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## **U.S. Teenage Pregnancies, Births and Abortions, 2011: National Trends by Age, Race and Ethnicity**

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## Introduction

This report contains the most recent and comprehensive statistics available—for 2011—on the incidence of teenage pregnancy, birth and abortion for the United States as a whole, with trends since 1973. The report concludes with a discussion of the methodology and sources used to obtain the estimates.

Counts of pregnancies include births, legal induced abortions and spontaneous fetal losses (i.e., miscarriages and stillbirths). The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) provides annual counts of teen births in the United States, as reported in the National Vital Statistics System (via birth certificates).<sup>1</sup> The estimates we present for 2011 are part of the Guttmacher Institute’s ongoing surveillance of teen pregnancies in the United States. Our national-level teen pregnancy report is updated when new data become available—generally every two years—and contains the most up-to-date estimates of teen pregnancy using counts of births from NCHS and of abortions from the Guttmacher Institute’s periodic national census of abortion providers. This census is widely recognized as the most accurate count of abortions performed annually in the United States.<sup>2</sup>

A demographic rate is defined as the number of events (in this case, pregnancies, births or abortions) divided by the number of individuals who could experience the event (the population). The pregnancy rate is not synonymous with the birthrate. Trends in rates of births and abortions can move in different directions and may be affected by different social and economic factors.

Unless otherwise indicated, this report uses the words “teenagers” and “teens” to refer to women aged 15–19. The report also includes numbers, and in some cases rates, shown separately for women aged 14 and younger, 15–17-year-olds, 18–19-year-olds, all women younger than 20, and 20–24-year-olds. We also present statistics for 15–19-year-olds by race and ethnicity for the years 1990–2011.

## Key Findings

### *National levels and trends (Tables 1.1–1.6)*

- In 2011, some 562,000 women younger than 20 became pregnant. About 553,000 of those pregnancies were among teenagers (i.e., 15–19-year-olds), and nearly 10,000 were among those aged 14 and younger.
- The pregnancy rate among teenagers was 52.4 per 1,000 women; this means that about 5% of teens became pregnant in 2011.

- Although 18–19-year-olds made up 41% of all 15–19-year-old women in 2011, they accounted for 70% of all teen pregnancies. The pregnancy rate among 18–19-year-olds was 89.2, while the rate among 15–17-year-olds was 26.7.
- In 2011, the U.S. teenage pregnancy rate was at its lowest point in more than 30 years and less than half of the peak rate in 1990 (117.6). Between 2008 and 2011 alone, the rate dropped 23% (from 68.2).
- The pregnancy rate among sexually experienced teenagers (i.e., those who had ever had intercourse) was 117.8 per 1,000 women aged 15–19, which reflects the fact that the overall teenage pregnancy rate includes a substantial proportion of young women who have never had sex. The pregnancy rate among sexually experienced teenagers in 2011 was just above half of the 1990 rate of 224.9.
- The teenage birthrate in 2011 was 31.3 per 1,000 women—roughly half of the 1991 rate of 61.8, which was the highest since abortion was legalized in 1973.
- The 2011 teenage abortion rate was 13.5 per 1,000 women, the lowest since abortion was legalized and 69% lower than its peak in 1988 (44.0).
- The long-term declines in teenage birth and abortion rates stalled between 2005 and 2006, but resumed by 2007 and accelerated between 2008 and 2011.
- From 1985 to 2007, the proportion of teenage pregnancies ending in abortion (i.e., the abortion ratio) declined by one-third, from 46% to 31%. This proportion has remained relatively stable since 2007.

*Trends by race and ethnicity (Table 1.7)*

- Among non-Hispanic white teenagers, the pregnancy rate declined 58% between 1991 and 2011 (from 83.2 per 1,000 to 35.3).
- The pregnancy rate among black teens fell 59% between 1990 and 2011 (from 226.7 per 1,000 to 93.8).
- Among Hispanic teenagers (of any race), the pregnancy rate fell 56% between its peak in 1992 and 2011 (from 166.8 per 1,000 to 73.5). In just three years, from 2008 to 2011, the teen pregnancy rate for Hispanic teens fell 31% (from 105.8 to 73.5).

*Disparities by race and ethnicity in 2011 (Table 1.8)*

- In 2011, the pregnancy rate among non-Hispanic white teens (35.3) was less than half that among non-Hispanic blacks (92.6) and Hispanics (73.5).

- Wide differences in birth and abortion rates (as opposed to pregnancy rates) also persist across racial and ethnic groups. The birthrate in 2011 for non-Hispanic white teenagers (21.7) was less than half that among non-Hispanic black teenagers (47.2) and Hispanic teenagers (49.6). The abortion rate for non-Hispanic black teenagers (32.6) was almost four times that for non-Hispanic whites (8.5) and more than two and half times that for Hispanics (12.7).
- In 2011, non-Hispanic teens of races other than white or black experienced a similar pregnancy rate as non-Hispanic white teens (33.4 and 35.3, respectively); however, their birthrate was lower than that among whites (16.3 vs. 21.7), and their abortion rate was higher (12.6 vs. 8.5).

## Discussion

This report documents continuation of the long-term decline in national rates of pregnancies, births and abortions among teenagers in the United States. Teen pregnancy rates have declined dramatically since their peak in 1990, as have the births and abortions that result. In 2011, the teen pregnancy rate reached its lowest level in nearly 40 years,\* with especially large declines from 2008 to 2011.

There was a substantial drop in the teen pregnancy rate for both 15–17- and 18–19-year-olds between 2008 and 2011, yet pregnancies among 18–19-year-olds made up the majority of all teen pregnancies (70% in 2011); as a result, decreases in pregnancies among this age-group were responsible for around three-fifths of the overall decline. Although there is some evidence that the proportion of women aged 18–19 who report having ever had sex increased between 2008 and 2010, there was very little change in the proportion between 2010 and 2012.† In other words, both of these trends in sexual activity could contribute to more pregnancies, not fewer as we are finding. Thus, something else must be contributing to decreases in teen pregnancy, and it appears likely that recent changes in contraceptive use are driving the reduction. There is evidence that contraceptive practices have improved among older teens: A recent study found that the proportion of 18–19-year-old women who report using long-acting reversible contraceptive methods tripled between 2007 and 2009,<sup>3</sup> and promotion and acceptance of these methods among teens and young adult women has increased.<sup>4,5</sup> Contraceptive use is also likely to be associated with the large decline in the pregnancy rate among sexually experienced teens.

It is important to recognize that declines in the rate of teen births do not necessarily result in lower pregnancy rates. In theory, if abortion rates increase, the pregnancy rate could remain constant even while birthrates fall. In other words, teens who become pregnant could be

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\*And possibly ever in the history of the United States; data reach back only to 1973.

†In 2006–2008, 61% of women aged 18–19 reported having ever had sex, compared with 67% in 2008–2010 and 65% in 2011–2013 (tabulations from the 2006–2010 and 2011–2013 National Survey of Family Growth).

increasingly likely to have an abortion, rather than a birth. This report demonstrates that, in fact, fewer teens became pregnant in 2011 than at any time since tracking of these data began, which reflects our finding that both birth and abortion rates among teens have steadily declined.

In 2011, birthrates and abortion rates among teenagers and young adult women reached historic lows. From 2008 to 2011, pregnancy rates dropped 23% among women aged 15–19 and 16% among those aged 20–24.

