



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

Mia Zolna and Laura Lindberg





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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-

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

*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.

**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		Intended		Unintended								
	Total	Unin- tended	2001	2008	2001	2008	2001	2008	Total		Mistimed <2 years		Mistimed ≥2 years		Unwanted 2001	2008	
									2001	2008	2001	2008	2001	2008			2001
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		Unintended					
	2001		2008		2001		Total		Mistimed <2 years		Mistimed ≥2 years	
	2001	2008	2001	2008	2001	2008	2001	2008	2001	2008	2001	2008
ALL WOMEN AGED 20–29												
Married	49%	42%	35%	41%	110	108	38	45	10	12	13	15
Unmarried	23%	17%	25%	31%	189	181	47	55	19	23	14	12
	60%	51%	52%	54%	64	74	33	40	5	6	13	16
UNMARRIED WOMEN AGED 20–29												
Age-group												
20–24	55%	47%	58%	61%	69	76	40	46	6	8	17	15
25–29	69%	58%	39%	44%	56	70	22	31	4	3	6	18
Race and ethnicity‡												
White non-Hispanic	61%	49%	52%	56%	41	48	21	27	4	5	10	9
Black non-Hispanic	62%	54%	55%	57%	105	109	58	63	6	8	18	29
Hispanic	53%	51%	47%	43%	118	143	56	61	14	10	17	29
Income level												
Poor (<100% of poverty)	47%	48%	52%	53%	141	162	74	85	12	16	23	39
Low income (100–199% of poverty)	65%	47%	43%	56%	91	111	39	62	5	11	19	26
High income (at least 200% of poverty)	70%	62%	60%	56%	25	23	15	13	3	1	6	3
Educational attainment												
Did not graduate high school	38%	32%	47%	51%	172	224	81	115	14	8	31	68
Graduated high school or equivalent	51%	45%	54%	54%	108	116	58	63	6	16	23	21
Had some college or more	77%	64%	52%	57%	26	37	13	21	3	3	5	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		
	Births		Total pregnancies	Births		Total pregnancies	Births		Total pregnancies
	2001	2008	2001 2008	2001	2008	2001 2008	2001	2008	2001 2008
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

Unintended																
Characteristic	Total				Mistimed <2 years				Mistimed ≥2 years				Unwanted			
	Total pregnancies				Births		Total pregnancies		Births		Total pregnancies		Births			
	2001	2008	2001	2008	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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125 Maiden Lane
New York, NY 10038
(212) 248-1111; fax (212) 248-1951
info@guttmacher.org

1301 Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20036
policyinfo@guttmacher.org

www.guttmacher.org