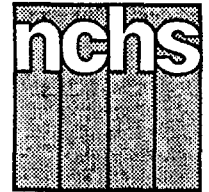


Monthly Vital Statistics Report



Final Data From the CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL/National Center for Health Statistics

Trends in Pregnancies and Pregnancy Rates, United States, 1980–88

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Introduction

Detailed national data on the number of live births and live birth rates, based on information derived from live birth certificates, are published annually by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS). Although there is a growing interest in the total number of pregnancies and pregnancy rates in the United States, these data are not as readily available because of the difficulty in assembling timely data for the remaining two types of pregnancy outcome, abortions and fetal losses.

This is the third in a series of reports that estimates the number of

pregnancies and pregnancy rates by age and race of woman based on the latest available information. The first of these studies covered the period 1976–81 (1), and the second, 1976–85 (2). Although data on pregnancies and pregnancy rates for 1976–88 are shown in this report, information for the period 1976–79 is included mainly for historical reference. The focus of the present analysis is on changes in the overall number and rate of pregnancies and its components during the 1980's, and on differences for the year 1988 by mother's age and race. The most recent year covered is 1988 because comparable data on induced abortion are not available for 1989.

Sources and methods

Estimates of the number of pregnancies and pregnancy rates in this article are the composite of the three outcomes of pregnancy—live birth, induced abortion, and fetal loss.

- The source of data for live births is the statistics of registered births published annually by NCHS (3).
- Data on induced abortions for 1976–88 are derived from published reports by the Alan Guttmacher Institute (AGI) (4). The AGI

estimates the national number of abortions from surveys it conducts of all known abortion providers. However, the number of induced abortions by mother's age and race is not available from these surveys. The AGI calculates these numbers by applying information on the characteristics of women having abortions to its national estimates. The data on characteristics of patients having abortions are collected by the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion from most State health departments (for example, 40 States, the District of Columbia, and New York City reported patients' ages in 1988) (5).

- Information for the fetal loss component is based on the 1982 and the 1988 National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG) conducted by NCHS (6,7). National samples of women 15–44 years of age were asked to report the dates and outcomes of each of their pregnancies, including spontaneous fetal losses from recognized pregnancies. In this report, the proportion of pregnancies ending in fetal loss in the 5 years preceding the surveys are used. To increase the



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reliability of the estimates by age and race, the proportions of pregnancies ending in fetal loss for both survey years were averaged and used for 1982–88. Fetal losses for years before 1982 were based on the 1982 NSFG.

The rate of fetal loss is highest in the early weeks of gestation, and most fetal losses occur in the first few months (8). Registration data on fetal deaths are generally limited to gestations of 20 weeks or more, so most fetal losses are not included. NSFG data, on the other hand, include all gestations. Therefore, the NSFG data are used to obtain a more complete count of fetal losses of recognized pregnancies. When NSFG and registration data on late fetal deaths are compared, the numbers are generally similar in both data sets.

As in previous years, pregnancy estimates by race are shown for white women and women of all other races combined because of the lack of separate information on induced abortion for black women. The proportion of live births of "all other races" that were black was 85.7 percent in 1976 and decreased to 77.8 percent in 1988, reflecting a growing proportion of Native American and Asian and Pacific Islander births. The corresponding proportions for induced abortions are unknown.

To match previously published reports on live births, the racial designation for live births is that of the child rather than of the woman; however, in this report the term woman rather than child is used. For approximately 97 percent of births occurring during this period, the race of the woman and the child is the same.

Data shown by age of woman refer to the age at outcome rather than age at conception, as has been done in other studies of abortion rates (4).

The denominators of the rates presented here (numbers of women by age and race) were obtained from published reports of the U.S. Bureau of the Census (9,10).

Data are shown by age and race in the tables and figures. This does not imply that differences shown are racial or genetic per se. Differences between

white women and women of other races are often due to the lower income and educational levels of minority women, their limited access to health care and health insurance, the neighborhoods in which they live, and other factors. The causes of these differences merit further investigation in future research.

Although educational attainment in particular is a very reliable measure of socioeconomic status, especially in interpreting fertility differentials, such data are only available for live births and fetal losses. Moreover, birth rates by educational attainment cannot be computed for each year because the population denominators needed for the rates are not available for most years. The numerators needed to compute the abortion rates—the numbers of abortions by educational attainment of the patient—were only available for 11 States and New York City in 1988 (5). These deficiencies mean that it is not possible to compute national abortion rates by educational attainment. A similar lack of data also prevents the computation of pregnancy rates by income, occupation, or other socioeconomic indicators.

