

SD 4.1

SEXUALLY EXPERIENCED TEENS

Sexual experience and, particularly, age at first intercourse represent critical indicators of the risk of pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. Youth who begin having sex at a younger age are exposed to these risks over a longer period of time. Because sexual intercourse during the teen years, especially first intercourse, is often unplanned,⁶⁰ it is also often unprotected by contraception.⁶¹ In addition, research has shown that youth who have an early sexual experience are more likely at later ages to have more sexual partners and more frequent intercourse.⁶²

Trends over the past several decades show that increasing proportions of teens are sexually experienced—defined as ever having had sexual intercourse. However, recent data show a decline between 1995 and 1997 in the percentage of teens who have ever had sexual intercourse (see Table SD 4.1.B).

Differences by Age. Age is the most important correlate of teen sexual experience. For the 1985 through 1987 cohort (cohorts are defined as those females who turned 20 in the specific time period presented), just under 1 in 10 13-year-old males and only 1 in 50 13-year-old females were sexually experienced by age 13. The proportion of teen females who were sexually experienced by age 15 increased from 3 percent for the 1958-1960 cohort to 11 percent for the 1990 to 1994 cohort. By age 20 for that same age cohort, 3 in 4 females were sexually experienced. And, for the 1985-1987 cohort, 4 in 5 males were sexually experienced by age 20 (see Table SD 4.1.A). By the late teen years, most teens are sexually experienced; however, it is important to note that not all teens are sexually experienced. Among the 1990-1994 cohort of females, 45 percent had not had intercourse by age 18. Among the 1985-1987 cohort of adolescent males, more than one-third had not had intercourse by age 18 (see Table SD 4.1.A). In addition, data from the Youth Risk Behavior Survey, a survey of 9th- through 12th-grade students show that, for 9th-grade students in 1997, 38 percent reported having had sexual intercourse. This percentage rises with each grade, reaching 61 percent by the 12th grade (see Table SD 4.1.B).⁶³

Differences by Gender. More teen males than females reported having had intercourse by a given age. Data from the 1985-1987 cohort suggest that the proportion of teen males at each year of age who report having sex was roughly equal to the rate of sexually experienced teen females who are one year older (see Table SD 4.1.A).

Among female adolescents of all ages, the percentage who were sexually experienced has increased over time (see Table SD 4.1.A). For example, the percentage of 18-year-old females who were sexually experienced increased from 27 percent for the 1958-1960 cohort to 35 percent for the 1970-1972 cohort and to 52 percent for the 1985-1987 cohort. The proportion continued to increase to 55 percent for the 1990-1994 cohort. The percentage of male teens who were sexually experienced increased from 55 percent for the 1970-1972 cohort to 64 percent for the 1985-1987 cohort (see Table SD 4.1.A). Caution should be exercised in interpreting these differences, however, since the data for males and females come from different surveys.

⁶⁰Lowenstein, G., and Furstenberg, F.F. 1991. "Is Teenage Sexual Behavior Rational?" *Journal of Applied Social Psychology* 21 (12): 957-986. Abma, J., Driscoll, A., Moore, K. 1998. "Young Women's Degree of Control over First Intercourse: An Exploratory Analysis." *Family Planning Perspectives* 30 (1): 12-18.

⁶¹Forrest, J.D., and Singh, S. 1990. "The Sexual and Reproductive Behavior of American Women, 1982-1988." *Family Planning Perspectives* 22 (5): 206-214.

⁶²Koyle, P., Jensen, L., Olsen, J., and Cundick, B. 1989. "Comparison of Sexual Behaviors among Adolescents Having an Early, Middle, and Late First Intercourse Experience." *Youth and Society* 20 (4): 461-475.

⁶³Direct comparison with other years is not possible, as grade in school does not accurately reflect age and data from the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Survey include only teens in school.

Data for students from the Youth Risk Behavior Survey indicate that in 1997, gender differences were nonexistent (see Table SD 4.1.B). Additional survey research indicates that the percentage of teen males who have ever had sex has declined since 1988, while the use of contraception among teen males increased (1995 National Survey of Adolescent Males).⁶⁴ The 1995 National Survey of Family Growth found that 50 percent of women 15 through 19 years of age had ever had intercourse, the first decline ever recorded by the periodic survey.⁶⁵

Differences by Race.⁶⁶ Black students in grades 9 through 12 are more likely than white and Hispanic students to have had their first sexual experience while still in high school (see Table SD 4.1.B). Specifically, in 1997,

- 43 percent of male and 44 percent of female white students reported having had sexual intercourse,
- 58 percent of Hispanic male students and 46 percent of Hispanic female students reported having had sexual intercourse, and
- 80 percent of black male students and 66 percent of black female students reported having had sexual intercourse.

⁶⁴The Urban Institute. "New Data on Sexual Behaviors of Teenage Males." Fact Sheet, May 1, 1997. Washington, D.C.: The Urban Institute.

⁶⁵U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, *HHS News*. "Teen Sex Down, New Study Shows. Secretary Shalala Announces New Teen Pregnancy Prevention Grant Programs." Press release, May 1, 1997. Washington, D.C.: HHS, National Center for Health Statistics.

⁶⁶Estimates for whites and blacks exclude Hispanics of those races.

Table SD 4.1.A

Percentage of youth in the United States who have had intercourse by each age, by gender: cohorts^a age 20 in 1958-1960, 1970-1972, 1985-1987, and 1990-1994

Age at first intercourse	Females who turned age 20 in: ^b			
	1958-1960	1970-1972	1985-1987	1990-1994
13	1	0	2	—
14	2	1	5	—
15	3	4	10	11
16	8	9	21	—
17	16	20	36	—
18	27	35	52	55
19	46	53	66	—
20	61	68	76	75

Age at first intercourse	Males who turned age 20 in: ^b			
	1958-1960	1970-1972	1985-1987	1990-1994
13	—	11	9	—
14	—	15	13	—
15	—	20	27	—
16	—	30	41	—
17	—	41	52	—
18	—	55	64	—
19	—	67	75	—
20	—	74	80	—

^aCohorts are defined as those individuals who turned 20 years old within the specified time period.

^bData are based on females ages 30-32 and 42-44 in the 1982 National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG), ages 21-23 and 36-38 in the 1988 NSFG, and ages 25-29 in the 1995 NSFG; and males ages 21-23 and 36-38 in the 1991 Survey of Men.

Source: Alan Guttmacher Institute. 1994. *Sex and America's Teenagers*. New York: Alan Guttmacher Institute, Figures 11 and 12, pages 22-23; Abma, J., Chandra, A., Mosher, W., Peterson, L., and Piccinino, L. 1997. "Fertility, family planning, and women's health: New data from the 1995 National Survey of Family Growth." *Vital and Health Statistics* 23 (19), Table 20.

Table SD 4.1.B

Percentage of students grades 9 through 12 in the United States who reported ever having sexual intercourse, by gender, grade, and race and Hispanic origin^a: 1995 and 1997

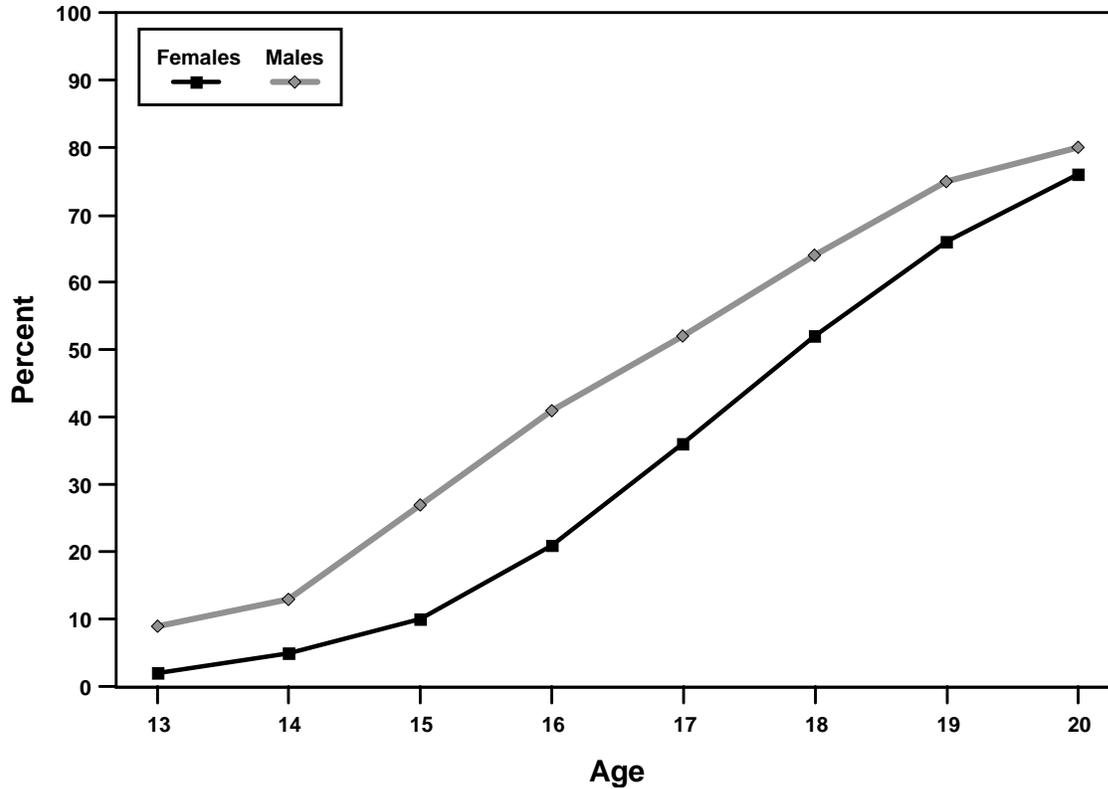
		1995		1997		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total	53	54	52	48	49	48
Grade						
9	37	41	32	38	42	34
10	48	50	46	43	42	44
11	59	57	60	50	49	50
12	66	67	66	61	60	62
Race and Hispanic origin^a						
White, non-Hispanic	49	49	49	44	43	44
Black, non-Hispanic	73	81	67	73	80	66
Hispanic	58	62	53	52	58	46

^aEstimates for whites and blacks exclude Hispanics of those races. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Sources: Kann, L., Kinchen, S.A., Williams, B.I., Ross, J.G., Lowry, R., Hill, C.V., Grunbaum, J., Blumson, P.S., Collins, J.L., and Kolbe, L.J. "Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance—United States, 1997." In *CDC Surveillance Summaries*, August 14, 1998. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* 47 (SS-3): Table 26; Kann, L., Warren, C.W., Harris, W.A., Collins, J.L., Williams, B.I., Ross, J.G., and Kolbe, L.J. "Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance—United States, 1995." In *CDC Surveillance Summaries*, September 27, 1996. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* 45 (SS-4): Table 26.

Figure SD 4.1

Percentage of youth in the United States who have had intercourse, by age and gender: cohort^a age 20 in 1985-1987



^aCohorts are defined as those individuals who turned 20 years old within the specified time period.

Source: Alan Guttmacher Institute. 1994. *Sex and America's Teenagers*. New York: Alan Guttmacher Institute, Figures 11 and 12, pages 22-23.

