

# Section

# G

## STABILITY OF PARENT RELATIONSHIPS FOLLOWING AN UNPLANNED PREGNANCY AND BIRTH

### HIGHLIGHTS

- ▲ Most women who report having an unplanned pregnancy followed by a birth were unmarried at the time of conception, and over half remained unmarried two years after the birth of their child.
- ▲ Mothers who report an unplanned pregnancy followed by a birth also reported high levels of relationship instability in the two years following the birth, net of other background characteristics.
- ▲ Father's reports of pregnancy intention are also associated with relationship stability, particularly among cohabiting couples. However, in analyses that control for mother's reports of pregnancy intention as well, the role of fathers' intentions becomes minimal.

This section focuses on relationship stability among parents following an unplanned pregnancy and birth. The data in these charts are based on analyses conducted by Child Trends Inc. using data from the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study—Birth Cohort.

The findings pertaining to mothers' intentions reflect all births within the survey, whereas the findings pertaining to fathers' intentions reflect only the subset of births for whom the father could be located and who agreed to participate in the survey—75% of the total sample. Note that all of these findings refer to pregnancies that resulted in a live birth rather than all pregnancies.

In addition to presenting the overall reports of relationship stability among parents having an unplanned or planned pregnancy and birth, estimates of the predictive probabilities from multivariate models are presented as well in order to provide more information about how much of the difference between the two groups is attributable to pregnancy planning status.