Recent data on births from the NCHS show that birthrates among teens have continued to decline—dropping another 10% between 2012 and 2013.<sup>6</sup> Abortion data are not yet available for these most recent years, so we cannot calculate teen pregnancy rates; however, increases in abortion are not expected, given longstanding declines in abortion rates over the past three decades.<sup>7</sup>

The data presented here indicate that even with the recent reductions in rates of teenage pregnancies, births and abortions, there are still persistently large and long-standing disparities by race and ethnicity. These mirror disparities in unintended pregnancy rates found among all U.S. women of reproductive age, which are several times higher among women of color than among whites.<sup>8</sup>

Although trend data for pregnancies—rather than births—are hard to find, adolescent pregnancy rates have been declining in a number of Western European countries, as well as in the United States.<sup>9</sup> In many settings, simultaneous declines in pregnancy rates among adolescents and young adults—reflecting later initiation of childbearing among women—suggest that similar causal factors may have influenced both age-groups. It is still unclear, however, precisely why these declines are occurring. Some research suggests that fertility behaviors are affected by economic conditions, especially for teens, and that the recession beginning in 2008 may have played a role in the more recent decline.<sup>10</sup>

Trends in teenage and young adult pregnancy, birth and abortion will need to be closely monitored over the coming years to determine how the reproductive behaviors of young women and young men in the United States may be changing. Further research will be needed to understand the behavioral, social and economic factors that are affecting these trends. Specifically, research will need to address not just why fewer teens and young adult women are having births, but also why fewer are becoming pregnant.

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**TABLE 1.1 Among women aged 15–19, rates of pregnancy, birth and abortion; abortion ratios; numbers of pregnancies, births, abortions and fetal losses; and population, 1973–2011**

Year	Pregnancy rate	Pregnancy rate among sexually experienced*	Birthrate	Abortion rate	Abortion ratio†	Total pregnancies	Births	Abortions	Estimated fetal losses§	Population (in 000s)
1973	96.5	u	59.3	23.0	27.9	982,420	604,096	234,100	144,230	10,183
1974	99.1	u	57.6	27.3	32.2	1,025,130	595,449	282,350	147,320	10,340
1975	101.4	u	55.6	31.5	36.2	1,061,500	582,238	329,830	149,430	10,465
1976	101.4	u	52.8	34.6	39.6	1,073,270	558,744	366,160	148,360	10,586
1977	105.0	u	52.8	37.8	41.7	1,111,550	559,154	400,520	151,880	10,588
1978	105.8	u	51.5	40.0	43.8	1,117,330	543,407	422,950	150,980	10,561
1979	109.8	u	52.3	42.8	45.0	1,153,290	549,472	449,020	154,800	10,502
1980	111.4	u	53.2	43.3	44.9	1,156,900	552,161	449,370	155,370	10,381
1981	110.4	u	52.2	43.4	45.4	1,114,650	527,392	437,990	149,280	10,096
1982	110.3	u	52.4	43.2	45.2	1,082,230	513,758	423,380	145,090	9,809
1983	109.8	u	51.4	43.7	46.0	1,044,720	489,286	415,980	139,460	9,515
1984	108.5	u	50.6	43.4	46.2	1,007,500	469,682	403,520	134,290	9,287
1985	109.6	u	51.0	44.0	46.4	1,005,260	467,485	403,890	133,890	9,174
1986	107.3	210.8	50.2	42.8	46.0	987,560	461,905	393,890	131,770	9,206
1987	107.2	206.5	50.6	42.3	45.5	979,640	462,312	386,240	131,090	9,139
1988	112.0	211.7	53.0	44.0	45.4	1,011,180	478,353	397,410	135,410	9,029
1989	115.5	219.6	57.3	42.5	42.6	1,020,870	506,503	375,510	138,850	8,841
1990	117.6	224.9	60.3	41.1	40.5	1,017,470	521,826	355,710	139,940	8,656
1991	115.9	223.1	61.8	37.9	38.0	974,330	519,577	318,940	135,810	8,407
1992	111.6	216.2	60.3	35.7	37.2	936,350	505,415	299,870	131,070	8,389
1993	108.6	211.6	59.0	34.4	36.8	922,640	501,093	292,120	129,430	8,496
1994	105.1	206.1	58.2	32.1	35.6	913,520	505,488	279,030	129,000	8,689
1995	100.1	197.4	56.0	29.9	34.8	893,480	499,873	266,940	126,670	8,929



**TABLE 1.1 Among women aged 15–19, rates of pregnancy, birth and abortion; abortion ratios; numbers of pregnancies, births, abortions and fetal losses; and population, 1973–2011**

Year	Pregnancy rate	Pregnancy rate among sexually experienced*	Birthrate	Abortion rate	Abortion ratio†	Total pregnancies	Births	Abortions	Estimated fetal losses§	Population (in 000s)
1996	96.1	191.6	53.5	29.0	35.2	883,390	491,577	266,820	125,000	9,193
1997	91.8	185.2	51.3	27.5	34.9	865,400	483,220	259,580	122,600	9,425
1998	89.2	181.9	50.3	26.2	34.2	859,700	484,895	252,570	122,240	9,641
1999	86.1	177.6	48.8	25.1	34.0	840,550	476,050	244,810	119,690	9,762
2000	83.8	174.9	47.6	24.3	33.8	826,070	468,990	239,340	117,730	9,855
2001	79.2	167.2	45.0	22.9	33.7	784,390	445,944	226,590	111,850	9,909
2002	74.8	159.8	42.6	21.5	33.5	746,550	425,493	214,510	106,550	9,982
2003	72.2	157.6	41.1	20.8	33.6	728,040	414,580	209,590	103,870	10,087
2004	70.5	157.3	40.5	19.9	32.9	722,010	415,262	203,360	103,390	10,243
2005	68.7	156.7	39.7	19.1	32.4	716,530	414,593	199,110	102,830	10,435
2006	70.5	164.7	41.1	19.3	31.9	747,020	435,436	204,080	107,500	10,597
2007	70.2	163.9	41.5	18.6	30.9	753,110	444,899	199,300	108,910	10,731
2008	68.2	159.3	40.2	18.1	31.0	736,930	434,758	195,660	106,520	10,805
2009	63.7	140.5	37.9	16.6	30.4	688,640	409,802	178,980	99,860	10,805
2010	57.7	127.3	34.3	15.0	30.4	617,990	367,678	160,700	89,610	10,704
2011	52.4	117.8	31.3	13.5	30.2	552,640	329,772	142,650	80,220	10,541

\*The pregnancy rate among all 15–19-year-olds who have ever had sex (see text). †Ratio of abortions to the sum of all births and abortions. §Includes miscarriages and stillbirths. *Notes* : All rates are the number of events per 1,000 women aged 15–19; pregnancy rate includes estimated number of pregnancies ending in miscarriage or stillbirth. u=unavailable.

**TABLE 1.2 Among women aged 15–17, rates of pregnancy, birth and abortion; abortion ratios; numbers of pregnancies, births, abortions and fetal losses; and population, 1973–2011**

