | | |
| | 2001 | 2008 | 2001 | 2008 | 2001 | 2008 | All | | Total | | Unintended | | | | |
| | | | | 2001 | 2008 | 2001 | 2008 | 2001 | 2008 | 2001 | 2008 | 2001 | 2008 | 2001 | 2008 |
| ALL WOMEN AGED 20–29 | 49% | 42% | 35% | 41% | 110 | 108 | 38 | 45 | 10 | 12 | 13 | 18 | 15 | 15 | 15 |
| Married | 23% | 17% | 25% | 31% | 189 | 181 | 47 | 55 | 19 | 23 | 14 | 20 | 14 | 12 | 12 |
| Unmarried | 60% | 51% | 52% | 54% | 64 | 74 | 33 | 40 | 5 | 6 | 13 | 18 | 15 | 16 | 16 |
| UNMARRIED WOMEN AGED 20–29 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Age-group | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 20–24 | 55% | 47% | 58% | 61% | 69 | 76 | 40 | 46 | 6 | 8 | 17 | 23 | 17 | 15 | 15 |
| 25–29 | 69% | 58% | 39% | 44% | 56 | 70 | 22 | 31 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 10 | 11 | 18 | 18 |
| Race and ethnicity‡ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| White non-Hispanic | 61% | 49% | 52% | 56% | 41 | 48 | 21 | 27 | 4 | 5 | 10 | 13 | 8 | 9 | 9 |
| Black non-Hispanic | 62% | 54% | 55% | 57% | 105 | 109 | 58 | 63 | 6 | 8 | 18 | 25 | 34 | 29 | 29 |
| Hispanic | 53% | 51% | 47% | 43% | 118 | 143 | 56 | 61 | 14 | 10 | 17 | 22 | 25 | 29 | 29 |
| Income level | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Poor (<100% of poverty) | 47% | 48% | 52% | 53% | 141 | 162 | 74 | 85 | 12 | 16 | 23 | 31 | 39 | 39 | 39 |
| Low income (100–199% of poverty) | 65% | 47% | 43% | 56% | 91 | 111 | 39 | 62 | 5 | 11 | 19 | 24 | 16 | 26 | 26 |
| High income (at least 200% of poverty) | 70% | 62% | 60% | 56% | 25 | 23 | 15 | 13 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 9 | 5 | 3 | 3 |
| Educational attainment | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Did not graduate high school | 38% | 32% | 47% | 51% | 172 | 224 | 81 | 115 | 14 | 8 | 31 | 38 | 36 | 68 | 68 |
| Graduated high school or equivalent | 51% | 45% | 54% | 54% | 108 | 116 | 58 | 63 | 6 | 16 | 23 | 26 | 29 | 21 | 21 |
| Had some college or more | 77% | 64% | 52% | 57% | 26 | 37 | 13 | 21 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 12 | 6 | 6 | 6 |

*Pregnancies exclude spontaneous fetal losses and stillbirths. †Birthrates refer to the number of births per 1,000 women of the identified subgroup. ‡Excludes women who self-identify as belonging to another non-Hispanic racial or ethnic group.

APPENDIX TABLE 1. Number (in 000s) of births and pregnancies among women of reproductive age, by intention status, age-group and relationship status, 2001 and 2008

| | 15-19 | | 20-24 | | 25-29 | | 30-44 | | Total | |
|--------------------------|-------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| ALL WOMEN | 2001 | 2008 | 2001 | 2008 | 2001 | 2008 | 2001 | 2008 | 2001 | 2008 |
| Births | 446 | 435 | 1,022 | 1,052 | 1,058 | 1,196 | 1,487 | 1,552 | 4,013 | 4,234 |
| Intended | 104 | 111 | 571 | 509 | 781 | 806 | 1,175 | 1,185 | 2,631 | 2,612 |
| Unintended | 342 | 323 | 450 | 543 | 277 | 389 | 312 | 367 | 1,382 | 1,623 |
| Mistimed <2 years | 45 | 26 | 104 | 125 | 92 | 122 | 97 | 155 | 339 | 428 |
| Mistimed ≥2 years | 203 | 227 | 176 | 270 | 76 | 107 | 35 | 50 | 490 | 653 |
| Unwanted | 94 | 71 | 170 | 148 | 109 | 161 | 181 | 161 | 553 | 541 |
| Total pregnancies | 800 | 760 | 1,674 | 1,693 | 1,574 | 1,748 | 2,308 | 2,408 | 6,355 | 6,608 |
| Intended | 140 | 140 | 695 | 613 | 940 | 961 | 1,548 | 1,525 | 3,324 | 3,238 |
| Unintended | 660 | 620 | 979 | 1,080 | 634 | 787 | 759 | 883 | 3,032 | 3,370 |
| Mistimed <2 years | 84 | 62 | 162 | 173 | 146 | 179 | 158 | 195 | 550 | 609 |
| Mistimed ≥2 years | 360 | 389 | 451 | 570 | 223 | 266 | 137 | 188 | 1,171 | 1,413 |
| Unwanted | 216 | 169 | 365 | 337 | 265 | 342 | 464 | 501 | 1,311 | 1,348 |