Trends

There were an estimated 6,341,000 pregnancies in 1988, the highest number reported since national estimates were first prepared in 1976 (tables 1,2). The total number of pregnancies in 1988 was 7 percent higher than in 1980 (5,913,000) and 27 percent higher than in 1976. Pregnancy rates reported in 1988, however, were very similar to rates reported in 1980. The number of pregnancies increased because the number of women in the childbearing ages continued to grow during the 1980's (table 1). Much of the 10-percent increase in the number of women aged 15–44 can be attributed to the baby-boom generation; these women were born in 1946–64 and were aged 16–34 years in 1980 and 24–42 years in 1988.

The overall pregnancy rate in 1988 was 109.0 pregnancies per 1,000 women aged 15–44 years compared with 111.9 in 1980. During the early 1980's, however, the rate declined by 5 per-

cent, falling to 106.6 in 1986 before increasing to 109.0 in 1988 (table 1). All components of pregnancy rates (live births, induced abortions, and fetal losses) changed in a similar pattern. Between 1976 and 1980, pregnancy rates had risen 9 percent, with most of the rise associated with the 21-percent increase in the induced abortion rate. Birth and fetal loss rates each rose by 5 percent between 1976 and 1980.

Age—Until the mid-1980's, pregnancy rates generally fell in each age group for women 15–29 years of age, and then increased through 1988. Rates rose for each age group for women 30–39 years during the 1980's (table 3). The rate for women aged 35–39 years increased sharply—by 30 percent between 1980 and 1988.

The patterns of change differed considerably by age for birth rates and abortion rates. The live birth rates for teenagers declined slightly during the early 1980's and rose back to their 1980 levels by 1988. Most of the 1986–88 increase was for younger teens, aged 15–17: their birth rate rose 10 percent from 1986 to 1988. The rise in teen birth rates continued in 1989 by an additional 6 to 8 percent (11).

The only age group showing sustained increases in birth rates throughout the 1980's has been for women in their thirties. Birth rates rose by 19 percent for women aged 30–34 years and by 41 percent for women aged 35–39 years between 1980 and 1988 (table 3). Much of this increase is associated with the ongoing tendency for childless women in their thirties to begin making up for their previously postponed childbearing (12).

Induced abortion rates for women aged 18–19, 20–24, and 30–39 years increased about 5 percent from 1980 to 1988; the rate for women in their late twenties also increased, but the change was small—only 2.5 percent. The small increase in the abortion rates in most age groups in the 1980's may be linked to the trend toward postponed marriage in the 1980's (13), because unmarried women have substantially higher abortion rates than married women (4).

Despite the small increases in the abortion rates for most age groups, the overall abortion rate was almost 7 percent lower in 1988 than in 1980 (27.4 compared with 29.3). This decrease is due largely to the changing age distribution of women within the child-bearing ages during the 1980's; the proportion of women aged 30-44 years increased by almost 20 percent from 1980 to 1988, with a comparable decline measured in the proportion of teenagers and women in their early twenties. Abortion rates are much lower for women 30 years and older than for younger women (table 3).

Race—The rate of induced abortions for white women fell 13 percent between 1980 and 1988 (table 3). In contrast, the induced abortion rate for all other women changed very little over the entire period; the rate in 1988 was nearly identical to the rate in 1980. The live birth rate for white women changed little during the 1980's, but the rate for all other women declined 6 percent between 1980 and 1986 and then rose by 5 percent from 1986 to 1988 (table 3).

Rates in 1988

The pregnancy rate for women aged 20-24 years has been consistently higher than the rate for any other age group (table 3). The rate in 1988 was 185 pregnancies per 1,000 women aged 20-24 years. In other words, 18.5 percent or nearly one of every five women aged 20-24 years had a pregnancy that ended in 1988. The rates for women aged 18-19 and 25-29 years were nearly as high as the rates for women aged 20-24 years and were similar: 162 and 167, respectively. The pregnancy rate for women aged 30-34 years was 110 per thousand, meaning that about 11 percent had a pregnancy ending in 1988. Pregnancy rates at ages below 18 and at 35 years of age and over were substantially lower, ranging from 3 to 74 per 1,000 (table 3).

While live birth rates were highest for women in their twenties (112-113 per 1,000 in 1988), induced abortion rates were highest for women aged 18-19 years (64 per 1,000) and 20-24 years (54 per 1,000). The rate for fetal

losses was highest for women aged 25-29 years (22 per 1,000 in 1988), with rates in 1988 for women aged 18-24 and 30-34 years ranging from 17 to 20.

Racial differences—For each age group, live birth, induced abortion, and fetal loss rates were higher for all other women than for white women (table 4). The major source of the racial disparity in pregnancy rates for women 20 years of age and over is in the rates for induced abortion (table 4 and figure 1). For women under 20 years of age, rates for live births and induced abortions were substantially higher for all other women than for white women. The induced abortion rates for all other women were two to five times the rates for white women in the same age groups.

