

SECTION 4. SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Social Development

Behavioral Health: Physical Health and Safety

Behavioral Health: Smoking, Alcohol, and Substance Abuse



SD 4.1 Sexually Experienced Youth

Engaging in sexual behaviors as a teenager is associated with less successful adult outcomes, and in most cases, the earlier the behavior, the greater the risk of negative consequences. The logical concerns arising from adolescent sexual activity are pregnancy, parenthood, infection with a sexually transmitted disease, and exposure to the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

Youth who begin having sex at early ages are exposed to risk for a greater length of time, are less likely to use contraception, have more sexual partners, and are more likely to be involved in high-risk sexual behavior, such as substance use before intercourse.¹ Furthermore, first sexual experiences are often coercive—24 percent of females 13 years of age or younger at the time of first intercourse reported it is non-voluntary.²

Early sexual involvement also predicts many negative outcomes in young adulthood. Early sexual involvement for females is correlated with increased number of relationships, more frequent intercourse, greater likelihood of an abortion, and greater likelihood of contracting venereal disease.³ Moreover, precocious sexual behavior often has as its consequence teenage pregnancy, which in turn is related to several negative adult outcomes (Indicators SD 4.5 and SD 4.6).

Table SD 4.1 presents data from the Youth Risk Behavior Survey reporting the percentage of youth in grades 9 to 12 who have experienced sexual intercourse by sex, grade, and race and Hispanic origin.

Differences by Age. In 2001, 34 percent of 9th-graders reported having had sexual intercourse. This percentage increases with each grade, reaching 61 percent by the 12th grade (a decline of 4 percentage points from 1999) (Table SD 4.1).

Differences by Sex. In 2001, 9th grade males reported having had sex at a rate 12 percentage points higher than females (41 versus 29 percent). By the 12th grade, however, females were just as likely as males to report ever having sex (Table SD 4.1).

Differences by Race and Hispanic Origin.⁴ Black, non-Hispanic youth in grades 9 to 12 are more likely than White, non-Hispanic, and Hispanic youth to have had sexual intercourse (Table SD 4.1). Specifically, in 2001, 45 percent of male and 41 percent of female White, non-Hispanic youth reported having had sexual intercourse, compared to 53 percent of Hispanic male youth and 44 percent of Hispanic females, and 69 percent of Black, non-Hispanic male youth and 53 percent of Black, non-Hispanic females. Despite these differences, the percentage of youth in grades 9 to 12 reporting ever having sexual intercourse has decreased for White, non-Hispanic, Black, non-Hispanic, and Hispanic youth from 1995 to 2001.

¹ Moore, K. A., Miller, B. C., Sugland, B. W., Morrison, D. R., Gleib, D. A., and Blumenthal, C. (1995). *Beginning too soon: Adolescent sexual behavior, pregnancy and parenthood. A review of research and interventions* [On-line]. Available: <http://aspe.hhs.gov/hsp/cyp/xsteesex.htm>.

² Abma, J., Driscoll, A., & Morre, K. (1998) Young Women's Degree of Control over First Intercourse: An Exploratory Analysis. *Family Planning Perspectives*, 30(1):12-18.

³ Newcomb, M. D., and Bentler, P. M. (1988). *Consequences of Adolescent Drug Use*. Newbury Park, CA: Sage Publications.

⁴ Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

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Table SD 4.1

Percentage of youth in grades 9 to 12 who reported ever having sexual intercourse, by sex, grade, and race and Hispanic origin:^a Selected years, 1995-2001

	1995			1997			1999			2001		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
All youth	53	54	52	48	49	48	50	52	48	46	49	43
Grade												
9th	37	41	32	38	42	34	39	45	33	34	41	29
10th	48	50	46	43	42	44	47	51	43	41	42	39
11th	59	57	60	50	49	50	53	51	54	52	54	50
12th	66	67	66	61	60	62	65	64	66	61	61	60
Race and Hispanic origin												
White, non-Hispanic	49	49	49	44	43	44	45	45	45	43	45	41
Black, non-Hispanic	73	81	67	73	80	66	71	76	67	61	69	53
Hispanic	58	62	53	52	58	46	54	63	46	48	53	44

^a Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Sources: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2002). Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance, United States, 2001. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 51(SS-4); Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2000). Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance, United States, 1999. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 49(SS-5); Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (1998). Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance, United States, 1997. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 47(SS-3); Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (1996). Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance, United States, 1995. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 45(SS-4).

SD 4.2 Currently Sexually Active Youth

While sexually experienced youth have had sexual intercourse at least once (Indicator SD 4.1), a youth that is currently sexually active has had sexual intercourse within the past 3 months. Having become sexually experienced does not necessarily mean youth will be sexually active from that point on. Not all sexually experienced youth are currently sexually active. While 46 percent of all youth in grades 9 to 12 were sexually experienced in 2001 (Table SD 4.1), 33 percent reported being currently sexually active (Table SD 4.2). However, youth that continue to engage in sexual intercourse are at increased risk of pregnancy, infection with a sexually transmitted disease, and exposure to the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

Differences by Sex: There is no difference between the percentages of male and female youth who were sexually active in 1999 and 2001 (36 and 33 percent, respectively). This is a change from 1997, when 37 percent of females and 33 percent of males reported recent sexual activity (Table SD 4.2).

Differences by Race and Hispanic Origin:¹ Black, non-Hispanic youth (46 percent) were significantly more likely than Hispanic and White, non-Hispanic youth (36 and 31 percent respectively) to be currently sexually active (Table SD 4.2).

Differences by Grade: The percentage of youth who are currently sexually active rises significantly with each subsequent grade. High school sophomores, juniors, and seniors (30, 38, and 48 percent, respectively) were significantly more likely than freshmen (23 percent) to be currently sexually active. Furthermore, juniors and seniors (38 and 48 percent, respectively) were significantly more likely than sophomores (30 percent) to be sexually active. Lastly, seniors (48 percent) were significantly more likely than juniors (38 percent) to have had sexual intercourse in the previous 3 months (Table SD 4.2).

