

Fast Facts

Men in the United States: Unplanned Pregnancy, Sexual Activity, and Contraceptive Use (*Data as of 2002*)

Unplanned Pregnancy As Reported By Men

Among all men (age 15-44), 33% of births were reported to be the result of an unplanned pregnancy.^{a,1}

By Age²

- More than half of births (53%) fathered by teen boys under age 18 are unplanned.
- Half of births (50%) fathered by teen boys age 18-19 are unplanned.
- Nearly half of births (49%) fathered by men age 20-24 are unplanned.
- Approximately one-third of births (35%) fathered by men age 25-29 are unplanned.

By Race/Ethnicity³

- Among Latino men (age 15-44) four in ten births (40%) are unplanned.
- Among non-Hispanic white men (age 15-44) nearly one-third (32%) of births are unplanned.
- Among non-Hispanic black men (age 15-44) 42% of births are unplanned.

By Living Arrangement⁴

- Among all men, the proportion of births that are unplanned differs according to the father's living arrangement with the mother of their child:
 - 50% of births are unplanned among those men who live alone or apart from the mother of their child. (Note: 14% of men were not asked about pregnancy intentionality because they did not know about the child before birth.)
 - 39% of births are unplanned among those men who cohabit with the child's mother.
 - 30% of births are unplanned among those men who are married to the child's mother.
- Among Latino men, the proportion of births that are unplanned differs slightly according to the living arrangement with the mother of their child:
 - 38% of births are unplanned among those men who live alone or apart from mother of their child. (Note: 18% of men in this group were not asked about pregnancy intentionality because they did not know about the child before birth.)
 - 41% of births are unplanned among those men who cohabit with the child's mother.
 - 40% of births are unplanned among those men who are married to the child's mother.

^a The National Campaign defines unplanned (also known as "unintended") pregnancies as those pregnancies which resulted in a birth (in the five years before the interview) and were reported by the father to be mistimed or unwanted. Mistimed and unwanted pregnancies are based on men's self-report and are defined by the National Survey of Family Growth. Mistimed is defined as a pregnancy resulting in a birth which at conception occurred earlier than desired. Unwanted is defined as a pregnancy resulting in a birth which at conception was reported by the father as not wanted then or at any time in the future.

- Among non-Hispanic white men, there are marked differences in planning status depending on the men's living arrangement with the child's mother:
 - 77% of births are unplanned among those men who live alone or apart from mother of child. (Note: 3% of men in this group were not asked about pregnancy intentionality because they did not know about the child before birth.)
 - 55% of births are unplanned among those men who cohabit with the child's mother.
 - 28% of births are unplanned among those men who are married to the child's mother.
- Among non-Hispanic black men, there are no clear patterns to pregnancy planning status and living arrangement with the child's mother:
 - 55% of births are unplanned among those men who live alone or apart from mother of the child. (Note: 11% of men in this group were not asked about pregnancy intentionality because they did not know about the child before birth.)
 - 59% of births are unplanned among those men who cohabit with the child's mother.
 - 42% of births are unplanned among those men who are married to the child's mother.

Father's Relationship Status At Time Of Birth Of First Child⁵

- Nearly two-thirds of all men (66%) were married when their first child was born (among those who reported they ever fathered a child).
- More than one-third of all men (34%) were unmarried when their first child was born.
 - 62% of teen boys age 15-19 were unmarried when their first child was born.
 - 48% of men age 20-24 were unmarried when their first child was born.
 - 18% of men age 25-29 were unmarried when their first child was born.
- 18% of all men were unmarried and cohabiting when their first child was born.
- 16% of all men were unmarried and not cohabiting when their first child was born.
- Nearly 1 in 5 men (19%) report ever having had a non-marital birth (among men age 15-44).⁸
 - 13% of men (age 20-24) report ever having had a non-marital birth.
 - 25% of men (age 25-29) report ever having had a non-marital birth.
 - 24% of men (age 30-44) report ever having had a non-marital birth.

Father's Age At Time of Birth Of First Child

- The mean age of men at the birth of their first biological child was 25.1 years (among men reporting they had ever fathered a child).⁶
- Among all men who have fathered a child, 15% fathered their first child during their teen years (before 20 years of age).⁷
- The greatest proportion of first births occur to men in their 20s:
 - Among fathers, 35% fathered their first child at age 20-24 and 29% fathered their first child at age 25-29.
 - 21% of men with children fathered their first child at age 30-44.

