

Section D

BIRTHS RESULTING FROM AN UNPLANNED PREGNANCY AMONG MEN IN THE UNITED STATES

KEY DATA FROM SECTION D

- ▲ More than half (52%) of births to teen boys were the result of an unplanned pregnancy, and 49% of births to young men age 20-24 were the result of an unplanned pregnancy.
- ▲ 58% of all births that result from an unplanned pregnancy were reported by men age 20–29.
- ▲ Approximately four in ten births fathered by non-Hispanic black or Latino men, and approximately one-third of births fathered by non-Hispanic white men were the result of an unplanned pregnancy.
- ▲ The percent of men reporting an unplanned pregnancy followed by a birth is highest among fathers age 25–29.

This section provides an overview of births resulting from an unplanned pregnancy as reported by men of childbearing age (15-44) in the United States. Data about unplanned pregnancy among men are from the National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG), and are limited to those pregnancies that were followed by a live birth (in the five years before the survey). For the purposes of this report, births resulting from an unplanned (also known as “unintended”) pregnancy include those births reported by men to be either mistimed or unwanted. Mistimed births are reported by fathers to have occurred earlier than desired. Unwanted births are reported by fathers to be unwanted at the time of conception or at any time in the future. Note that these findings differ from those reported for women in sections A and B, which focus on pregnancies *overall*, while these findings focus on those *pregnancies which resulted in a birth*. Thus, the findings presented in this section do not include those pregnancies which result in an abortion or miscarriage which account for 44 percent of all unplanned pregnancies. Please also note that these findings refer to those births that occurred in the five years before the survey (conducted in 2002), and do not refer to births on an annual basis.

This section presents three types of key data tables (including numbers and proportions), bullet points, and descriptive charts.

- ▲ Charts D-1 through D-6 present the proportion of births that result from an unplanned vs. planned pregnancy among specific populations of men. For example, these charts allow one to answer questions along the lines of: among all births to men in their 20s, what proportion of them are the result of an unplanned pregnancy?
- ▲ Charts D-7 to D-12 describe the characteristics of men who have fathered a child as the result of an unplanned pregnancy, by fathers’ age, marital status, income, education, and race/ethnicity. For example, these charts allow one to answer questions such as: among all births that were the result of an unplanned pregnancy, what proportion of them are fathered by unmarried men?
- ▲ Finally, Charts D-13 to D-16 show the percent of men reporting an unplanned pregnancy and subsequent birth. In other words, among all men, what percent fathered a child as a result of an unplanned pregnancy? These results are also shown for subgroups of men by age, marital status, income and race/ethnicity. When multiplied by ten, these results approximate a rate birth following unplanned pregnancy per 1,000 men; however the reader should be careful to note that rates for men have not been officially tabulated.

Each of these statistics tells a different story. For example, while the majority of births fathered by teen boys result from an unplanned pregnancy, teen boys do not account for the majority of unplanned pregnancies.