¹ Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

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Table SD 4.2

Percentage of youth in grades 9 to 12 who reported having had sexual intercourse in the previous 3 months, by sex, race and Hispanic origin,^a grade, and age: Selected years, 1993-2001

	1993	1995	1997	1999	2001
All youth	38	38	35	36	33
Sex					
Male	38	36	33	36	33
Female	38	40	37	36	33
Race and Hispanic origin					
White, non Hispanic	34	35	32	33	31
Black, non Hispanic	59	54	54	53	46
Hispanic	39	39	35	36	36
Grade					
9th	25	24	24	27	23
10th	30	34	29	33	30
11th	40	42	38	38	38
12th	53	50	46	51	48
Age					
15	25	28	26	27	24
16	35	37	32	35	33
15 or 16	31	32	29	32	28

^a Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Sources: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2002). Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance, United States, 2001. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 51(SS-4); Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2000). Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance, United States, 1999. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 49(SS-5); Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (1998). Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance, United States, 1997. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 47(SS-3); Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (1996). Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance, United States, 1995. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 45(SS-4); Center for Disease Control and Prevention. (1995). Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance, United States 1993. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 44(SS-1).

SD 4.3 Contraceptive Use

Sexual intercourse without contraception puts a youth¹ at risk of unintended pregnancy and of contracting sexually transmitted diseases such as HIV/AIDS. Although more youth are using contraceptives, they are less likely than older females to practice contraception without interruption over the course of a year, and more likely to practice contraception sporadically or not at all.²

Condoms and birth control pills are the most common forms of contraception used by sexually active youth.³ In 2001, over half (58 percent) of currently sexually active youth in grades 9 to 12 reported use of a condom during their last sexual intercourse, while only 18 percent reported use of birth control pills (Tables SD 4.3.A and SD 4.3.B).

Differences by Sex. Females are less likely than males to report having used a condom during their last intercourse (51 percent of females versus 65 percent of males in 2001). (Table SD 4.3.A)

Differences by Grade. Condom use among 12th-graders is lower than among youth in the earlier grades. The decrease is largest among females, dropping from 53 percent to 41 percent between the 11th and 12th grades in 2001. In contrast, in 2001, only 8 percent of currently sexually active 9th-graders reported use of birth control pills, while 26 percent of 12th-graders reported its use (Figure SD 4.3).

Differences by Race and Hispanic Origin.⁴ Black, non-Hispanic youth report the highest use of condoms, while White, non-Hispanic youth report the highest use of birth control pills. In 2001, White, non-Hispanic youth were more likely to have used the pill during their last sexual intercourse (23 percent) than were either Black, non-Hispanic youth (8 percent) or Hispanic youth (10 percent) (Tables SD 4.3.A and SD 4.3.B).

¹ Currently attending school.

² Glei, D. A. (1999). Measuring Contraceptive Use Patterns among Teenage and Adult Women. *Family Planning Perspectives*, 31(2): 73-80.

³ Peterson, L. S. (1995). *Contraceptive Use in the United States: 1982-90*. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Health Statistics.

⁴ Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

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Table SD 4.3.A

Percentage of currently sexually active^a youth in grades 9 to 12 who reported using a condom during last sexual intercourse, by sex, grade, and race and Hispanic origin:^b Selected years, 1993-2001

	1993			1995			1997			1999			2001		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
All youth	53	59	46	54	61	49	57	63	51	58	66	51	58	65	51
Grade															
9th	62	63	59	63	66	59	59	59	58	67	70	63	68	69	67
10th	55	63	46	60	68	52	59	65	53	63	70	55	60	69	52
11th	55	65	46	52	57	49	60	65	55	59	69	50	59	65	53
12th	47	52	41	50	57	43	52	61	43	48	56	41	49	59	41
Race and Hispanic origin															
White, non-Hispanic	52	59	46	53	58	48	56	62	49	55	63	48	57	64	51
Black, non-Hispanic	57	64	48	66	72	61	64	68	59	70	75	65	67	73	61
Hispanic	46	55	37	44	56	33	48	55	40	55	66	43	54	59	48

^a "Currently sexually active" is defined as having had sexual intercourse during the 3 months preceding the survey.

^b Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Sources: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2002). Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance, United States, 2001. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 51(SS-4); Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2000). Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance, United States, 1999. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 49(SS-5); Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (1998). Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance, United States, 1997. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 47(SS-3); Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (1996). Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance, United States, 1995. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 45(SS-4); Center for Disease Control and Prevention. (1995). Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance, United States 1993. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 44(SS-1).

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Table SD 4.3.B

Percentage of currently sexually active^a youth in grades 9 to 12 who reported birth control pill use during last sexual intercourse, by sex, grade, and race and Hispanic origin:^b Selected years, 1993-2001

	1993			1995			1997			1999			2001		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
All youth	18	15	22	17	14	20	17	13	21	16	12	20	18	15	21
Grade															
9th	9	8	11	11	10	13	8	8	8	12	11	13	8	6	9
10th	14	10	17	12	9	16	12	8	17	9	6	13	16	13	18
11th	17	12	22	15	13	17	16	12	19	15	12	18	19	15	22
12th	26	23	29	25	21	29	24	19	30	25	17	31	26	23	29
Race and Hispanic origin															
White, non-Hispanic	20	17	24	21	17	25	21	17	25	21	16	26	23	19	27
Black, non-Hispanic	15	11	21	10	8	12	12	9	15	8	3	12	8	8	8
Hispanic	12	10	15	11	14	9	10	7	13	8	5	11	10	9	10

