

U.S. Teenage Pregnancy Statistics
With comparative Statistics for Women Aged 20-24

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March 5, 2001

Notes on teenage pregnancy statistics

The data in these tables are derived from the natality reports of the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (births); the abortion provider surveys of The Alan Guttmacher Institute and estimates for years not covered by the surveys (total U.S. abortions); the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (age distribution of abortions); and the U.S. Bureau of the Census (population estimates). The exact sources are listed after the tables. The age distributions of abortions have been adjusted to assure year-to-year comparability; for a description of the methodology, see S.K. Henshaw and J. Van Vort, eds., *Abortion Factbook, 1992 Edition: Readings, Trends, and State and Local Data to 1988* (New York: The Alan Guttmacher Institute, 1992), p. 162.

The rates published here for years before 1990 are based on population estimates that were revised after the decennial censuses.

Please note that the data presented here pertain to the woman's age at the time the pregnancy ended, not the age at which she became pregnant or at which she decided between abortion and carrying to term. More pregnancies were experienced by teenagers than are reported here because most of the 19-year-olds who became pregnant had their births or abortions at age 20 and thus were not counted. For an estimate of pregnancies at age of conception, see S.K. Henshaw et al., "A Portrait of American Women Who Obtain Abortions," *Family Planning Perspectives*, 17:90, 1985, Table 6, and S.K. Henshaw et al., "Characteristics of U.S. Women Having Abortions, 1987," *Family Planning Perspectives*, 23:75, 1991, Table 4.

Similarly, the data here are presented according to the calendar year in which the birth or abortion occurred, not the year in which the conception occurred.

There are several reasons why the figures shown here may differ from those found in other sources. As explained above, these data are not adjusted to age or year at conception. The pregnancy rates include an estimate of pregnancies ending in miscarriage, unlike most other pregnancy rates. (Pregnancy rates excluding miscarriages may be calculated from the table by summing the birth and abortion rates.) The number of miscarriages was estimated by a simple formula from the numbers of births and abortions, while the NCHS estimates miscarriages from the National Survey of Family Growth. The denominator used in calculating rates for women under age 15 is the female population aged 14; other sources may use women 10-14, 12-14, or 13-14. The population estimates used as denominators are produced by the Census Bureau for July 1 for each year. The Census Bureau, however, revises its estimates periodically, and the rates may therefore differ slightly from those published elsewhere depending on which Census Bureau report the population estimates were taken from.

We have used the same population denominators as are used by NCHS to calculate fertility rates with the exception of 1980 and 1990, for which the NCHS uses the April 1 census counts rather than the July 1 estimates. Rates for the 1990s will be revised after the Census Bureau publishes new population estimates that take into account the results of the 2000 census.

The birth data for 1999 are preliminary and subject to minor revision.

Table 1. Number of women, number of births, and estimated number of abortions, miscarriages and pregnancies by age at outcome, 1972-1999

