

**U.S. Teenage Pregnancy Statistics
With Comparative Statistics for Women Aged 20–24**

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Notes on U.S. Teenage Pregnancy Statistics

The data in these tables come from the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (number of births); The Alan Guttmacher Institute (AGI—total number of abortions); the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (age distribution of women obtaining abortions); and the U.S. Bureau of the Census (population estimates). The exact sources are listed after the tables. We have adjusted the age distributions of women obtaining abortions to ensure year-to-year comparability; for a description of the methodology, see S.K. Henshaw and J. Van Vort, eds., *Abortion Factbook, 1992 Edition: Readings, Trends, and State and Local Data to 1988*, New York: AGI, 1992, p. 162.

Please note that in these tables, “age” refers to the woman’s age at which the pregnancy ended, not the age at which she became pregnant or decided between having an abortion and carrying the pregnancy to term. Consequently, actual numbers of pregnancies among teenagers are higher than those reported here, because most of the 19-year-old women who were pregnant had their births or abortions at age 20 and, thus, were not counted as teenagers.* Likewise, please note that “year” refers to the calendar year in which the birth or abortion occurred, not the year in which the conception occurred.

Some of the figures differ from those previously published by AGI, because we have recalculated rates of birth, abortion and pregnancy for the 1990s using population estimates that take into account the 2000 census, we have revised the total number of abortions for years 1993 through 1998, and we have used the finalized numbers of births in 1999.

The figures may differ from those found in other sources. Firstly, as explained above, these data are not adjusted to reflect the woman’s age at conception or the year in which she conceived. Secondly, unlike most other reports, this one includes estimated numbers and rates of pregnancy ending in miscarriage. (Pregnancy rates excluding miscarriages can be calculated from the tables by summing the rates of birth and abortion.) We estimate the number of miscarriages using a simple formula based on the number of live births and abortions, whereas NCHS estimates it from the National Survey of Family Growth. Thirdly, the denominator used in calculating rates among women younger than 15 is the female population aged 14; other sources may use women aged 10–14, 12–14 or 13–14. Finally, denominators are based on population estimates that are produced by the Bureau of the Census for July 1 each year and revised periodically; hence, our rates may differ slightly from those published elsewhere, depending on which census report was used. In our calculations of birth rates, we have used the same population denominators as those used by NCHS, with the exception of 1980, 1990 and 2000, for which NCHS uses the April 1 census counts and we use the July 1 estimates.

*For an estimate of the number of pregnancies at women’s age of conception, see S.K. Henshaw et al., A Portrait of American Women Who Obtain Abortions, *Family Planning Perspectives*, 1985, 17(2):90, Table 6, and S.K. Henshaw et al., Characteristics of U.S. Women Having Abortions, 1987, *Family Planning Perspectives*, 1991, 23(2):75, Table 4.

Table 1. Number of women, number of births, and estimated number of abortions, miscarriages, pregnancies by age at outcome, 1972-2001