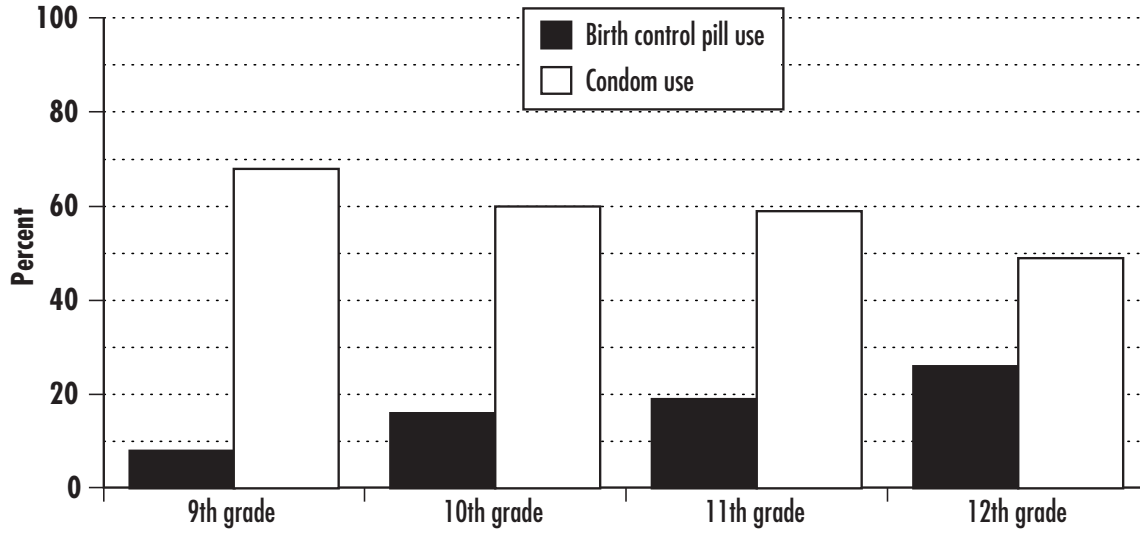
^a "Currently sexually active" is defined as having had sexual intercourse during the 3 months preceding the survey.

^b Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Sources: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2002). Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance, United States, 2001. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 51(SS-4); Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2000). Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance, United States, 1999. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 49(SS-5); Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (1998). Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance, United States, 1997. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 47(SS-3); Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (1996). Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance, United States, 1995. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 45(SS-4); Center for Disease Control and Prevention. (1995). Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance, United States 1993. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 44(SS-1).

Figure SD 4.3

Percentage of currently sexually active^a youth in grades 9 to 12 who reported using either condoms or birth control pills during their last sexual intercourse, by grade and method of contraception: 2001



^a “Currently sexually active” is defined as having had sexual intercourse during the 3 months preceding the survey.
 Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2002). Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance, United States, 2001. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 51(SS-4).

SD 4.4 Number of Sexual Partners

Having multiple sexual partners represents an important behavioral risk factor for sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV, among youth, especially if they fail to use condoms correctly and consistently. Alcohol use, illicit drug use, and young age at first intercourse are also associated with increased odds of multiple sexual partners.¹

Differences by Sex. Male youth generally report a higher number of sexual partners than do female youth. In 1995, 6 percent of sexually active males and 3 percent of sexually active females ages 15 to 19 reported having five or more sexual partners in a year. The number of sexual partners per year among sexually active females is concentrated at the lower end of the scale, with either zero or one partners most likely to be reported (Table SD 4.4.A). Among youth surveyed in 2001, 17 percent of males reported having had four or more sexual partners in their lifetime, compared with 11 percent of females (Table SD 4.4.B and Figure SD 4.4).

Differences by Race and Hispanic Origin.² Black, non-Hispanic youth are more likely to report having had four or more sexual partners in their lifetime than their White, non-Hispanic or Hispanic peers: 27 percent versus 12 and 15 percent, respectively, in 2001 (Table SD 4.4.B).

Table SD 4.4.A

Percentage distribution of number of sexual partners in a year among sexually active youth ages 15 to 19 by sex: 1995

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

Source: Sonenstein, et al (1997). *Analyses of the 1995 National Survey of Family Growth, Cycle 5*. Washington, DC: The Urban Institute.

¹ Santelli, et al. (1998). Multiple Sexual Partners Among U.S. Adolescents and Young Adults. *Family Planning Perspectives*, 30(6).

² Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

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Table SD 4.4.B

Percentage of youth in grades 9 to 12 who reported having four or more sexual partners during lifetime, by sex, grade, and race and Hispanic origin:^a Selected years, 1993-2001

	1993			1995			1997			1999			2001		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
All youth	19	22	15	18	21	14	16	18	14	16	19	13	14	17	11
Grade															
9th	11	15	6	13	18	7	12	16	8	12	16	8	10	14	6
10th	16	19	13	16	20	11	14	16	12	16	21	10	13	15	10
11th	20	23	16	19	21	17	17	17	16	17	19	15	15	18	13
12th	27	31	23	23	25	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	22	24	20
Race and Hispanic origin															
White, non-Hispanic	14	15	13	14	15	13	12	11	12	12	12	13	12	13	11
Black, non-Hispanic	43	59	27	36	52	22	39	53	25	34	48	21	27	39	16
Hispanic	19	26	11	18	24	12	16	20	10	17	23	11	15	21	10

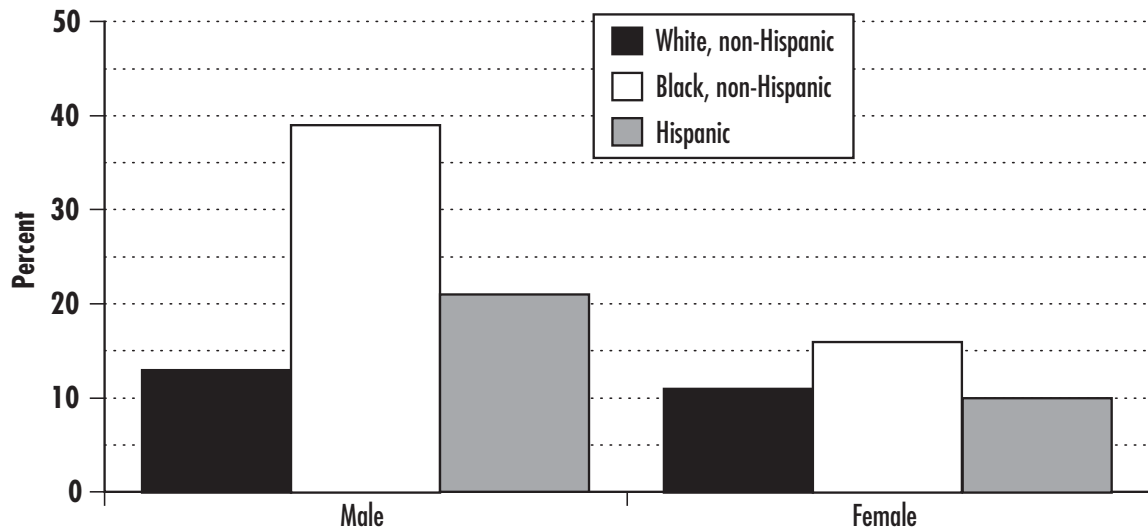
^a Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Sources: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2002). Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance, United States, 2001. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 51(SS-4); Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2000). Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance, United States, 1999. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 49(SS-5); Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (1998). Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance, United States, 1997. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 47(SS-3); Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (1996). Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance, United States, 1995. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 45(SS-4); Center for Disease Control and Prevention. (1995). Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance, United States 1993. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 44(SS-1).

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Figure SD 4.4

Percentage of youth in grades 9 to 12 who reported having four or more sexual partners during lifetime by sex and race and Hispanic origin:^a 2001



^a Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2002). Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance, United States, 2001. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 51(SS-4).

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SD 4.5 Youth Pregnancy and Abortion

The rate of youth pregnancy has declined to record low levels. Females ages 15 to 19 were less likely to become pregnant in 1997 than at any time since 1976, when national data on pregnancy rates first became available. The youth pregnancy rate fell 19 percent from its all-time high in 1991 to reach a record low of 94.3 pregnancies per 1,000 females aged 15 to 19 years in 1997 (Table SD 4.5.A). The youth pregnancy rate had risen from the mid-1980s and reached a peak in 1991; the 1997 rate is actually 10 percent lower than the 1986 rate when the upturn began.¹ Although these declines are encouraging, United States youth pregnancy rates remain among the highest in the industrialized world.² The rate for induced abortions has also fallen fairly steadily since its peak in 1980. Abortion rates generally declined for youth between 1990 and 1997 (Table SD 4.5.B). Contributing to the long-term decline in the overall rate was the shift in the age composition of females in the childbearing ages to older ages, when abortion rates are lower.³

The declines in pregnancy and abortion rates for youth may be attributable to a number of possible factors. One is changing attitudes toward premarital sexual activity. Many public and private efforts have focused attention on the importance of youth pregnancy prevention through abstinence and responsible behavior.⁴ Another is the introduction of new, easier to use, effective birth control methods adopted by some sexually active youth. Third is the long economic expansion in the 1990s, increasing economic opportunity for youths as well as older females. Economic opportunity may have given youth a reason to more highly value education and work.⁵ If appropriate services helped some youth to attain their new goals, this may help explain the decline in youth pregnancy rates, as more youth were able to avoid early pregnancy and to attain their educational and occupational goals in a growing economy.

Differences by Age. The pregnancy rate for youth ages 15 to 17 fell from 80.3 in 1990 to 63.7 in 1997, a 21-percent decline (Figure SD 4.5.A). The pregnancy rate for older youth, 18 to 19 years of age, although higher than for younger females, also decreased between 1990 and 1997 (Figure SD 4.5.B). In 1997, the pregnancy rate was 141.7 per 1,000 females ages 18 to 19, 13 percent below its 1990 level. Abortion rates for youth also tend to be higher for the older females ages 18 to 19 than for the younger group of females aged 15 to 17. Abortion rates were down nearly a third between 1990 and 1997—from 40.3 to 27.5 per 1,000 youth 15 to 19.

Differences by Race and Hispanic Origin.⁶ Declines in pregnancy rates for youth 15 to 19 years were steep for Black, non-Hispanic and White, non-Hispanic youth—their rates were down 23 percent and 26 percent, respectively. Pregnancy rates for Hispanic teenagers have been falling only since 1994, declining 11 percent from 1994 to 1997; the 1997 rate was 5 percent lower than in 1990.

¹ Ventura, S.J., Mosher, W.D., Curtin, S.C., Abma, J.C., & Henshaw, S. (2001). Trends in Pregnancy Rates for the United States, 1967-1997: An update. *National Vital Statistics Reports*, 49(4).

² U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (2000) *A National Strategy to Prevent Teen Pregnancy Annual Report 1999-2000*. Washington DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

³ Ventura, S.J., Mosher, W.D., Curtin, S.C., Abma, J.C., & Henshaw, S. (2001). Trends in Pregnancy Rates for the United States, 1967-1997: An update. *National Vital Statistics Reports*, 49(4).

⁴ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (2000) *A National Strategy to Prevent Teen Pregnancy Annual Report 1999-2000*. Washington DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

⁵ Kirby, D., Coyle, K., & Gould, J.B. (2001). Manifestations of Poverty and Birthrates Among Young Teenagers in California ZIP Code Areas. *Family Planning Perspectives*, 33(2): 63-69.