SD 4.2

SEXUALLY ACTIVE TEENS

Having become sexually experienced does not necessarily mean teenagers will be sexually active from that point on. They may still abstain from intercourse out of concern for the risk of pregnancy or sexually transmitted diseases or a preference for abstinence, or they may experience periods in which they do not have a sexual partner; nevertheless, research indicates that once a person has had sex, he or she is likely to continue to be sexually active. Among young adults ages 18 through 22 who had ever had intercourse, over 70 percent had a second experience of intercourse within six months of first intercourse.⁶⁷

The percentage of teens in grades 9 through 12 who are sexually active—defined as having had sexual intercourse in the previous three months—remained steady at 38 percent from 1991 to 1995 before dropping to 35 percent in 1997 (see Table SD 4.2).

Differences by Gender. There is little difference between the percentages of male and female students who are sexually active. In 1997, 33 percent of males and 37 percent of females reported being sexually active.

Differences by Race and Hispanic Origin.⁶⁸ In 1997, black students were, at 54 percent, more likely than either white (32 percent) or Hispanic (35 percent) students to be sexually active (see Figure SD 4.2).

Differences by Grade. The percentage of teens who are sexually active rises as grade increases. Twelfth-grade students are nearly twice as likely to be sexually active as are 9th-grade students (see Table SD 4.2).

⁶⁷Moore, K.A., and Peterson, J.L. August 1989. *The Consequences of Teenage Pregnancy*. Final Report to NICHD and ASPE/HHS, Grant No. HD 21537.

⁶⁸Estimates for whites and blacks exclude Hispanics of those races.

Table SD 4.2

Percentage of students grades 9 through 12 in the United States who reported having had sexual intercourse in the previous three months, by gender, race and Hispanic origin^a, grade, and age: 1991, 1993, 1995, and 1997

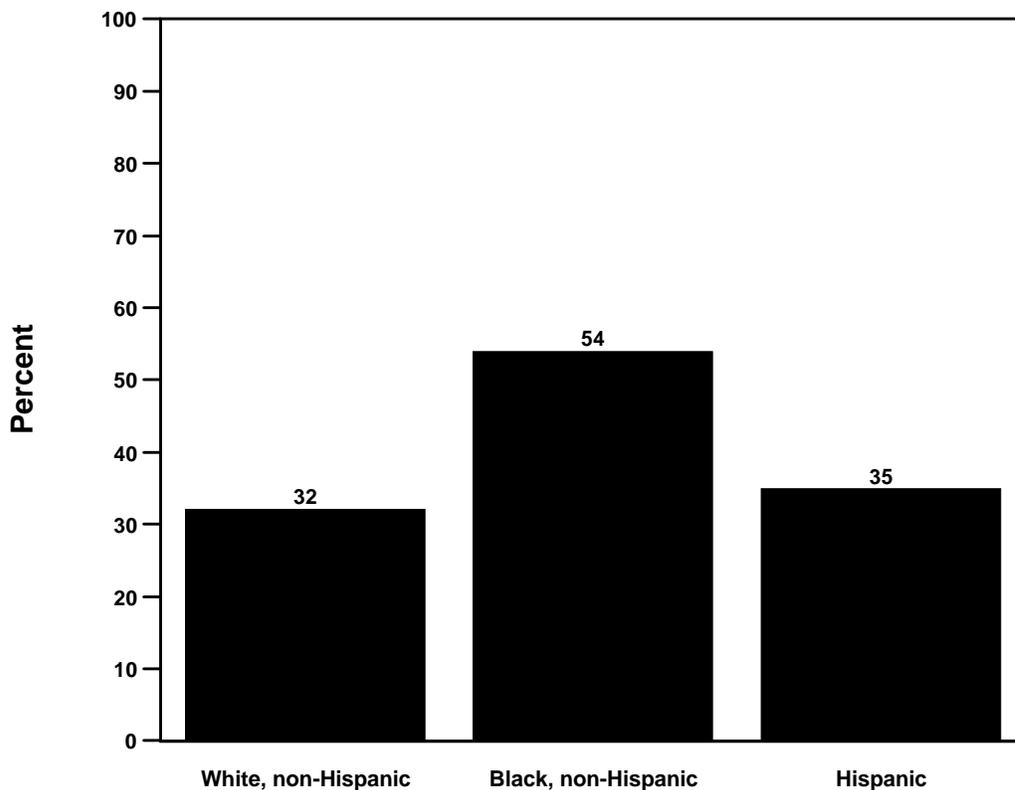
	1991	1993	1995	1997
Total	38	38	38	35
Gender				
Male	37	38	36	33
Female	38	38	40	37
Race and Hispanic origin^a				
White, non-Hispanic	34	34	35	32
Black, non-Hispanic	59	59	54	54
Hispanic	37	39	39	35
Grade				
9	22	25	24	24
10	33	30	34	29
11	43	40	42	38
12	51	53	50	46
Age				
15	24	25	28	26
16	38	35	37	32
15 or 16	31	31	32	29

^aEstimates for whites and blacks exclude Hispanics of those races. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Sources: Data for 1991: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "1990-1991 Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System." In *Chronic Disease and Health Promotion Reporting from the MMWR*, Table 1, p. 78; data for 1993: Kann, L., Warren, C.W., Harris, W.A., Collins, J.L., Douglas, K.A., Collins, M.E., Williams, B.I., Ross, J.G., Kolbe, L.J., and State and Local YRBSS Coordinators. "Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance—United States, 1993." In *CDC Surveillance Summaries*, March 24, 1995. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* 44 (SS-1): Table 20; data for 1995: Kann, L., Warren, C.W., Harris, W.A., Collins, J.L., Williams, B.I., Ross, J.G., and Kolbe, L.J. "Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance—United States, 1995." In *CDC Surveillance Summaries*, September 27, 1996. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* 45 (SS-4): Table 26; data for 1997: Kann, L., Kinchen, S.A., Williams, B.I., Ross, J.G., Lowry, R., Hill, C.V., Grunbaum, J., Blumson, P.S., Collins, J.L., and Kolbe, L.J. "Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance—United States, 1997." In *CDC Surveillance Summaries*, August 14, 1998. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* 47 (SS-3): Table 26; and unpublished data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Figure SD 4.2

Percentage of youth in grades 9 through 12 in the United States who reported having had sexual intercourse in the previous three months, by race and Hispanic origin:^a 1997



^aEstimates for whites and blacks exclude Hispanics of those races. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Source: Kann, L., Kinchen, S.A., Williams, B.I., Ross, J.G., Lowry, R., Hill, C.V., Grunbaum, J., Blumson, P.S., Collins, J.L., and Kolbe, L.J. "Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance—United States, 1997." In *CDC Surveillance Summaries*, August 14, 1998. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* 47 (SS-3): Table 26.

SD 4.3

CONTRACEPTIVE USE BY TEENS

Sexual intercourse without contraception puts a teen at risk of unintended pregnancy and of contracting sexually transmitted diseases such as HIV/AIDS. The vast majority of teens do not want to become pregnant. Data from a national survey show that among teens who had first intercourse at age 17 or younger, fewer than 1 in 100 wanted a pregnancy to occur at that time. This was true for both males and females and for both blacks and whites.⁶⁹ Even among adolescents who give birth as a teenager, only 34 percent of the births are intended.⁷⁰

Condoms and birth control pills are the most common forms of contraception used by sexually active teenagers.⁷¹ In 1997, over half (57 percent) of sexually experienced students in grades 9 through 12 reported use of a condom during their last sexual intercourse, while only 17 percent reported use of the birth control pill (see Tables SD 4.3.A and SD 4.3.B).

Condom use among sexually experienced students increased between 1991 and 1997 from 46 percent to 57 percent (see Table SD 4.3.A). Use of birth control pills has remained relatively steady from 1993 to 1997 at 17 to 18 percent, with some sub-group differences that are discussed below (see Table SD 4.3.B).

Differences by Gender. Female students are less likely than male students to report having used a condom during their last intercourse (51 percent of females versus 63 percent of males in 1997).

Differences by Grade. Condom use among 12th-grade students is lower than among students in the earlier grades. The decrease is largest among young women, dropping from 55 percent to 43 percent between the 11th and 12th grades. In contrast, in 1997, only 8 percent of sexually experienced 9th-graders reported use of the pill, while nearly a quarter of 12th-graders reported its use (see Figure SD 4.3).

Differences by Race.⁷² Black students report the highest use of condoms, while white students report the highest use of the pill. In 1997, white students were more likely to have used the pill during their last sexual intercourse (21 percent) than were either black students (12 percent) or Hispanic students (10 percent) (see Tables SD 4.3.A and SD 4.3.B).

It is important to note that the data presented here include only those teens who are in school. Teens out of school are likely to have lower rates of contraceptive use because their access to education regarding the risks associated with unprotected sex, as well as guidance on how to obtain protection, is more limited.

⁶⁹ Moore, K.A., and Peterson, J.L. August 1989. "The Consequences of Teenage Pregnancy." Final Report to NICHD and ASPE/DHHS, Grant No. HD 21537. See also preliminary results of research from the 1995 National Survey of Adolescent Males and the 1995 National Survey of Family Growth, The Urban Institute Fact Sheet (May 1, 1997), "New Data on Sexual Behaviors of Teenage Males."

⁷⁰ In the 1995 National Survey of Family Growth, the percentage of births intended at the time of conception to women ages 15 through 44 that occurred five years prior to the survey interview were as follows: 69 percent to all mothers, 34 percent to mothers under 20, 61 percent to mothers ages 20 through 24, 78 percent to mothers ages 25 through 29, and 80 percent to mothers ages 30 through 44. Abma, J.C., Chandra, A., Mosher, W.D., Peterson, L., and Piccinino, L. 1997. "Fertility, Family Planning, and Women's Health: New Data from the 1995 National Survey of Family Growth." National Center for Health Statistics, *Vital Health Statistics* 23 (19), Table 14.

⁷¹ Peterson, L.S. "Contraceptive Use in the United States: 1982-90." *Advance Data*, No. 260, February 14, 1995. Division of Vital Statistics, National Center for Health Statistics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Data from the National Survey of Family Growth.

⁷² Estimates for whites and blacks exclude Hispanics of those races.

