

Section F

PARENTS WHO REPORT AN UNPLANNED PREGNANCY AND BIRTH—AGREEMENT ON PREGNANCY INTENTIONS

HIGHLIGHTS

- ▲ Just over half of all pregnancies ending in a live birth were unplanned by either the mother, the father, or both parents. This proportion rises to nearly three-quarters among cohabiting couples and over nine in ten among parents who were neither married nor cohabiting.
- ▲ These data indicate that many couples do not agree about whether or not the child was the result of a planned pregnancy. Regardless of race/ethnicity, approximately one-third of couples overall disagree about the planning status of pregnancies that resulted in a live birth, with the highest proportion of disagreement occurring among cohabiting couples.

Previous sections of this chart book focus on the prevalence of unplanned pregnancy in the United States. This section turns to parents' intentions specifically, and their agreement or disagreement on whether the pregnancy was planned. The data in these charts are based on analyses conducted by Child Trends Inc. of the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study—Birth Cohort, a nationally representative survey of 14,000 children born in the year 2001.

The findings in this section reflect data gathered from both the mother and the father of each child in the sample, and results are presented for four possible planning categories—both parents planned, neither parent planned, mother planned but not father, and father planned but not mother. Note that all of these findings refer to pregnancies which resulted in a live birth, and only include those births for which father data are reported, or about three-quarters of the sample. It is reasonable to assume that those births for which no father reports are available are more likely to have resulted from unplanned pregnancies, either as reported by the father, the mother or both.