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Wanted and Unwanted Births Reported by Mothers 15-44 Years of Age: United States, 1973^a

According to the results of a national survey of households conducted in 1973 by the National Center for Health Statistics, one-fifth of all births (13.9 million out of 68.2 million) to mothers 15-44 years would not have occurred if these women had given birth only to those babies they reported as "wanted" at the time of conception. These estimates are based on answers to direct questions about the "wantedness" of each pregnancy that were asked during personal interviews with a sample of women aged 15-44 years who had ever been married or had children of their own living in the household.^b These women participated in the National Survey of Family Growth which is based on a multistage area-probability sample of households in the conterminous United States. The interviews for Cycle I of the survey were conducted during an 8-month period the midpoint of which was September 13, 1973.

"Wanted" births are pregnancies resulting in at least one live birth that were reported as wanted or probably wanted prior to conception (see Technical Notes for the exact definition of these categories). On the other hand, "unwanted" births are pregnancies resulting in at least one live birth that were reported as not wanted or probably not wanted prior to conception. Pregnancies resulting in at least one live birth that were reported as neither wanted nor

unwanted at the time of conception are classified as "undetermined" in these data. Pregnancies that did not result in at least one live birth (i.e., those that ended in miscarriage, stillbirth, or induced abortion) are excluded from this report. Although the word "birth" is used, wantedness is actually defined in relation to the pregnancy leading up to each birth. The questions asked in the interview focused on the time just before the woman became pregnant. This clearly distinguishes her desire for a baby before the pregnancy began from her later feelings toward the child who was born. In particular, it is incorrect to conclude that "unwanted births" are the same as "unwanted children," for many unplanned or undesired pregnancies result in children who are cherished. Because the figures presented are for pregnancies, not for births, multiple births such as twins and triplets have been counted only once since the multiple outcome presumably could not affect the woman's feelings about wantedness of the pregnancy at the time of its conception. It should be noted that the data on wanted and unwanted births presented in this report cannot be compared directly with data reported in previous fertility studies because different definitions of wantedness were used. This report is based on numbers of wanted and unwanted births, rather than on the number of women who have had an unwanted birth. The definition of wantedness is based solely on the woman's responses to questions about *her* feelings and not those of her husband. A later report will make comparisons with previous studies using comparable definitions.

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^b"Children of their own" does not include adopted or foster children, or other children in the household who were not born to the woman interviewed.

HIGHLIGHTS

Table 1 shows that 4 out of every 5 births were reported by their mothers as wanted. But the 13.1 percent of births that were unwanted and the 7.3 percent of births for which the wantedness was undetermined together constitute 1 out of every 5 births to mothers aged 15-44 years in 1973. The proportion of births reported as unwanted increased with age, starting with about 1 out of every 12 births to mothers 15-24 years and rising to nearly twice that proportion, or 1 out of every 7 births to mothers aged 35 years and over. The differences by race are even more striking—1 in every 10 births to white mothers was reported as unwanted compared with 1 in every 4 births to Negro mothers. Similarly, Negro mothers had twice as many undetermined births in proportion to white mothers, leaving only 7 wanted births to Negro mothers (58.9 percent) for every 10 wanted births to white mothers (83.2 percent).

The proportion of unwanted births increased as parity increased. While women with 3 children reported 1 out of every 10 births as unwanted, women with 5 children reported twice as many unwanted births, and women with 6 children or more reported that 1 out of every 4 births was unwanted. There were no significant differences in wantedness by region or between mothers of Spanish origin and all other mothers. Less education for both the woman and her current husband (if any) was associated with fewer wanted births. There was no significant difference in the proportion of wanted births between mothers in, and those out of, the labor force. However, mothers with family incomes below the poverty level had a strikingly lower proportion of wanted births (66 percent) than mothers with family incomes at least 50 percent above the poverty level (83.6 percent). The difference in the reporting of wanted births between Protestants and Catholics was not statistically significant. But Jewish women reported a significantly larger proportion of wanted births compared with Catholics, Protestants, and those reporting other religions or no religious preference.