Table SD 4.3.A

Percentage of currently sexually active high school students in the United States who reported using a condom during last sexual intercourse, by gender, grade, and race and Hispanic origin^a: 1991, 1993, 1995, and 1997

	1991			1993		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total	46	55	38	53	59	46
Grade						
9	53	56	50	62	63	59
10	46	57	36	55	63	46
11	49	57	41	55	65	46
12	41	51	33	47	52	41
Race and Hispanic origin^a						
White, non-Hispanic	47	55	38	52	59	46
Black, non-Hispanic	48	57	39	57	64	48
Hispanic	37	47	27	46	55	37
	1995			1997		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total	54	61	49	57	63	51
Grade						
9	63	66	59	59	59	58
10	60	68	52	59	65	53
11	52	57	49	60	65	55
12	50	57	43	52	61	43
Race and Hispanic origin^a						
White, non-Hispanic	53	58	48	56	62	49
Black, non-Hispanic	66	72	61	64	68	59
Hispanic	44	56	33	48	55	40

^aEstimates for whites and blacks exclude Hispanics of those races. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Sources: Data for 1990: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "1990-1991 Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System." In *Chronic Disease and Health Promotion Reporting from the MMWR*, Table 2, p. 47; data for 1993: Kann, L., Warren, C.W., Harris, W.A., Collins, J.L., Douglas, K.A., Collins, M.E., Williams, B.I., Ross, J.G., Kolbe, L.J., and State and Local YRBSS Coordinators. "Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance—United States, 1993." In *CDC Surveillance Summaries*, March 24, 1995. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* 44 (SS-1): Table 20; data for 1995: Kann, L., Warren, C.W., Harris, W.A., Collins, J.L., Williams, B.I., Ross, J.G., and Kolbe, L.J. "Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance—United States, 1995." In *CDC Surveillance Summaries*, September 27, 1996. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* 45 (SS-4): Table 28; also, unpublished tabulations from L. Kann, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; data for 1997: Kann, L., Kinchen, S.A., Williams, B.I., Ross, J.G., Lowry, R., Hill, C.V., Grunbaum, J., Blumson, P.S., Collins, J.L., Kolbe, L.J., and State and Local YRBSS Coordinators. "Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance—United States, 1997." In *CDC Surveillance Summaries*, August 14, 1998. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* 47 (SS-3): Table 28.

Table SD 4.3.B

Percentage of currently sexually active high school students in the United States who reported birth control pill use during last sexual intercourse, by gender, grade, and race and Hispanic origin^a: 1993, 1995, and 1997

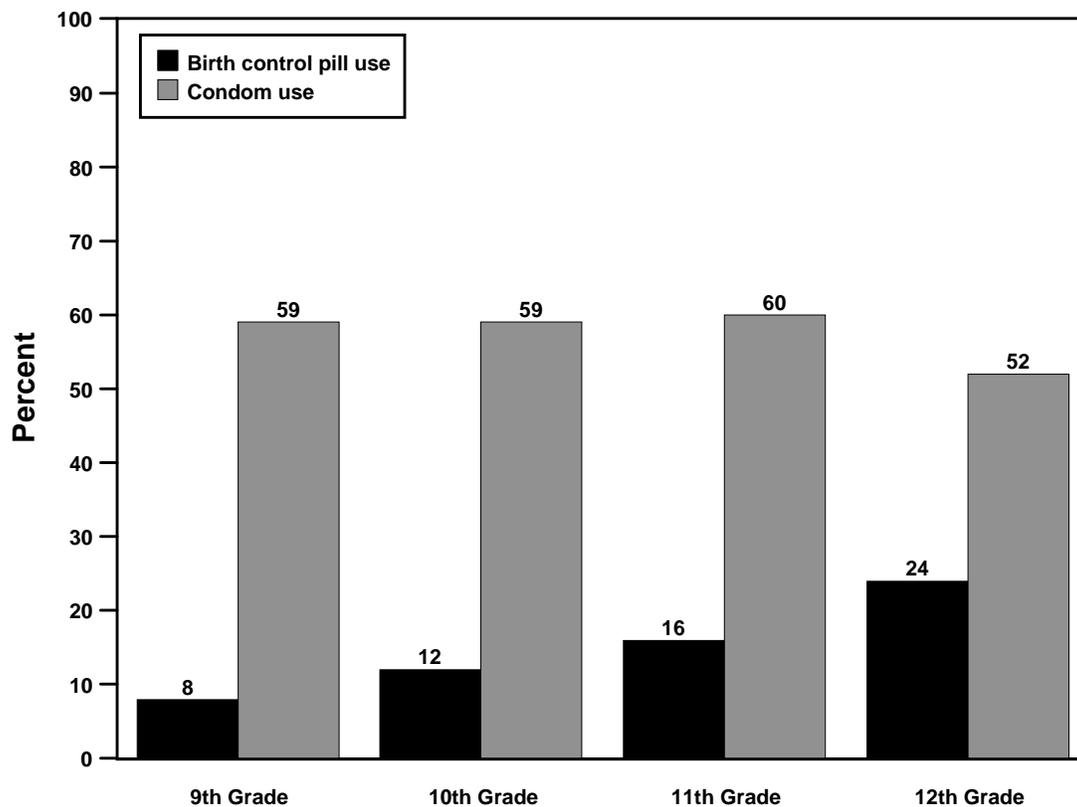
	1993			1995			1997		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total	18	15	22	17	14	20	17	13	21
Grade									
9	9	8	11	11	10	13	8	8	8
10	14	10	17	12	9	16	12	8	17
11	17	12	22	15	13	17	16	12	19
12	26	23	29	25	21	29	24	19	30
Race and Hispanic origin^a									
White, non-Hispanic	20	17	24	21	17	25	21	17	25
Black, non-Hispanic	15	11	21	10	8	12	12	9	15
Hispanic	12	10	15	11	14	9	10	7	13

^aEstimates for whites and blacks exclude Hispanics of those races. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Sources: Data for 1993: Kann, L., Warren, C.W., Harris, W.A., Collins, J.L., Douglas, K.A., Collins, M.E., Williams, B.I., Ross, J.G., Kolbe, L.J., and State and Local YRBSS Coordinators. "Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance—United States, 1993." In *CDC Surveillance Summaries*, March 24, 1995. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* 44 (SS-1): Table 20; data for 1995: Kann, L., Warren, C.W., Harris, W.A., Collins, J.L., Williams, B.I., Ross, J.G., and Kolbe, L.J. "Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance—United States, 1995." In *CDC Surveillance Summaries*, September 27, 1996. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* 45 (SS-4): Table 28; data for 1997: Kann, L., Kinchen, S.A., Williams, B.I., Ross, J.G., Lowry, R., Hill, C.V., Grunbaum, J., Blumson, P.S., Collins, J.L., Kolbe, L.J., and State and Local YRBSS Coordinators. "Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance—United States, 1997." In *CDC Surveillance Summaries*, August 14, 1998. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* 47 (SS-3): Table 28.

Figure SD 4.3

Percentage of currently sexually active high school students in the United States who reported using a contraceptive during their last sexual intercourse, by grade and method: 1997



Source: Kann, L., Kinchen, S.A., Williams, B.I., Ross, J.G., Lowry, R., Hill, C.V., Grunbaum, J., Blumson, P.S., Collins, J.L., Kolbe, L.J., and State and Local YRBSS Coordinators. "Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance—United States, 1997." In *CDC Surveillance Summaries*, August 14, 1998. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* 47 (SS-3): Table 28.

SD 4.4

NUMBER OF SEXUAL PARTNERS

The greater the number of sexual partners a person has, the greater the risk of contracting sexually transmitted diseases such as HIV/AIDS. While trend data on the sexual behavior of teens are limited, one study indicates that the proportion of sexually active females living in metropolitan areas who have had six or more sexual partners doubled from 1971 to 1988.⁷³

Differences by Gender. Male youth generally report a higher number of sexual partners than do female youth. In 1995, 6 percent of sexually experienced males and 3 percent of sexually experienced females ages 15 through 19 reported having 5 or more sexual partners in a year. The number of sexual partners per year among sexually experienced females is concentrated at the lower end of the scale, with either zero or one partners most likely to be reported (see Table SD 4.4.A). Among high school students surveyed in 1997, 18 percent of males reported having had four or more sexual partners in their lifetime, compared with 14 percent of female students (see Table SD 4.4.B).

Differences by Race.⁷⁴ Black high school students are more likely to report having had four or more sexual partners in their lifetime than their white or Hispanic peers: 39 percent versus 12 and 16 percent, respectively, in 1997 (see Table SD 4.4.B).

Differences by Age at First Intercourse. Age at first intercourse has a strong association with the number of sexual partners a person has over a lifetime (see Table SD 4.4.C). Among teens who were age 20 in 1992, 74 percent of males who had sexual intercourse at age 14 or younger had six or more partners during their lifetime, compared with 48 percent of those who initiated sex at age 15 or 16, and 10 percent of those who did not have intercourse until age 17 or older. A similar pattern exists for females (see Figure SD 4.4).

⁷³Kost, K., and Forrest, J.D. 1992. "American Women's Sexual Behavior and Exposure to Risk of Sexually Transmitted Disease." *Family Planning Perspectives* 24 (6): 244-254. Based on data from the National Surveys of Young Women (1971, 1976, and 1979) and the 1988 National Survey of Family Growth.

⁷⁴Estimates for whites and blacks exclude Hispanics of those races.

Table SD 4.4.A

Percentage distribution of number of sexual partners in a year among sexually experienced teens ages 15 through 19 in the United States, by gender: 1995

	0 Partners	1 Partner	2 Partners	3-4 Partners	5 or more Partners
Males	10	44	26	14	6
Females	8	62	17	10	3

Source: Analyses of the 1995 National Survey of Family Growth, Cycle 5, by Child Trends; also Sonenstein, F.L., Stewart, K., Lindberg, L.D., Pernas, M., and Williams, S. 1997. *Involving Males in Preventing Teen Pregnancy: A Guide for Program Planners*. Washington, D.C.: The Urban Institute, pp. 16 and 17.

Table SD 4.4.B

Percentage of students in grades 9 through 12 in the United States who reported having four or more sex partners during lifetime, by gender, grade, and race and Hispanic origin^a: 1993, 1995, and 1997

	1993			1995			1997		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total	19	22	15	18	21	14	16	18	14
Grade									
9	11	15	6	13	18	7	12	16	8
10	16	19	13	16	20	11	14	16	12
11	20	23	16	19	21	17	17	17	16
12	27	31	23	23	25	21	21	21	21
Race and Hispanic origin^a									
White, non-Hispanic	14	15	13	14	15	13	12	11	12
Black, non-Hispanic	43	59	27	36	52	22	39	53	25
Hispanic	19	26	11	18	24	12	16	20	10

^aEstimates for whites and blacks exclude Hispanics of those races. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Sources: Data for 1993: Kann, L., Warren, C.W., Harris, W.A., Collins, J.L., Douglas, K.A., Collins, M.E., Williams, B.I., Ross, J.G., Kolbe, L.J., and State and Local YRBSS Coordinators. "Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance—United States, 1993." In *CDC Surveillance Summaries*, March 24, 1995. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* 44 (SS-1): Table 20; data for 1995: Kann, L., Warren, C.W., Harris, W.A., Collins, J.L., Williams, B.I., Ross, J.G., and Kolbe, L.J. "Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance—United States, 1995." In *CDC Surveillance Summaries*, September 27, 1996. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* 45 (SS-4): Table 26; data for 1997: Kann, L., Kinchen, S.A., Williams, B.I., Ross, J.G., Lowry, R., Hill, C.V., Grunbaum, J., Blumson, P.S., Collins, J.L., and Kolbe, L.J. "Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance—United States, 1997." In *CDC Surveillance Summaries*, August 14, 1998. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* 47 (SS-3): Table 26.