Year and age of woman	Female population (thousands)	Births	Legal abortions	Estimated miscarriages	Total pregnancies
Women Aged 14 or Younger*					
1972	2,093	12,082	u.	u.	u.
1973	2,094	12,861	11,630	3,740	28,230
1974	2,086	12,529	13,420	3,850	29,800
1975	2,118	12,642	15,260	4,050	31,950
1976	2,080	11,928	15,820	3,960	31,710
1977	2,048	11,455	15,650	3,860	30,970
1978	2,020	10,772	15,110	3,670	29,550
1979	1,944	10,699	16,220	3,760	30,680
1980	1,834	10,169	15,340	3,570	29,080
1981	1,787	9,632	15,240	3,450	28,320
1982	1,748	9,773	14,590	3,410	27,770
1983	1,781	9,752	16,350	3,590	29,690
1984	1,819	9,965	16,920	3,690	30,570
1985	1,853	10,220	16,970	3,740	30,930
1986	1,706	10,176	15,690	3,600	29,470
1987	1,613	10,311	14,270	3,490	28,070
1988	1,573	10,588	13,650	3,480	27,720
1989	1,608	11,486	12,750	3,570	27,810
1990	1,589	11,657	12,580	3,590	27,830
1991	1,670	12,014	12,270	3,630	27,910
1992	1,694	12,220	12,830	3,730	28,780
1993	1,756	12,554	12,410	3,750	28,710
1994	1,855	12,901	12,080	3,790	28,770
1995	1,860	12,242	10,830	3,530	26,600
1996	1,910	11,148	10,360	3,270	24,780
1997	1,919	10,121	9,640	2,990	22,750
1998	1,890	9,462	9,360	2,830	21,650
1999	1,957	9,049	8,720	2,680	20,450
2000	1,967	8,519	u.	u.	u.
2001	1,982	7,781	u.	u.	u.
Women Aged 15 to 17					
1972	6,071	236,641	86,140	55,940	378,720
1973	6,185	238,403	104,590	58,140	401,130
1974	6,276	234,177	123,350	59,170	416,700
1975	6,288	227,270	140,520	59,510	427,300
1976	6,319	215,493	152,700	58,370	426,560
1977	6,310	213,788	165,610	59,320	438,720
1978	6,286	202,661	169,270	57,460	429,390
1979	6,200	200,137	178,570	57,880	436,590
1980	6,063	198,222	183,350	57,980	439,550
1981	5,848	187,397	175,930	55,070	418,400
1982	5,618	181,162	168,410	53,070	402,640
1983	5,424	172,673	166,440	51,180	390,290
1984	5,373	166,744	160,900	49,440	377,080
1985	5,409	167,789	165,630	50,120	383,540
1986	5,520	168,572	165,240	50,240	384,050
1987	5,450	172,591	161,120	50,630	384,340
1988	5,251	176,624	158,330	51,160	386,110
1989	4,974	181,044	139,130	50,120	370,290
1990	4,888	183,327	129,820	49,650	362,800
1991	4,882	188,226	118,050	49,450	355,730
1992	4,993	187,549	114,400	48,950	350,900
1993	5,086	190,535	112,960	49,400	352,900
1994	5,249	195,169	110,280	50,060	355,510
1995	5,424	192,508	105,970	49,100	347,580
1996	5,582	185,721	103,810	47,530	337,060
1997	5,732	180,154	98,460	45,880	324,490
1998	5,790	173,231	94,810	44,130	312,170
1999	5,811	163,559	88,420	41,550	293,530
2000	5,846	157,209	u.	u.	u.
2001	5,892	145,324	u.	u.	u.

Year and age of woman	Female population (thousands)	Births	Legal abortions	Estimated miscarriages	Total pregnancies
Women Aged 18 to 19					
1972	3,917	379,639	104,860	86,410	570,910
1973	4,008	365,693	127,310	85,870	578,870
1974	4,074	361,272	156,350	87,890	605,510
1975	4,178	354,968	186,260	89,620	630,850
1976	4,263	343,251	209,980	89,650	642,880
1977	4,271	345,366	231,020	92,180	668,570
1978	4,269	340,746	249,520	93,100	683,370
1979	4,297	349,335	266,030	96,470	711,840
1980	4,319	353,939	261,430	96,930	712,300
1981	4,248	339,995	257,400	93,740	691,140
1982	4,191	332,596	250,330	91,550	674,480
1983	4,092	316,613	244,890	87,810	649,310
1984	3,914	302,938	237,970	84,390	625,290
1985	3,765	299,696	233,570	83,300	616,570
1986	3,686	293,333	224,000	81,070	598,400
1987	3,689	289,721	220,520	80,000	590,240
1988	3,778	301,729	234,390	83,780	619,900
1989	3,865	325,459	231,770	88,270	645,500
1990	3,768	338,499	221,150	89,810	649,460
1991	3,526	331,351	196,300	85,900	613,550
1992	3,395	317,866	180,960	81,670	580,500
1993	3,410	310,558	174,750	79,590	564,900
1994	3,440	310,319	164,560	78,520	553,400
1995	3,505	307,365	156,960	77,170	541,500
1996	3,611	305,856	159,000	77,070	541,930
1997	3,693	303,066	157,180	76,330	536,580
1998	3,851	311,664	153,870	77,720	543,250
1999	3,951	312,186	152,520	77,690	542,400
2000	3,979	311,781	u.	u.	u.
2001	3,951	300,620	u.	u.	u.
Women aged 15 to 19					
1972	9,988	616,280	191,000	142,350	949,630
1973	10,193	604,096	231,900	144,100	980,000
1974	10,350	595,449	279,700	147,060	1,022,210
1975	10,466	582,238	326,780	149,130	1,058,150
1976	10,582	558,744	362,680	148,020	1,069,440
1977	10,581	559,154	396,630	151,500	1,107,290
1978	10,555	543,407	418,790	150,560	1,112,760
1979	10,497	549,472	444,600	154,350	1,148,430
1980	10,381	552,161	444,780	154,910	1,151,850
1981	10,096	527,392	433,330	148,810	1,109,540
1982	9,809	513,758	418,740	144,620	1,077,120
1983	9,515	489,286	411,330	138,990	1,039,600
1984	9,287	469,682	398,870	133,830	1,002,370
1985	9,174	467,485	399,200	133,420	1,000,110
1986	9,206	461,905	389,240	131,310	982,450
1987	9,139	462,312	381,640	130,630	974,580
1988	9,029	478,353	392,720	134,940	1,006,010
1989	8,840	506,503	370,900	138,390	1,015,790
1990	8,656	521,826	350,970	139,460	1,012,260
1991	8,407	519,577	314,350	135,350	969,280
1992	8,389	505,415	295,360	130,620	931,400
1993	8,496	501,093	287,710	128,990	917,800
1994	8,689	505,488	274,840	128,580	908,910
1995	8,929	499,873	262,930	126,270	889,080
1996	9,193	491,577	262,810	124,600	878,990
1997	9,425	483,220	255,640	122,210	861,070
1998	9,641	484,895	248,680	121,850	855,420
1999	9,762	475,745	240,940	119,240	835,930
2000	9,826	468,990	u.	u.	u.
2001	9,844	445,944	u.	u.	u.

Year and age of woman	Female population (thousands)	Births	Legal abortions	Estimated miscarriages	Total pregnancies
Women Younger Than 20**					
1972	9,988	628,362	u.	u.	u.
1973	10,193	616,957	243,530	147,750	1,008,230
1974	10,350	607,978	293,120	150,910	1,052,010
1975	10,466	594,880	342,040	153,180	1,090,100
1976	10,582	570,672	378,500	151,980	1,101,150
1977	10,581	570,609	412,280	155,360	1,138,260
1978	10,555	554,179	433,900	154,230	1,142,310
1979	10,497	560,171	460,820	158,110	1,179,110
1980	10,381	562,330	460,120	158,480	1,180,930
1981	10,096	537,024	448,570	152,260	1,137,860
1982	9,809	523,531	433,330	148,030	1,104,890
1983	9,515	499,038	427,680	142,580	1,069,290
1984	9,287	479,647	415,790	137,520	1,032,940
1985	9,174	477,705	416,170	137,160	1,031,040
1986	9,206	472,081	404,930	134,910	1,011,920
1987	9,139	472,623	395,910	134,120	1,002,650
1988	9,029	488,941	406,370	138,420	1,033,730
1989	8,840	517,989	383,650	141,960	1,043,600
1990	8,656	533,483	363,550	143,050	1,040,090
1991	8,407	531,591	326,620	138,980	997,190
1992	8,389	517,635	308,190	134,350	960,180
1993	8,496	513,647	300,120	132,740	946,510
1994	8,689	518,389	286,920	132,370	937,680
1995	8,929	512,115	273,760	129,800	915,680
1996	9,193	502,725	273,170	127,870	903,770
1997	9,425	493,341	265,280	125,200	883,820
1998	9,641	494,357	258,040	124,680	877,070
1999	9,762	484,794	249,660	121,920	856,380
2000	9,826	477,509	u.	u.	u.
2001	9,844	453,725	u.	u.	u.
Women Aged 20 to 24					
1972	9,021	1,174,183	u.	u.	u.
1973	9,198	1,101,113	240,610	244,280	1,586,000
1974	9,415	1,108,051	286,600	250,270	1,644,920
1975	9,677	1,093,676	331,640	251,900	1,677,220
1976	9,901	1,091,602	392,280	257,550	1,741,430
1977	10,152	1,146,491	449,660	274,260	1,870,410
1978	10,373	1,139,524	489,410	276,850	1,905,780
1979	10,541	1,188,663	525,710	290,300	2,004,670
1980	10,683	1,226,200	549,410	300,180	2,075,790
1981	10,805	1,212,000	554,940	297,890	2,064,830
1982	10,805	1,205,979	551,680	296,360	2,054,020
1983	10,762	1,160,274	548,130	286,870	1,995,270
1984	10,687	1,141,578	551,110	283,430	1,976,120
1985	10,541	1,141,320	548,020	283,070	1,972,410
1986	10,258	1,102,119	531,380	273,560	1,907,060
1987	9,971	1,075,856	518,290	267,000	1,861,150
1988	9,689	1,067,472	519,600	265,450	1,852,520
1989	9,473	1,077,598	509,420	266,460	1,853,480
1990	9,396	1,093,730	532,480	271,990	1,898,200
1991	9,451	1,089,692	533,280	271,270	1,894,240
1992	9,417	1,070,490	526,490	266,750	1,863,730
1993	9,328	1,038,127	512,340	258,860	1,809,330
1994	9,168	1,001,418	475,450	247,830	1,724,700
1995	8,986	965,547	440,780	237,190	1,643,520
1996	8,770	945,210	432,130	232,260	1,609,600
1997	8,781	942,048	422,170	230,630	1,594,850
1998	8,901	965,122	418,030	234,830	1,617,980
1999	9,099	981,207	422,550	238,500	1,642,260
2000	9,355	1,017,806	u.	u.	u.
2001	9,619	1,021,627	u.	u.	u.