Year and age of woman	Female population (thousands)	Births	Legal abortions	Estimated miscarriages	Total pregnancies
Women Aged 14 or Less*					
1972	2,093	12,082	u.	u.	u.
1973	2,094	12,861	11,630	3,740	28,230
1974	2,086	12,529	13,420	3,850	29,800
1975	2,118	12,642	15,260	4,050	31,950
1976	2,080	11,928	15,820	3,960	31,710
1977	2,048	11,455	15,650	3,860	30,970
1978	2,020	10,772	15,110	3,670	29,550
1979	1,944	10,699	16,220	3,760	30,680
1980	1,834	10,169	15,340	3,570	29,080
1981	1,787	9,632	15,240	3,450	28,320
1982	1,748	9,773	14,590	3,410	27,770
1983	1,781	9,752	16,350	3,590	29,690
1984	1,819	9,965	16,920	3,690	30,570
1985	1,853	10,220	16,970	3,740	30,930
1986	1,706	10,176	15,690	3,600	29,470
1987	1,613	10,311	14,270	3,490	28,070
1988	1,573	10,588	13,650	3,480	27,720
1989	1,608	11,486	12,750	3,570	27,810
1990	1,593	11,657	12,580	3,590	27,830
1991	1,661	12,014	12,270	3,630	27,910
1992	1,679	12,220	12,830	3,730	28,780
1993	1,735	12,554	12,450	3,760	28,760
1994	1,828	12,901	12,150	3,800	28,850
1995	1,829	12,242	10,870	3,540	26,650
1996	1,865	11,148	10,410	3,270	24,830
1997	1,864	10,121	9,590	2,980	22,690
1998	1,854	9,462	u.	u.	u.
1999	1,896	9,049	u.	u.	u.
Women Aged 15 to 17					
1972	6,071	236,641	86,140	55,940	378,720
1973	6,185	238,403	104,590	58,140	401,130
1974	6,276	234,177	123,350	59,170	416,700
1975	6,288	227,270	140,520	59,510	427,300
1976	6,319	215,493	152,700	58,370	426,560
1977	6,310	213,788	165,610	59,320	438,720
1978	6,286	202,661	169,270	57,460	429,390
1979	6,200	200,137	178,570	57,880	436,590
1980	6,063	198,222	183,350	57,980	439,550
1981	5,848	187,397	175,930	55,070	418,400
1982	5,618	181,162	168,410	53,070	402,640
1983	5,424	172,673	166,440	51,180	390,290
1984	5,373	166,744	160,900	49,440	377,080
1985	5,409	167,789	165,630	50,120	383,540
1986	5,520	168,572	165,240	50,240	384,050
1987	5,450	172,591	161,120	50,630	384,340
1988	5,251	176,624	158,330	51,160	386,110
1989	4,974	181,044	139,130	50,120	370,290
1990	4,881	183,327	129,820	49,650	362,800
1991	4,860	188,226	118,050	49,450	355,730
1992	4,959	187,549	114,400	48,950	350,900
1993	5,037	190,535	113,340	49,440	353,320
1994	5,188	195,169	110,890	50,120	356,180
1995	5,351	192,508	106,300	49,130	347,940
1996	5,488	185,721	104,240	47,570	337,530
1997	5,616	180,154	97,950	45,830	323,930
1998	5,694	173,231	u.	u.	u.
1999	5,704	163,559	u.	u.	u.

Year and age of woman	Female population (thousands)	Births	Legal abortions	Estimated miscarriages	Total pregnancies
Women Aged 18 to 19					
1972	3,917	379,639	104,860	86,410	570,910
1973	4,008	365,693	127,310	85,870	578,870
1974	4,074	361,272	156,350	87,890	605,510
1975	4,178	354,968	186,260	89,620	630,850
1976	4,263	343,251	209,980	89,650	642,880
1977	4,271	345,366	231,020	92,180	668,570
1978	4,269	340,746	249,520	93,100	683,370
1979	4,297	349,335	266,030	96,470	711,840
1980	4,319	353,939	261,430	96,930	712,300
1981	4,248	339,995	257,400	93,740	691,140
1982	4,191	332,596	250,330	91,550	674,480
1983	4,092	316,613	244,890	87,810	649,310
1984	3,914	302,938	237,970	84,390	625,290
1985	3,765	299,696	233,570	83,300	616,570
1986	3,686	293,333	224,000	81,070	598,400
1987	3,689	289,721	220,520	80,000	590,240
1988	3,778	301,729	234,390	83,780	619,900
1989	3,865	325,459	231,770	88,270	645,500
1990	3,762	338,499	221,150	89,810	649,460
1991	3,510	331,351	196,300	85,900	613,550
1992	3,365	317,866	180,960	81,670	580,500
1993	3,372	310,558	175,330	79,640	565,530
1994	3,392	310,319	165,490	78,610	554,420
1995	3,448	307,365	157,450	77,220	542,040
1996	3,555	305,856	159,650	77,130	542,640
1997	3,625	303,066	156,350	76,250	535,670
1998	3,800	311,664	u.	u.	u.
1999	3,893	312,186	u.	u.	u.
Women aged 15 to 19					
1972	9,988	616,280	191,000	142,350	949,630
1973	10,193	604,096	231,900	144,100	980,000
1974	10,350	595,449	279,700	147,060	1,022,210
1975	10,466	582,238	326,780	149,130	1,058,150
1976	10,582	558,744	362,680	148,020	1,069,440
1977	10,581	559,154	396,630	151,500	1,107,290
1978	10,555	543,407	418,790	150,560	1,112,760
1979	10,497	549,472	444,600	154,350	1,148,430
1980	10,381	552,161	444,780	154,910	1,151,850
1981	10,096	527,392	433,330	148,810	1,109,540
1982	9,809	513,758	418,740	144,620	1,077,120
1983	9,515	489,286	411,330	138,990	1,039,600
1984	9,287	469,682	398,870	133,830	1,002,370
1985	9,174	467,485	399,200	133,420	1,000,110
1986	9,206	461,905	389,240	131,310	982,450
1987	9,139	462,312	381,640	130,630	974,580
1988	9,029	478,353	392,720	134,940	1,006,010
1989	8,840	506,503	370,900	138,390	1,015,790
1990	8,645	521,826	350,970	139,460	1,012,260
1991	8,371	519,577	314,350	135,350	969,280
1992	8,324	505,415	295,360	130,620	931,400
1993	8,410	501,093	288,670	129,080	918,850
1994	8,580	505,488	276,380	128,730	910,600
1995	8,799	499,873	263,750	126,360	889,980
1996	9,043	491,577	263,890	124,700	880,170
1997	9,241	483,220	254,300	122,080	859,600
1998	9,494	484,895	u.	u.	u.
1999	9,597	475,745	u.	u.	u.