Outcomes in 1988

The distribution of pregnancies by outcome of pregnancy was very stable in the 1980's. In 1988, 62 percent of pregnancies ended in live births,

25 percent in induced abortions, and 13 percent in fetal losses (table 5).

Age—In 1988, about two-thirds of pregnancies to women aged 25-34 ended in live births, 17-19 percent ended in induced abortions, and 13-16 percent ended in fetal losses. Among pregnancies to women aged 20-24 and 35-39, about 60 percent ended in live births (table 5 and figure 2).

About half (52 percent) of pregnancies to women in their forties ended in live births, with 31 percent ending in induced abortions. Pregnancies to teenagers were least likely to end with live births, 39 percent for teenagers under 15 years and 48 percent for teenagers aged 15-19. Half of pregnancies to teens under age 15 and 40 percent of pregnancies to women 15-19 years of age ended in induced abortions. The proportion of pregnancies ending in fetal losses ranged between 10 and 13 percent for women under 30 years of age and from 16 to 20 percent for older women.

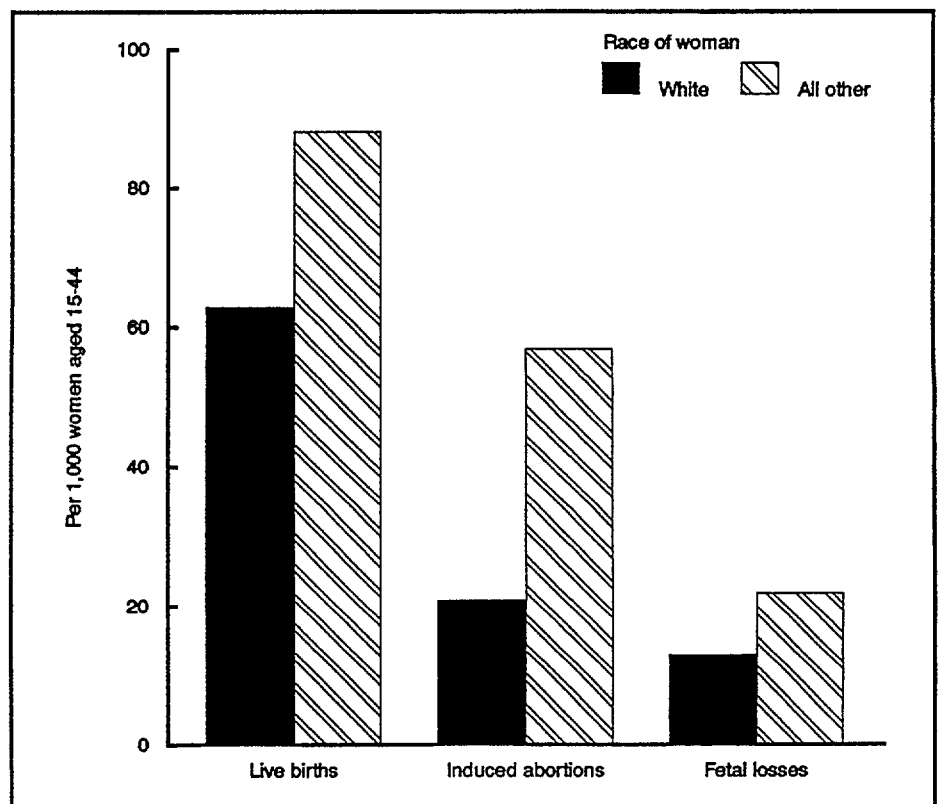


Figure 1. Estimated rates of live births, induced abortions, and fetal losses, by race: United States, 1988