Notes: u. = data unavailable.

*Population is women aged 14. **Population is women aged 15-19.

**Table 2. Birth, pregnancy and abortion rates per 1,000 women,
by age at pregnancy outcome, 1972-2001**

Year and age of woman	Birth rate	Abortion rate	Pregnancy rate
Women Aged 14 or Younger*			
1972	5.8	u.	u.
1973	6.1	5.6	13.5
1974	6.0	6.4	14.3
1975	6.0	7.2	15.1
1976	5.7	7.6	15.2
1977	5.6	7.6	15.1
1978	5.3	7.5	14.6
1979	5.5	8.3	15.8
1980	5.5	8.4	15.9
1981	5.4	8.5	15.8
1982	5.6	8.3	15.9
1983	5.5	9.2	16.7
1984	5.5	9.3	16.8
1985	5.5	9.2	16.7
1986	6.0	9.2	17.3
1987	6.4	8.8	17.4
1988	6.7	8.7	17.6
1989	7.1	7.9	17.3
1990	7.3	7.9	17.5
1991	7.2	7.3	16.7
1992	7.2	7.6	17.0
1993	7.2	7.1	16.4
1994	7.0	6.5	15.5
1995	6.6	5.8	14.3
1996	5.8	5.4	13.0
1997	5.3	5.0	11.9
1998	5.0	5.0	11.5
1999	4.6	4.5	10.5
2000	4.3	u.	u.
2001	3.9	u.	u.
Women Aged 15 to 17			
1972	39.0	14.2	62.4
1973	38.5	16.9	64.9
1974	37.3	19.7	66.4
1975	36.1	22.3	68.0
1976	34.1	24.2	67.5
1977	33.9	26.2	69.5
1978	32.2	26.9	68.3
1979	32.3	28.8	70.4
1980	32.7	30.2	72.5
1981	32.0	30.1	71.5
1982	32.2	30.0	71.7
1983	31.8	30.7	72.0
1984	31.0	29.9	70.2
1985	31.0	30.6	70.9
1986	30.5	29.9	69.6
1987	31.7	29.6	70.5
1988	33.6	30.2	73.5
1989	36.4	28.0	74.4
1990	37.5	26.6	74.2
1991	38.6	24.2	72.9
1992	37.6	22.9	70.3
1993	37.5	22.2	69.4
1994	37.2	21.0	67.7
1995	35.5	19.5	64.1
1996	33.3	18.6	60.4
1997	31.4	17.2	56.6
1998	29.9	16.4	53.9
1999	28.1	15.2	50.5
2000	26.9	u.	u.
2001	24.7	u.	u.