Year and age of woman	Female population (thousands)	Births	Legal abortions	Estimated miscarriages	Total pregnancies
Women Under Age 20**					
1972	9,988	628,362	u.	u.	u.
1973	10,193	616,957	243,530	147,750	1,008,230
1974	10,350	607,978	293,120	150,910	1,052,010
1975	10,466	594,880	342,040	153,180	1,090,100
1976	10,582	570,672	378,500	151,980	1,101,150
1977	10,581	570,609	412,280	155,360	1,138,260
1978	10,555	554,179	433,900	154,230	1,142,310
1979	10,497	560,171	460,820	158,110	1,179,110
1980	10,381	562,330	460,120	158,480	1,180,930
1981	10,096	537,024	448,570	152,260	1,137,860
1982	9,809	523,531	433,330	148,030	1,104,890
1983	9,515	499,038	427,680	142,580	1,069,290
1984	9,287	479,647	415,790	137,520	1,032,940
1985	9,174	477,705	416,170	137,160	1,031,040
1986	9,206	472,081	404,930	134,910	1,011,920
1987	9,139	472,623	395,910	134,120	1,002,650
1988	9,029	488,941	406,370	138,420	1,033,730
1989	8,840	517,989	383,650	141,960	1,043,600
1990	8,645	533,483	363,550	143,050	1,040,090
1991	8,371	531,591	326,620	138,980	997,190
1992	8,324	517,635	308,190	134,350	960,180
1993	8,410	513,647	301,120	132,840	947,610
1994	8,580	518,389	288,530	132,530	939,450
1995	8,799	512,115	274,620	129,890	916,630
1996	9,043	502,725	274,300	127,970	905,000
1997	9,241	493,341	263,890	125,060	882,290
1998	9,494	494,357	u.	u.	u.
1999	9,597	484,794	u.	u.	u.
Women Aged 20 to 24					
1972	9,021	1,174,183	u.	u.	u.
1973	9,198	1,101,113	240,610	244,280	1,586,000
1974	9,415	1,108,051	286,600	250,270	1,644,920
1975	9,677	1,093,676	331,640	251,900	1,677,220
1976	9,901	1,091,602	392,280	257,550	1,741,430
1977	10,152	1,146,491	449,660	274,260	1,870,410
1978	10,373	1,139,524	489,410	276,850	1,905,780
1979	10,541	1,188,663	525,710	290,300	2,004,670
1980	10,683	1,226,200	549,410	300,180	2,075,790
1981	10,805	1,212,000	554,940	297,890	2,064,830
1982	10,805	1,205,979	551,680	296,360	2,054,020
1983	10,762	1,160,274	548,130	286,870	1,995,270
1984	10,687	1,141,578	551,110	283,430	1,976,120
1985	10,541	1,141,320	548,020	283,070	1,972,410
1986	10,258	1,102,119	531,380	273,560	1,907,060
1987	9,971	1,075,856	518,290	267,000	1,861,150
1988	9,689	1,067,472	519,600	265,450	1,852,520
1989	9,473	1,077,598	509,420	266,460	1,853,480
1990	9,387	1,093,730	532,480	271,990	1,898,200
1991	9,419	1,089,692	533,280	271,270	1,894,240
1992	9,344	1,070,490	526,490	266,750	1,863,730
1993	9,220	1,038,127	514,050	259,030	1,811,210
1994	9,015	1,001,418	478,130	248,100	1,727,650
1995	8,795	965,547	442,160	237,330	1,645,040
1996	8,561	945,210	433,910	232,430	1,611,550
1997	8,532	942,048	419,950	230,400	1,592,400
1998	8,678	965,122	u.	u.	u.
1999	8,842	981,207	u.	u.	u.