Year	Pregnancy rate	Birthrate	Abortion rate	Abortion ratio*	Total pregnancies	Births	Abortions	Estimated fetal losses†	Population (in 000s)
1973	65.1	38.6	17.1	30.7	402,220	238,403	105,580	58,240	6,183
1974	66.6	37.3	19.8	34.7	417,980	234,177	124,520	59,290	6,276
1975	68.1	36.1	22.5	38.4	428,740	227,270	141,830	59,640	6,295
1976	67.7	34.1	24.4	41.7	428,170	215,493	154,170	58,520	6,328
1977	69.7	33.8	26.5	43.9	440,500	213,788	167,230	59,480	6,319
1978	68.6	32.2	27.2	45.8	431,240	202,661	170,950	57,630	6,291
1979	70.7	32.3	29.1	47.4	438,540	200,137	180,350	58,060	6,204
1980	72.8	32.7	30.5	48.3	441,630	198,222	185,240	58,170	6,064
1981	71.9	32.0	30.4	48.7	420,480	187,397	177,820	55,260	5,850
1982	72.0	32.2	30.3	48.5	404,700	181,162	170,280	53,260	5,622
1983	72.3	31.8	31.0	49.4	392,360	172,673	168,320	51,370	5,428
1984	70.5	31.0	30.3	49.4	379,150	166,744	162,780	49,630	5,375
1985	71.3	31.0	31.0	50.0	385,680	167,789	167,580	50,320	5,408
1986	70.0	30.6	30.3	49.8	386,220	168,572	167,210	50,440	5,515
1987	71.0	31.7	30.0	48.6	386,480	172,591	163,060	50,820	5,444
1988	74.0	33.7	30.5	47.6	388,200	176,624	160,230	51,350	5,247
1989	74.8	36.4	28.3	43.8	372,200	181,044	140,860	50,300	4,974
1990	74.6	37.5	26.9	41.8	364,730	183,327	131,580	49,820	4,889
1991	73.2	38.5	24.5	38.9	357,630	188,226	119,780	49,620	4,883
1992	70.6	37.5	23.3	38.2	352,820	187,549	116,150	49,120	4,995
1993	69.7	37.4	22.5	37.6	354,800	190,535	114,690	49,580	5,088
1994	68.1	37.2	21.3	36.5	357,360	195,169	111,960	50,230	5,251
1995	64.4	35.5	19.8	35.9	349,360	192,508	107,590	49,260	5,426

**TABLE 1.2 Among women aged 15–17, rates of pregnancy, birth and abortion; abortion ratios; numbers of pregnancies, births, abortions and fetal losses; and population, 1973–2011**

Year	Pregnancy rate	Birthrate	Abortion rate	Abortion ratio*	Total pregnancies	Births	Abortions	Estimated fetal losses†	Population (in 000s)
1996	60.7	33.3	18.9	36.2	338,800	185,721	105,400	47,680	5,583
1997	56.9	31.4	17.4	35.7	326,160	180,154	99,980	46,030	5,732
1998	54.2	29.9	16.6	35.7	313,800	173,231	96,290	44,280	5,789
1999	50.8	28.2	15.5	35.5	295,130	163,588	89,840	41,700	5,809
2000	48.4	26.8	14.7	35.4	283,430	157,209	86,170	40,060	5,862
2001	44.4	24.5	13.6	35.8	263,380	145,324	80,900	37,150	5,928
2002	42.0	23.1	13.0	35.9	252,070	138,731	77,810	35,530	6,008
2003	40.5	22.2	12.6	36.2	245,290	134,384	76,390	34,520	6,060
2004	39.2	21.8	11.8	35.2	240,740	133,980	72,690	34,070	6,146
2005	37.8	21.1	11.4	35.1	239,050	133,191	72,020	33,840	6,319
2006	38.5	21.6	11.4	34.6	247,700	138,943	73,610	35,150	6,434
2007	38.1	21.7	11.0	33.6	247,000	140,566	71,200	35,230	6,484
2008	37.0	21.1	10.6	33.4	237,590	135,664	67,990	33,930	6,417
2009	34.1	19.6	9.6	33.0	216,350	124,247	61,140	30,960	6,344
2010	30.3	17.4	8.6	33.0	190,200	109,173	53,810	27,220	6,282
2011	26.7	15.4	7.5	32.7	165,810	95,538	46,510	23,760	6,206

\*Ratio of abortions to the sum of all births and abortions. †Includes miscarriages and stillbirths. *Note* : All rates are the number of events per 1,000 women aged 15–17; pregnancy rate includes estimated number of pregnancies ending in miscarriage or stillbirth.

**TABLE 1.3 Among women aged 18–19, rates of pregnancy, birth and abortion; abortion ratios; numbers of pregnancies, births, abortions and fetal losses; and population, 1973–2011**

Year	Pregnancy rate	Birthrate	Abortion rate	Abortion ratio*	Total pregnancies	Births	Abortions	Estimated fetal losses†	Population (in 000s)
1973	145.1	91.4	32.1	26.0	580,200	365,693	128,520	85,990	4,000
1974	149.4	88.9	38.8	30.4	607,140	361,272	157,830	88,040	4,065
1975	151.7	85.1	45.1	34.6	632,760	354,968	188,000	89,790	4,170
1976	151.5	80.6	49.8	38.2	645,100	343,251	211,990	89,850	4,258
1977	157.2	80.9	54.6	40.3	671,050	345,366	233,280	92,400	4,269
1978	160.7	79.8	59.0	42.5	686,090	340,746	252,000	93,350	4,270
1979	166.3	81.3	62.5	43.5	714,740	349,335	268,670	96,730	4,298
1980	165.6	82.0	61.2	42.7	715,260	353,939	264,130	97,200	4,318
1981	163.5	80.1	61.3	43.3	694,180	339,995	260,170	94,020	4,245
1982	161.8	79.4	60.4	43.2	677,530	332,596	253,110	91,830	4,187
1983	159.6	77.5	60.6	43.9	652,360	316,613	247,660	88,090	4,087
1984	160.6	77.4	61.5	44.3	628,350	302,938	240,750	84,660	3,913
1985	164.5	79.6	62.7	44.1	619,580	299,696	236,310	83,570	3,767
1986	162.9	79.5	61.4	43.6	601,340	293,333	226,670	81,330	3,691
1987	160.5	78.4	60.4	43.5	593,160	289,721	223,180	80,260	3,695
1988	164.7	79.8	62.7	44.0	622,980	301,729	237,190	84,060	3,782
1989	167.8	84.2	60.7	41.9	648,660	325,459	234,650	88,560	3,867
1990	173.3	89.9	59.5	39.8	652,750	338,499	224,130	90,110	3,766
1991	175.0	94.0	56.5	37.5	616,700	331,351	199,170	86,190	3,524
1992	172.0	93.7	54.1	36.6	583,530	317,866	183,720	81,950	3,393
1993	166.6	91.1	52.1	36.4	567,840	310,558	177,430	79,850	3,408
1994	161.8	90.3	48.6	35.0	556,170	310,319	167,080	78,770	3,438
1995	155.3	87.7	45.5	34.1	544,120	307,365	159,350	77,410	3,503

**TABLE 1.3 Among women aged 18–19, rates of pregnancy, birth and abortion; abortion ratios; numbers of pregnancies, births, abortions and fetal losses; and population, 1973–2011**

Year	Pregnancy rate	Birthrate	Abortion rate	Abortion ratio*	Total pregnancies	Births	Abortions	Estimated fetal losses†	Population (in 000s)
1996	150.9	84.7	44.7	34.5	544,590	305,856	161,420	77,310	3,610
1997	146.0	82.1	43.2	34.5	539,240	303,066	159,600	76,570	3,693
1998	141.7	80.9	40.6	33.4	545,900	311,664	156,280	77,960	3,852
1999	138.0	79.0	39.2	33.2	545,420	312,462	154,970	77,990	3,953
2000	135.9	78.1	38.4	32.9	542,630	311,781	153,180	77,670	3,993
2001	130.9	75.5	36.6	32.6	521,010	300,620	145,690	74,690	3,981
2002	124.4	72.2	34.4	32.3	494,480	286,762	136,700	71,020	3,974
2003	119.9	69.6	33.1	32.2	482,750	280,196	133,190	69,360	4,026
2004	117.5	68.7	31.9	31.7	481,270	281,282	130,660	69,320	4,096
2005	116.0	68.4	30.9	31.1	477,480	281,402	127,080	68,990	4,116
2006	119.9	71.2	31.3	30.6	499,310	296,493	130,470	72,350	4,163
2007	119.2	71.7	30.2	29.6	506,100	304,333	128,090	73,680	4,247
2008	113.8	68.2	29.1	29.9	499,350	299,094	127,670	72,590	4,389
2009	105.9	64.0	26.4	29.2	472,290	285,555	117,840	68,890	4,461
2010	96.7	58.5	24.2	29.3	427,790	258,505	106,890	62,390	4,422
2011	89.2	54.0	22.2	29.1	386,830	234,234	96,140	56,460	4,335

\*Ratio of abortions to the sum of all births and abortions. †Includes miscarriages and stillbirths. *Note* : All rates are the number of events per 1,000 women aged 18–19; pregnancy rate includes estimated number of pregnancies ending in miscarriage or stillbirth.