Year and age of woman	Birth rate	Abortion rate	Pregnancy rate
Women Aged 18 to 19			
1972	96.9	26.8	145.8
1973	91.2	31.8	144.4
1974	88.7	38.4	148.6
1975	85.0	44.6	151.0
1976	80.5	49.3	150.8
1977	80.9	54.1	156.5
1978	79.8	58.4	160.1
1979	81.3	61.9	165.7
1980	81.9	60.5	164.9
1981	80.0	60.6	162.7
1982	79.4	59.7	160.9
1983	77.4	59.8	158.7
1984	77.4	60.8	159.8
1985	79.6	62.0	163.8
1986	79.6	60.8	162.3
1987	78.5	59.8	160.0
1988	79.9	62.0	164.1
1989	84.2	60.0	167.0
1990	89.8	58.7	172.4
1991	94.0	55.7	174.0
1992	93.6	53.3	171.0
1993	91.1	51.2	165.6
1994	90.2	47.8	160.8
1995	87.7	44.8	154.5
1996	84.7	44.0	150.1
1997	82.1	42.6	145.3
1998	80.9	40.0	141.1
1999	79.0	38.6	137.3
2000	78.4	u.	u.
2001	76.1	u.	u.
Women aged 15 to 19			
1972	61.7	19.1	95.1
1973	59.3	22.8	96.1
1974	57.5	27.0	98.8
1975	55.6	31.2	101.1
1976	52.8	34.3	101.1
1977	52.8	37.5	104.6
1978	51.5	39.7	105.4
1979	52.3	42.4	109.4
1980	53.2	42.8	111.0
1981	52.2	42.9	109.9
1982	52.4	42.7	109.8
1983	51.4	43.2	109.3
1984	50.6	42.9	107.9
1985	51.0	43.5	109.0
1986	50.2	42.3	106.7
1987	50.6	41.8	106.6
1988	53.0	43.5	111.4
1989	57.3	42.0	114.9
1990	60.3	40.5	116.9
1991	61.8	37.4	115.3
1992	60.3	35.2	111.0
1993	59.0	33.9	108.0
1994	58.2	31.6	104.6
1995	56.0	29.4	99.6
1996	53.5	28.6	95.6
1997	51.3	27.1	91.4
1998	50.3	25.8	88.7
1999	48.7	24.7	85.6
2000	47.7	u.	u.
2001	45.3	u.	u.

Year and age of woman	Birth rate	Abortion rate	Pregnancy rate
Women Younger Than 20**			
1972	62.9	u.	u.
1973	60.5	23.9	98.9
1974	58.7	28.3	101.6
1975	56.8	32.7	104.2
1976	53.9	35.8	104.1
1977	53.9	39.0	107.6
1978	52.5	41.1	108.2
1979	53.4	43.9	112.3
1980	54.2	44.3	113.8
1981	53.2	44.4	112.7
1982	53.4	44.2	112.6
1983	52.4	44.9	112.4
1984	51.6	44.8	111.2
1985	52.1	45.4	112.4
1986	51.3	44.0	109.9
1987	51.7	43.3	109.7
1988	54.2	45.0	114.5
1989	58.6	43.4	118.1
1990	61.6	42.0	120.2
1991	63.2	38.8	118.6
1992	61.7	36.7	114.5
1993	60.5	35.3	111.4
1994	59.7	33.0	107.9
1995	57.4	30.7	102.5
1996	54.7	29.7	98.3
1997	52.3	28.1	93.8
1998	51.3	26.8	91.0
1999	49.7	25.6	87.7
2000	48.6	u.	u.
2001	46.1	u.	u.
Women Aged 20 to 24			
1972	130.2	u.	u.
1973	119.7	26.2	172.4
1974	117.7	30.4	174.7
1975	113.0	34.3	173.3
1976	110.3	39.6	175.9
1977	112.9	44.3	184.2
1978	109.9	47.2	183.7
1979	112.8	49.9	190.2
1980	114.8	51.4	194.3
1981	112.2	51.4	191.1
1982	111.6	51.1	190.1
1983	107.8	50.9	185.4
1984	106.8	51.6	184.9
1985	108.3	52.0	187.1
1986	107.4	51.8	185.9
1987	107.9	52.0	186.7
1988	110.2	53.6	191.2
1989	113.8	53.8	195.7
1990	116.4	56.7	202.0
1991	115.3	56.4	200.4
1992	113.7	55.9	197.9
1993	111.3	54.9	194.0
1994	109.2	51.9	188.1
1995	107.5	49.1	182.9
1996	107.8	49.3	183.5
1997	107.3	48.1	181.6
1998	108.4	47.0	181.8
1999	107.8	46.4	180.5
2000	108.8	u.	u.
2001	106.2	u.	u.

Notes: u. = data unavailable. Abortion rates for 1997 are preliminary.

*Denominator is women aged 14. **Denominator is women aged 15-19.

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Miscarriages

Miscarriages are estimated as 20% of live births plus 10% of abortions.

Pregnancies

Pregnancies are the sum of births, abortions and miscarriages.