Notes: u. = data unavailable.

*Population is women aged 14. **Population is women aged 15-19.

Table 2. Birth, pregnancy and abortion rates per 1,000 women, by age at pregnancy outcome, 1972-1999

Year and age of woman	Birth rate	Abortion rate	Pregnancy rate
Women Aged 14 or Less*			
1972	5.8	u.	u.
1973	6.1	5.6	13.5
1974	6.0	6.4	14.3
1975	6.0	7.2	15.1
1976	5.7	7.6	15.2
1977	5.6	7.6	15.1
1978	5.3	7.5	14.6
1979	5.5	8.3	15.8
1980	5.5	8.4	15.9
1981	5.4	8.5	15.8
1982	5.6	8.3	15.9
1983	5.5	9.2	16.7
1984	5.5	9.3	16.8
1985	5.5	9.2	16.7
1986	6.0	9.2	17.3
1987	6.4	8.8	17.4
1988	6.7	8.7	17.6
1989	7.1	7.9	17.3
1990	7.3	7.9	17.5
1991	7.2	7.4	16.8
1992	7.3	7.6	17.1
1993	7.2	7.2	16.6
1994	7.1	6.6	15.8
1995	6.7	5.9	14.6
1996	6.0	5.6	13.3
1997	5.4	5.1	12.2
1998	5.1	u.	u.
1999	4.8	u.	u.
Women Aged 15 to 17			
1972	39.0	14.2	62.4
1973	38.5	16.9	64.9
1974	37.3	19.7	66.4
1975	36.1	22.3	68.0
1976	34.1	24.2	67.5
1977	33.9	26.2	69.5
1978	32.2	26.9	68.3
1979	32.3	28.8	70.4
1980	32.7	30.2	72.5
1981	32.0	30.1	71.5
1982	32.2	30.0	71.7
1983	31.8	30.7	72.0
1984	31.0	29.9	70.2
1985	31.0	30.6	70.9
1986	30.5	29.9	69.6
1987	31.7	29.6	70.5
1988	33.6	30.2	73.5
1989	36.4	28.0	74.4
1990	37.6	26.6	74.3
1991	38.7	24.3	73.2
1992	37.8	23.1	70.8
1993	37.8	22.5	70.1
1994	37.6	21.4	68.7
1995	36.0	19.9	65.0
1996	33.8	19.0	61.5
1997	32.1	17.4	57.7
1998	30.4	u.	u.
1999	28.7	u.	u.