⁶ Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

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Table SD 4.5.A

Rate of females ages 15 to 19 experiencing pregnancy by age and by race and Hispanic origin:^a
1990-1997

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Females 15 to 19 years	116.3	116.5	112.8	110.4	107.6	102.7	98.7	94.3
Race and Hispanic origin								
White, non-Hispanic	87.4	84.7	79.3	76.9	74.5	71.6	68.1	65.1
Black, non-Hispanic	221.3	221.7	217.3	211.7	201.2	184.4	177.8	170.4
Hispanic	155.8	164.6	167.8	166.1	167.2	162.8	157.1	148.7
Females 15 to 17 years	80.3	79.8	77.3	76.8	75.5	71.7	67.8	63.7
Race and Hispanic origin								
White, non-Hispanic	56.3	54.1	50.4	49.9	48.7	46.7	43.9	41.1
Black, non-Hispanic	165.0	164.6	160.4	158.0	149.8	137.0	128.1	119.8
Hispanic	101.0	107.0	110.9	110.2	113.9	110.0	105.0	99.1
Females 18 or 19 years	162.4	167.2	165.1	160.6	156.7	150.8	146.4	141.7
Race and Hispanic origin								
White, non-Hispanic	126.4	126.9	121.8	117.3	114.0	110.2	105.6	102.4
Black, non-Hispanic	295.3	299.8	300.5	292.4	280.9	258.3	254.4	248.0
Hispanic	231.4	247.6	251.6	249.3	246.5	242.7	235.4	223.7

^a Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Source: Ventura, S. J., Mosher, W. D., Curtin, S. C., Abma, J. C., & Henshaw, S. (2001). Trends in Pregnancy Rates for the United States, 1976-1997: An Update. *National Vital Statistics Reports*, 49(4).

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Table SD 4.5.B

Percentage of females ages 15 to 19 obtaining an abortion during the year, by age and by race and Hispanic origin:^a 1990-1997

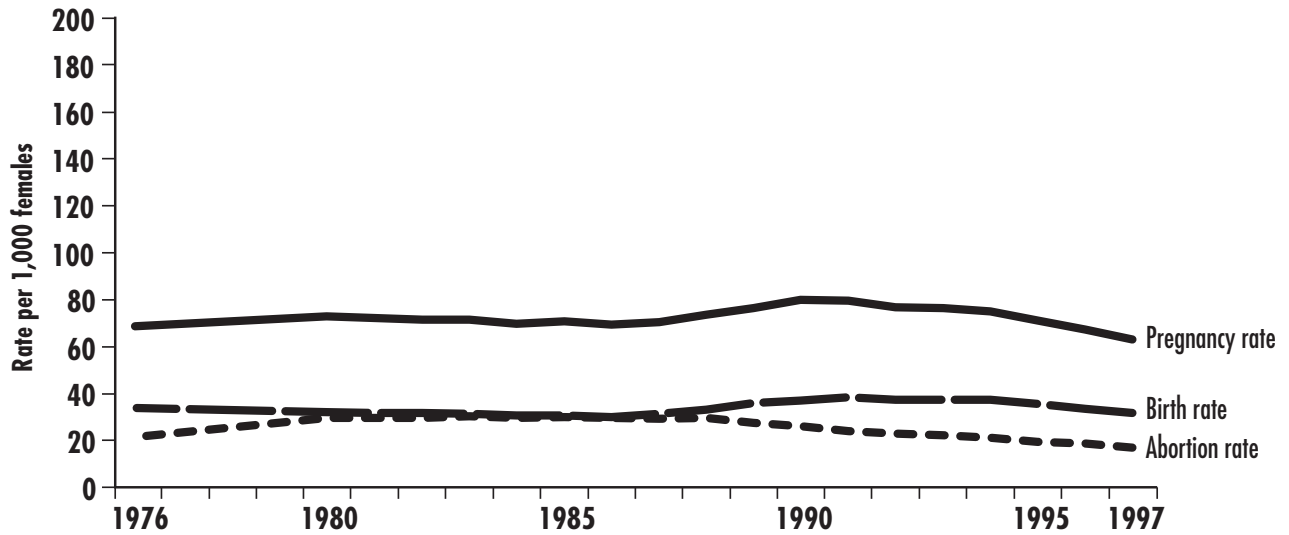
	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Females ages 15-19	4.0	3.8	3.6	3.4	3.2	3.0	2.9	2.8
Race and Hispanic origin								
White, non-Hispanic	3.2	2.8	2.5	2.4	2.2	2.0	1.9	1.8
Black, non-Hispanic	8.4	8.1	8.0	7.8	7.3	6.6	6.6	6.3
Hispanic	3.9	4.0	4.3	4.2	4.2	3.9	3.9	3.5
Females ages 15-17	2.7	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.1	2.0	1.9	1.7
Race and Hispanic origin								
White, non-Hispanic	2.1	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.2
Black, non-Hispanic	5.8	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.0	4.6	4.4	4.1
Hispanic	2.4	2.5	2.8	2.7	2.8	2.5	2.5	2.2
Females ages 18 or 19	5.8	5.6	5.4	5.2	4.9	4.6	4.5	4.3
Race and Hispanic origin								
White, non-Hispanic	4.7	4.3	3.9	3.7	3.3	3.1	2.9	2.8
Black, non-Hispanic	11.7	11.6	11.7	11.5	10.8	9.8	10.0	9.7
Hispanic	6.0	6.3	6.6	6.4	6.3	5.9	6.0	5.6

^a Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Source: Ventura, S. J., Mosher, W. D., Curtin, S. C., Abma, J. C., & Henshaw, S. (2001). Trends in Pregnancy Rates for the United States, 1976-1997: An Update. *National Vital Statistics Reports*, 49(4).