| | 15-19 | | 20-24 | | 25-29 | | 30-44 | | Total | |
|--------------------------|-------|------|-------|------|-------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| MARRIED WOMEN | 2001 | 2008 | 2001 | 2008 | 2001 | 2008 | 2001 | 2008 | 2001 | 2008 |
| Births | 94 | 58 | 507 | 411 | 801 | 798 | 1,271 | 1,247 | 2,672 | 2,515 |
| Intended | 39 | 27 | 356 | 256 | 623 | 585 | 1,035 | 1,010 | 2,054 | 1,877 |
| Unintended | 54 | 31 | 151 | 155 | 177 | 214 | 236 | 237 | 618 | 637 |
| Mistimed <2 years | 19 | 5 | 61 | 54 | 71 | 103 | 82 | 115 | 233 | 277 |
| Mistimed ≥2 years | 26 | 26 | 48 | 78 | 49 | 52 | 20 | 31 | 143 | 188 |
| Unwanted | 10 | 0 | 41 | 24 | 57 | 59 | 133 | 91 | 242 | 173 |
| Total pregnancies | 113 | 70 | 624 | 499 | 1,007 | 988 | 1,750 | 1,705 | 3,495 | 3,263 |
| Intended | 47 | 30 | 405 | 285 | 732 | 677 | 1,325 | 1,262 | 2,509 | 2,254 |
| Unintended | 66 | 41 | 219 | 214 | 276 | 311 | 425 | 443 | 986 | 1,008 |
| Mistimed <2 years | 21 | 7 | 83 | 62 | 90 | 118 | 107 | 142 | 301 | 329 |
| Mistimed ≥2 years | 32 | 31 | 77 | 113 | 88 | 102 | 59 | 61 | 256 | 308 |
| Unwanted | 14 | 2 | 59 | 39 | 98 | 91 | 258 | 240 | 429 | 372 |

| | 15-19 | | 20-24 | | 25-29 | | 30-44 | | Total | |
|--------------------------|-------|------|-------|------|-------|------|-------|------|-------|-------|
| COHABITING WOMEN | 2001 | 2008 | 2001 | 2008 | 2001 | 2008 | 2001 | 2008 | 2001 | 2008 |
| Births | 122 | 183 | 225 | 387 | 115 | 258 | 82 | 182 | 544 | 1,010 |
| Intended | 25 | 51 | 116 | 192 | 67 | 147 | 54 | 99 | 261 | 488 |
| Unintended | 98 | 132 | 109 | 195 | 48 | 111 | 28 | 83 | 283 | 522 |
| Mistimed <2 years | 9 | 12 | 14 | 55 | 14 | 9 | 7 | 34 | 45 | 110 |
| Mistimed ≥2 years | 61 | 95 | 58 | 75 | 9 | 42 | 8 | 15 | 135 | 228 |
| Unwanted | 28 | 26 | 38 | 65 | 24 | 59 | 13 | 34 | 103 | 184 |
| Total pregnancies | 198 | 271 | 426 | 639 | 232 | 425 | 186 | 340 | 1,042 | 1,672 |
| Intended | 34 | 62 | 157 | 246 | 86 | 182 | 77 | 136 | 354 | 627 |
| Unintended | 164 | 208 | 269 | 392 | 146 | 243 | 109 | 203 | 688 | 1,047 |
| Mistimed <2 years | 18 | 22 | 30 | 75 | 28 | 21 | 32 | 37 | 107 | 156 |
| Mistimed ≥2 years | 91 | 138 | 139 | 188 | 49 | 94 | 15 | 55 | 294 | 475 |
| Unwanted | 55 | 48 | 100 | 129 | 69 | 128 | 62 | 111 | 286 | 417 |