**TABLE 1.4 Among women aged 14 or younger, rates of pregnancy, birth and abortion; abortion ratios; numbers of pregnancies, births, abortions and fetal losses; and population, 1973–2011**

Year	Pregnancy rate	Birthrate	Abortion rate	Abortion ratio*	Total pregnancies	Births	Abortions	Estimated fetal losses†	Population (in 000s)‡
1973	13.5	6.1	5.6	47.7	28,330	12,861	11,730	3,740	2,092
1974	14.4	6.0	6.5	51.9	29,920	12,529	13,530	3,860	2,084
1975	15.2	6.0	7.3	54.9	32,100	12,642	15,390	4,070	2,118
1976	15.3	5.7	7.7	57.2	31,880	11,928	15,970	3,980	2,081
1977	15.2	5.6	7.7	58.0	31,150	11,455	15,820	3,870	2,049
1978	14.7	5.3	7.6	58.7	29,750	10,772	15,290	3,680	2,020
1979	15.9	5.5	8.4	60.5	30,890	10,699	16,410	3,780	1,945
1980	16.0	5.5	8.5	60.4	29,300	10,169	15,540	3,590	1,834
1981	16.0	5.4	8.6	61.6	28,540	9,632	15,440	3,470	1,787
1982	16.0	5.6	8.5	60.2	28,000	9,773	14,790	3,430	1,748
1983	16.8	5.5	9.3	62.9	29,910	9,752	16,550	3,610	1,781
1984	16.9	5.5	9.4	63.2	30,790	9,965	17,120	3,710	1,819
1985	16.8	5.5	9.3	62.7	31,150	10,220	17,170	3,760	1,853
1986	17.4	6.0	9.3	61.0	29,690	10,176	15,890	3,620	1,706
1987	17.5	6.4	9.0	58.4	28,290	10,311	14,470	3,510	1,614
1988	17.8	6.7	8.8	56.7	27,940	10,588	13,850	3,500	1,573
1989	17.4	7.1	8.1	53.0	28,030	11,486	12,960	3,590	1,608
1990	17.7	7.3	8.1	52.3	28,050	11,657	12,790	3,610	1,588
1991	16.8	7.2	7.5	50.9	28,130	12,014	12,470	3,650	1,670
1992	17.1	7.2	7.7	51.6	28,990	12,220	13,020	3,750	1,694
1993	16.5	7.1	7.2	50.1	28,930	12,554	12,600	3,770	1,756
1994	15.6	7.0	6.6	48.7	28,970	12,901	12,260	3,810	1,855
1995	14.4	6.6	5.9	47.4	26,800	12,242	11,010	3,550	1,861

**TABLE 1.4 Among women aged 14 or younger, rates of pregnancy, birth and abortion; abortion ratios; numbers of pregnancies, births, abortions and fetal losses; and population, 1973–2011**

Year	Pregnancy rate	Birthrate	Abortion rate	Abortion ratio*	Total pregnancies	Births	Abortions	Estimated fetal losses†	Population (in 000s)‡
1996	13.1	5.8	5.5	48.6	24,970	11,148	10,540	3,280	1,911
1997	11.9	5.3	5.1	49.2	22,940	10,121	9,810	3,010	1,920
1998	11.6	5.0	5.0	50.2	21,840	9,462	9,530	2,850	1,890
1999	10.6	4.6	4.5	49.5	20,640	9,054	8,890	2,700	1,956
2000	10.1	4.3	4.4	50.6	19,830	8,519	8,730	2,580	1,972
2001	9.3	3.9	4.2	51.4	18,380	7,781	8,220	2,380	1,980
2002	8.6	3.6	3.9	51.6	17,360	7,315	7,800	2,240	2,015
2003	8.0	3.2	3.7	53.7	16,480	6,661	7,710	2,100	2,058
2004	7.5	3.2	3.4	51.5	16,070	6,781	7,210	2,080	2,147
2005	7.4	3.2	3.3	50.9	15,720	6,722	6,960	2,040	2,123
2006	7.1	3.0	3.1	50.9	14,960	6,396	6,620	1,940	2,103
2007	7.0	3.0	3.1	51.0	14,520	6,195	6,450	1,880	2,074
2008	6.7	2.8	3.0	51.7	13,700	5,764	6,170	1,770	2,046
2009	6.0	2.5	2.8	52.8	12,230	5,029	5,630	1,570	2,040
2010	5.5	2.2	2.5	53.3	11,050	4,497	5,140	1,410	2,023
2011	4.8	2.0	2.2	52.9	9,680	3,974	4,460	1,240	2,021

\*Ratio of abortions to the sum of all births and abortions. †Includes miscarriages and stillbirths. ‡Women aged 14. *Notes* : All rates are calculated as the number of events experienced by women aged 14 and younger divided by the female population aged 14. The denominator is limited to 14-year-olds because the majority of all pregnancies among women aged 14 and younger occur among 14-year-olds (see Methodology). The pregnancy rate includes the estimated number of pregnancies ending in miscarriage or stillbirth.

**TABLE 1.5 Among women younger than 20, rates of pregnancy, birth and abortion; abortion ratios; numbers of pregnancies, births, abortion and fetal losses; and population, 1973–2011**

Year	Pregnancy rate	Birthrate	Abortion rate	Abortion ratio*	Total pregnancies	Births	Abortions	Estimated fetal losses†	Population (in 000s)‡
1973	82.3	50.3	20.0	28.5	1,010,750	616,957	245,820	147,970	12,275
1974	84.9	48.9	23.8	32.7	1,055,050	607,978	295,890	151,180	12,424
1975	86.9	47.3	27.4	36.7	1,093,600	594,880	345,220	153,500	12,583
1976	87.2	45.1	30.2	40.1	1,105,150	570,672	382,130	152,350	12,667
1977	90.4	45.2	32.9	42.2	1,142,700	570,609	416,330	155,760	12,637
1978	91.2	44.0	34.8	44.2	1,147,080	554,179	438,240	154,660	12,581
1979	95.1	45.0	37.4	45.4	1,184,180	560,171	465,430	158,580	12,447
1980	97.1	46.0	38.1	45.3	1,186,190	562,330	464,900	158,960	12,216
1981	96.2	45.2	38.2	45.8	1,143,200	537,024	453,430	152,750	11,883
1982	96.1	45.3	37.9	45.6	1,110,230	523,531	438,180	148,520	11,556
1983	95.1	44.2	38.3	46.4	1,074,630	499,038	432,530	143,060	11,296
1984	93.5	43.2	37.9	46.7	1,038,290	479,647	420,650	137,990	11,107
1985	94.0	43.3	38.2	46.8	1,036,410	477,705	421,060	137,650	11,027
1986	93.2	43.3	37.6	46.5	1,017,250	472,081	409,780	135,390	10,912
1987	93.7	44.0	37.3	45.9	1,007,930	472,623	400,710	134,600	10,753
1988	98.0	46.1	38.8	45.7	1,039,120	488,941	411,270	138,920	10,602
1989	100.4	49.6	37.2	42.9	1,048,900	517,989	388,470	142,440	10,448
1990	102.1	52.1	36.0	40.9	1,045,530	533,483	368,500	143,550	10,244
1991	99.5	52.8	32.9	38.4	1,002,460	531,591	331,410	139,460	10,077
1992	95.7	51.3	31.0	37.7	965,340	517,635	312,890	134,820	10,083
1993	92.8	50.1	29.7	37.2	951,570	513,647	304,720	133,200	10,252
1994	89.4	49.2	27.6	36.0	942,490	518,389	291,300	132,810	10,544
1995	85.3	47.5	25.8	35.2	920,280	512,115	277,950	130,220	10,790



**TABLE 1.5 Among women younger than 20, rates of pregnancy, birth and abortion; abortion ratios; numbers of pregnancies, births, abortion and fetal losses; and population, 1973–2011**

Year	Pregnancy rate	Birthrate	Abortion rate	Abortion ratio*	Total pregnancies	Births	Abortions	Estimated fetal losses†	Population (in 000s)‡
1996	81.8	45.3	25.0	35.6	908,370	502,725	277,360	128,280	11,104
1997	78.3	43.5	23.7	35.3	888,330	493,341	269,390	125,610	11,345
1998	76.4	42.9	22.7	34.6	881,550	494,357	262,110	125,080	11,531
1999	73.5	41.4	21.7	34.3	861,190	485,104	253,700	122,390	11,717
2000	71.5	40.4	21.0	34.2	845,890	477,509	248,070	120,310	11,827
2001	67.5	38.2	19.8	34.1	802,770	453,725	234,820	114,230	11,889
2002	63.7	36.1	18.5	33.9	763,910	432,808	222,310	108,790	11,997
2003	61.3	34.7	17.9	34.0	744,520	421,241	217,300	105,980	12,145
2004	59.6	34.1	17.0	33.3	738,070	422,043	210,560	105,470	12,390
2005	58.3	33.6	16.4	32.8	732,250	421,315	206,060	104,870	12,557
2006	60.0	34.8	16.6	32.3	761,970	441,832	210,700	109,440	12,700
2007	59.9	35.2	16.1	31.3	767,630	451,094	205,740	110,790	12,806
2008	58.4	34.3	15.7	31.4	750,640	440,522	201,830	108,290	12,852
2009	54.6	32.3	14.4	30.8	700,870	414,831	184,610	101,430	12,844
2010	49.4	29.2	13.0	30.8	629,030	372,175	165,840	91,020	12,727
2011	53.3	31.7	14.0	30.6	562,320	333,746	147,110	81,460	10,541

\*Ratio of abortions to the sum of all births and abortions. †Includes miscarriages and stillbirths. ‡Women aged 15–19. *Notes* : All rates are calculated as the number of events experienced by women younger than 20, divided by the female population aged 15–19. The denominator is limited to 15–19-year-olds because 97–98% of all pregnancies among women younger than 20 occurred among 15–19-year-olds. The pregnancy rate includes estimated number of pregnancies ending in miscarriage or stillbirth.

**TABLE 1.6 Among women aged 20–24, rates of pregnancy, birth and abortion; abortion ratios; numbers of pregnancies, births, abortions and fetal losses; and population, 1973–2011**

Year	Pregnancy rate	Birthrate	Abortion rate	Abortion ratio*	Total pregnancies	Births	Abortions	Estimated fetal losses†	Population (in 000s)
1973	172.6	119.8	26.2	17.9	1,586,180	1,101,113	240,760	244,300	9,190
1974	174.9	117.8	30.5	20.6	1,645,130	1,108,051	286,790	250,290	9,408
1975	173.3	113.0	34.3	23.3	1,677,450	1,093,676	331,850	251,920	9,677
1976	175.8	110.2	39.6	26.4	1,741,700	1,091,602	392,520	257,570	9,905
1977	184.1	112.9	44.3	28.2	1,870,720	1,146,491	449,930	274,290	10,159
1978	183.6	109.8	47.2	30.1	1,906,100	1,139,524	489,700	276,880	10,380
1979	190.1	112.7	49.9	30.7	2,005,020	1,188,663	526,020	290,330	10,546
1980	194.3	114.8	51.5	31.0	2,076,150	1,226,200	549,730	300,210	10,683
1981	191.1	112.2	51.4	31.4	2,065,190	1,212,000	555,270	297,930	10,805
1982	190.1	111.6	51.1	31.4	2,054,380	1,205,979	552,010	296,400	10,804
1983	185.4	107.8	51.0	32.1	1,995,630	1,160,274	548,460	286,900	10,762
1984	185.0	106.8	51.6	32.6	1,976,470	1,141,578	551,440	283,460	10,686
1985	187.1	108.3	52.0	32.5	1,972,770	1,141,320	548,350	283,100	10,541
1986	185.9	107.4	51.8	32.5	1,907,420	1,102,119	531,710	273,590	10,258
1987	186.7	107.9	52.0	32.5	1,861,500	1,075,856	518,610	267,030	9,971
1988	191.2	110.2	53.7	32.8	1,852,890	1,067,472	519,930	265,490	9,689
1989	195.7	113.7	53.8	32.1	1,853,840	1,077,598	509,740	266,490	9,473
1990	202.1	116.4	56.7	32.8	1,898,570	1,093,730	532,820	272,030	9,396
1991	200.5	115.3	56.5	32.9	1,894,590	1,089,692	533,600	271,300	9,451
1992	198.0	113.7	55.9	33.0	1,864,070	1,070,490	526,800	266,780	9,417
1993	194.0	111.3	55.0	33.1	1,809,660	1,038,127	512,640	258,890	9,328
1994	188.2	109.2	51.9	32.2	1,725,020	1,001,418	475,750	247,860	9,168
1995	182.9	107.5	49.1	31.4	1,643,830	965,547	441,060	237,220	8,986

**TABLE 1.6 Among women aged 20–24, rates of pregnancy, birth and abortion; abortion ratios; numbers of pregnancies, births, abortions and fetal losses; and population, 1973–2011**

Year	Pregnancy rate	Birthrate	Abortion rate	Abortion ratio*	Total pregnancies	Births	Abortions	Estimated fetal losses†	Population (in 000s)
1996	183.6	107.8	49.3	31.4	1,609,910	945,210	432,420	232,280	8,770
1997	181.7	107.3	48.1	31.0	1,595,140	942,048	422,440	230,650	8,781
1998	181.8	108.4	47.0	30.2	1,618,280	965,122	418,300	234,850	8,901
1999	180.6	107.9	46.5	30.1	1,643,410	981,929	422,820	238,670	9,099
2000	181.2	108.9	46.0	29.7	1,694,240	1,017,806	429,880	246,550	9,350
2001	175.6	105.6	44.5	29.6	1,699,170	1,021,627	430,190	247,340	9,677
2002	170.6	103.1	42.7	29.3	1,692,180	1,022,106	423,320	246,750	9,916
2003	168.3	102.3	41.4	28.8	1,698,750	1,032,305	418,170	248,280	10,094
2004	165.6	101.5	39.8	28.2	1,687,680	1,034,454	405,760	247,470	10,191
2005	164.7	101.8	38.7	27.6	1,684,190	1,040,388	396,110	247,690	10,223
2006	170.4	105.5	39.8	27.4	1,744,710	1,080,437	407,450	256,830	10,239
2007	168.8	105.4	38.5	26.7	1,733,340	1,082,354	395,020	255,970	10,270
2008	164.3	101.8	38.4	27.4	1,699,260	1,052,184	396,940	250,130	10,340
2009	155.0	96.2	36.0	27.2	1,621,160	1,005,982	376,350	238,830	10,459
2010	144.9	89.5	34.1	27.6	1,540,810	951,688	362,530	226,590	10,631
2011	137.5	85.2	32.1	27.4	1,493,480	925,200	348,400	219,880	10,860

\*Ratio of abortions to the sum of all births and abortions. †Includes miscarriages and stillbirths. *Note* : All rates are the number of events per 1,000 women aged 20–24; pregnancy rate includes estimated number of pregnancies ending in miscarriage or stillbirth.

