

# Section C

## RESOLUTION OF UNPLANNED PREGNANCIES

### KEY DATA FROM SECTION C

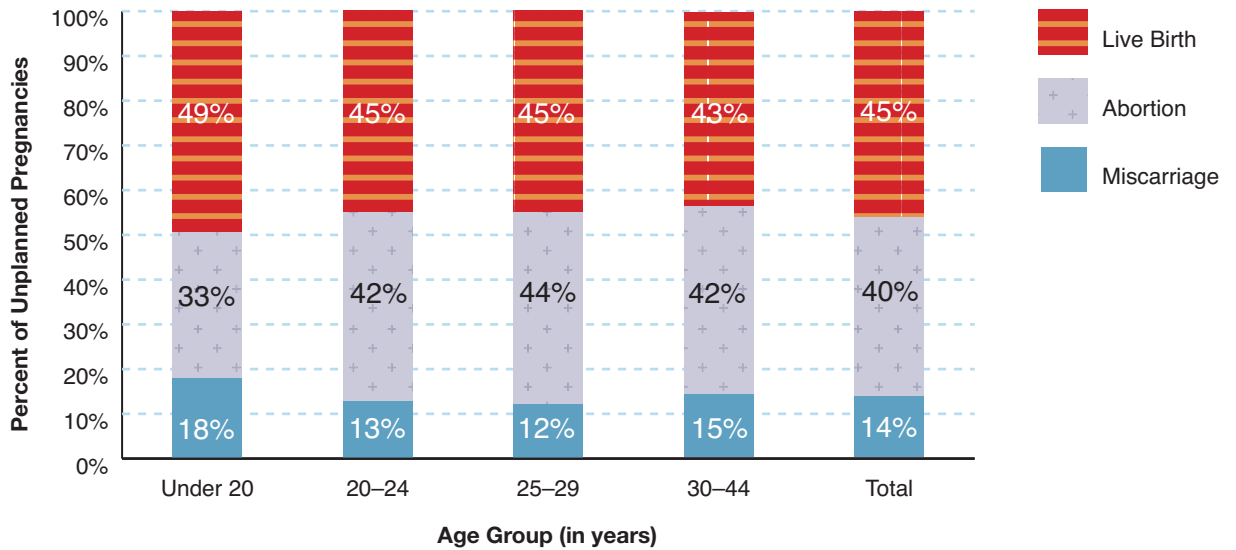
- ▲ Four in ten unplanned pregnancies to all women (age 15–44) end in abortion. Unplanned pregnancies to teens (age <20) are the least likely to end in abortion compared to women in other age groups, and unplanned pregnancies to women age 25–29 are the most likely to end in abortion compared to women in other age groups (refer to C-1).
- ▲ Unplanned pregnancies to married women are much more likely to end in a live birth compared to unplanned pregnancies to unmarried women (refer to C-2).
- ▲ Unplanned pregnancies are more likely to end in abortion among women with higher levels of income and with at least some college education compared to women with other levels of income and education (refer to C-4 through C-5).

The previous two sections provided data on the prevalence and characteristics of unplanned pregnancy in the United States. This section provides information on the outcomes associated with unplanned pregnancy. More specifically, the tables and charts that follow focus on how unplanned pregnancies lead to a birth, to a miscarriage, or to an abortion. As in previous sections, unplanned pregnancies are defined as those pregnancies reported by women to be unwanted or mistimed (also known as “unintended”).

- ▲ Charts C-1 and C-2 focus on unplanned pregnancies to all women, while Charts C-3 through C-6 focus just on unplanned pregnancies among unmarried women in their 20’s.

## C-1. Resolution of Unplanned Pregnancies Among All Women by Age Group, 2001<sup>1</sup>

- ▲ Teen girls (age <20) are more likely than women in other age groups to carry an unplanned pregnancy to term—49% of unplanned pregnancies to teen girls result in a live birth.
- ▲ One-third of unplanned pregnancies among teen girls end with an abortion, compared to four in ten pregnancies among women overall.