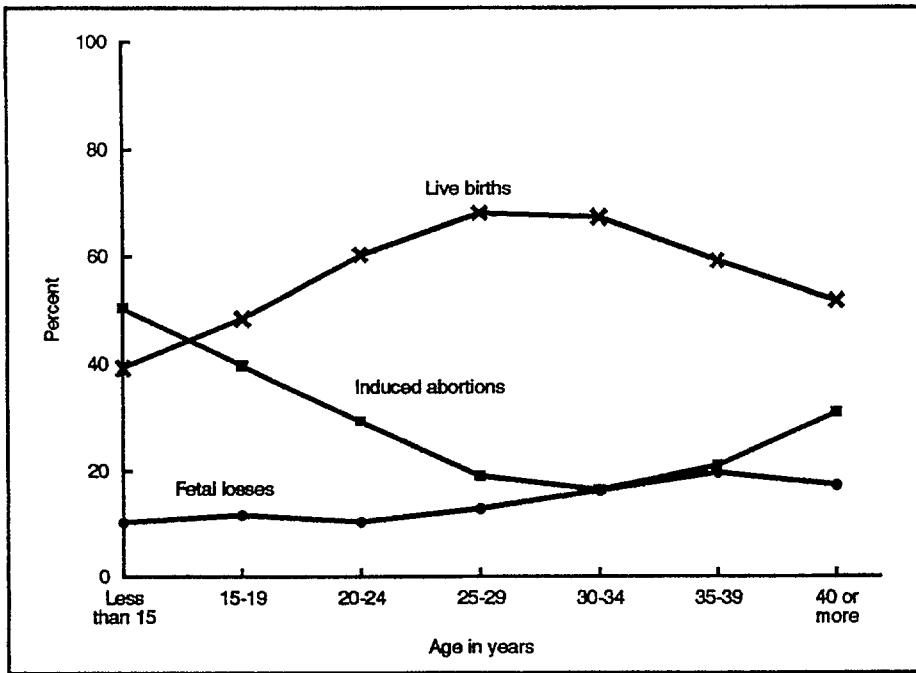


Figure 2. Percent of pregnancies ending as live births, induced abortions, or fetal losses, by age of woman: United States, 1988

Race—As shown in table 5 the distribution of pregnancy outcomes differs substantially by race of the woman. Pregnancies to white women were generally less likely to end in induced abortions than those to women of other races (22 percent compared with 34 percent).

Among pregnancies to teenagers, the proportions ending in induced abortions were nearly identical for white and all other women. But the abortion rate (table 4) for teenagers of all other races was at least double the rate for white teenagers, because more teens of all other races became pregnant. For women 20 years of age and over, the proportion of pregnancies to all other women ending in induced abortion was substantially higher than for white women in each age group (table 5).

Discussion

Trends—Between 1980 and 1988, very little change occurred in pregnancy rates in the age groups 15 to 29 years. These rates dipped slightly between 1980 and 1986 and increased back to their 1980 levels by 1988. Trends in pregnancy for women under 30 years of age are important, because

in 1988 these women accounted for 73 percent of all pregnancies and 71 percent of all live births in the United States.

The trend towards delayed child-bearing that began in the 1970's continued in the 1980's, as reflected in rates for women aged 30 and older. Between 1980 and 1988, birth rates increased 19 percent at ages 30-34 and 41 percent at ages 35-39, because more women were still childless at those ages. For example, among women reaching age 35 by the end of 1988, 21 percent had not had any children compared with 15 percent of women aged 35 in 1980, according to vital statistics data (14,15). Births at age 35 and over accounted for less than 5 percent of all births in 1980, but this had risen to 8 percent by 1988. Compared with younger women, women aged 35 and over are exposed to elevated risks of infertility, pregnancy loss, and cesarean delivery (16-18); however, these risks did not deter increasing numbers of women from bearing children at those ages in the 1980's.

Throughout the 1980's, American women relied primarily on the more effective methods of contraception. Contraceptive use at the younger ages

was dominated by the pill and the condom and at the older ages, by female and male sterilization (19). However, the 1-year contraceptive failure rate in 1984-87 (the percent with an unintended pregnancy during the first year of use) was 14 percent-26 percent for teenagers, 18 percent for women 20-24 years, 13 percent for women 25-29 years, and 10 percent for women 30 and over (20). In addition, about 7 percent of all women aged 15-44 were exposed to the risk of pregnancy and were not using a method in 1982 and 1988-about 4 million women at any given time for both years (19).

Race—The differences in pregnancy rates between white and all other races (table 4) are substantial. Overall, the rate is 97 for white women and 167 for all others, a difference of about 70 per 1,000 women per year. This reflects a number of factors.

First, despite some convergence in recent years, black women are still more likely to begin intercourse at younger ages than are white women (21,22). Second, although 70 percent of white women used a contraceptive method at first intercourse in 1983-88, only 58 percent of black women used a method (23). Third, black women are about twice as likely to be having intercourse and not using a method as white women (19). Fourth, even during contraceptive use, black women have a contraceptive failure rate that is one-third higher than that for white women (20). These factors, as well as the fact that the proportion of births that are unwanted is more than twice as high among black women as among white women (24), may help to explain the higher live birth, abortion, and fetal loss rates of "all other" women. These differences in contraceptive use and efficacy, in turn, may be related to the lower education and income levels of minority women, their limited access to health care and health insurance, the neighborhoods in which they live, and other factors.

Teenage pregnancy—The number of teenage pregnancies declined about 14 percent between 1980 and 1988 (table 2) as the number of teenagers

began to shrink. Women who were teenagers in the late 1980's were born during the early 1970's, after the baby boom and during a period when birth rates dropped to historic low levels.