**TABLE 1.7 Rates of pregnancy, birth and abortion; and abortion ratios, among women aged 15–19, by race or ethnicity, according to year, 1990–2011**

Race/ethnicity and measure	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
<b>TOTAL</b>										
Pregnancy rate	117.6	115.9	111.6	108.6	105.1	100.1	96.1	91.8	89.2	86.1
Birthrate	60.3	61.8	60.3	59.0	58.2	56.0	53.5	51.3	50.3	48.8
Abortion rate	41.1	37.9	35.7	34.4	32.1	29.9	29.0	27.5	26.2	25.1
Abortion ratio	40.5	38.0	37.2	36.8	35.6	34.8	35.2	34.9	34.2	34.0
<b>WHITE</b>										
<b>All</b>										
Pregnancy rate	98.2	96.1	91.9	89.5	87.3	84.5	81.0	77.5	75.5	73.0
Birthrate	51.2	52.6	51.4	50.6	50.5	49.5	47.5	45.5	44.9	44.0
Abortion rate	33.4	29.9	27.4	26.1	24.3	22.8	21.8	20.8	19.6	18.3
Abortion ratio	39.4	36.3	34.8	34.0	32.4	31.5	31.5	31.3	30.4	29.4
<b>Non-Hispanic*</b>										
Pregnancy rate	u	83.2	77.4	75.0	72.5	69.6	66.1	63.5	60.9	57.9
Birthrate	42.6	43.1	41.5	40.7	40.4	39.3	37.6	36.0	35.3	34.1
Abortion rate	u	28.6	25.1	23.8	21.8	20.4	19.1	18.4	16.8	15.4
Abortion ratio	u	39.8	37.7	36.9	35.0	34.2	33.7	33.9	32.3	31.1
<b>NONWHITE</b>										
<b>All</b>										
Pregnancy rate	194.7	193.5	188.3	182.3	173.4	159.0	152.8	145.2	139.7	134.2
Birthrate	96.3	97.8	94.6	91.2	87.5	80.5	75.9	72.6	70.2	66.1
Abortion rate	71.9	69.2	68.0	66.3	62.2	56.8	56.1	52.8	50.4	49.9
Abortion ratio	42.7	41.5	41.8	42.1	41.5	41.4	42.5	42.1	41.8	43.0
<b>Black</b>										
Pregnancy rate	226.7	225.6	220.2	213.4	201.9	184.1	178.3	170.7	164.7	158.7
Birthrate	112.9	114.8	111.3	107.3	102.9	94.4	89.6	86.3	83.5	79.1
Abortion rate	82.9	79.9	78.7	76.9	71.3	64.3	64.3	61.1	58.6	58.0
Abortion ratio	42.3	41.0	41.4	41.7	40.9	40.5	41.8	41.5	41.2	42.3
<b>HISPANIC</b>										
Pregnancy rate	u	165.6	166.8	163.1	161.2	156.3	151.1	141.6	140.4	137.8
Birthrate	99.5	104.6	103.3	101.8	101.3	99.3	94.6	89.6	87.9	86.8
Abortion rate	u	36.4	39.0	37.2	36.0	33.7	34.1	31.0	31.8	30.7
Abortion ratio	u	25.8	27.4	26.8	26.2	25.3	26.5	25.7	26.5	26.1

\*Pregnancy rates, birthrates and abortion ratios of non-Hispanic whites follow the NCHS methodology of including all white births of unknown Hispanic ethnicity with non-Hispanic births (<1% of all birth certificates). *Notes* : All rates are the number of events per 1,000 women aged 15–19; pregnancy rate includes the estimated number of pregnancies ending in miscarriage or stillbirth. The number of abortions per 100 pregnancies ending in abortion or live birth; denominator excludes miscarriages and stillbirths. In this and subsequent tables, data are tabulated according to the woman's age at the pregnancy outcome and, for births, according to the mother's race (not the child's). Numbers and rates may differ slightly from those published previously (see text). u=unavailable.

**TABLE 1.7 Rates of pregnancy, birth and abortion; and abortion ratios, among women aged 15–19, by race or ethnicity, according to year, 1990–2011 (continued)**

Race/ethnicity and measure	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
<b>TOTAL</b>										
Pregnancy rate	83.8	79.2	74.8	72.2	70.5	68.7	70.5	70.2	68.2	63.7
Birthrate	47.6	45.0	42.6	41.1	40.5	39.7	41.1	41.5	40.2	37.9
Abortion rate	24.3	22.9	21.5	20.8	19.9	19.1	19.3	18.6	18.1	16.6
Abortion ratio	33.8	33.7	33.5	33.6	32.9	32.4	31.9	30.9	31.0	30.4
<b>WHITE</b>										
<b>All</b>										
Pregnancy rate	70.9	67.4	64.1	62.0	60.5	58.8	60.3	60.6	58.6	54.9
Birthrate	43.1	41.0	39.2	38.0	37.4	36.7	37.9	38.4	37.3	35.3
Abortion rate	17.5	16.5	15.5	14.9	14.1	13.4	13.5	13.2	12.5	11.4
Abortion ratio	28.9	28.7	28.3	28.2	27.4	26.7	26.2	25.6	25.1	24.5
<b>Non-Hispanic*</b>										
Pregnancy rate	55.3	51.5	48.2	46.4	44.5	43.3	44.0	44.4	43.4	41.3
Birthrate	32.6	30.3	28.6	27.4	26.7	26.0	26.7	27.2	26.7	25.7
Abortion rate	14.7	13.8	12.7	12.3	11.3	11.0	10.9	10.7	10.3	9.5
Abortion ratio	31.1	31.4	30.7	30.9	29.7	29.8	29.1	28.2	27.7	27.0
<b>NONWHITE</b>										
<b>All</b>										
Pregnancy rate	131.0	121.8	113.0	107.9	105.0	101.8	103.9	101.0	98.7	91.2
Birthrate	64.2	59.3	54.7	52.0	51.2	49.9	51.4	51.3	49.5	46.2
Abortion rate	49.1	46.0	43.0	41.4	39.6	38.1	38.3	35.9	35.8	32.6
Abortion ratio	43.3	43.6	44.0	44.3	43.6	43.3	42.7	41.2	42.0	41.4
<b>Black</b>										
Pregnancy rate	155.5	145.2	135.5	129.0	126.1	122.2	125.0	122.3	120.2	112.1
Birthrate	77.2	71.3	65.8	62.5	61.7	60.1	62.2	62.1	60.1	56.5
Abortion rate	57.2	54.3	51.4	49.1	47.3	45.6	45.7	43.5	43.7	40.3
Abortion ratio	42.6	43.2	43.9	44.0	43.4	43.1	42.4	41.2	42.1	41.6
<b>HISPANIC</b>										
Pregnancy rate	135.6	130.8	125.4	121.2	120.9	116.0	117.2	113.8	105.8	95.0
Birthrate	86.6	84.4	80.6	78.4	78.1	76.5	77.4	75.3	70.3	63.6
Abortion rate	28.8	26.8	26.0	24.7	24.7	22.1	22.1	21.3	19.4	16.9
Abortion ratio	25.0	24.1	24.4	24.0	24.1	22.4	22.2	22.1	21.6	21.0

\*Pregnancy rates, birthrates and abortion ratios of non-Hispanic whites follow the NCHS methodology of including all white births of unknown Hispanic ethnicity with non-Hispanic births (<1% of all birth certificates). *Notes* : All rates are the number of events per 1,000 women aged 15–19; pregnancy rate includes the estimated number of pregnancies ending in miscarriage or stillbirth. The number of abortions per 100 pregnancies ending in abortion or live birth; denominator excludes miscarriages and stillbirths. In this and subsequent tables, data are tabulated according to the woman's age at the pregnancy outcome and, for births, according to the mother's race (not the child's). Numbers and rates may differ slightly from those published previously (see text). u=unavailable.