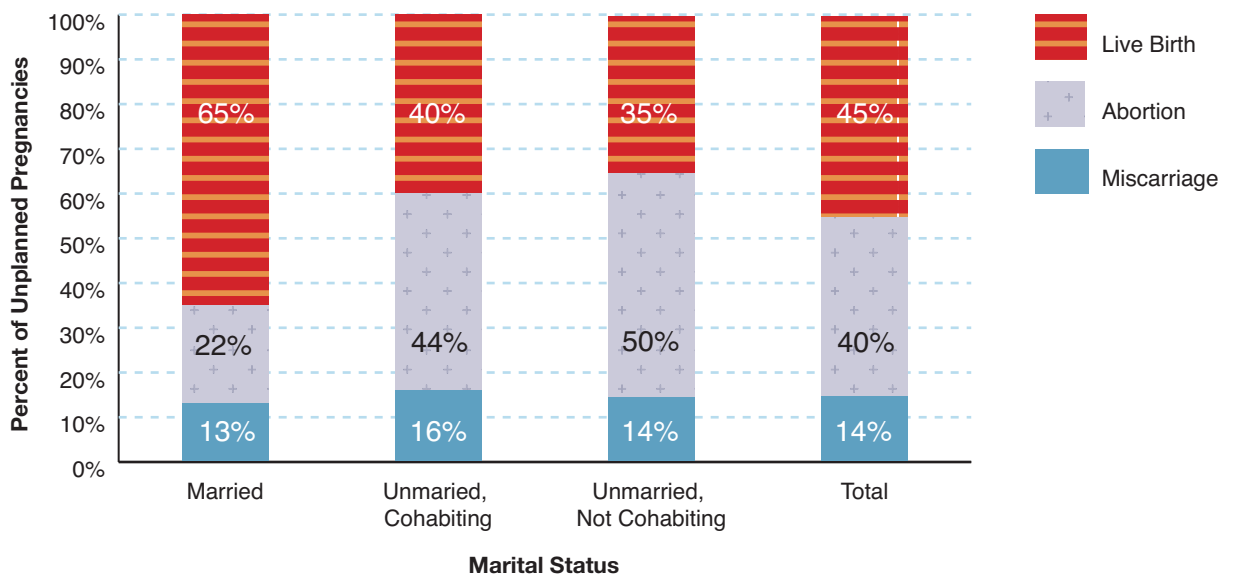


Resolution of Unplanned Pregnancies Among All Women by Age Group, 2001				
Age Group	Number (and percent) of Unplanned Pregnancies Ending in a Live Birth	Number (and percent) of Unplanned Pregnancies Ending in Abortion	Number (and percent) of Unplanned Pregnancies Ending in Miscarriage	Total Number of Unplanned Pregnancies
<20 Years	346,000 (49%)	230,000 (33%)	126,000 (18%)	702,000 (100%)
20-24 Years	434,000 (45%)	409,000 (42%)	121,000 (13%)	965,000 (100%)
25-29 Years	290,000 (45%)	282,000 (44%)	75,000 (12%)	646,000 (100%)
30-44 Years	289,000 (43%)	285,000 (42%)	104,000 (15%)	677,000 (100%)
Total	1,359,000 (45%)	1,205,000 (40%)	426,000 (14%)	2,990,000 (100%)

1. Source: Special Tabulations, commissioned by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy, of data from Finer, LB and Henshaw, SK (2006). Disparities in Rates of Unintended Pregnancy in the United States, 1994 and 2001. *Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health*, 38 (2):90-96.

## C-2. Resolution of Unplanned Pregnancy Among All Women by Marital Status, 2001<sup>2</sup>

- ▲ A majority of unplanned pregnancies to married women result in a live birth (65%). However, it is still the case that more than one in five unplanned pregnancies to married women end in abortion.
- ▲ Unmarried women, both those women in a cohabiting relationship and those not in a cohabiting relationship, are much less likely than married women to carry their unplanned pregnancy to term. In fact, half of all unplanned pregnancies to women who are unmarried and not cohabiting end in abortion, and more than four in ten unplanned pregnancies (44%) to cohabiting women end in abortion.