Sexual Activity

- The mean age at which men (age 15-44) report first having had sexual intercourse was 17 years.⁹
- Nearly 9 in 10 men (age 15-44) have ever had sexual intercourse (87%).¹⁰

- Three-quarters of never-married men (age 15-44) have had sexual intercourse (74%).
 - By Age Group:
 - 46% of teen boys (age 15-19) have had sexual intercourse.
 - 87% of men (age 20-24) have had sexual intercourse.
 - 96% of men age 25-29 have had sexual intercourse.
 - By Race/Ethnicity:
 - 83% of Latino men (age 15-44) have had sexual intercourse.
 - 75% of non-Hispanic white men (age 15-44) have had sexual intercourse.
 - 86% of non-Hispanic black men (age 15-44) have had sexual intercourse.
- One in ten men (age 15-44) report having had 3 or more female sexual partners in the last 12 months (10%).¹¹ [This includes partners with whom the respondent had any type of sexual contact (anal sex, oral sex, or vaginal intercourse).]
- Among men age 20-24, the mean number of female sexual partners is 6.8, and among men age 25-29 the mean number of female sexual partners is 10.¹²
- Among men 20-24, 19% report having had 10 or more female sexual partners.
- Among men 25-29, 30% report having had 10 or more female sexual partners.
- Among teen boys 15-19, 4% report having had 10 or more female sexual partners.

Condom Use

- Nearly half (48%) of sexually experienced men (age 15-44) report using a condom the first time they had sex.¹³
 - 71% of sexually experienced teen boys (age 15-19) report using a condom the first time they have sex.¹⁴
- Among unmarried men (age 15-44) who had sex in the past 4 weeks, more than half (52%) report using a condom *none* of the time. Among unmarried men who are cohabiting, more than three-quarters (78%) report using a condom *none* of the time.¹⁵
 - By Age Group:
 - 26% of unmarried teens (age 15-19) report using a condom *none* of the time.
 - 44% of unmarried young men (age 20-24) report using a condom *none* of the time.
 - 55% of unmarried men age 25-29 report using a condom *none* of the time.
 - By Race/Ethnicity:
 - 56% of unmarried Latino men (age 15-44) report using a condom *none* of the time.
 - 55% of unmarried non-Hispanic white men (age 15-44) report using a condom *none* of the time.
 - 38% of unmarried non-Hispanic black men (age 15-44) report using a condom *none* of the time.
- Among unmarried men (age 15-44) who had sex in the past 12 months, less than half (48%) used a condom the last time they had sex.¹⁶
 - By Age Group:
 - 73% of unmarried teens (age 15-19) used a condom the last time they had sex.
 - 55% of unmarried young men (age 20-24) used a condom the last time they had sex.
 - 44% of unmarried men age 25-29 used a condom the last time they had sex.
 - By Race/Ethnicity:
 - 44% of unmarried Latino men (age 15-44) used a condom the last time they had sex.
 - 45% of unmarried non-Hispanic white men (age 15-44) used a condom the last time they had sex.
 - 59% of unmarried non-Hispanic black men (age 15-44) used a condom the last time they had sex.

Sources

1. Martinez, GM, Chandra, A, Abma, JC, Jones, J, and Mosher, WD (2006). Fertility, Contraception, and Fatherhood: Data on Men and Women from Cycle 6 (2002) of the National Survey of Family Growth. National Center for Health Statistics, *Vital Health Stat 23*, (26); Table 8
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3. Ibid; Table 8
4. Ibid; Table 8
5. Ibid; Table 7
6. Ibid; Table 6
7. Ibid; Table 5
8. Ibid; Table 62
9. Ibid; Table 14
10. Ibid; Table 13
11. Mosher, WD, Chandra, A, and Jones, J (2005). Sexual Behavior and Selected Health Measures: Men and Women 15-44 Year of Age, United States, 2002, *Advance Data from Vital and Health Statistics*, 362, Table 1
12. See opt. cit 1; Table 24
13. Ibid; Table 43
14. Abma, JC, Martinez, GM, Mosher, WD, and Dawson, BS (2006). Teenagers in the United States: Sexual Activity, Contraceptive Use, and Childbearing, 2002. National Center for Health Statistics, *Vital Health Stat 23*, (24); Table 16
15. See opt. cit 1; Table 48
16. Ibid; Table 50