The proportion of unwanted births decreased from 3-in-10 to 1-in-10 as desired family size (an alternative measure of the number of

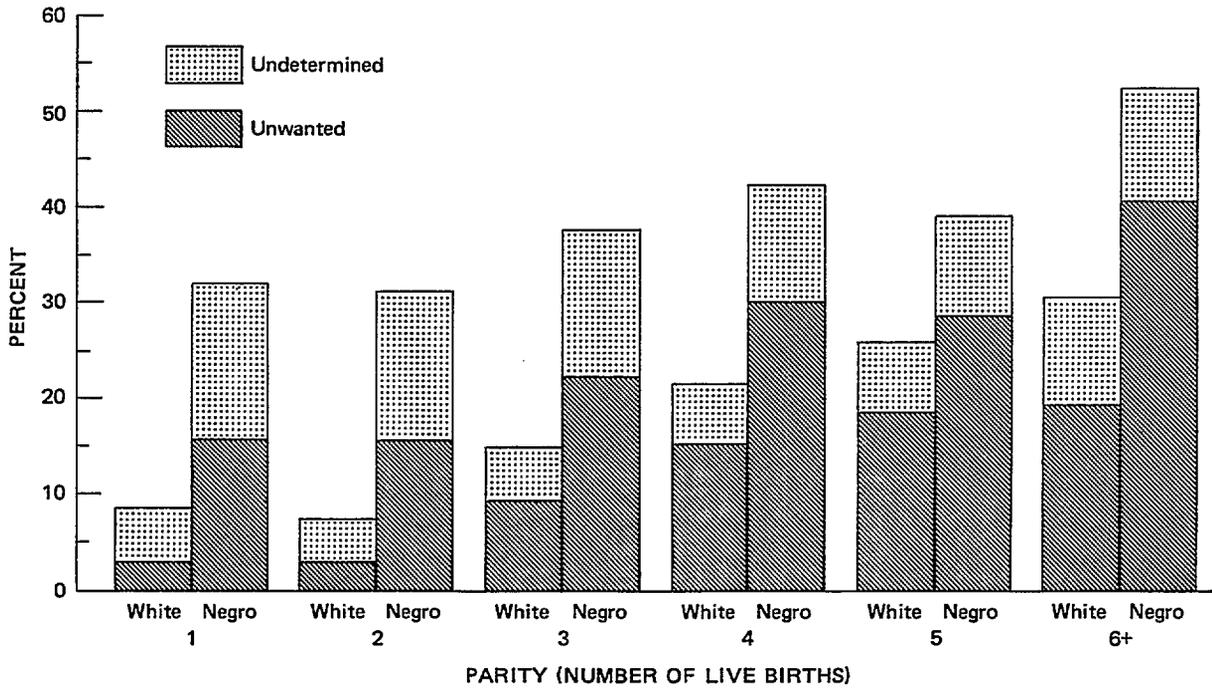
wanted births) increased from 0 to 4, with a slight increase in unwanted births for larger desired family sizes. Among women who had never been married but who had children of their own living in the household,^c the percentages of births reported as wanted and unwanted were significantly different from those reported by women who had been married at least once; only a little over half of the births to never-married mothers were reported as wanted. Between users and nonusers of contraception, there was no significant difference in the proportions of births reported as wanted or unwanted. But there was a marked difference in these proportions between those who were contraceptively sterilized (either male or female) and those using other methods of family planning. Those using sterilization reported fewer wanted births than those using other methods by 7 to 10 percentage points.

The pattern of wantedness by age and parity varied considerably between white and Negro mothers. Table 1 shows that the difference between the highest and lowest categories of age in the proportions of births reported as not wanted was 7.1 percentage points. Table 2 shows that this difference was almost doubled (to 13.5 percent) for Negro mothers, whereas it was virtually the same (7.2 percent) for white mothers. Looking at the pattern of unwanted births at the lowest and highest parity levels, table 1 shows a difference of 20.7 percentage points for all mothers. When this differential is examined by race, the difference shrinks to 16.3 percent for white mothers and expands to 24.7 percent for Negro mothers. Figure 1 shows the dramatic differences in the proportions of unwanted and undetermined births for white and Negro mothers and is helpful in identifying the specific groups that tend to have the largest proportions of unwanted births in the United States.

The proportions of wanted and unwanted births also differed by the current marital status

^cAlthough the National Survey of Family Growth is predominantly a survey of ever-married women, it also includes families consisting of never-married mothers and their child(ren) if they reside in the same household. Hence the term "mother" refers to women who have not just borne a child but raised it as well.

Figure 1. PERCENT OF PREGNANCIES RESULTING IN A LIVE BIRTH, BY WHETHER THEY WERE REPORTED AS UNWANTED OR UNDETERMINED, BY RACE, AND PARITY: NATIONAL SURVEY OF FAMILY GROWTH, 1973



of women. A comparison of tables 1 and 3 shows that the proportion of wanted births was 2.6 percentage points higher for currently married mothers included in the survey. The greatest difference between currently married mothers

and mothers of all marital statuses was found among Negro women; there were 5 percentage points more wanted births and 4 percentage points fewer unwanted births among the currently married.