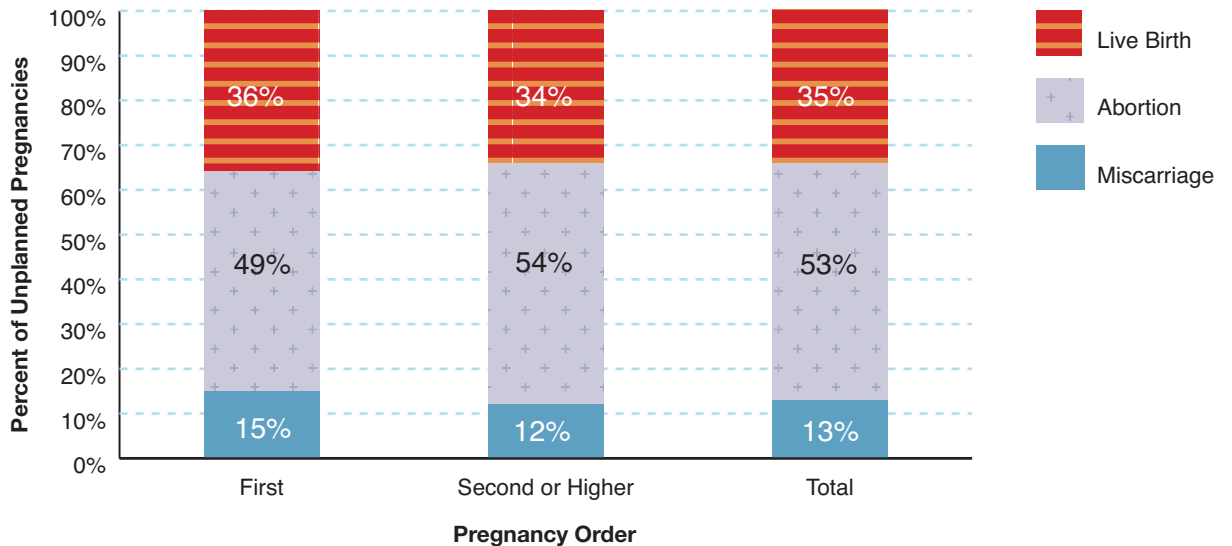


Resolution of Unplanned Pregnancies Among All Women by Marital Status, 2001				
Marital Status	Number (and percent) of Unplanned Pregnancies Ending in a Live Birth	Number (and percent) of Unplanned Pregnancies Ending in Abortion	Number (and percent) of Unplanned Pregnancies Ending in Miscarriage	Total Number of Unplanned Pregnancies
Married	585,000 (65%)	193,000 (22%)	115,000 (13%)	893,000 (100%)
Unmarried, Cohabiting	283,000 (40%)	313,000 (44%)	116,000 (16%)	711,000 (100%)
Unmarried, Not Cohabiting	491,000 (35%)	699,000 (50%)	195,000 (14%)	1,385,000 (100%)
Total	1,359,000 (45%)	1,205,000 (40%)	426,000 (14%)	2,990,000 (100%)

2. Source: Special Tabulations, commissioned by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy, of data from Finer, LB and Henshaw, SK (2006). Disparities in Rates of Unintended Pregnancy in the United States, 1994 and 2001. *Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health*, 38 (2):90-96.

### C-3. Resolution of Unplanned Pregnancies Among Unmarried Women Age 20–29 by Pregnancy Order, 2001<sup>3</sup>

- ▲ Approximately one-third (35%) of all unplanned pregnancies to unmarried 20-somethings result in a live birth, and more than half end in abortion.
- ▲ Among unmarried 20-somethings, the proportion of first pregnancies that are unplanned and result in a birth is very similar to the proportion of second and later pregnancies that are unplanned and result in a birth (36% versus 34%).

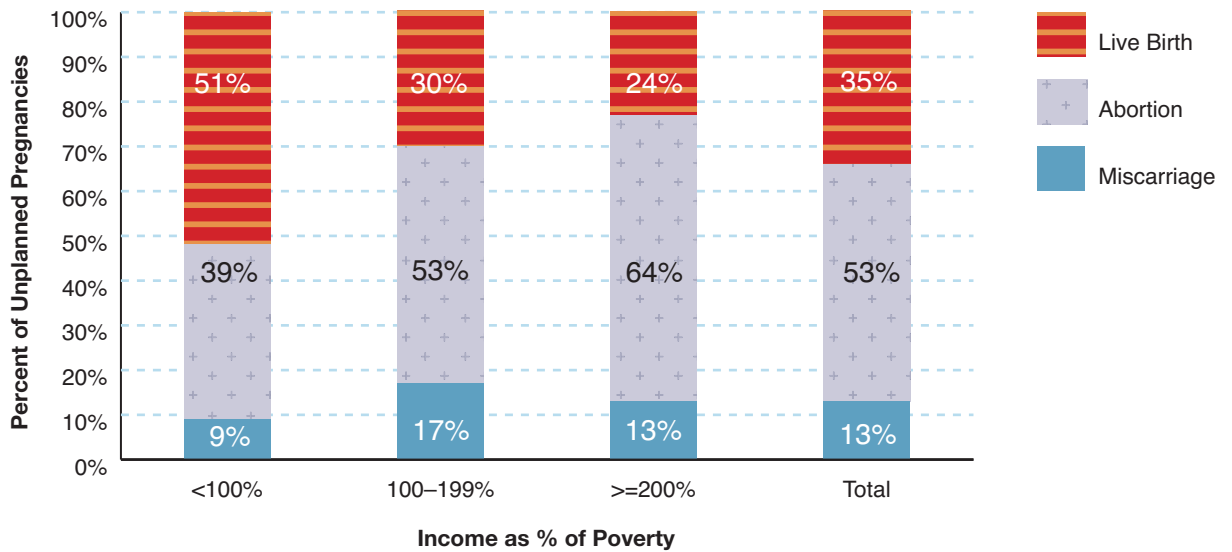


Resolution of Unplanned Pregnancies Among Unmarried Women Age 20–29 by Pregnancy Order, 2001				
Pregnancy Order	Number (and percent) of Unplanned Pregnancies Ending in a Live Birth	Number (and percent) of Unplanned Pregnancies Ending in Abortion	Number (and percent) of Unplanned Pregnancies Ending in Miscarriage	Total Number of Unplanned Pregnancies
First	113,000 (36%)	156,000 (49%)	48,000 (15%)	317,000 (100%)
Second or Higher	281,000 (34%)	439,000 (54%)	95,000 (12%)	814,000 (100%)
Total	393,000 (35%)	595,000 (53%)	143,000 (13%)	1,131,000 (100%)

3. Source: Special Tabulations, commissioned by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy, of data from Finer, LB and Henshaw, SK (2006). Disparities in Rates of Unintended Pregnancy in the United States, 1994 and 2001. *Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health*, 38 (2):90-96.

### C-4. Resolution of Unplanned Pregnancies Among Unmarried Women Age 20–29 by Income (as a % of Poverty), 2001<sup>4</sup>

- More than half (51%) of unplanned pregnancies to women with incomes less than 100 percent of the federal poverty threshold end in a live birth, and less than four in ten end in abortion. (Note that in 2007, the federal poverty threshold was defined as \$10,787 for one person under age 65 years<sup>5</sup>).
- Nearly two-thirds (64%) of unplanned pregnancies to women with incomes equal to or greater than 200 percent of the federal poverty threshold end in abortion, and approximately one-quarter result in a live birth.