Year and age of woman	Birth rate	Abortion rate	Pregnancy rate
Women Aged 18 to 19			
1972	96.9	26.8	145.8
1973	91.2	31.8	144.4
1974	88.7	38.4	148.6
1975	85.0	44.6	151.0
1976	80.5	49.3	150.8
1977	80.9	54.1	156.5
1978	79.8	58.4	160.1
1979	81.3	61.9	165.7
1980	81.9	60.5	164.9
1981	80.0	60.6	162.7
1982	79.4	59.7	160.9
1983	77.4	59.8	158.7
1984	77.4	60.8	159.8
1985	79.6	62.0	163.8
1986	79.6	60.8	162.3
1987	78.5	59.8	160.0
1988	79.9	62.0	164.1
1989	84.2	60.0	167.0
1990	90.0	58.8	172.6
1991	94.4	55.9	174.8
1992	94.5	53.8	172.5
1993	92.1	52.0	167.7
1994	91.5	48.8	163.4
1995	89.1	45.7	157.2
1996	86.0	44.9	152.6
1997	83.6	43.1	147.8
1998	82.0	u.	u.
1999	80.2	u.	u.
Women aged 15 to 19			
1972	61.7	19.1	95.1
1973	59.3	22.8	96.1
1974	57.5	27.0	98.8
1975	55.6	31.2	101.1
1976	52.8	34.3	101.1
1977	52.8	37.5	104.6
1978	51.5	39.7	105.4
1979	52.3	42.4	109.4
1980	53.2	42.8	111.0
1981	52.2	42.9	109.9
1982	52.4	42.7	109.8
1983	51.4	43.2	109.3
1984	50.6	42.9	107.9
1985	51.0	43.5	109.0
1986	50.2	42.3	106.7
1987	50.6	41.8	106.6
1988	53.0	43.5	111.4
1989	57.3	42.0	114.9
1990	60.4	40.6	117.1
1991	62.1	37.6	115.8
1992	60.7	35.5	111.9
1993	59.6	34.3	109.3
1994	58.9	32.2	106.1
1995	56.8	30.0	101.1
1996	54.4	29.2	97.3
1997	52.3	27.5	93.0
1998	51.1	u.	u.
1999	49.6	u.	u.

Year and age of woman	Birth rate	Abortion rate	Pregnancy rate
Women Under Age 20**			
1972	62.9	u.	u.
1973	60.5	23.9	98.9
1974	58.7	28.3	101.6
1975	56.8	32.7	104.2
1976	53.9	35.8	104.1
1977	53.9	39.0	107.6
1978	52.5	41.1	108.2
1979	53.4	43.9	112.3
1980	54.2	44.3	113.8
1981	53.2	44.4	112.7
1982	53.4	44.2	112.6
1983	52.4	44.9	112.4
1984	51.6	44.8	111.2
1985	52.1	45.4	112.4
1986	51.3	44.0	109.9
1987	51.7	43.3	109.7
1988	54.2	45.0	114.5
1989	58.6	43.4	118.1
1990	61.7	42.1	120.3
1991	63.5	39.0	119.1
1992	62.2	37.0	115.4
1993	61.1	35.8	112.7
1994	60.4	33.6	109.5
1995	58.2	31.2	104.2
1996	55.6	30.3	100.1
1997	53.4	28.6	95.5
1998	52.1	u.	u.
1999	50.5	u.	u.
Women Aged 20 to 24			
1972	130.2	u.	u.
1973	119.7	26.2	172.4
1974	117.7	30.4	174.7
1975	113.0	34.3	173.3
1976	110.3	39.6	175.9
1977	112.9	44.3	184.2
1978	109.9	47.2	183.7
1979	112.8	49.9	190.2
1980	114.8	51.4	194.3
1981	112.2	51.4	191.1
1982	111.6	51.1	190.1
1983	107.8	50.9	185.4
1984	106.8	51.6	184.9
1985	108.3	52.0	187.1
1986	107.4	51.8	185.9
1987	107.9	52.0	186.7
1988	110.2	53.6	191.2
1989	113.8	53.8	195.7
1990	116.5	56.7	202.2
1991	115.7	56.6	201.1
1992	114.6	56.3	199.5
1993	112.6	55.8	196.4
1994	111.1	53.0	191.6
1995	109.8	50.3	187.0
1996	110.4	50.7	188.2
1997	110.4	49.2	186.6
1998	111.2	u.	u.
1999	111.0	u.	u.

Notes: u. = data unavailable. Abortion rates for 1997 are preliminary.

*Denominator is women aged 14. **Denominator is women aged 15-19.

Sources

Population

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Miscarriages

Miscarriages are estimated as 20% of live births plus 10% of abortions.

Pregnancies

Pregnancies are the sum of births, abortions and miscarriages.