Table 1. Number of mothers and of live births, and percent distribution of births, to mothers 15-44 years of age, by whether wanted, unwanted or undetermined, according to selected characteristics: United States, 1973

Characteristic	Number of mothers in thousands	Number of births in thousands	Total	Wanted	Unwanted	Undetermined
				Percent distribution		
Total	25,803	68,184	100.0	79.7	13.1	7.3
<u>Age group</u>						
15-24 years	4,375	6,542	100.0	81.9	8.3	9.8
25-29 years	5,487	11,471	100.0	83.6	10.3	6.1
30-34 years	5,617	15,469	100.0	80.5	12.1	7.4
35-39 years	5,108	16,686	100.0	76.7	15.2	8.1
40-44 years	5,216	18,015	100.0	78.3	15.4	6.2
<u>Race</u>						
White	22,182	57,551	100.0	83.2	10.5	6.2
Negro	3,359	9,984	100.0	58.9	27.9	13.2
<u>Parity</u>						
One live birth	6,297	6,297	100.0	87.7	*5.1	7.2
Two live births	8,154	16,221	100.0	90.1	4.3	5.6
Three live births	5,458	16,238	100.0	83.0	10.7	6.3
Four live births	2,812	11,088	100.0	76.6	16.6	6.9
Five live births	1,510	7,429	100.0	72.0	20.1	8.0
Six live births or more	1,572	10,911	100.0	63.0	25.8	11.2
<u>Origin</u>						
Spanish	1,900	5,501	100.0	76.4	13.7	10.0
All other	23,903	62,683	100.0	80.0	13.0	7.0
<u>Region</u>						
Northeast	5,406	14,032	100.0	80.9	12.0	7.1
North Central	6,757	18,502	100.0	79.0	14.0	7.0
South	8,500	21,771	100.0	79.1	13.3	7.6
West	5,139	13,880	100.0	80.3	12.6	7.2
<u>Woman's education</u>						
Less than high school	2,622	9,123	100.0	72.6	16.5	10.9
High school, 1-3 years	5,697	16,884	100.0	73.3	17.9	8.8
High school, 4 years	12,161	29,917	100.0	82.5	11.1	6.5
College, 1-3 years	3,182	7,585	100.0	86.1	9.7	*4.2
College, 4 years or more	2,140	4,675	100.0	87.9	7.4	*4.8
<u>Husband's education</u>						
Less than high school	3,397	11,782	100.0	73.3	16.9	9.8
High school, 1-3 years	4,830	13,610	100.0	74.4	16.6	9.0
High school, 4 years	8,943	22,526	100.0	82.1	11.7	6.2
College, 1-3 years	3,739	9,081	100.0	83.5	9.9	6.6
College, 4 years or more	4,123	9,787	100.0	89.2	7.7	*3.2

Table 1. Number of mothers and of live births, and percent distribution of births, to mothers 15-44 years of age, by whether wanted, unwanted or undetermined, according to selected characteristics: United States, 1973—Con.

Characteristic	Number of mothers in thousands	Number of births in thousands	Total	Wanted	Unwanted	Undetermined
Percent distribution						
<u>Woman's labor force status</u>						
Not in labor force	15,678	42,230	100.0	80.6	12.3	7.2
In labor force	10,125	25,954	100.0	78.2	14.4	7.4
Working full time	6,570	16,654	100.0	77.2	15.1	7.7
Working part time	2,716	7,110	100.0	81.4	12.7	5.9
Not working	838	2,190	100.0	75.5	*14.5	*10.0
<u>Poverty level¹</u>						
Below 100 percent	3,222	10,697	100.0	66.0	21.5	12.6
100-149 percent	2,596	8,211	100.0	73.8	16.6	9.6
150 and above	19,985	49,277	100.0	83.6	10.6	5.7
<u>Religion</u>						
Catholic	7,294	20,259	100.0	81.5	11.4	7.1
Protestant	17,028	44,684	100.0	78.7	13.9	7.4
Jewish	398	898	100.0	88.7	*6.6	*4.7
Other	343	824	100.0	81.8	*12.6	*5.6
None	739	1,520	100.0	76.5	*15.4	*8.1
<u>Desired family size</u>						
No children	1,337	3,562	100.0	60.9	30.9	*8.1
One child	989	1,928	100.0	68.6	20.4	*11.0
Two children	10,880	23,361	100.0	80.4	13.0	6.5
Three or four children	10,477	29,514	100.0	82.0	10.7	7.3
Five or six children	1,603	6,918	100.0	81.6	12.0	6.4
Seven children or more	517	2,903	100.0	75.8	13.3	*10.9
<u>Fetal losses</u>						
No losses	19,205	48,713	100.0	79.7	12.7	7.6
One loss	4,551	12,757	100.0	80.2	13.2	6.6
Two losses	1,247	4,133	100.0	77.3	16.4	*6.3
Three losses or more	800	2,581	100.0	80.2	13.8	*6.0
<u>Times married</u>						
Never married	771	1,399	100.0	53.4	27.9	*18.7
Once married	21,493	55,980	100.0	80.9	12.1	7.1
Twice married or more	3,539	10,806	100.0	76.9	16.4	6.7
<u>Most recent contraceptive use</u>						
Nonusers	2,166	5,229	100.0	79.9	10.3	9.9
Users	22,623	59,635	100.0	79.5	13.4	7.2
Sterilization	4,821	16,574	100.0	73.5	18.5	8.0
Pill or IUD	10,278	23,512	100.0	80.4	12.5	7.1
Other methods	7,523	19,550	100.0	83.4	10.0	6.6