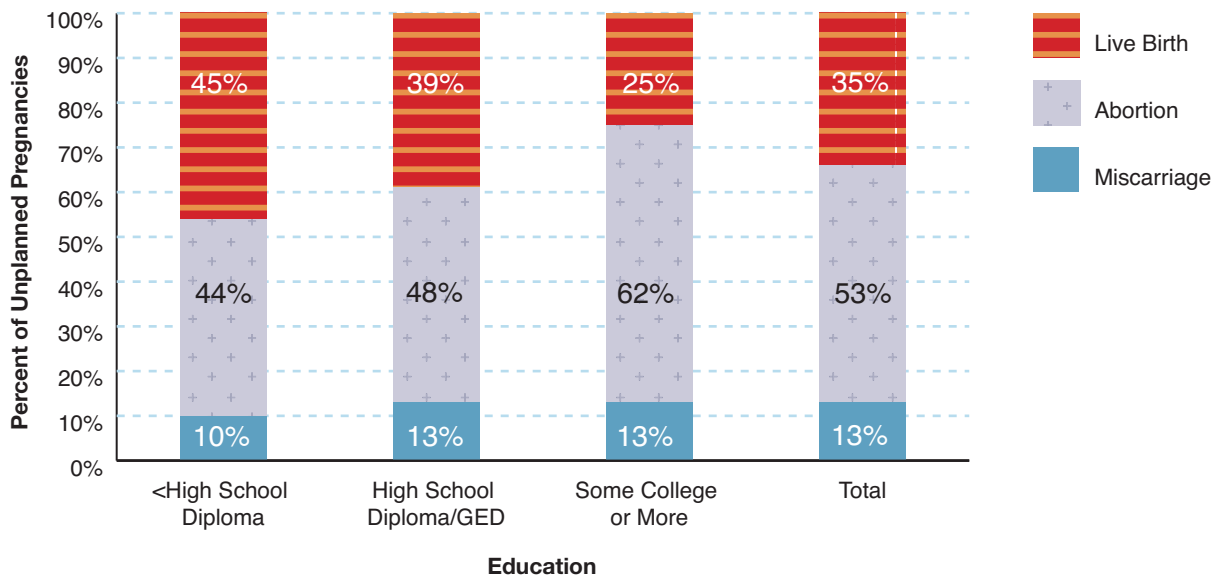
Resolution of Unplanned Pregnancies Among Unmarried Women Age 20–29 by Income (as a % of Poverty), 2001				
Income as % of Poverty	Number (and percent) of Unplanned Pregnancies Ending in a Live Birth	Number (and percent) of Unplanned Pregnancies Ending in Abortion	Number (and percent) of Unplanned Pregnancies Ending in Miscarriage	Total Number of Unplanned Pregnancies
<100%	189,000 (51%)	145,000 (39%)	34,000 (9%)	368,000 (100%)
100–199%	107,000 (30%)	188,000 (53%)	56,000 (17%)	352,000 (100%)
>=200%	97,000 (24%)	262,000 (64%)	53,000 (13%)	411,000 (100%)
Total	393,000 (35%)	595,000 (53%)	143,000 (13%)	1,131,000 (100%)

4. Source: Special Tabulations, commissioned by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy, of data from Finer, LB and Henshaw, SK (2006). Disparities in Rates of Unintended Pregnancy in the United States, 1994 and 2001. *Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health*, 38 (2):90-96.

5. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Housing and Household Economic Statistics Division, Poverty Thresholds for 2007 by Size of Family and Number of Related Children Under 18 Years. Downloaded May 30, 2008 from <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/threshld/thresh07.html>

## C-5. Resolution of Unplanned Pregnancies Among Unmarried Women Age 20–29 by Education, 2001<sup>6</sup>

- ▲ One-quarter of unplanned pregnancies to unmarried 20-somethings who have at least some college education end in a live birth, and more than six in ten unplanned pregnancies to this group end in abortion (62%).
- ▲ Approximately four in ten unplanned pregnancies to unmarried 20-somethings (39%) who have either graduated from high school or have completed their GED end in a live birth.
- ▲ Nearly half of unplanned pregnancies to unmarried 20-somethings who have not graduated from high school end in a live birth (45%).