APPENDIX TABLE 1 cont. Number (in 000s) of births and pregnancies among women of reproductive age, by intention status, age-group and relationship status, 2001 and 2008

| UNMARRIED, NON-COHABITING WOMEN | 15-19 | | 20-24 | | 25-29 | | 30-44 | | Total | |
|---------------------------------|-------|------|-------|------|-------|------|-------|------|-------|-------|
| | 2001 | 2008 | 2001 | 2008 | 2001 | 2008 | 2001 | 2008 | 2001 | 2008 |
| Births | 230 | 194 | 290 | 254 | 143 | 140 | 134 | 122 | 797 | 710 |
| Intended | 39 | 34 | 99 | 61 | 91 | 75 | 86 | 76 | 316 | 246 |
| Unintended | 190 | 160 | 190 | 193 | 52 | 65 | 49 | 46 | 481 | 463 |
| Mistimed <2 years | 18 | 9 | 29 | 16 | 6 | 10 | 7 | 6 | 60 | 41 |
| Mistimed ≥2 years | 117 | 105 | 70 | 117 | 18 | 12 | 7 | 4 | 212 | 238 |
| Unwanted | 55 | 45 | 91 | 60 | 29 | 43 | 34 | 37 | 209 | 184 |
| Total pregnancies | 489 | 419 | 624 | 555 | 334 | 335 | 372 | 363 | 1,818 | 1,672 |
| Intended | 59 | 48 | 133 | 82 | 122 | 102 | 146 | 126 | 460 | 358 |
| Unintended | 430 | 371 | 491 | 473 | 212 | 234 | 225 | 237 | 1,358 | 1,315 |
| Mistimed <2 years | 45 | 33 | 50 | 35 | 28 | 40 | 19 | 16 | 142 | 125 |
| Mistimed ≥2 years | 238 | 220 | 235 | 268 | 86 | 70 | 63 | 72 | 621 | 630 |
| Unwanted | 147 | 118 | 205 | 170 | 98 | 123 | 144 | 149 | 595 | 560 |

Notes: Totals may not add up due to rounding. Pregnancy counts among women aged 15-44 for 2001 are based on revised estimates using newly available data from the National Survey of Family Growth and the U.S. Census Bureau and are different from previously published figures. Data on the population distribution for cohabiting women came from the Current Population Survey and the National Survey of Family Growth. Unmarried, noncohabiting women include noncohabiting formerly married and noncohabiting never-married women.

APPENDIX TABLE 2. Number (in 000s) of births and pregnancies among unmarried women aged 20–29, by intention status and demographic characteristic, 2001 and 2008

| Characteristic | Total | | Intended | | Unintended | | | | | | | |
|--|--------|-------------|----------|-------------|------------|-------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|-------|
| | Total | | Total | | Total | | | | | | | |
| | Births | pregnancies | Births | pregnancies | Births | pregnancies | | | | | | |
| All unmarried women aged 20–29 | 773 | 1,038 | 1,616 | 1,954 | 373 | 475 | 498 | 612 | 400 | 564 | 1,118 | 1,342 |
| Age-group | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 20–24 | 515 | 641 | 1,050 | 1,194 | 215 | 253 | 290 | 328 | 300 | 388 | 760 | 866 |
| 25–29 | 258 | 397 | 567 | 760 | 158 | 222 | 209 | 284 | 100 | 176 | 358 | 476 |
| Race and ethnicity* | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| White non-Hispanic | 301 | 407 | 652 | 775 | 143 | 173 | 200 | 233 | 158 | 234 | 451 | 542 |
| Black non-Hispanic | 234 | 274 | 511 | 536 | 104 | 113 | 137 | 142 | 130 | 161 | 374 | 394 |
| Hispanic | 205 | 311 | 372 | 534 | 107 | 174 | 140 | 219 | 98 | 137 | 233 | 315 |
| Income level | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Poor (<100% of poverty) | 365 | 539 | 614 | 923 | 172 | 254 | 212 | 307 | 193 | 285 | 402 | 616 |
| Low income (100–199% of poverty) | 238 | 322 | 509 | 596 | 134 | 143 | 178 | 187 | 105 | 180 | 331 | 409 |
| High income (at least 200% of poverty) | 169 | 177 | 493 | 435 | 68 | 78 | 109 | 117 | 102 | 99 | 385 | 318 |
| Educational attainment | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Did not graduate high school | 238 | 295 | 361 | 435 | 125 | 144 | 154 | 174 | 113 | 152 | 207 | 261 |
| Graduated high school or equivalent | 340 | 401 | 645 | 713 | 156 | 184 | 210 | 238 | 185 | 218 | 435 | 475 |
| Had some college or more | 195 | 342 | 610 | 806 | 92 | 147 | 134 | 199 | 103 | 194 | 476 | 607 |
| Pregnancy order | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| First | 220 | 253 | 436 | 481 | 90 | 109 | 119 | 142 | 130 | 143 | 316 | 340 |
| Second or higher-order | 553 | 785 | 1,181 | 1,472 | 283 | 365 | 379 | 470 | 270 | 420 | 802 | 1,002 |