Figure SD 4.5.A

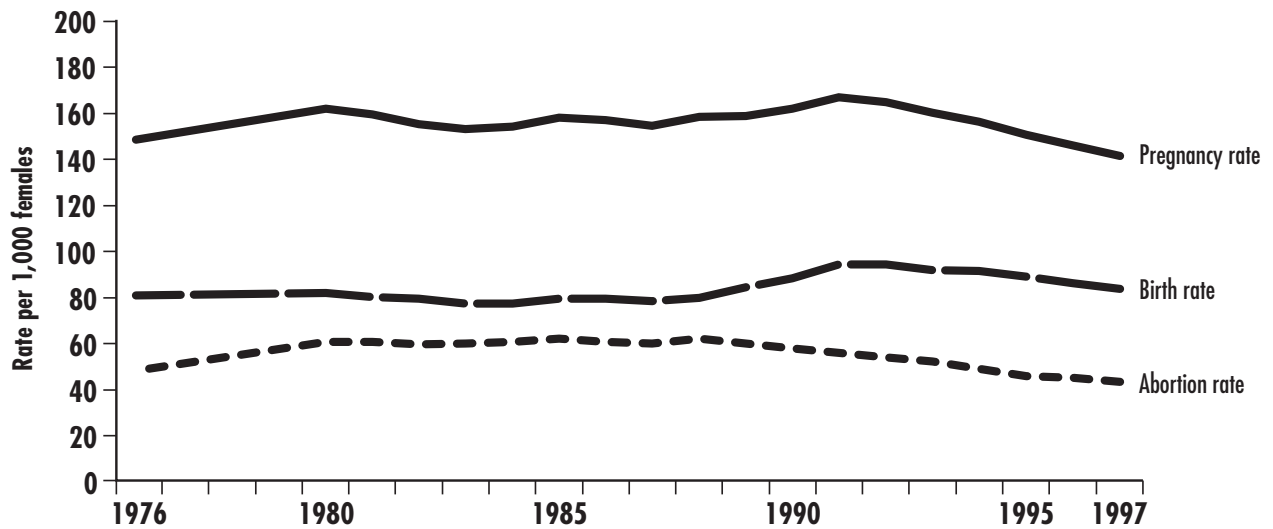
Pregnancy and abortion rates for youth ages 15 to 17: 1976-1997



Source: Ventura, S. J., Mosher, W. D., Curtin, S. C., Abma, J. C., & Henshaw, S. (2001). Trends in Pregnancy Rates for the United States, 1976-1997: An Update. *National Vital Statistics Reports*, 49(4).

Figure SD 4.5.B

Pregnancy and abortion rates for youth ages 18 or 19: 1976-1997



Source: Ventura, S. J., Mosher, W. D., Curtin, S. C., Abma, J. C., & Henshaw, S. (2001). Trends in Pregnancy Rates for the United States, 1976-1997: An Update. *National Vital Statistics Reports*, 49(4).

SD 4.6 Youth Births

Research indicates that giving birth as a youth can have negative consequences on both mothers and their children. Giving birth at an early age can limit a young female's options regarding education and employment opportunities, increase the likelihood that she will need public assistance, and can have negative effects on the development of her children. Young mothers are less likely to complete high school (only one third receive a high school diploma)¹ and are more likely to end up on welfare (nearly 80 percent of unmarried young mothers end up on welfare).² The sons of young mothers are 13 percent more likely to serve time in prison, while their daughters are 22 percent more likely to become young mothers themselves.³

The birth rates for youths ages 15 to 19 have declined steadily since 1990 to the rate of 45.9 births per 1,000 females by 2001, a record low for the United States (Table SD 4.6.A). The declines in the 1990s in the youth birth rate essentially reverse the 24 percent increase that occurred from 1986.

Differences by Race and Hispanic Origin.⁴ Birth rates in 2001 were highest for Black and Hispanic youth and lowest for White, non-Hispanic and Asian/Pacific Islander youth, a pattern that has been observed since 1994. However, all racial and ethnic groups experienced notable declines in the 1990s. The rates for White, non-Hispanic, Asian/Pacific Islander, and Black youth fell 5 to 8 percent each, while rates for Hispanic and American Indian youth declined 2 to 3 percent each (Table SD 4.6.A).

Differences by Age. Youth birth rates increase with age. In 2001, the birth rate for the oldest youth (ages 18 or 19) was 75.8 while rates for the youngest (ages 10 to 14) were considerably lower at 0.8.

Second- and Higher-Order Births

In 2000, more than one in five births to young females was a birth of second order or higher. The proportion of youth births that were second or higher order peaked at 25 percent in 1991 but has since declined to 21 percent in 2000 (Table SD 4.6.B). The increased use of contraceptives by young females may account for this drop in second births. Young females are increasingly using Depo-Provera and Norplant implants as their primary method of birth control. These contraceptives last longer and are more reliable than birth control pills or condoms, whose effectiveness is contingent upon proper and consistent use. In fact, one in four youth who already has a child used one of these two longer-lasting methods.⁵

Differences by Race and Hispanic Origin.⁴ Births to Black, non-Hispanic, and Hispanic youth are more likely to be subsequent births than births to White, non-Hispanic youth. In 2000, 25 percent of births to Black, non-Hispanic youth, 23 percent of births to Hispanic youth, and 17 percent of births to White, non-Hispanic youth were second- or higher-order births (Table SD 4.6.B and Figure SD 4.6).

¹ National Commission on Children (1991). *Beyond Rhetoric: A New American Agenda for Children and Families*. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.

² Calculations based on the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (1998). *National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Labor.

³ Maynoed, R.A. (1997). *Kids Having Kids. Economic Costs and Social Consequences of Teen Pregnancy*. Washington, DC: The Urban Institute Press.