**TABLE 1.7. Rates of pregnancy, birth and abortion; and abortion ratios, among women aged 15–19, by race or ethnicity, according to year, 1990–2011 (continued)**

Race/ethnicity and measure	2010	2011
<b>TOTAL</b>		
Pregnancy rate	57.7	52.4
Birthrate	34.3	31.3
Abortion rate	15.0	13.5
Abortion ratio	30.4	30.2
<b>WHITE</b>		
<b>All</b>		
Pregnancy rate	49.6	44.9
Birthrate	32.0	29.1
Abortion rate	10.2	9.1
Abortion ratio	24.1	23.8
<b>Non-Hispanic*</b>		
Pregnancy rate	37.7	35.3
Birthrate	23.6	21.7
Abortion rate	8.5	8.5
Abortion ratio	26.4	28.0
<b>NONWHITE</b>		
<b>All</b>		
Pregnancy rate	82.8	75.8
Birthrate	41.6	38.1
Abortion rate	29.9	27.4
Abortion ratio	41.9	41.8
<b>Black</b>		
Pregnancy rate	102.2	93.8
Birthrate	51.4	47.2
Abortion rate	36.9	33.8
Abortion ratio	41.8	41.7
<b>HISPANIC</b>		
Pregnancy rate	83.0	73.5
Birthrate	55.6	49.6
Abortion rate	14.8	12.7
Abortion ratio	21.0	20.3

\*Pregnancy rates, birthrates and abortion ratios of non-Hispanic whites follow the NCHS methodology of including all white births of unknown Hispanic ethnicity with non-Hispanic births (<1% of all birth certificates). *Notes* : All rates are the number of events per 1,000 women aged 15–19; pregnancy rate includes the estimated number of pregnancies ending in miscarriage or stillbirth. The number of abortions per 100 pregnancies ending in abortion or live birth; denominator excludes miscarriages and stillbirths. In this and subsequent tables, data are tabulated according to the woman's age at the pregnancy outcome and, for births, according to the mother's race (not the child's). Numbers and rates may differ slightly from those published previously (see text). u=unavailable.

**TABLE 1.8 Rates of pregnancy, birth and abortion; and abortion ratios, among women aged 15–19, by race and ethnicity, 2011**

Race/ethnicity and measure	2011
<b>Non-Hispanic white*</b>	
Pregnancy rate	35.3
Birthrate	21.7
Abortion rate	8.5
Abortion ratio	28.0
<b>Non-Hispanic black</b>	
Pregnancy rate	92.6
Birthrate	47.2
Abortion rate	32.6
Abortion ratio	40.9
<b>Non-Hispanic other</b>	
Pregnancy rate	33.4
Birthrate	16.3
Abortion rate	12.6
Abortion ratio	43.7
<b>Hispanic</b>	
Pregnancy rate	73.5
Birthrate	49.6
Abortion rate	12.7
Abortion ratio	20.3

\*Pregnancy rates, birthrates and abortion ratios of non-Hispanic whites follow the NCHS methodology of including all white births of unknown Hispanic ethnicity with non-Hispanic births (<1% of all birth certificates).  
*Notes* : All rates are the number of events per 1,000 women aged 15–19; pregnancy rate includes the estimated number of pregnancies ending in miscarriage or stillbirth. The number of abortions per 100 pregnancies ending in abortion or live birth; denominator excludes miscarriages and stillbirths. Pregnancy rates, birthrates and abortion ratios include births of unknown ethnicity but known race. In this and subsequent tables, data are tabulated according to the woman's age at the pregnancy outcome and, for births, according to the mother's race (not the child's).

## About the Tables

Pregnancies are the sum of births, abortions and fetal losses (i.e., miscarriages and stillbirths). Rates are calculated as the number of events per 1,000 women. Abortion ratios are the number of abortions divided by the sum of abortions and births. Fetal losses are excluded from the denominator because the ratio is intended to represent how women choose to resolve a pregnancy and those ending in miscarriage or stillbirth are considered to be beyond control of the pregnant woman.

In these tables, “age” refers to the woman’s age when the pregnancy ended. Consequently, the actual number of pregnancies that occurred among teenagers is higher than what is reported here because most of the women who conceived at age 19 had their births or abortions after they turned 20 and, thus, were not counted as teenagers. Likewise, “year” refers to the calendar year in which the birth, abortion or fetal loss occurred, not when the conception occurred.

## Methodology

The estimates in Tables 1.1–1.7 are based on data from the following sources (detailed below in the Data Sources section):

- Number of births—National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) vital statistics
- Number of abortions—Guttmacher Institute’s Abortion Provider Census
- Number of fetal losses (stillbirth, miscarriage, ectopic pregnancies)—estimated as a proportion of births and of abortions
- Distribution of abortions by age and race or ethnicity—U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) surveillance reports
- Population of women—Population Estimates Program of the U.S. Bureau of the Census, in collaboration with NCHS

### *Births*

The numbers of births occurring in the United States in each calendar year are obtained from NCHS’s National Vital Statistics System. The data are based on information abstracted from birth certificates filed in vital statistics offices of each state and the District of Columbia.<sup>11</sup>

### *Abortions*

The number of abortions performed each year in the United States is derived from the Guttmacher Institute’s periodic surveys of all identifiable abortion providers. The institute’s first six abortion provider surveys were conducted annually between 1974 and 1979, with each gathering data for the preceding year (1973 through 1978). Surveys were subsequently conducted in 1981, 1983, 1986 and 1989, with each gathering data for the preceding two years. Subsequent surveys were carried out in 1993, collecting data for 1991 and 1992; in 1997 (data for



1995 and 1996); in 2001–2002 (data for 1999 and 2000); in 2006–2007 (data for 2004 and 2005); in 2010–2011 (data for 2007 and 2008); and in 2012–2013 (data for 2010 and 2011; see Data Sources for further detail). Data were not collected for 1983, 1986, 1989, 1990, 1993, 1994, 1997, 1998, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2006 or 2009. Estimates for these years are obtained by linear interpolation using estimates for adjacent years. Estimates in this report include only reported legal abortions. There is evidence that illegal abortions were performed for some time after the U.S. Supreme Court effectively legalized the procedure in 1973,<sup>12</sup> but we do not have accurate records or estimates of the number. Thus, our estimates of teen pregnancy in the early-to-mid-1970s may be underestimated.

While the total counts of abortions occurring each year in the United States are obtained from the Institute’s provider censuses, the numbers occurring to each age-group are obtained using data on the characteristics of abortion patients from CDC annual surveillance reports. For each year since 1969, the CDC has compiled abortion data provided voluntarily by state health departments, most of which maintain an abortion reporting system similar to the system of reporting births on birth certificates. However, not all states require the reporting of abortions from providers, and states that do have reporting systems differ in the completeness of reporting, the types of providers that must report and the information obtained on the abortion certificate. In addition, not all states that collect abortion data report the results to the CDC every year, and the data on age and other characteristics sometimes have an unacceptable level of missing data.