*Excludes women who self-identify as belonging to another non-Hispanic racial or ethnic group. Notes: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

APPENDIX TABLE 3. Number (in 000s) of unintended births and pregnancies among unmarried women aged 20–29, by timing and demographic characteristic, 2001 and 2008

| Characteristic | Unintended | | | | | | Mistimed <2 years | | | | | | Mistimed ≥2 years | | | | | | Unwanted | | | | | |
|--|------------|------|-------------------|-------|-------|------|-------------------|------|-------------------|------|-------|------|-------------------|------|-------------------|------|-------|------|----------|------|-------------------|------|-------|------|
| | Births | | Total pregnancies | | Total | | Births | | Total pregnancies | | Total | | Births | | Total pregnancies | | Total | | Births | | Total pregnancies | | Total | |
| | 2001 | 2008 | 2001 | 2008 | 2001 | 2008 | 2001 | 2008 | 2001 | 2008 | 2001 | 2008 | 2001 | 2008 | 2001 | 2008 | 2001 | 2008 | 2001 | 2008 | 2001 | 2008 | 2001 | 2008 |
| All unmarried women aged 20–29 | 400 | 564 | 1,118 | 1,342 | 63 | 91 | 135 | 172 | 155 | 246 | 509 | 621 | 182 | 227 | 473 | 550 | | | | | | | | |
| Age-group | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 20–24 | 300 | 388 | 760 | 866 | 43 | 71 | 80 | 111 | 128 | 192 | 375 | 456 | 129 | 124 | 306 | 299 | | | | | | | | |
| 25–29 | 100 | 176 | 358 | 476 | 20 | 19 | 56 | 61 | 27 | 54 | 135 | 164 | 53 | 102 | 167 | 251 | | | | | | | | |
| Race and ethnicity* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| White non-Hispanic | 158 | 234 | 451 | 542 | 26 | 43 | 49 | 69 | 74 | 112 | 236 | 274 | 57 | 79 | 166 | 199 | | | | | | | | |
| Black non-Hispanic | 130 | 161 | 374 | 394 | 13 | 21 | 47 | 49 | 40 | 66 | 143 | 163 | 76 | 73 | 184 | 182 | | | | | | | | |
| Hispanic | 98 | 137 | 233 | 315 | 24 | 22 | 36 | 44 | 31 | 51 | 93 | 130 | 44 | 64 | 104 | 140 | | | | | | | | |
| Income level | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Poor (<100% of poverty) | 193 | 285 | 402 | 616 | 31 | 54 | 52 | 105 | 61 | 103 | 152 | 242 | 101 | 128 | 198 | 269 | | | | | | | | |
| Low income (100–199% of poverty) | 105 | 180 | 331 | 409 | 12 | 33 | 31 | 42 | 50 | 71 | 162 | 186 | 43 | 76 | 138 | 181 | | | | | | | | |
| High income (at least 200% of poverty) | 102 | 99 | 385 | 318 | 20 | 4 | 53 | 24 | 44 | 72 | 195 | 193 | 38 | 23 | 137 | 100 | | | | | | | | |
| Educational attainment | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Did not graduate high school | 113 | 152 | 207 | 261 | 20 | 11 | 31 | 27 | 43 | 49 | 78 | 96 | 49 | 91 | 98 | 138 | | | | | | | | |
| Graduated high school or equivalent | 185 | 218 | 435 | 475 | 20 | 54 | 52 | 93 | 74 | 89 | 189 | 196 | 90 | 74 | 194 | 186 | | | | | | | | |
| Had some college or more | 103 | 194 | 476 | 607 | 23 | 25 | 53 | 52 | 37 | 108 | 243 | 329 | 43 | 61 | 181 | 226 | | | | | | | | |
| Pregnancy order | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| First | 130 | 143 | 316 | 340 | 37 | 34 | 55 | 54 | 58 | 86 | 170 | 204 | 35 | 23 | 91 | 82 | | | | | | | | |
| Second or higher-order | 270 | 420 | 802 | 1,002 | 27 | 57 | 80 | 118 | 96 | 160 | 339 | 417 | 147 | 204 | 382 | 467 | | | | | | | | |

*Excludes women who self-identify as belonging to another non-Hispanic racial or ethnic group. Notes: Totals may not add up due to rounding.



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