⁴ Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Estimates for Blacks include Hispanics of that race.

⁵ Ventura, S. J., Mosher, W. D., Curtin, S. C., Abma, J., & Henshaw, S. K. (2000). Trends in Pregnancies and Pregnancy Rates by Outcome: Estimates for the United States 1976-1996. *Vital Health Statistics*, 21(56).

SECTION 4. SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Table SD 4.6.A

Youth birth rates by age of mother^a and by race and Hispanic origin^b (births per 1,000 females in each age group): Selected years, 1965-2001

	1965	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
All races													
Ages 10-14	—	1.2	1.3	1.1	1.2	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.8
Ages 15-19	70.5	68.3	55.6	53.0	51.0	59.9	56.8	54.4	52.3	51.1	49.6	48.5	45.9
Ages 15-17	36.6	38.8	36.1	32.5	31.0	37.5	36.0	33.8	32.1	30.4	28.7	27.4	25.3
Ages 18 or 19	124.5	114.7	85.0	82.1	79.6	88.6	89.1	86.0	83.6	82.0	80.3	79.2	75.8
White													
Ages 10-14	—	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5
Ages 15-19	60.6	57.4	46.4	45.4	43.3	50.8	50.1	48.1	46.3	45.4	44.6	43.6	41.7
Ages 15-17	27.8	29.2	28.0	25.5	24.4	29.5	30.0	28.4	27.1	25.9	24.8	23.6	21.9
Ages 18 or 19	111.9	101.5	74.0	73.2	70.4	78.0	81.2	78.4	75.9	74.6	73.5	72.7	70.1
White, non-Hispanic													
Ages 10-14	—	—	—	0.4	—	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Ages 15-19	—	—	—	41.2	—	42.5	39.3	37.6	36.0	35.2	34.0	32.5	30.2
Ages 15-17	—	—	—	22.4	—	23.2	22.0	20.6	19.4	18.4	17.1	15.8	14.2
Ages 18 or 19	—	—	—	67.7	—	66.6	66.1	63.7	61.9	60.6	58.9	56.8	53.4
Black													
Ages 10-14	—	5.2	5.1	4.3	4.5	4.9	4.2	3.6	3.3	2.9	2.6	2.4	2.2
Ages 15-19	144.6	140.7	111.8	97.8	95.4	112.8	96.1	91.4	88.2	85.4	81.0	79.4	73.1
Ages 15-17	99.3	101.4	85.6	72.5	69.3	82.3	69.7	64.7	60.8	56.8	52.0	50.4	45.6
Ages 18 or 19	227.6	204.9	152.4	135.1	132.4	152.9	137.1	132.5	130.1	126.9	122.8	121.3	113.0
Black, non-Hispanic													
Ages 10-14	—	—	—	4.6	—	5.0	4.3	3.8	3.4	3.0	2.7	2.5	—
Ages 15-19	—	—	—	105.1	—	116.2	99.3	94.2	90.8	88.2	83.7	81.9	—
Ages 15-17	—	—	—	77.2	—	84.9	72.1	66.6	62.6	58.8	53.7	52.0	—
Ages 18 or 19	—	—	—	146.5	—	157.5	141.9	136.6	134.0	130.9	126.8	125.1	—
Hispanic													
Ages 10-14	—	—	—	1.7	—	2.4	2.7	2.6	2.3	2.1	2.0	1.9	1.7
Ages 15-19	—	—	—	82.2	—	100.3	106.7	101.8	97.4	93.6	93.4	94.4	92.4
Ages 15-17	—	—	—	52.1	—	65.9	72.9	69.0	66.3	62.3	61.3	60.0	56.9
Ages 18 or 19	—	—	—	126.9	—	147.7	157.9	151.1	144.3	140.1	139.4	143.6	143.1
American Indian/ Alaska Native													
Ages 10-14	—	—	—	1.9	1.7	1.6	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.3	1.2
Ages 15-19	—	—	—	82.2	79.2	81.1	78.0	73.9	71.8	72.1	67.8	67.8	65.7
Ages 15-17	—	—	—	51.5	47.7	48.5	47.8	46.4	45.3	44.4	41.4	39.6	36.5
Ages 18 or 19	—	—	—	129.5	124.1	129.3	130.7	122.3	117.6	118.4	110.6	113.1	111.5

continued

Behavioral Health: Sexual Activity and Fertility

Table SD 4.6.A continued

Youth birth rates by age of mother^a and by race and Hispanic origin^b (births per 1,000 females in each age group): Selected years, 1965-2001

	1965	1970	1975	1980 ^a	1985	1990	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Asian/ Pacific Islander													
Ages 10-14	—	—	—	0.3	0.4	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.2
Ages 15-19	—	—	—	26.2	23.8	26.4	26.1	24.6	23.7	23.1	22.3	21.6	20.5
Ages 15-17	—	—	—	12.0	12.5	16.0	15.4	14.9	14.3	13.8	12.3	11.5	10.3
Ages 18 or 19	—	—	—	46.2	40.8	40.2	43.4	40.4	39.3	38.3	38.0	37.0	35.8

^a Beginning 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 non-white parent, if any, or to the race of the father, if both are non-White.

^b Persons 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.

— Data not available.

