

# Section H

## RELATIONSHIP QUALITY OF PARENTS WHO REPORT AN UNPLANNED PREGNANCY AND BIRTH

### HIGHLIGHTS

- ▲ Among couples who remained together after the birth, both mothers and fathers reported significantly lower relationship happiness if at least one member of the couple did not plan the pregnancy compared to those couples who both agreed that the pregnancy was planned, net of other background characteristics.
- ▲ Relationship conflict, reported by both mothers and fathers, was also significantly higher if at least one member of the couple reported that the birth followed an unplanned pregnancy compared to those couples who agree that the pregnancy was planned, net of other background characteristics.

This section turns to the quality of the relationship between the parents who have a child following an unplanned pregnancy and how the quality changes over time. The findings 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 measures of relationship quality are limited to those parents who remain a couple, and reflect pregnancy intentions of both the mother and the father of each child. Thus, results for several of the charts and tables are presented for four possible intentional categories—both parents planned the pregnancy, neither parent planned the pregnancy, mother planned but not father, and father planned but not mother. Note that all of these findings refer to pregnancies that resulted in a live birth.

In addition to presenting the overall reports of relationship quality 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 versus other differences between parents who have planned and unplanned pregnancies.