Table SD 4.4.C

Percentage distribution of number of lifetime sexual partners among sexually active 20-year-olds by age at first intercourse and by gender: 1992

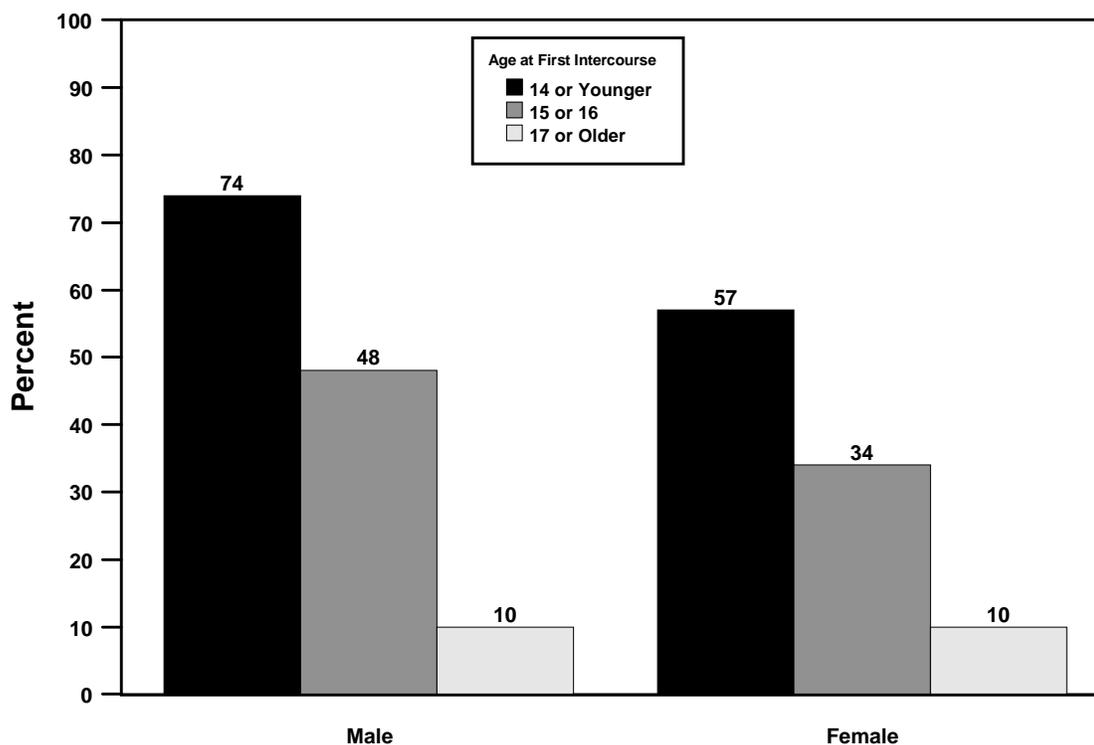
	First Intercourse at Age 14 or Younger	First Intercourse at Age 15 or 16	First Intercourse at Age 17 or Older
Males			
1 partner	2	9	42
2 or 3 partners	10	27	30
4 or 5 partners	15	16	19
6 or more partners	74	48	10
Females			
1 partner	2	10	45
2 or 3 partners	26	28	33
4 or 5 partners	16	28	13
6 or more partners	57	34	10

Note: Percents may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 1992 National Health Interview Survey—Youth Risk Behavior Supplement. Tabulations by Child Trends.

Figure SD 4.4

Percentage of sexually active 20-year-olds in the United States with six or more lifetime sexual partners, by age at first intercourse: 1992



Source: National Center for Health Statistics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 1992 National Health Interview Survey—Youth Risk Behavior Supplement. Tabulations by Child Trends.

SD 4.5

TEEN PREGNANCY

The overwhelming majority of teens in the United States do not want to become parents as teens.⁷⁵ Among all pregnancies to teens ages 15 through 19 at pregnancy outcome, 78 percent were unintended at conception.⁷⁶

From 1973 to 1990, the percentage of females ages 15 through 19 who became pregnant generally increased, rising from 9.6 percent in 1973 to 11.5 percent in 1990. This percentage had declined slightly to 11.1 percent by 1992 (see Table SD 4.5.A). In addition, among females ages 15 through 19, state data (not shown) indicate that from 1992 through 1995, pregnancy rates decreased significantly in all of the 43 reporting states and the District of Columbia.⁷⁷

Differences by Age. Pregnancy is more prevalent among older teens. In 1992, 7.3 percent of females ages 15 through 17 became pregnant, compared with 16.8 percent among those ages 18 or 19 (see Table SD 4.5.B).

Differences by Race and Hispanic Origin.⁷⁸ Non-Hispanic white females ages 15 through 19 are less likely to become pregnant than are non-Hispanic black and Hispanic females. Among females ages 15 through 17, Hispanics are more than two times as likely, and non-Hispanic blacks more than three times as likely, to become pregnant as are non-Hispanic whites (12.8, 15.4, and 4.8 percent, respectively in 1992). Non-Hispanic black and Hispanic teen females ages 18 or 19 are at least twice as likely to become pregnant as their non-Hispanic white peers (see Table SD 4.5.B).

Sexually Experienced Teens. When the percentage of teens becoming pregnant is examined within the context only of those sexually experienced females ages 15 through 19, rather than all female teens ages 15 through 19, the percentage becoming pregnant has declined slightly, but steadily, from 25.4 percent in 1973 to 20.9 percent in 1991 (see Figure SD 4.5).

⁷⁵Henshaw, S.K. 1998. "Unintended Pregnancy in the United States." *Family Planning Perspectives* 30 (1): 24-29, 46; Alan Guttmacher Institute, 1994. *Sex and America's Teenagers*. New York: Alan Guttmacher Institute.

⁷⁶Based on analysis of the 1995 National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG), cycle 5, by Child Trends. Unintended pregnancies include unintended births and all abortions. See "Henshaw, S.K. 1998. "Unintended Pregnancy in the United States." *Family Planning Perspectives* 30 (1):24-29, 46.

⁷⁷"State-Specific Pregnancy Rates among Adolescents: United States, 1992-1995." *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, June 26, 1998.

⁷⁸Estimates for whites and blacks exclude Hispanics of those races.

Table SD 4.5.A

Percentage of females under age 20 in the United States experiencing pregnancy,^a by age for all females and sexually experienced females: selected years, 1973-1992

	1973	1975	1980	1985	1990	1991	1992
All females ages 14 or younger ^b	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.7
All females ages 15-17	6.7	6.9	7.3	7.1	7.6	7.5	7.3
All females ages 18 or 19	14.1	14.9	16.2	15.8	16.6	17.1	16.8
All females ages 15-19	9.6	10.1	11.0	10.7	11.5	11.5	11.1
Sexually experienced females ages 15-19 ^c	25.4	24.3	23.5	21.4	20.9	20.9	n/a

^aPregnancies are calculated by summing the number of live births, the number of abortions, and the estimated number of spontaneous fetal losses. Spontaneous fetal losses are based on data from the National Survey of Family Growth conducted by the National Center for Health Statistics.

^bDenominator is 14-year-old females.

^cData for sexually experienced females are not available for 1992.

Sources: Henshaw, S.K. 1998. *U.S. Teenage Pregnancy Statistics*. New York: Alan Guttmacher Institute, Table 2; Alan Guttmacher Institute. 1994. *Sex and America's Teenagers*. New York: Alan Guttmacher Institute. Figure 30; Ventura, S.J., Taffel, S.M., Mosher, W.D., Wilson, J.B., and Henshaw, S.K. "Trends in Pregnancies and Pregnancy Rates: Estimates for the United States, 1980-92." *Monthly Vital Statistics Report* 43 (11, Supp.). Hyattsville, Md.: National Center for Health Statistics, 1995, Table 8; also, unpublished data from Ventura, Mosher, and Henshaw, National Center for Health Statistics.

Table SD 4.5.B

 Percentage of females ages 15 through 19 experiencing pregnancy^a by age and by race and Hispanic origin^b: 1990-1992

	1990	1991	1992
Females ages 15-17			
Total	7.6	7.5	7.3
Race and Hispanic origin^b			
White, non-Hispanic	5.4	5.1	4.8
Black, non-Hispanic	15.8	15.8	15.4
Hispanic	11.7	12.4	12.8
Females ages 18 or 19			
Total	16.6	17.1	16.8
Race and Hispanic origin^b			
White, non-Hispanic	13.0	13.1	12.6
Black, non-Hispanic	29.3	29.8	29.9
Hispanic	24.4	26.1	26.5
Females ages 15-19			
Total	11.5	11.5	11.1
Race and Hispanic origin^b			
White, non-Hispanic	8.8	8.5	7.9
Black, non-Hispanic	21.7	21.7	21.2
Hispanic	17.0	18.0	18.4

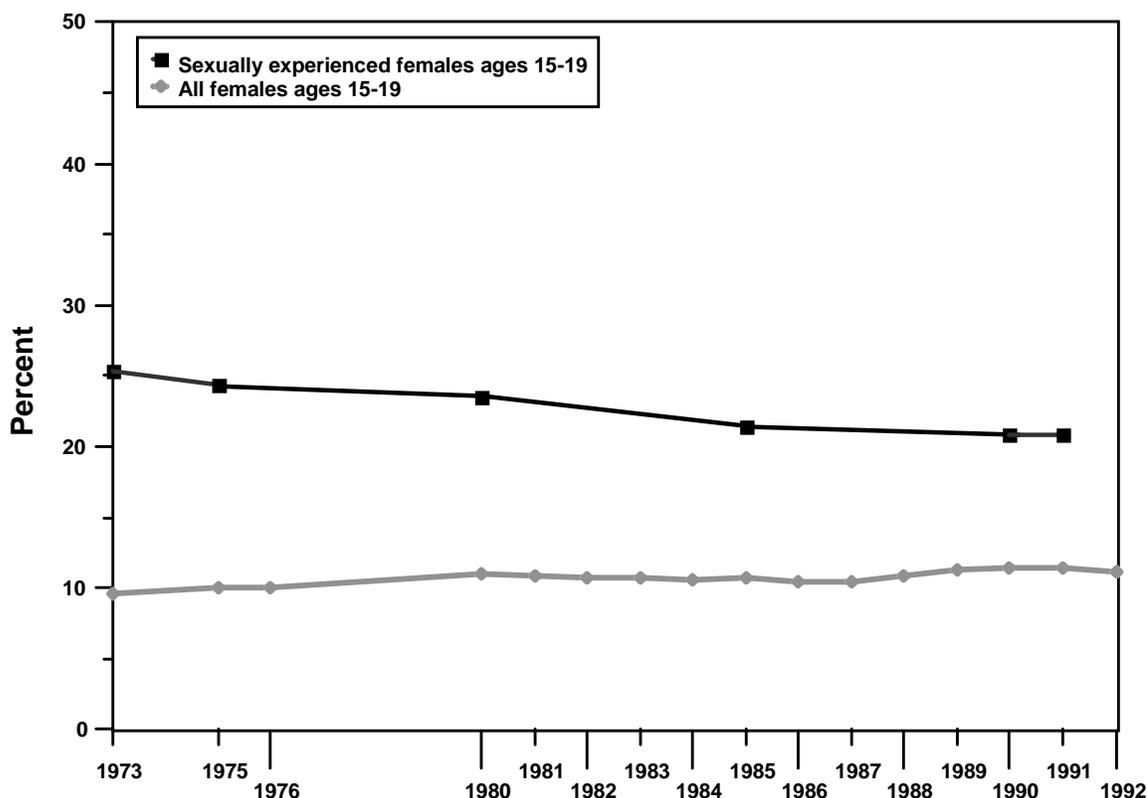
^aPregnancies are calculated by summing the number of live births, the number of abortions, and the estimated number of spontaneous fetal losses. Spontaneous fetal losses are based on data from the National Survey of Family Growth conducted by the National Center for Health Statistics.