However, the *rate* of teenage pregnancies was about 11 percent (110 per 1,000) in 1980 and 1988 (table 3), despite a sharp increase in sexual activity among white teenagers. A recent study showed the proportion of white teenagers 15–19 years who had premarital intercourse rose from 41 percent in 1980 to 51 percent in 1988 (21). (Ninety-five percent of teenaged women have never been married.) Among black teenage women 15–19 years, the proportions who had premarital intercourse were 58 percent in 1980 and 59 percent in 1988—no significant change. Because most teenaged women have never been married, the pregnancy rate for sexually experienced women aged 15–19 years in 1980 and 1988 can be estimated by dividing the pregnancy rate by the proportion who have ever had premarital intercourse:

Race and year	Pregnancy rate per 1,000 women aged 15–19 years	Percent of women aged 15–19 years who ever had premarital sexual intercourse	Estimated pregnancy rate per 1,000 sexually experienced women aged 15–19 years
All races:			
1980 . . .	110.0	42.0	262
1988 . . .	110.8	51.5	215
White:			
1980 . . .	95.8	41.4	231
1988 . . .	93.4	50.6	185
All other:			
1980 . . .	181.3	58.1	312
1988 . . .	184.3	58.8	313

The overall pregnancy rate for white teenagers fell just 2 percent (2.4 per 1,000), but the pregnancy rate per 1,000 sexually experienced white teens fell 20 percent—from 231 to 185. In other words, sexually experienced white teens were *less* likely to become pregnant in 1988 than in 1980, but a higher proportion of teens were sexually experienced, so the overall pregnancy rate stayed about the same.

The decline in the pregnancy rate among sexually experienced white teenagers may be related to their sharp increase in condom use at first intercourse in the 1980's: the proportion using a condom at first intercourse increased from 28 percent in 1980–82 to 45 percent in 1983–88 (23). This increase in condom use at first intercourse may in turn be related to human immunodeficiency virus infection education efforts. It is not a result of increased use of family planning services, because the rate of use of family planning services by white teenagers in the 1980's was unchanged (25).

In contrast, the proportion of black teens who had had premarital intercourse remained at about 58 percent in 1980 and 1988. Their use of condoms at first premarital intercourse did not change significantly: about 30 percent in 1980–82 and 1983–88 (23). As a result, the pregnancy rate for all other women remained fairly constant in the 1980's.

There was very little difference in the pregnancy rates among teenagers of all other races in 1988 compared with 1980, either overall or among the sexually experienced. However, in 1988, the pregnancy rate for sexually experienced teenagers of all other races was 313 per 1,000, or about 1 in 3. This was about 70 percent higher than the rate for sexually experienced white teenagers, which was about 1 in 5.

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Table 1. Estimated number of pregnancies and pregnancy rates by outcome of pregnancy and number of women: United States, 1976–88

Year	All pregnancies				All pregnancies				Women aged 15–44 years
	Total	Live births	Induced abortions	Fetal losses ¹	Total	Live births	Induced abortions	Fetal losses ¹	
	Number in thousands				Rate per 1,000 women aged 15–44 years ²				
1988	6,341	3,910	1,591	840	109.0	67.2	27.3	14.4	58,192
1987	6,183	3,809	1,559	815	106.7	65.7	26.9	14.1	57,964
1986	6,129	3,757	1,574	798	106.6	65.4	27.4	13.9	57,483
1985	6,144	3,761	1,589	795	108.2	66.2	28.0	14.0	56,764
1984	6,018	3,669	1,577	771	107.3	65.4	28.1	13.8	56,061
1983	5,975	3,639	1,575	761	108.0	65.8	28.5	13.8	55,340
1982	6,024	3,681	1,574	769	110.2	67.3	28.8	14.0	54,652
1981	5,958	3,629	1,577	751	110.7	67.4	29.3	14.0	53,842
1980	5,913	3,612	1,554	747	111.9	68.4	29.4	14.1	52,833
1979	5,714	3,494	1,498	722	109.9	67.2	28.8	13.9	52,016
1978	5,433	3,333	1,410	690	106.7	65.5	27.7	13.5	50,921
1977	5,331	3,327	1,317	687	107.0	66.8	26.4	13.8	49,814
1976	5,002	3,168	1,179	655	102.7	65.0	24.2	13.4	48,721

¹Spontaneous fetal losses from recognized pregnancies of all gestational periods as reported by women in the 1982 and 1988 National Surveys of Family Growth conducted by the National Center for Health Statistics. The rate of pregnancy loss depends on the degree to which losses at very early gestations are detected.

²Rates computed by relating the number of events to women of all ages to women aged 15–44 years.