To ensure that our estimates do not reflect the year-to-year fluctuations in which states report to the CDC or in the quality or completeness of data reported rather than true changes in the distributions of the characteristics of women obtaining abortions, we use a methodology developed several decades ago by Guttmacher Institute research staff. This methodology calculates yearly changes using only data from those states that are comparable to the previous year, and then applies these changes to an ongoing historical trend anchored by a “base” year. We consider states to be comparable if they reported data on abortions by age to the CDC in both years, if there was no more than a 4% change in the percentage of abortions for which the age of the woman was unknown and if the population of women for which abortion information by age was collected (residents of the state, for example) was comparable between years. A parallel methodology was used to obtain comparable estimates of abortions by race and ethnicity over time.

In prior versions of this report, we used a base year of 1976; the base year for estimates by race and ethnicity was 1990 (the earliest year for which reliable data on these subgroups were available). In the current report, we reset the base year for all trends to 2010, and recalculated estimates for all years prior to 2011 using this new reference year as an anchor. The effect of the recalibration on our estimates was small (see Appendix Figure 1), but as a result, statistics from this report differ slightly from those in earlier reports for this and other reasons (as detailed further below).

To obtain the numbers of abortions among teens in each racial and ethnic group, we rely on tables published by the CDC on the national distribution of abortions by age and race. For years 1990–2000, the CDC publications combined black and other races in these tables. Our calculations for 1990–2000, therefore, assume that the distributions of abortions by age are the same for these two subgroups. Tables for age by Hispanic ethnicity became available only in 1991. Furthermore, until recently, the CDC surveillance report did not include abortion estimates by age, and combined race and ethnicity. To obtain estimates of abortions to non-Hispanic white women prior to 2011, we assumed that the proportion of abortions to Hispanic women who are white was equal to the proportion of births to Hispanic women who are not white. We then subtracted these from the total number of abortions to white women to arrive at estimates of abortions to non-Hispanic white women. The number of states reporting abortions by women’s age combined with both race and ethnicity has increased in recent years, which has increased our confidence in the stability of these estimates. Thus, we began using the CDC combined tables for calculating abortion estimates for non-Hispanic white, non-Hispanic black and non-Hispanic other teens as of 2011 (see Tables 1.7 and 1.8).

### *Fetal losses*

Accurate estimates of the incidence of pregnancy include those conceptions that do not result in induced abortion or live birth. The majority of these pregnancies end in spontaneous abortion (“miscarriage”), while smaller numbers end in stillbirth (most often defined as pregnancy loss after the 20th week of pregnancy) or ectopic pregnancy (implantation of a fertilized ovum outside of the main uterine cavity). Stillbirths are generally reported by hospitals in death records. Many states do collect miscarriage data, but reporting is incomplete particularly for miscarriages that occur prior to 20 weeks gestation. In fact, many women experience a very early miscarriage without realizing it, perhaps experiencing what they believe are late periods.

In this and prior Guttmacher reports of teen pregnancy, we estimate recognized fetal loss as the sum of a proportion of births (20%) and of abortions (10%). While these proportions are rough approximations for the numbers of recognized fetal losses, it is important to account for the fact that the incidence of fetal loss in a population is dependent upon the ratio of abortions to births. Pregnancies that are terminated by induced abortion are not exposed to the same risk of fetal loss as pregnancies that are continued to term; the risk is greatly diminished, especially if the abortion occurs in the early weeks of the pregnancy. In fact, most miscarriages occur by the 14th week of pregnancy,<sup>13</sup> and more than 90% of abortions occur before that time.<sup>14</sup> In other words, some abortions supersede miscarriages that would have otherwise occurred. In contrast, pregnancies that are carried to term are exposed to the full risk of pregnancy loss. Thus, estimation of fetal loss as a proportion of births and abortions allows us to account for these different gestation-dependent risks associated with pregnancies that end early (abortions) and those that end later (births). Put simply, the more pregnancies terminated by abortion, the less opportunity for a miscarriage to occur and the lower the overall incidence.

It is possible to obtain other estimates of fetal loss. In particular, NCHS pregnancy statistics use the nationally representative National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG) to estimate national-level incidence of recognized fetal loss from women's reports of pregnancy loss. However, these estimates are obtained for a specific period of time — covering from five to seven years prior to the year of the survey. In this report, we calculate annual rates over a 40-plus year time period. Instead of using rates for a particular period, we use an approximation—20% of births and 10% of abortions—so that the estimation of fetal loss is sensitive to changes in the relative distribution of births and abortions over this longer period. Again, this is important because in times when the abortion rates are high, relatively fewer fetal losses can occur. Failure to account for changes in the relative distribution of births and abortions would mean that the incidence of fetal losses could be over- or underestimated, as would be the overall pregnancy rates.

Finally, the selection of these proportions—20% and 10%—are intended only as approximations based on what little data is available on the incidence of fetal loss.<sup>15,16</sup> The precise proportions are likely not as important as the recognition that the population level of induced abortion in relation to births affects the estimates of fetal loss considerably.

#### *Sexually experienced teens*

We applied the percentage of teens ever having had sexual intercourse to population totals of 15–19-year-old women in each year to calculate the number who were sexually experienced. The number serves as the denominator for our teen pregnancy rates among sexually experienced teens. The percentage of 15–19-year-old women who were sexually experienced for the years 1982 and 1988 was obtained from the 1982 and 1988 rounds of the NSFG. Linear interpolation was used to calculate the percentages for the intervening years shown in Table 1.1 (1986 and 1987). In the 1982 NSFG, “sexually experienced” was defined as having ever had sex after menarche. For the percentage of sexually experienced 15–19-year-olds for 1988–2002, we obtained the proportions of all 15–19-year-olds who had ever had sexual intercourse in analyses of the 1988, 1995, 2002 and 2006–2008 NSFG. From 1988 on, “sexually experienced” is defined as having ever had sex, regardless of whether it occurred before or after menarche. Linear interpolation was used to calculate the percentages for the intervening years (1989–1994, 1996–2001 and 2003–2005). For the proportion sexually experienced in 2009 and 2010, we used data from respondents who were interviewed in the second half of the 2006–2010 NSFG interview period (from late 2008 through 2010, and applying the corresponding weights provided in the NSFG). For 2011, we obtained the proportion of teens having ever had sex from the 2011–2013 NSFG.

#### *Other sources of teen pregnancy statistics*

The estimates in this report may differ from those found in other sources. First, the NCHS and Finer and Zolna estimate fetal loss as a proportion of births from survey respondents' reports of their births and fetal losses in the five or seven years preceding the fielding of each round of the NSFG.<sup>17,18</sup> Second, the denominator we used in calculating rates among women younger than 15

is the female population aged 14, because most pregnancies occurring among these very young teenagers are likely among 14-year-olds (this was true for 82% of births in 2011). The NCHS and Finer and Zolna estimates use number of women aged 10–14 for the denominator. We use the number of women aged 15–19 in the denominator for rates among all women younger than 20 because from 1973–2011, nearly all (98–99%) pregnancies to women younger than 20 were among those aged 15–19. Finally, our denominators are based on population estimates that are produced by the Census Bureau, in collaboration with NCHS, for July 1 of each year and revised periodically. Hence, our rates may differ slightly from those published elsewhere, depending on which year the population estimates were made (the “vintage” of those estimates) or whether the rates have been updated using the intercensal population estimates available after each national census. We update our rates when the intercensal estimates are released. For the years 1980, 1990, 2000 and 2010, NCHS uses the April 1 census counts, and we use the July 1 estimates for these and all years.

Finally, the revised estimates in this report differ from those previously published by the Guttmacher Institute. As described above, in this report we recalculated estimates for all previous years with a new base year of 2010. In some cases, we were unable to locate the original source data and were, therefore, unable reproduce estimates published in prior publications (e.g. pregnancy rates for 15–19-year-old Hispanic and non-Hispanic white women in 1990).

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## Data sources

### *Population*

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### *Abortions*

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*Sexually experienced women*

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Appendix







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