Sources: Martin, J. A., Park, M. M., & Sutton, P. D. (2002). Births: Preliminary for 2001. *National Vital Statistics Reports*, 50(10); Martin, J. A., Hamilton, B. E., Ventura, S. J., Menacker, E., & Park, M. M. (2002). Births: Final Data for 2000. *National Vital Statistics Reports*, 50(5); Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2002). *Vital Statistics of the United States*. Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Ventura, S. J., Martin, J. A., Curtin, S. C., Menacker, E., & Hamilton, B. E. (2001). Births: Final Data for 1999. *National Vital Statistics Reports*, 49(1); Ventura, S. J., Mosher, W. D., Curtin, S. C., Abma, J. C., & Henshaw, S. (2001). Trends in Pregnancy Rates for the United States, 1976-1997: An Update. *National Vital Statistics Reports*, 49(4); Ventura, S. J., Martin, J. A., Curtin, S. C., Mathews, T. J., & Park, M. M. (2000). Births: Final Data for 1998. *National Vital Statistics Reports*, 48(3); Ventura, S. J., Mosher, W. D., Curtin, S. C., Abma, J. C., & Henshaw, S. (2000). Trends in Pregnancies and Pregnancy Rates by Outcome: Estimates for the United States, 1976-1996. *Vital and Health Statistics Report*, 21(56); Mathews, T. J., Ventura, S. J., Curtin, S. C., & Martin, J. A. (1998). Births of Hispanic Origin, 1989-1995. *Monthly Vital Statistics*, 46(6); Ventura, S. J. (1987). Births to Hispanic Parentage: 1985. *Monthly Vital Statistics Report*, 36(Supp. 11); Ventura, S. J. (1983). Births to Hispanic Parentage: 1980. *Monthly Vital Statistics Report*, 32(36[6 Supp]).

Table SD 4.6.B

Percentage of births to females under age 20 that are second or higher order, by marital status and by race and Hispanic origin of mother:^a Selected years, 1980-2000

	1980	1985	1991	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
All births	22	23	25	22	21	21	22	22	22	21
Race and Hispanic origin										
White, non-Hispanic	19	20	19	17	17	17	18	18	18	17
Black, non-Hispanic	27	28	33	28	27	27	27	27	26	25
Hispanic	20	25	25	23	23	24	24	24	23	23
Marital status										
Married	24	26	28	26	26	27	28	29	29	29
Single	19	20	23	20	19	20	20	20	19	20

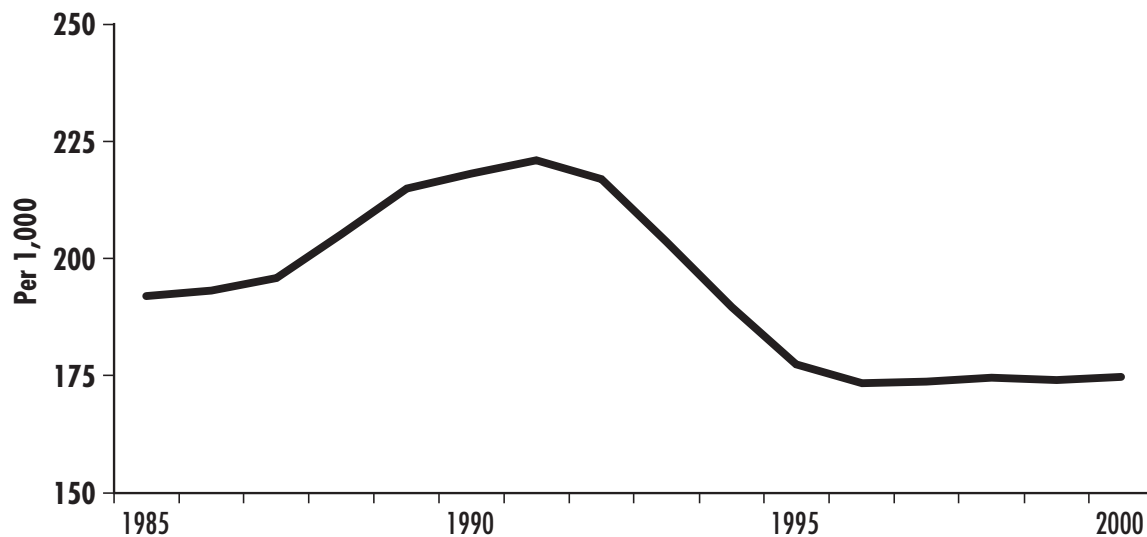
^a Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Estimates for Whites and Blacks include Hispanics of those races.

Beginning 1990 persons of Hispanic origin are not included; figures for Black women for 1999 include Hispanic women.

Sources: Martin, J. A., Hamilton, B. E., Ventura, S. J., Menacker, F., & Park, M. M. (2002). Births: Final Data for 2000. *National Vital Statistics Reports*, 50(5); Ventura, S. J., Mosher, W. D., Curtin, S. C., Abma, J. C., & Henshaw, S. (2001). Trends in Pregnancy Rates for the United States, 1976-1997: An Update. *National Vital Statistics Reports*, 49(4); Ventura, S. J., Martin, J. A., Curtin, S. C., Mathews, T. J., & Park, M. M. (2000). Births: Final Data for 1998. *National Vital Statistics Reports*, 48(3); Ventura, S. J., Martin, J. A., Curtin, S. C., & Mathews, T. J. (1999). Births: Final Data for 1997. *National Vital Statistics Reports*, 47(18); Ventura, S. J., Martin, J. A., Curtin, S. C., & Mathews, T. J. (1998). Report of Final Natality Statistics, 1996. *Monthly Vital Statistics Report*, 46(Supp. 11); Ventura, S. J. (1987). Births of Hispanic Parentage, 1985. *Monthly Vital Statistics Report*, 36(Supp. 11); Ventura, S. J. (1982). Advance Report of Final Natality Statistics, 1980. *Monthly Vital Statistics Report*, 31(Supp. 8).

Figure SD 4.6

Rate of second births to females who have had a first birth: 1985-2000



Sources: National Center for Health Statistics. (2002). Unpublished work; Ventura, S. J., Mosher, W. D., Curtin, S. C., Abma, J. C., & Henshaw, S. (2000). Trends in Pregnancies and Pregnancy Rates by Outcome: Estimates for the United States, 1976-1996. *Vital and Health Statistics Report*, 21(56).