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## National Reproductive Health Profile

### BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Despite the demonstrable importance and ubiquity of contraception, the truth is that ensuring that every pregnancy is wanted and planned is difficult, at both the individual and the societal levels. For the typical American woman to have two children, she will spend about five years pregnant, postpartum or attempting to become pregnant, and three decades—more than three-quarters of her reproductive life—trying to avoid pregnancy. Not all women, however, are successful: About half of all pregnancies in the United States each year—more than three million of them—are unintended. By age 45, more than half of all American women will have experienced an unintended pregnancy, and about one-third will have had an abortion. Nonetheless, contraceptive use can and does dramatically reduce women's odds of having an unintended pregnancy.

#### DEMOGRAPHICS



#### CONTRACEPTIVE USE



#### PUBLICLY FUNDED CONTRACEPTIVE SERVICES



#### IMPACT OF PUBLICLY FUNDED CONTRACEPTIVE SERVICES



#### PREGNANCIES, BIRTHS AND ABORTIONS



- In 2008, there were 6.4 million pregnancies to the 62 million women of reproductive age (15-44) in the United States. Sixty-six percent of these pregnancies resulted in live births and 19% in induced abortions.
- Nearly half of pregnancies among American women are unintended, and four in 10 of these are terminated by abortion.
- Unintended pregnancy rates are generally highest in the South and Southwest, and in states with large urban populations.
- In 2006, 64% of births resulting from unintended pregnancies were publicly funded, compared with 48% of all births and 35% of births resulting from intended pregnancies.
- Of the 2.0 million publicly funded births, 51% resulted from unintended pregnancies, accounting for \$11.1 billion in costs—half of the total public expenditures on births.
- In 2008, 1,212,350 women obtained abortions in the United States, producing a rate of 19.6 abortions per 1,000 women of reproductive age. This rate is virtually unchanged since 2005, when it was 19.4 abortions per 1,000 women aged 15-44.
- Eighty-nine percent of abortions occur in the first 12 weeks of pregnancy.
- Eighteen percent of U.S. women obtaining abortions are teenagers; those aged 15-17 obtain 6% of all abortions, teens aged 18-19 obtain 11% and teens under age 15 obtain 0.4%.
- Women in their twenties account for more than half of all abortions; women aged 20-24 obtain 33% of all abortions, and women aged 25-29 obtain 24%.
- Thirty percent of abortions occur to non-Hispanic black women, 36% to non-Hispanic white women, 25% to Hispanic women and 9% to women of other races.
- Women who have never married and are not cohabiting obtain 45% of all abortions.
- About 61% of abortions are obtained by women who have one or more children.
- Forty-two percent of women obtaining abortions have incomes below 100% of the federal poverty level (\$10,830 for a single woman with no children; \$22,050 for a family of four). Twenty-seven percent of women obtaining abortions have incomes between 100-199% of the federal poverty level.
- In 2008, there were 1,793 abortion providers in the United States. This is virtually unchanged from 2005, when there were 1,787 abortion providers.
- In 2008, 87% of U.S. counties had no abortion provider; 35% of women lived in these counties.

For more information, see [State Facts About Abortion](#) and [Facts on Induced Abortion in the United States](#).

#### ADOLESCENTS



#### STATE LAWS AND POLICIES