NOTE: Due to rounding, figures may not add to totals.

Symbols

- Data not available
- ... Category not applicable
- Quantity zero
- 0.0 Quantity more than zero but less than 0.05
- * Figure does not meet standard of reliability or precision (estimate is based on fewer than 20 births in numerator or denominator)

Table 2. Estimated number of pregnancies by outcome of pregnancy, age of woman, and race: United States, 1976 and 1980–88

Pregnancy outcome and year	Age of woman										Race	
	Total	Under 15 years	15–19 years					40 years and over	White	All other		
			Total	15–17 years	18–19 years	20–24 years	25–29 years				30–34 years	35–39 years
Number in thousands												
All pregnancies												
1988	6,341	27	988	389	600	1,774	1,821	1,195	456	79	4,698	1,643
1987	6,183	28	957	386	571	1,784	1,783	1,136	424	71	4,625	1,558
1986	6,129	29	964	385	579	1,828	1,765	1,081	399	62	4,623	1,506
1985	6,144	30	981	385	596	1,891	1,764	1,045	373	60	4,673	1,471
1984	6,019	30	983	378	605	1,894	1,718	993	343	58	4,603	1,416
1983	5,978	29	1,023	394	628	1,911	1,692	946	319	57	4,576	1,402
1982	6,024	27	1,058	405	653	1,970	1,695	919	298	56	4,630	1,394
1981	5,958	28	1,103	425	678	1,945	1,662	897	269	54	4,564	1,394
1980	5,913	29	1,146	446	699	1,956	1,626	844	258	54	4,534	1,378
1976	5,002	32	1,073	---	---	1,644	1,330	602	214	56	3,837	1,165
Live births												
1988	3,910	11	478	177	302	1,067	1,239	804	270	41	3,046	863
1987	3,809	10	462	173	290	1,076	1,216	761	248	36	2,992	817
1986	3,757	10	462	169	293	1,102	1,200	721	230	31	2,970	786
1985	3,761	10	467	168	300	1,141	1,201	696	214	29	2,991	769
1984	3,669	10	470	167	303	1,142	1,166	658	196	28	2,924	746
1983	3,639	10	489	173	317	1,160	1,148	625	180	27	2,904	735
1982	3,681	10	514	181	333	1,206	1,152	605	168	26	2,942	738
1981	3,629	10	527	187	340	1,212	1,128	581	146	25	2,909	721
1980	3,612	10	552	198	354	1,226	1,108	550	141	24	2,899	714
1976	3,168	12	559	215	343	1,092	972	392	116	26	2,568	600
Induced abortions												
1988	1,591	14	393	158	234	520	347	197	96	24	1,026	565
1987	1,559	14	382	161	221	518	337	192	93	23	1,017	542
1986	1,574	16	389	165	224	531	339	186	92	21	1,045	529
1985	1,589	17	399	166	234	548	336	181	87	21	1,076	513
1984	1,577	17	399	161	238	551	332	176	82	20	1,087	491
1983	1,575	16	411	166	245	548	328	172	78	21	1,084	491
1982	1,574	15	419	168	250	552	326	168	73	21	1,095	479
1981	1,577	15	433	176	257	555	316	167	70	21	1,108	470
1980	1,554	15	445	183	261	549	304	153	67	21	1,094	460
1976	1,179	16	363	153	210	392	221	110	57	21	785	394
Fetal losses ¹												
1988	840	3	117	54	63	187	234	194	91	14	626	214
1987	815	3	113	53	61	190	229	184	83	12	615	200
1986	798	3	113	51	62	194	226	174	77	10	607	191
1985	795	3	114	51	63	201	226	168	72	10	606	189
1984	773	3	114	51	64	201	220	159	66	9	593	180
1983	764	3	122	55	67	202	216	150	61	9	587	177
1982	769	3	125	55	70	213	217	146	56	9	592	177
1981	751	3	142	61	81	178	218	148	53	9	548	204
1980	747	3	149	65	84	180	214	140	51	9	542	205
1976	655	4	151	---	---	160	188	100	42	9	485	170

¹Spontaneous fetal losses from recognized pregnancies of all gestational periods as reported by women in the 1982 and 1988 National Surveys of Family Growth conducted by the National Center for Health Statistics. The rate of pregnancy loss depends on the degree to which losses at very early gestations are detected.

NOTE: Due to rounding, figures may not add to totals.

