

# UNINTENDED BIRTHS

---

Pregnancy is considered to be unintended when the woman did not want to be pregnant (unwanted) or desired a pregnancy later (mistimed). A pregnancy is intended when the woman wanted to be pregnant at that time or sooner. For the information presented here, an unintended birth is an unintended pregnancy that results in a live-born infant.

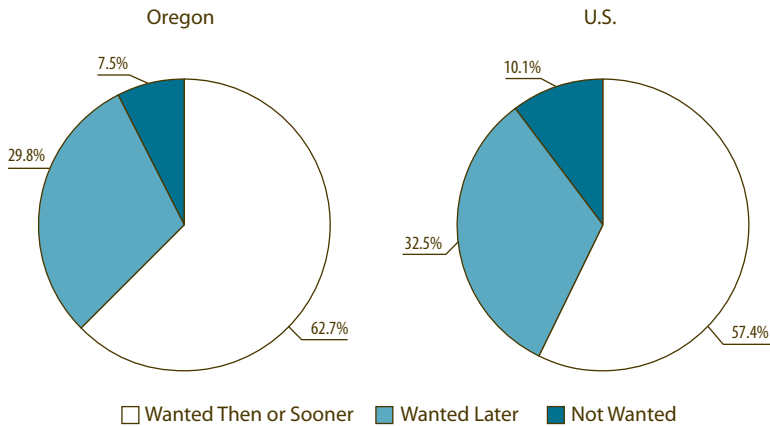
Compared to women with intended pregnancies, women with unintended pregnancies are more likely to: find out they are pregnant later; initiate prenatal care later; have inadequate birth-spacing; give birth earlier or later than the prime childbearing years; have inadequate folic acid intake; and use alcohol and tobacco early in the pregnancy.<sup>36</sup>

- Oregon women were significantly less likely to have an unintended birth\* compared to women in the U.S.<sup>37</sup> – 37.3 versus 42.6 percent, respectively.
- In 2004, more than one-third (37.3 percent) of all Oregon births were unintended – 29.8 percent were mistimed and 7.5 percent were not wanted.
- In 2004, Oregon women less than 20 years of age were significantly more likely to have an unintended birth compared to all other age groups.

\*Unintended births” combines the categories “wanted later” and “not wanted”.

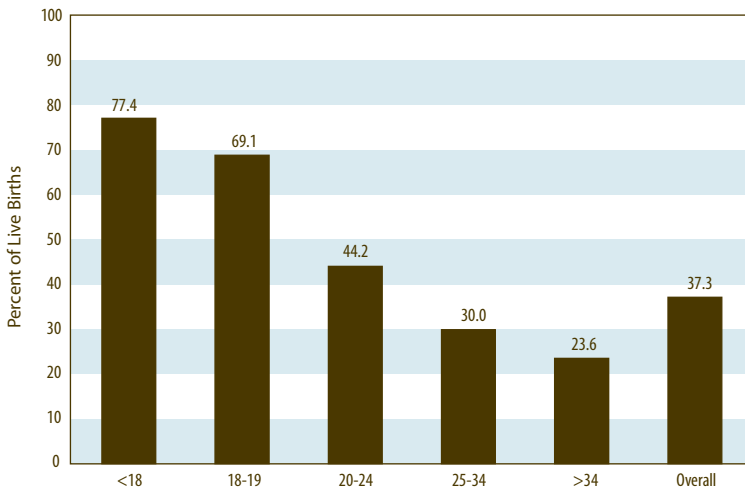
# CHAPTER 3: PERINATAL HEALTH

## Feeling About Pregnancy Among Women With a Live Birth, Oregon, 2004 & U.S., 2002



Data Source: Oregon Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS); aggregate data from 27 states participating in PRAMS during 2002 <sup>37</sup>

## Unintended\* Births by Age, Oregon, 2004



\*Unintended = Wanted Later + Not Wanted

Data Source: Oregon Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS)