

Section A

UNPLANNED PREGNANCY IN THE UNITED STATES AMONG ALL WOMEN

KEY DATA FROM SECTION A

- ▲ **Nearly half of all pregnancies in the United States are unplanned (refer to A-1).**
 - ▲ **More than two-thirds of all pregnancies to unmarried women (either cohabiting or not) are unplanned (refer to A-3).**
 - ▲ **More than half of all unplanned pregnancies are to unmarried women under age 30 (refer to A-9).**
 - ▲ **The rate of unplanned pregnancy to women age 15–44 remained unchanged between 1994 and 2001 (refer to A-13).**
- This section will provide an overview of unplanned pregnancy among all women of childbearing age in the United States (age 15–44). Subsequent sections will focus more specifically on unplanned pregnancies to unmarried women age 20–29, and on unplanned pregnancies as reported by men. For the purposes of this report, unplanned pregnancies include those pregnancies reported by women to be mistimed or unwanted (also known as “unintended”). Mistimed pregnancies are reported by women to have occurred earlier than desired, and unwanted pregnancies are reported by women to be unwanted at the time of conception or at any time in the future.
- This section presents four types of key data tables (including numbers and proportions), bullet points, and descriptive charts.
- ▲ Page A-1 provides an overview of all pregnancies in the United States, showing the number and proportion of planned and unplanned pregnancies by pregnancy outcome.
 - ▲ Pages A-2 through A-6 also focus on all pregnancies, and present the proportion of pregnancies that are unplanned vs. planned among specific populations of women. These data allow one to answer questions along the lines of: among all pregnancies to women in their 20s, what proportion are unplanned?
 - ▲ Pages A-7 through A-12 focus just on unplanned pregnancies, and describe the characteristics of women who have an unplanned pregnancy, by mothers’ age, marital status, income, education and race/ethnicity. These data allow one to answer questions such as: among all unplanned pregnancies, what proportion occur to women in their 20s?
 - ▲ Finally, pages A-13 through A-17 focus on all women, and show the rate of unplanned pregnancy among women overall and among various subpopulations of women. That is, the number of unplanned pregnancies that occur per 1,000 women in each population. For example, among all 20-something women, how many of them per 1,000 will have an unplanned birth? Because rates are measured per 1,000 people, they are not influenced by mere population growth and thus are particularly useful for examining changes in how common unplanned pregnancy is over time.
- Each of these statistics tells a different story. For example, while the majority of pregnancies to teens are unplanned, teens do not account for the majority of unplanned pregnancies, and they do not have the highest rates of unplanned pregnancy.