Table 3. Estimated pregnancy rates by outcome of pregnancy, age of woman, and race: United States, 1976 and 1980–88

Pregnancy outcome and year	Age of woman										Race		
	Total ¹	Under 15 years ²	15–19 years							40 years and over ³	White	All other	
			Total	15–17 years	18–19 years	20–24 years	25–29 years	30–34 years	35–39 years				
			Rate per 1,000 women										
All pregnancies													
1988	109.0	3.3	110.8	74.3	162.4	185.3	166.7	109.7	47.2	9.6	97.2	166.5	
1987	106.7	3.5	105.8	71.1	158.0	180.6	162.5	106.4	44.8	9.0	95.8	161.0	
1986	106.6	3.6	105.6	70.0	159.9	179.5	160.7	103.9	42.2	8.5	96.3	159.0	
1985	108.2	3.6	107.7	71.2	160.7	180.4	162.3	102.7	41.6	8.4	98.4	159.1	
1984	107.4	3.5	106.5	70.6	156.2	178.0	159.6	100.3	40.0	8.3	97.9	156.7	
1983	108.0	3.3	108.2	73.0	154.9	178.4	160.3	98.0	39.1	8.5	98.4	158.7	
1982	110.2	3.1	108.8	72.3	158.3	181.9	163.4	97.6	37.5	8.8	100.6	161.3	
1981	110.7	3.1	110.3	72.7	163.1	179.5	165.0	94.8	36.7	8.8	100.3	167.1	
1980	111.9	3.2	110.0	73.2	162.2	183.6	165.7	95.0	36.4	9.1	101.3	171.2	
1976	102.7	3.2	101.4	---	---	166.1	150.7	82.3	35.3	9.9	92.0	166.4	
Live births													
1988	67.2	1.3	53.6	33.8	81.7	111.5	113.4	73.7	27.9	5.0	63.0	87.5	
1987	65.7	1.3	51.1	31.8	80.2	108.9	110.8	71.3	26.2	4.6	62.0	84.4	
1986	65.4	1.3	50.6	30.6	81.0	108.2	109.2	69.3	24.3	4.3	61.9	83.0	
1985	66.2	1.2	51.3	31.1	80.8	108.9	110.5	68.5	23.9	4.1	63.0	83.2	
1984	65.4	1.2	50.9	31.1	78.3	107.3	108.3	66.5	22.8	4.0	62.2	82.5	
1983	65.8	1.1	51.7	32.0	78.1	108.3	108.7	64.6	22.1	4.0	62.4	83.2	
1982	67.3	1.1	52.9	32.4	80.7	111.3	111.0	64.2	21.1	4.1	63.9	85.5	
1981	67.4	1.1	52.7	32.1	81.7	111.8	112.0	61.4	20.0	4.0	63.9	86.4	
1980	68.4	1.1	53.0	32.5	82.1	115.1	112.9	61.9	19.8	4.1	64.7	88.6	
1976	65.0	1.2	52.8	34.1	80.5	110.3	106.2	53.6	19.0	4.5	61.5	85.8	
Induced abortions													
1988	27.3	1.7	44.0	30.3	63.5	54.2	31.8	18.1	9.9	3.0	21.2	57.3	
1987	26.9	1.8	42.2	29.7	61.0	52.5	30.8	17.9	9.8	2.9	21.1	56.0	
1986	27.4	1.9	42.6	30.0	61.9	52.2	30.9	17.9	9.7	2.8	21.8	55.9	
1985	28.0	2.0	43.8	30.7	63.0	52.3	30.9	17.8	9.7	2.9	22.6	55.5	
1984	28.1	2.0	43.2	30.0	61.5	51.8	30.9	17.8	9.5	2.9	23.1	54.3	
1983	28.5	1.9	43.5	30.8	60.4	51.2	31.1	17.8	9.6	3.1	23.3	55.5	
1982	28.8	1.7	43.1	30.1	60.7	50.9	31.5	17.8	9.2	3.3	23.8	55.4	
1981	29.3	1.7	43.3	30.1	61.9	51.2	31.4	17.7	9.5	3.4	24.3	56.3	
1980	29.4	1.7	42.7	30.1	60.6	51.6	31.0	17.2	9.4	3.5	24.4	57.2	
1976	24.2	1.6	34.3	24.2	49.3	39.6	24.1	15.0	9.3	3.7	18.8	56.3	
Fetal losses ⁴													
1988	14.4	0.3	13.2	10.3	17.2	19.6	21.5	17.8	9.4	1.7	13.0	21.7	
1987	14.1	0.4	12.5	9.7	16.8	19.2	20.9	17.2	8.8	1.5	12.7	20.6	
1986	13.9	0.4	12.4	9.3	17.0	19.1	20.6	16.7	8.2	1.4	12.7	20.2	
1985	14.0	0.4	12.5	9.5	17.0	19.2	20.8	16.5	8.0	1.4	12.8	20.4	
1984	13.8	0.4	12.4	9.5	16.4	18.9	20.4	16.1	7.7	1.4	12.6	19.9	
1983	13.8	0.3	12.9	10.2	16.5	18.9	20.5	15.6	7.4	1.4	12.6	20.0	
1982	14.1	0.3	12.9	9.9	16.9	19.6	20.9	15.5	7.1	1.4	12.9	20.4	
1981	14.0	0.4	14.2	10.5	19.4	16.4	21.6	15.7	7.2	1.4	12.0	24.4	
1980	14.1	0.4	14.3	10.6	19.5	16.9	21.8	15.8	7.2	1.5	12.1	25.4	
1976	13.4	0.4	14.3	---	---	16.2	20.5	13.7	6.9	1.6	11.6	24.3	