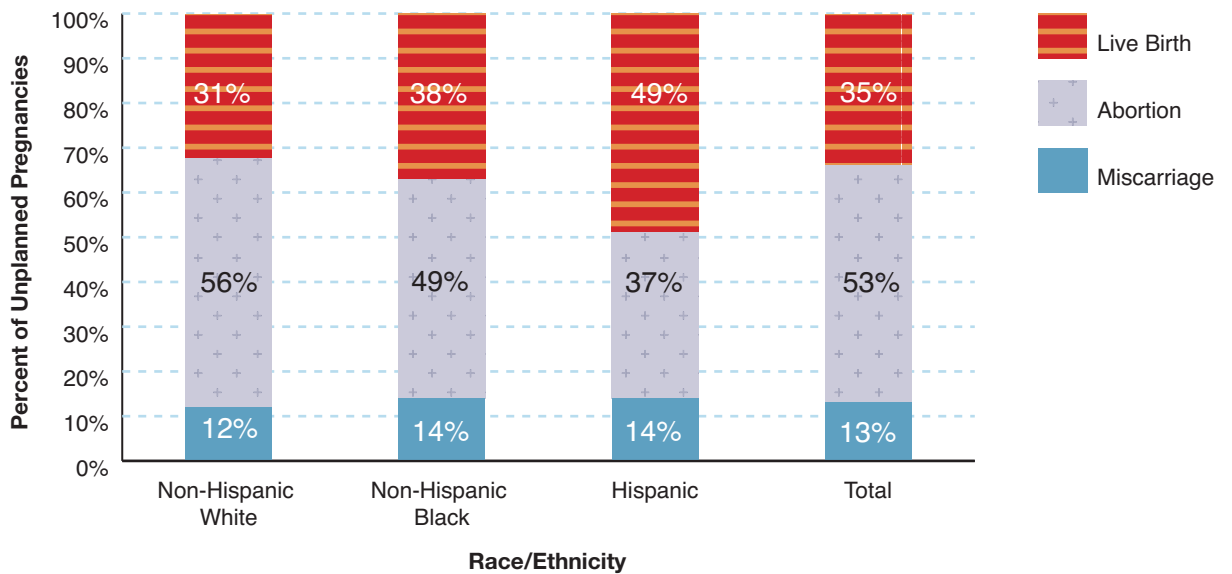


Resolution of Unplanned Pregnancies Among Unmarried Women Age 20–29 by Education, 2001				
Education Level	Number (and percent) of Unplanned Pregnancies Ending in a Live Birth	Number (and percent) of Unplanned Pregnancies Ending in Abortion	Number (and percent) of Unplanned Pregnancies Ending in Miscarriage	Total Number of Unplanned Pregnancies
<High School Diploma	119,000 (45%)	117,000 (44%)	27,000 (10%)	263,000 (100%)
High School Diploma/GED	162,000 (39%)	201,000 (48%)	56,000 (13%)	419,000 (100%)
Some college or More	112,000 (25%)	277,000 (62%)	60,000 (13%)	449,000 (100%)
Total	393,000 (35%)	595,000 (53%)	143,000 (13%)	1,131,000 (100%)

6. Source: Special Tabulations, commissioned by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy, of data from Finer, LB and Henshaw, SK (2006). Disparities in Rates of Unintended Pregnancy in the United States, 1994 and 2001. *Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health*, 38 (2):90-96.

## C-6. Resolution of Unplanned Pregnancies Among Unmarried Women Age 20–29 by Race/Ethnicity, 2001<sup>7</sup>

- ▲ Close to half (49%) of unplanned pregnancies to unmarried 20-something Latinas result in a live birth, compared to 38% of unplanned pregnancies to non-Hispanic black 20-somethings, and 31% of unplanned pregnancies to non-Hispanic white 20-somethings.
- ▲ More than half (56%) of unplanned pregnancies to unmarried non-Hispanic white 20-somethings end in abortion.



Resolution of Unplanned Pregnancies Among Unmarried Women Age 20–29 by Race/Ethnicity, 2001				
Race/Ethnicity	Number (and percent) of Unplanned Pregnancies Ending in a Live Birth	Number (and percent) of Unplanned Pregnancies Ending in Abortion	Number (and percent) of Unplanned Pregnancies Ending in Miscarriage	Total Number of Unplanned Pregnancies
Non-Hispanic White	163,000 (31%)	291,000 (56%)	64,000 (12%)	518,000 (100%)
Non-Hispanic Black	128,000 (38%)	167,000 (49%)	47,000 (14%)	341,000 (100%)
Hispanic	90,000 (49%)	67,000 (37%)	26,000 (14%)	183,000 (100%)
Total	393,000 (35%)	595,000 (53%)	143,000 (13%)	1,131,000 (100%)

7. Source: Special Tabulations, commissioned by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy, of data from Finer, LB and Henshaw, SK (2006). Disparities in Rates of Unintended Pregnancy in the United States, 1994 and 2001. *Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health*, 38 (2):90-96.