^bEstimates for whites and blacks exclude Hispanics of those races. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Sources: Ventura, S.J., Taffel, S.M., Mosher, W.D., Wilson, J.B., and Henshaw, S.K. 1995. "Trends in Pregnancies and Pregnancy Rates: Estimates for the United States, 1980-92." *Monthly Vital Statistics Report* 43 (11, Supp.). Hyattsville, Md.: National Center for Health Statistics, 1995, Table 8; also, unpublished tabulations, Division of Vital Statistics, National Center for Health Statistics.

Figure SD 4.5

Percentage of females ages 15 through 19 in the United States experiencing pregnancy^a for all females ages 15 through 19 and for sexually experienced females ages 15 through 19: selected years, 1973-1992



^aPregnancies are calculated by summing the number of live births, the number of abortions, and the estimated number of spontaneous fetal losses. Spontaneous fetal losses are based on data from the National Survey of Family Growth conducted by the National Center for Health Statistics.

Sources: Henshaw, S.K. 1998. *U.S. Teenage Pregnancy Statistics*. New York: Alan Guttmacher Institute, Table 2; Alan Guttmacher Institute. 1994. *Sex and America's Teenagers*. New York: Alan Guttmacher Institute, Figure 30; Ventura, S.J., Taffel, S.M., Mosher, W.D., Wilson, J.B., and Henshaw, S.K. 1995. "Trends in Pregnancies and Pregnancy Rates: Estimates for the United States, 1980-92." *Monthly Vital Statistics Report* 43 (11, Supp.). Hyattsville, Md.: National Center for Health Statistics, Table 8; also, unpublished data from Ventura, Mosher, and Henshaw, National Center for Health Statistics.

SD 4.6

ABORTION AMONG TEENS

The proportion of females ages 15 through 19 who obtained an abortion during the previous year increased from 2.3 percent to 4.4 percent between 1973 and 1985, presumably influenced both by the legalization of abortion and increasing levels of sexual activity and pregnancy (see Section SD 4.2, Section SD 4.5, and Table SD 4.6.A). By 1992, the proportion obtaining abortions had dropped to 3.6 percent and it continued to decline, reaching 2.9 percent in 1996 (the most recent year for which data are available). Similar patterns occurred among both younger teens (ages 15 through 17) and older teens (ages 18 or 19).

There has not been a steady trend in the propensity of pregnant teens to give birth versus obtain an abortion over the past 20 years (see Figure SD 4.6). In 1972, the proportion of pregnancies (excluding miscarriages) to females ages 15 through 19 that ended in birth was 76 percent. During the rest of the 1970s, this proportion declined as abortion increased. Throughout most of the 1980s, however, the proportion of teen pregnancies ending in birth remained fairly stable at around 55 percent. By 1995, there was an increase to 65 percent in the proportion of teen pregnancies ending in birth, indicating a trend toward fewer abortions among pregnant teens.

Differences by Age. Older teens ages 18 or 19 are more likely to have had an abortion than are younger teens ages 15 through 17. In 1996, 1.9 percent of younger teens and 4.5 percent of older teens obtained an abortion (see Table SD 4.6.A).

Differences by Race and Hispanic Origin.⁷⁹ Non-Hispanic black teens are more likely to have had an abortion than are their non-Hispanic white and Hispanic peers. Among non-Hispanic black females ages 15 through 19, 6.6 percent obtained an abortion in 1996, compared with 1.9 percent of non-Hispanic white and 3.9 percent of Hispanic females (see Table SD 4.6.B).

Sexually Experienced Teens. The percentage of teens who are sexually experienced has increased during the past several decades; therefore, it is reasonable to consider abortion in light of this trend. When abortion rates are calculated among females ages 15 through 19 who have ever had intercourse, the data indicate that the proportion obtaining abortions increased from 5.9 percent in 1973 to 9.1 percent in 1980, then declined to 6.8 percent in 1991 (see Table SD 4.6.A). Although a larger proportion of teen females were sexually experienced in 1990 than in 1980 (see Section SD 4.2), a smaller proportion of these sexually experienced teens obtained abortions.

⁷⁹Estimates for whites and blacks exclude Hispanics of those races.

Table SD 4.6.A

Percentage of females under age 20 in the United States obtaining an abortion, by all females and sexually experienced females: selected years, 1973-1996

	1973	1975	1980	1985	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
All females ages 14 or younger ^a	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.8	---	---	---	---
All females ages 15-17	1.9	2.4	3.0	3.1	2.7	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.1	2.0	1.9
All females ages 18 or 19	2.9	4.2	6.1	6.2	5.8	5.6	5.4	5.2	4.9	4.6	4.5
All females ages 15-19	2.3	3.1	4.3	4.4	4.0	3.8	3.6	3.4	3.2	3.0	2.9
Sexually experienced females ages 15-19 ^b	5.9	7.5	9.1	8.5	7.3	6.8	n/a	---	---	---	---

^aDenominator is 14-year-old females.

^bData for sexually experienced females for 1985 were interpolated from 1980 and 1988 data. Data for sexually experienced females are not available for 1992-1995. Data for females ages 14 or younger not available for 1993-1995.

Sources: Henshaw, S.K. 1999. *U.S. Teenage Pregnancy Statistics*. New York: Alan Guttmacher Institute, Table 2 Alan Guttmacher Institute. 1994. *Sex and America's Teenagers*. 1994. New York: Alan Guttmacher Institute, Figure 36. Both are based on data from abortion providers and sexual experience data from the National Survey of Family Growth; also, unpublished data from Ventura, Mosher, and Henshaw, National Center for Health Statistics and published and unpublished data from the Alan Guttmacher Institute.

Table SD 4.6.B

Percentage of females ages 15 through 19 in the United States obtaining an abortion during the year, by age and by race and Hispanic origin: 1990-1996

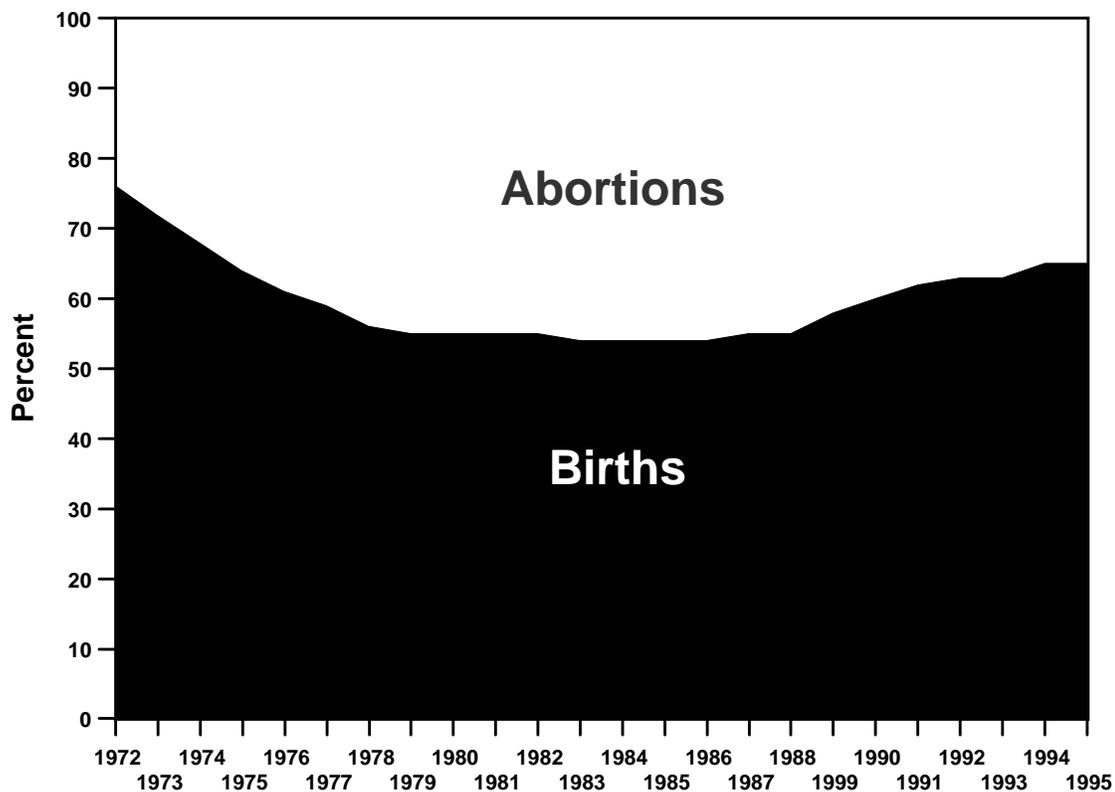
	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Females ages 15-17							
Total	2.7	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.1	2.0	1.9
Race and Hispanic origin^a							
White, non-Hispanic	2.1	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.3
Black, non-Hispanic	5.8	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.0	4.6	4.4
Hispanic	2.4	2.5	2.8	2.7	2.8	2.5	2.5
Females ages 18 or 19							
Total	5.8	5.6	5.4	5.2	4.9	4.6	4.5
Race and Hispanic origin^a							
White, non-Hispanic	4.7	4.3	3.9	3.7	3.3	3.1	2.9
Black, non-Hispanic	11.7	11.6	11.7	11.5	10.8	9.8	10.0
Hispanic	6.0	6.3	6.6	6.4	6.3	5.9	6.0
Females ages 15-19							
Total	4.0	3.8	3.6	3.4	3.2	3.0	2.9
Race and Hispanic origin^a							
White, non-Hispanic	3.2	2.8	2.5	2.4	2.2	2.0	1.9
Black, non-Hispanic	8.4	8.1	8.0	7.8	7.3	6.6	6.6
Hispanic	3.9	4.0	4.3	4.2	4.2	3.9	3.9

^aEstimates for whites and blacks exclude Hispanics of those races. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Sources: Ventura, S.J., Mosher, W.D., Curtin, S.D., Abma, J.D., and Henshaw, S.K. 1999. "Trends in Pregnancies and Pregnancy Rates and Outcomes: Estimates for the United States, 1976 - 1996." Hyattsville, Md.: National Center for Health Statistics, Vital and Health Statistics 21(56); also Henshaw, S.K. 1999. U.S. Teenage Pregnancy Statistics. New York: The Alan Guttmacher Institute, Table 2.

Figure SD 4.6

Percentage of pregnancies among females ages 15 through 19 in the United States ending in birth and ending in abortion: 1972-1995



Note: Pregnancies do not include miscarriages.