¹Rates computed by relating the number of events to women of all ages to women aged 15–44 years.

²Rates computed by relating the number of events to women under 15 years to women aged 10–14 years.

³Rates computed by relating the number of events to women aged 40 years and over to women aged 40–44 years.

⁴Spontaneous fetal losses from recognized pregnancies of all gestational periods as reported by women in the 1982 and 1988 National Surveys of Family Growth conducted by the National Center for Health Statistics. The rate of pregnancy loss depends on the degree to which losses at very early gestations are detected.

Table 4. Estimated number of pregnancies and pregnancy rates by outcome of pregnancy, age of woman, and race: United States, 1988

Pregnancy outcome and race	Age of woman							
	Total ¹	Under 15 years ²	15-19 years	20-24 years	25-29 years	30-34 years	35-39 years	40 years and over ³
Number in thousands								
White								
All pregnancies	4,698	11	673	1,270	1,406	927	350	59
Live births	3,046	4	315	805	1,011	661	218	32
Induced abortions	1,026	6	264	332	219	125	63	17
Fetal losses ⁴	626	2	94	133	177	141	69	10
All other								
All pregnancies	1,643	16	315	504	415	268	106	20
Live births	863	7	163	263	229	142	52	9
Induced abortions	565	8	129	187	129	72	33	7
Fetal losses ⁴	214	1	23	54	58	53	21	4
Rate per 1,000 women								
White								
All pregnancies	97.2	1.8	93.4	161.7	155.3	102.2	43.2	8.4
Live births	63.0	0.6	43.7	102.5	111.6	72.9	26.9	4.6
Induced abortions	21.2	0.9	36.6	42.3	24.1	13.8	7.8	2.4
Fetal losses ⁴	13.0	0.2	13.1	16.9	19.5	15.5	8.5	1.5
All other								
All pregnancies	166.5	9.7	184.3	292.3	221.9	146.5	68.1	16.6
Live births	87.5	4.0	95.3	152.3	122.3	77.8	33.4	7.3
Induced abortions	57.3	4.9	75.5	108.5	68.8	39.6	21.0	6.2
Fetal losses ⁴	21.7	0.7	13.6	31.5	30.8	29.1	13.8	3.0

¹Rates computed by relating the number of events to women of all ages to women aged 15-44 years.
²Rates computed by relating the number of events to women under 15 years to women aged 10-14 years.
³Rates computed by relating the number of events to women aged 40 years and over to women aged 40-44 years.
⁴Spontaneous fetal losses from recognized pregnancies of all gestational periods as reported by women in the 1982 and 1988 National Surveys of Family Growth conducted by the National Center for Health Statistics. The rate of pregnancy loss depends on the degree to which losses at very early gestations are detected.

NOTE: Due to rounding, figures may not add to totals.

Table 5. Estimated percent distribution of pregnancies by outcome of pregnancy, according to age of woman and race: United States, 1988

Pregnancy outcome and race	Age of woman							
	Total	Under 15 years	15-19 years	20-24 years	25-29 years	30-34 years	35-39 years	40 years and over
All races								
All pregnancies	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Live birth	61.7	39.2	48.4	60.2	68.1	67.2	59.1	51.6
Induced abortion	25.1	50.5	39.7	29.3	19.1	16.5	21.0	30.9
Fetal loss	13.3	10.3	11.9	10.6	12.9	16.2	19.9	17.4
White								
All pregnancies	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Live birth	64.8	35.6	46.9	63.4	71.9	71.3	62.2	54.1
Induced abortion	21.8	50.2	39.2	26.2	15.6	13.5	18.1	28.7
Fetal loss	13.3	14.2	14.0	10.5	12.6	15.2	19.8	17.2
All other								
All pregnancies	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Live birth	52.6	41.8	51.7	52.1	55.1	53.1	49.0	44.2
Induced abortion	34.4	50.7	41.0	37.1	31.0	27.0	30.8	37.6
Fetal loss	13.1	7.5	7.4	10.8	13.9	19.9	20.2	18.2

NOTE: Based on unrounded frequencies.

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