Sources: Alan Guttmacher Institute. 1994. *Sex and America's Teenagers*. New York: Alan Guttmacher Institutes. Figure 33. Based on data from abortion providers and sexual experience data from the National Survey of Family Growth. Also, unpublished data provided by Stanley Henshaw, the Alan Guttmacher Institute.

SD 4.7

TEEN BIRTHS

Research indicates that giving birth as a teen can have negative consequences on both mothers and their children over and above the effects of the mother's disadvantaged background. Giving birth at an early age can limit a young woman's options regarding education and employment opportunities, increases the likelihood that she will need public assistance, and can have negative effects on the development of her children.⁸⁰

Between 1960 and 1985, birth rates for teens ages 15 through 19 dropped from 89.1 to 51.0 per 1,000 teen women. This trend reversed between 1985 and 1991, and the teen birth rate increased to 62.1 per 1,000 teen women. Since 1991, the teen birth rate has again turned downward, declining to 51.1 births per 1,000 teen women by 1998 (see Figure SD 4.7).

Differences by Race and Hispanic Origin.⁸¹ The trends described in the previous paragraph are evident for white, black, and American Indian/Alaska Native⁸² women ages 15 through 19. American Indian/Alaska Native women have followed a similar trend since 1980 (the first year for which data are available for this group). In contrast, the birth rate for Hispanic teens increased from 82.2 per 1,000 teen women in 1980 (the first year for which data were available) to 106.7 per 1,000 teen women in 1991 and remained fairly stable through 1994. However, the birth rate dropped to 97.3 per 1,000 teen women in 1997, and to 93.7 in 1998 (see Table SD 4.7). Similarly, the Asian/Pacific Islander teen birth rate, although substantially lower than all other racial and ethnic groups, increased slightly through 1991 and held fairly steady through 1994. The birth rate has since declined to 23.1 births per 1,000 teen women in 1998.

The birth rate for black teens has remained about twice that of white teens since 1960. In 1998, the birth rate for white teens was 45.4 per 1,000 teen women, and for black teens it was 85.3 per 1,000 teen women. Black teens had the highest birth rate until 1994, when the rate for Hispanic teens surpassed that of blacks; the Hispanic rate has remained at a higher level through 1998. Black teens experienced a 26 percent drop in birth rates between 1991 and 1998, from 115.5 to 85.3 per 1,000 women ages 15 through 19. The birth rate for black teens is now at its lowest point in the almost 40 years for which detailed statistics for black teens have been available (see Table SD 4.7).

Differences by Age. Teen birth rates increase with age. In 1998, the birth rate for all teens ages 15 through 17 was 30.4 per 1,000 teen women; for those ages 18 or 19, it was 82.0 per 1,000. Rates for teen females ages 10 through 14 were considerably lower at 1.0 per 1,000. For black and Hispanic teens, the birth rate among 18- and 19-year-olds was more than twice that of the 15- through 17-year-old teen females. The birth rate of white, American Indian/Alaska Native, and Asian/Pacific Islander teen females ages 18 or 19 are over two and a half times that of younger teens ages 15 through 17.

⁸⁰Moore, K.A. 1993. *Teenage Childbearing: A Pragmatic Perspective*. Washington, D.C.: Child Trends, Inc.; Maynard, R.A. (ed.). 1996. *Kids Having Kids: A Robin Hood Foundation Special Report on the Costs of Adolescent Childbearing*. New York: The Robin Hood Foundation.

⁸¹Estimates for white and black teens include those of Hispanic origin. Teens of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

⁸²Data for American Indians/Alaska Natives available since 1980.

SEE TABLE FOLLOWING PAGES

Table SD 4.7 (Part 1)

Teen birth rates in the United States by age of mother and by race^a and Hispanic origin^c (births per 1,000 females in each age group): selected years, 1960-1998

	1960	1965	1970	1975	1980 ^a	1985
All races						
Ages 10-14	—	—	1.2	1.3	1.1	1.2
Ages 15-17	43.9	36.6	38.8	36.1	32.5	31.0
Ages 18 or 19	166.7	124.5	114.7	85.0	82.1	79.6
Ages 15-19	89.1	70.5	68.3	55.6	53.0	51.0
White^b						
Ages 10-14	—	—	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6
Ages 15-17	35.5	27.8	29.2	28.0	25.5	24.4
Ages 18 or 19	154.6	111.9	101.5	74.0	73.2	70.4
Ages 15-19	79.4	60.6	57.4	46.4	45.4	43.3
White, non-Hispanic						
Ages 10-14	—	—	—	—	0.4	—
Ages 15-17	—	—	—	—	22.4	—
Ages 18 or 19	—	—	—	—	67.7	—
Ages 15-19	—	—	—	—	41.2	—
Black^b						
Ages 10-14	—	—	5.2	5.1	4.3	4.5
Ages 15-17	—	99.3	101.4	85.6	72.5	69.3
Ages 18 or 19	—	227.6	204.9	152.4	135.1	132.4
Ages 15-19	156.1	144.6	140.7	111.8	97.8	95.4
Hispanic^{c,d}						
Ages 10-14	—	—	—	—	1.7	—
Ages 15-17	—	—	—	—	52.1	—
Ages 18 or 19	—	—	—	—	126.9	—
Ages 15-19	—	—	—	—	82.2	—
American Indian/Alaska Native^b						
Ages 10-14	—	—	—	—	1.9	1.7
Ages 15-17	—	—	—	—	51.5	47.7
Ages 18 or 19	—	—	—	—	129.5	124.1
Ages 15-19	—	—	—	—	82.2	79.2
Asian/Pacific Islander^b						
Ages 10-14	—	—	—	—	0.3	0.4
Ages 15-17	—	—	—	—	12.0	12.5
Ages 18 or 19	—	—	—	—	46.2	40.8
Ages 15-19	—	—	—	—	26.2	23.8

*See notes on page 392

Table SD 4.7 (Part 2)

Teen birth rates in the United States by age of mother and by race^a and Hispanic origin^c (births per 1,000 females in each age group): selected years, 1960-1998

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
All races									
Ages 10-14	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.0
Ages 15-17	37.5	38.7	37.8	37.8	37.6	36.0	33.8	32.1	30.4
Ages 18 or 19	88.6	94.4	94.5	92.1	91.5	89.1	86.0	83.6	82.0
Ages 15-19	59.9	62.1	60.7	59.6	58.9	56.8	54.4	52.3	51.1
White^b									
Ages 10-14	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.7
Ages 15-17	29.5	30.7	30.1	30.3	30.7	30.0	28.4	27.1	25.9
Ages 18 or 19	78.0	83.5	83.8	82.1	82.1	81.2	78.4	75.9	74.7
Ages 15-19	50.8	52.8	51.8	51.1	51.1	50.1	48.1	46.3	45.4
White, non-Hispanic									
Ages 10-14	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Ages 15-17	23.2	23.6	22.7	22.7	22.8	22.0	20.6	19.4	18.4
Ages 18 or 19	66.6	70.5	69.8	67.7	67.4	66.1	63.7	61.9	60.6
Ages 15-19	42.5	43.4	41.7	40.7	40.4	39.3	37.6	36.0	35.2
Black^b									
Ages 10-14	4.9	4.8	4.7	4.6	4.6	4.2	3.6	3.3	2.9
Ages 15-17	82.3	84.1	81.3	79.8	76.3	69.7	64.7	60.8	56.8
Ages 18 or 19	152.9	158.6	157.9	151.9	148.3	137.1	132.5	130.1	126.8
Ages 15-19	112.8	115.5	112.4	108.6	104.5	96.1	91.4	88.2	85.3
Hispanic^{c,d}									
Ages 10-14	2.4	2.4	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.3	2.1
Ages 15-17	65.9	70.6	71.4	71.7	74.0	72.9	69.0	66.3	62.3
Ages 18 or 19	147.7	158.5	159.7	159.1	158.0	157.9	151.1	144.3	140.2
Ages 15-19	100.3	106.7	107.1	106.8	107.7	106.7	101.8	97.4	93.7
American Indian/Alaska Native^b									
Ages 10-14	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.4	1.9	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.6
Ages 15-17	48.5	52.7	53.8	53.7	51.3	47.8	46.4	45.3	44.3
Ages 18 or 19	129.3	134.3	132.6	130.7	130.3	130.7	122.3	117.6	118.0
Ages 15-19	81.1	85.0	84.4	83.1	80.8	78.0	73.9	71.8	71.8
Asian/Pacific Islander^b									
Ages 10-14	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.4
Ages 15-17	16.0	16.1	15.2	16.0	16.1	15.4	14.9	14.3	13.7
Ages 18 or 19	40.2	43.1	43.1	43.3	44.1	43.4	40.4	39.3	38.2
Ages 15-19	26.4	27.4	26.6	27.0	27.1	26.1	24.6	23.7	23.1

*See notes on page 392

Table SD 4.7 (Part 3)

Teen birth rates in the United States by age of mother and by race^a and Hispanic origin (births per 1,000 females in each age group): selected years, 1960-1998

^aBeginning in 1980, births have been tabulated by race and ethnicity of the mother. Prior to 1980, births were tabulated by race of child, assigning a child to the race of the nonwhite parent, if any, or to the race of the father, if both are nonwhite.

^bIncludes persons of Hispanic origin.

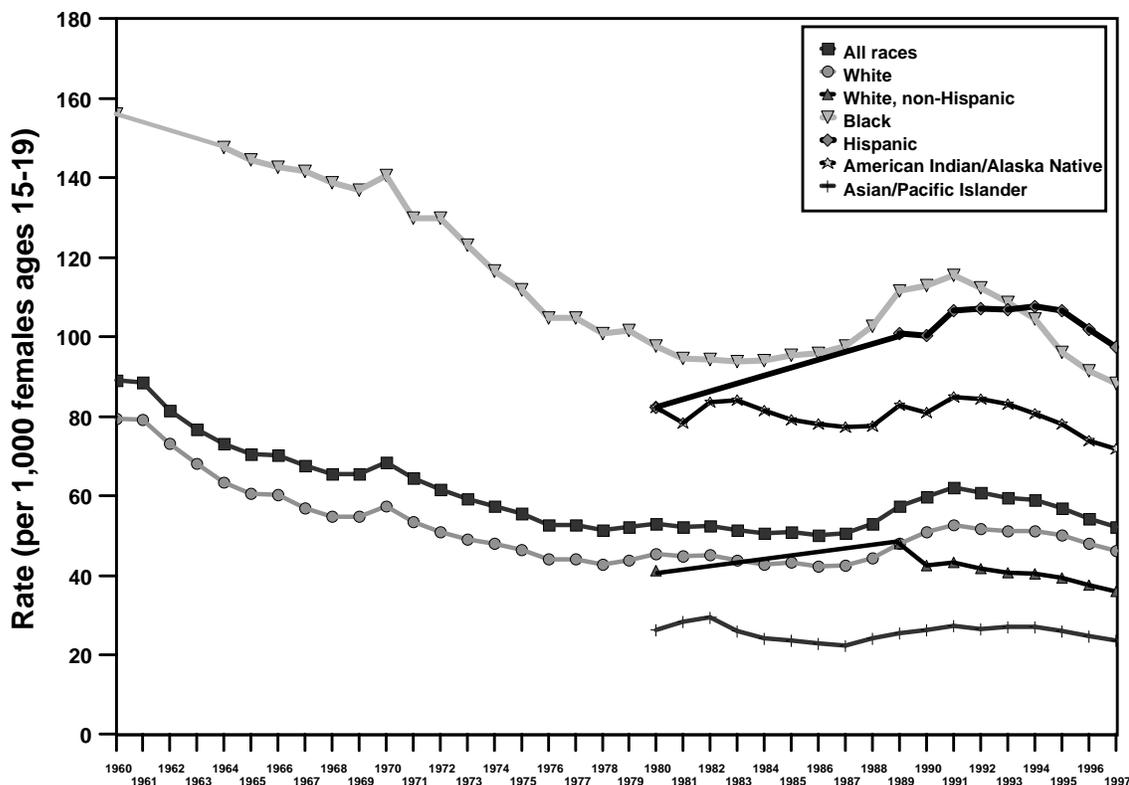
^cPersons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

^dData for Hispanics have been available only since 1980, with 22 states reporting in 1980, representing 90 percent of the Hispanic population. Hispanic birth data were reported by 23 states and the District of Columbia in 1985; 48 states and District of Columbia in 1990; 49 states and the District of Columbia in 1991 and 1992; and all 50 states and the District of Columbia since 1993. Rates in 1985 were not calculated for Hispanics because estimates for populations were not available.

Sources: Ventura, S.J., Martin, J.A., Curtin, S.C., and Mathews, T.J. 1999. "Births: Final Data for 1997." *National Vital Statistics Reports* 47 (18). Hyattsville, Md.: National Center for Health Statistics, Tables 4 and 9; Ventura, S.J., Mathews, T.J., and Curtin, S.C. 1998. "Declines in Teenage Birth Rates: National and State Patterns, 1991-1997." *National Vital Statistics Reports* 47 (12). Hyattsville, Md.: National Center for Health Statistics, Tables 1 and 2; Ventura, S.J., Martin, J.A., Curtin, S.C., and Mathews, T.J. 1998. "Report of Final Natality Statistics, 1996." *Monthly Vital Statistics Report* 46 (11, supp), Hyattsville, Md.: National Center for Health Statistics, Table 4; National Center for Health Statistics. *Vital Statistics of the United States, Volume 1, Natality*. Annual Issues, Table "Birth Rates for Teenage Mothers 15-19 Years, by Age of Mother and Race and Hispanic Origin: United States, 1940-97"; and Mathews, T.J., Ventura, S.J., Curtin, S.C., and Martin, J.A. 1998. "Births of Hispanic Origin, 1989-1995." *Monthly Vital Statistics Report* 46 (6), Table 1.

Figure SD 4.7

Teen birth rates in the United States, by race^a and Hispanic origin^b (births per 1,000 females ages 15 through 19): 1960-1997



^aBeginning in 1980, births have been tabulated by race and ethnicity of the mother. Prior to 1980, births were tabulated by race of child, assigning a child to the race of the nonwhite parent, if any, or to the race of the father, if both are nonwhite. Data for black and white births include births of Hispanic origin.

^bPersons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Data for Hispanics have been available only since 1980, with 22 states reporting in 1980, representing 90 percent of the Hispanic population. Hispanic birth data were reported by 23 states and the District of Columbia in 1985; 48 states and the District of Columbia in 1990; 49 states and the District of Columbia in 1991 and 1992; and all 50 states and the District of Columbia since 1993. Rates in 1985 were not calculated for Hispanics because estimates for populations were not available.

Sources: Ventura, S.J., Martin, J.A., Curtin, S.C., and Mathews, T.J. 1999. "Births: Final Data for 1997." *National Vital Statistics Reports* 47 (18). Hyattsville, Md.: National Center for Health Statistics, Tables 4 and 9; Ventura, S.J., Mathews, T.J., and Curtin, S.C. 1999. "Declines in Teenage Birth Rates, 1991-1998: Update of National and State Trends." *National Vital Statistics Reports* 47(26). Hyattsville, Md.: National Center for Health Statistics, Tables 1 and 2; Ventura, S.J., Martin, J.A., Curtin, S.C., and Mathews, T.J. 1998. "Report of Final Natality Statistics, 1996." *Monthly Vital Statistics Report* 46 (11, supp), Hyattsville, Md.: National Center for Health Statistics, Table 4; National Center for Health Statistics. *Vital Statistics of the United States, Volume 1, Natality*. Annual Issues, Table "Birth Rates for Teenage Mothers 15-19 Years, by Age of Mother and Race and Hispanic Origin: United States, 1940-97." and Mathews, T.J., Ventura, S.J., Curtin, S.C., and Martin, J.A. 1998. "Births of Hispanic Origin, 1989-1995." *Monthly Vital Statistics Report* 46 (6), Table 1.

SD 4.8

TEEN NONMARITAL BIRTHS

Nonmarital childbearing has consequences for the child, the parent, and society. Raising a child is a challenging task, even for two parents. A large body of research suggests that the absence of a father is associated with negative outcomes for children when they grow up.⁸³ For example, studies have linked growing up with a single parent to lower educational attainment for the child.⁸⁴ In 1998, 30 percent of nonmarital births were to teenagers.⁸⁵ Bearing children outside of marriage is a particularly troubling development for this age group because these young women often have little education and lack the ability to support their families economically, especially as single parents.

Nonmarital births as a percent of all births have increased among teens of all ages and across all racial and ethnic groups since 1960 (see Figure SD 4.8). Among all young women ages 15 through 19, 15 percent of births were nonmarital in 1960, compared with 79 percent in 1998 (see Table SD 4.8). The percentage of births to teens that occurred outside of marriage rose fairly steadily through 1994; however, the rather sharp increase between 1993 and 1994 (from 71 to 75 percent) is largely if not completely the result of improvements in the identification of nonmarital births in two states: Texas and Michigan.⁸⁶ Despite declines in birth rates for unmarried teens since 1994, the percentage of teen nonmarital births has continued to increase through 1998 to 79 percent. The increase in the percent is due to the decline in births and birth rates for married teens.⁸⁷

Differences by Race.⁸⁸ Nonmarital childbearing is higher among black teens than among white and Hispanic teens. In 1998, 96 percent of births to black females ages 15 through 19 were nonmarital, compared with 72 percent for whites and 73 percent for Hispanics.

Differences by Age. Younger teens who give birth are more likely to be unmarried when they deliver than are older teens in each year and across racial/ethnic groups. In 1998, 87 percent of births to 15- through 17-year-olds were to unmarried mothers, compared with 74 percent among 18- through 19-year-olds.

⁸³McLanahan, S., and Sandefur, G. 1994. "Growing Up with a Single Parent: What Hurts, What Helps." Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press; Haveman, R., and Wolfe, B. 1994. *Succeeding Generations: On the Effects of Investments in Children*. New York: Russell Sage Foundation.

⁸⁴Knox, V., and Bane, M.J. 1994. "Child Support and Schooling." In *Child Support and Child-Well-Being*. (I. Garfinkel, S. McLanahan, and P. Robins, eds.). Washington, D.C.: The Urban Institute.

⁸⁵Ventura, S.J., Martin, J.A., Curtin, S.C., and Mathews, T.J. 1999. "Births: Final Data for 1997." *National Vital Statistics Reports* 47 (18). Hyattsville, Md.: National Center for Health Statistics, Table 17.

⁸⁶Ventura, S.J., Martin, J.A., Mathews, T.J. and Clarke, S.C. 1996. "Advance Report of Final Natality Statistics, 1994." *Monthly Vital Statistics Report* 44 (11, Supp.). Hyattsville, Md.: National Center for Health Statistics, 1996.

⁸⁷Ventura, S.J., Mathews, T.J., and Curtin, S.C. "Declines in Teenage Birth Rates, 1991-1998: Update of National and State Trends." *National Vital Statistics Reports* 47(26). Hyattsville, Md.: National Center for Health Statistics, 1999.

⁸⁸Estimates for white and black teens include those of Hispanic origin. Teens of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

SEE TABLE FOLLOWING PAGES

Table SD 4.8 (Part 1)

Percentage of all births to unmarried women ages 15 through 19 in the United States, by age of mother and by race^a and Hispanic origin^c: selected years, 1960-1998

	1960	1965	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990
All races							
Ages 15-17	24	33	43	51	62	71	78
Ages 18 or 19	11	15	22	30	40	51	61
Ages 15-19	15	21	30	38	48	58	67
White^b							
Ages 15-17	12	17	25	33	45	58	68
Ages 18 or 19	5	9	14	17	27	38	51
Ages 15-19	7	11	17	23	33	45	56
Black^b							
Ages 15-17	—	—	76	87	93	96	96
Ages 18 or 19	—	—	52	68	80	86	89
Ages 15-19	—	—	63	77	86	90	92
Hispanic^{c,d}							
Ages 15-17	—	—	—	—	51	61	68
Ages 18 or 19	—	—	—	—	36	46	54
Ages 15-19	—	—	—	—	42	51	59

^aBeginning in 1980, births were tabulated by race and ethnicity of the mother. Prior to 1980, births were tabulated by race of child, assigning a child to the race of the nonwhite parent, if any, or to the race of the father, if both are nonwhite.

^bIncludes persons of Hispanic origin.

^cPersons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

^dData for Hispanics have been available only since 1980, with 22 states reporting in 1980, representing 90 percent of the Hispanic population. Hispanic birth data were reported by 23 states and the District of Columbia in 1985; 48 states and the District of Columbia in 1990; 49 states and the District of Columbia in 1991 and 1992; and all 50 states and the District of Columbia since 1993.

^eIncreases between 1993 and 1994 were due primarily to improvements in the identification of nonmarital births in Texas and Michigan.

Sources: Ventura S.J. 1993. "Births to Unmarried Mothers: United States, 1980-1992." National Center for Health Statistics, *Vital and Health Statistics*, Series 21, No. 53, Table 5; Ventura, S.J. and Curtin, S.C. 1999. "Recent Trends in Teen Births in the United States." *Statistical Bulletin* 80 (1). Hyattsville, Md.: National Center for Health Statistics, Table 3; Ventura, S.J., Martin, J.A., Curtin, S.C., and Mathews, T.J. 1999. "Births: Final Data for 1997." *National Vital Statistics Reports* 47 (18). Hyattsville, Md.: National Center for Health Statistics, Table 17. Ventura, S.J., Mathews, T.J., Curtin, S.C. 1999. "Declines in Teenage Birth Rates, 1991-1998: Update of National and State Trends." National Vital Statistics Report 47(26). Hyattsville, Md.; National Center for Health Statistics, Table A. Also unpublished tabulations, National Center for Health Statistics.

Table SD 4.8 (Part 2)

Percentage of all births to unmarried women ages 15 through 19 in the United States, by age of mother and by race^a and Hispanic origin^c: selected years, 1960-1998

	1991	1992	1993	1994 ^e	1995	1996	1997	1998
All races								
Ages 15-17	79	79	80	84	84	84	87	87
Ages 18 or 19	63	65	66	70	70	71	73	74
Ages 15-19	69	70	71	75	75	76	78	79
White^b								
Ages 15-17	70	71	72	78	77	79	82	83
Ages 18 or 19	53	55	57	62	62	63	65	67
Ages 15-19	59	60	62	68	68	69	71	72
Black^b								
Ages 15-17	96	96	96	98	98	98	98	98
Ages 18 or 19	90	90	91	93	93	94	94	94
Ages 15-19	92	93	93	95	95	95	96	96
Hispanic^{c,d}								
Ages 15-17	69	69	69	77	75	75	80	82
Ages 18 or 19	56	57	58	65	62	63	66	67
Ages 15-19	61	62	63	70	67	68	72	73

^aBeginning in 1980, births were tabulated by race and ethnicity of the mother. Prior to 1980, births were tabulated by race of child, assigning a child to the race of the nonwhite parent, if any, or to the race of the father, if both are nonwhite.

^bIncludes persons of Hispanic origin.

^cPersons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

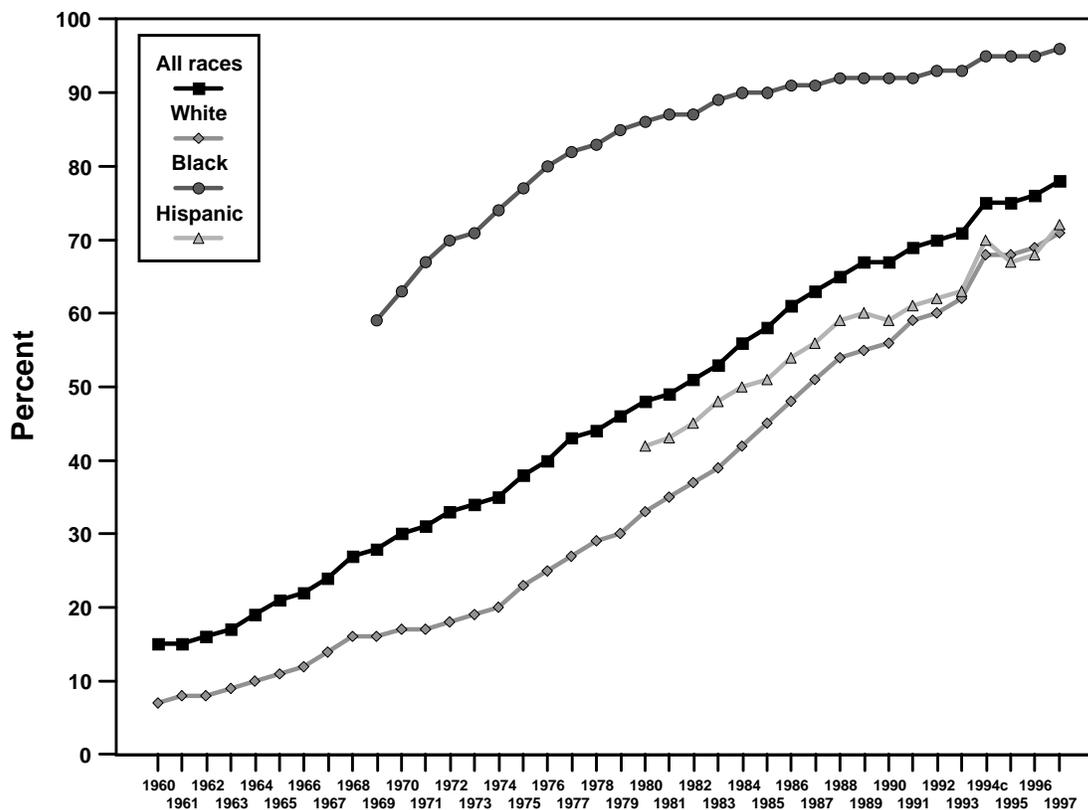
^dData for Hispanics have been available only since 1980, with 22 states reporting in 1980, representing 90 percent of the Hispanic population. Hispanic birth data were reported by 23 states and the District of Columbia in 1985; 48 states and the District of Columbia in 1990; 49 states and the District of Columbia in 1991 and 1992; and all 50 states and the District of Columbia since 1993.

^eIncreases between 1993 and 1994 were due primarily to improvements in the identification of nonmarital births in Texas and Michigan.

Sources: Ventura S.J. 1993. "Births to Unmarried Mothers: United States, 1980-1992." National Center for Health Statistics, *Vital and Health Statistics*, Series 21, No. 53, Table 5; Ventura, S.J. and Curtin, S.C. 1999. "Recent Trends in Teen Births in the United States." *Statistical Bulletin* 80 (1). Hyattsville, Md.: National Center for Health Statistics, Table 3; Ventura, S.J., Martin, J.A., Curtin, S.C., and Mathews, T.J. 1999. "Births: Final Data for 1997." *National Vital Statistics Reports* 47 (18). Hyattsville, Md.: National Center for Health Statistics, Table 17. Ventura, S.J., Mathews, T.J., Curtin, S.C. 1999. "Declines in Teenage Birth Rates, 1991-1998: Update of National and State Trends." National Vital Statistics Report 47(26). Hyattsville, Md.; National Center for Health Statistics, Table A. Also unpublished tabulations, National Center for Health Statistics.

Figure SD 4.8

Percentage of all births to unmarried women ages 15 through 19 in the United States, by race^a and Hispanic origin:^b 1960-1997^c



^aBeginning in 1980, births were tabulated by race and ethnicity of the mother. Prior to 1980, births were tabulated by race of child, assigning a child to the race of the nonwhite parent, if any, or to the race of the father, if both are nonwhite. Data for black and white births include births of Hispanic origin.

^bPersons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Data for Hispanics have been available only since 1980, with 22 states reporting in 1980, representing 90 percent of the Hispanic population. Hispanic birth data were reported by 23 states and the District of Columbia in 1985; 48 states and the District of Columbia in 1990; 49 states and the District of Columbia in 1991 and 1992; and all 50 states and the District of Columbia since 1993.

^cIncreases between 1993 and 1994 were due primarily to improvements in the identification of nonmarital births in Texas and Michigan.

Sources: Ventura S.J. 1995. "Births to Unmarried Mothers: United States, 1980-1992." National Center for Health Statistics, *Vital and Health Statistics* 21 (53), Hyattsville, Md.: National Center for Health Statistics, Table 5; Ventura, S.J. and Curtin, S.C. 1999. "Recent Trends in Teen Births in the United States." *Statistical Bulletin* 80 (1). Hyattsville, Md.: National Center for Health Statistics, Table 17; and Ventura, S.J., Martin, J.A., Curtin, S.C., and Mathews, T.J. 1999. "Births: Final Data for 1997." *National Vital Statistics Reports* 47 (18). Hyattsville, Md.: National Center for Health Statistics, 1999, Table 17. Venture, S.J., Mathews, T.J., Curtin, S.C. 1999. "Declines in Teenage Birth Rates, 1991-1998: Update of National and State Trends." National Vital Statistics Report 47(26). Hyattsville, Md.; National Center for Health Statistics, Table A. Also unpublished tabulations, National Center for Health Statistics.

SD 4.9

SECOND- AND HIGHER-ORDER BIRTHS TO TEENS

Bearing a child during adolescence is associated with poor outcomes for young women and their children.⁸⁹ Giving birth to a second child while still a teen further increases these risks.⁹⁰ Yet, analyses of nationally representative data indicate that in the two years following the first birth, teen mothers have a second birth at about the same rate as older mothers.⁹¹

In 1998, more than one in every five births to teen mothers was a birth of second order or higher. The proportion of teen births that were second or higher order increased from 22 percent in 1980 to peak at 25 percent in 1991 but has since declined to 22 percent in 1998. This pattern is evident across racial, ethnic, and marital status groups (see Table SD 4.9). The rate of second births to teens who have had a first birth has fallen 21 percent between 1991 and 1997 (data not shown).⁹²

Differences by Race and Hispanic Origin. Births to black and Hispanic teens are more likely to be subsequent births than births to white teens. In 1998, 26 percent of births to black teens, 24 percent of births to Hispanic teens, and 20 percent of births to white teens were second- or higher-order births.

Differences by Marital Status. A higher proportion of births among married teens are second or higher order than births to unmarried teens. In 1997, 28 percent of births to married teens were second or higher order, compared with 20 percent among unmarried teens.

⁸⁹Moore, K.A., Myers, D.E., Morrison, D.R., Nord, C.W., Brown, B.V., and Edmonston, B. 1993. "Age at First Childbirth and Later Poverty." *Journal of Research on Adolescence* 3 (4): 393-422; Maynard, R.A. (ed.). 1996. *Kids Having Kids: A Robin Hood Foundation Special Report on the Costs of Adolescent Childbearing*. New York: The Robin Hood Foundation.

⁹⁰Kalmuss, D., and Namerow, P.B. 1992. "The Mediators of Educational Attainment among Early Childbearers." Unpublished manuscript. Columbia University, Center for Population and Family Health.

⁹¹Moore, K.A., Morrison, D.R., Nord, C.W., and Blumenthal, C. 1993. "The Consequences of Early Childbearing in the 1980s." Unpublished tables. Washington, D.C.: Child Trends.

⁹²Ventura, S.J., Martin, J.A., Curtin, S.C., and Mathews, T.J. "Births: Final Data for 1997." *National Vital Statistics Reports* 47(18). Hyattsville, Md.: National Center for Health Statistics.

Table SD 4.9

Percentage of all births to women under age 20 in the United States that are second or higher order, by marital status and by race and Hispanic origin^b of mother: selected years, 1980-1998

	1980	1985	1991	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
All births	22	23	25	22	21	21	22	22
Race and Hispanic origin								
White ^a	19	20	21	19	19	19	20	20
Black ^a	27	28	32	28	26	27	27	26
Hispanic ^b	20	25	26	23	23	24	24	24
Other	22	25	25	23	22	21	21	21
Marital status								
Married	24	26	28	26	26	27	28	--
Single	19	20	23	20	19	20	20	--

^aIncludes persons of Hispanic origin.

^bPersons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Sources: Martin, J.A., Smith, B.L., Mathews, T.J., Ventura, S.J. 1999. "Births and Deaths: Preliminary Data for 1998." *National Vital Statistics Reports* 47(25). Hyattsville, Md.: National Center for Health Statistics, Table 2. Ventura, S.J., Martin, J.A., Curtin, S.C., and Mathews, T.J. 1999. "Births: Final Data for 1997." *National Vital Statistics Reports* 47 (18). Hyattsville, Md.: National Center for Health Statistics, Tables 2 and 7; Ventura, S.J., Martin, J.A., Curtin, S.C., and Mathews, T.J. 1998. "Report of Final Natality Statistics, 1996". *Monthly Vital Statistics Report* 46 (11, Supp.). Hyattsville, Md.: National Center for Health Statistics, Tables 2 and 7; also previous issues of this annual report (vol. 45, no. 11, supp., tables 2 and 6; vol. 44, no. 11, supp., tables 2 and 6; vol. 42, no. 3, supp.; vol. 36, no. 4, supp.; vol. 31, no. 8, supp., table 2 in each); also unpublished tabulations, Division of Vital Statistics, National Center for Health Statistics.