¹"Poverty level" designates the ratio of total family income to poverty level income. See the definitions in the Technical Notes.

Table 2. Number of mothers and of live births, and percent distribution of births, to mothers 15-44 years of age, by whether wanted, unwanted or undetermined, according to age and race, and parity and race: United States, 1973

Characteristic	Number of mothers in thousands	Number of births in thousands	Total	Wanted	Unwanted	Undetermined
Total	25,803	68,184	100.0	79.7	13.1	7.2
Percent distribution						
<u>AGE AND RACE</u>						
<u>White</u>						
15-24 years	3,410	5,029	100.0	86.9	*5.4	7.8
25-29 years	4,799	9,764	100.0	87.2	8.2	4.6
30-34 years	4,938	13,262	100.0	83.5	9.9	6.6
35-39 years	4,436	14,174	100.0	80.6	12.3	7.0
40-44 years	4,601	15,321	100.0	81.8	12.6	5.6
<u>Negro</u>						
15-24 years	940	1,468	100.0	64.6	*18.7	*16.6
25-29 years	632	1,579	100.0	61.9	*23.6	*14.5
30-34 years	615	2,024	100.0	60.3	26.4	*13.2
35-39 years	596	2,330	100.0	52.7	32.9	*14.4
40-44 years	576	2,583	100.0	58.2	32.2	*9.5
<u>PARITY AND RACE</u>						
<u>White</u>						
One live birth	5,224	5,224	100.0	91.4	*3.1	*5.5
Two live births	7,257	14,441	100.0	92.5	3.0	4.4
Three live births	4,895	14,579	100.0	85.2	9.5	5.3
Four live births	2,435	9,603	100.0	78.5	15.3	6.1
Five live births	1,261	6,213	100.0	74.1	18.6	7.3
Six live births or more.....	1,111	7,491	100.0	69.6	19.5	11.0
<u>Negro</u>						
One child	1,003	1,003	100.0	68.0	*15.8	*16.2
Two children.....	809	1,604	100.0	69.1	*15.7	*15.2
Three children.....	519	1,537	100.0	62.4	*22.2	*15.4
Four children	345	1,357	100.0	61.8	*26.0	*12.2
Five children	229	1,120	100.0	60.9	*28.4	*10.8
Six children or more	453	3,363	100.0	47.8	40.5	11.7

Table 3. Number of mothers and of live births, and percent distribution of births, to currently married mothers 15-44 years of age, by whether wanted, unwanted or undetermined, according to race and parity: United States, 1973

Characteristic	Number of mothers in thousands	Number of births in thousands	Total	Wanted	Unwanted	Undetermined
				Percent distribution		
Total	21,816	57,524	100.0	82.3	11.2	6.6
<u>RACE</u>						
White	19,764	51,391	100.0	84.2	9.8	6.0
Negro	1,822	5,561	100.0	63.9	23.9	12.2
<u>Parity</u>						
One live birth	5,086	5,086	100.0	92.0	*2.8	*5.1
Two live births	7,107	14,146	100.0	92.1	3.1	4.8
Three live births	4,740	14,098	100.0	85.1	9.4	5.5
Four live births	2,352	9,268	100.0	78.3	15.1	6.7
Five live births	1,277	6,287	100.0	73.9	17.9	8.1
Six live births or more.....	1,254	8,637	100.0	66.2	22.9	10.9

TECHNICAL NOTES

DESIGN OF THE SURVEY: The National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG), initiated in 1971, is designed to provide data on fertility, family planning, and related aspects of maternal and child health. Field work for Cycle I was carried out by the National Opinion Research Center in 1973 and early 1974 with September 13, 1973, as the midpoint of the interviewing.

A multistage probability sample of women in the noninstitutional population of the conterminous United States was used. Approximately 33,000 households were screened to identify the sample of women who would be eligible for the NSFG; i.e., women between the ages of 15 and 44 years, inclusive, who were currently married or previously married or who had never married but had natural children presently living in the household. In households with more than one eligible woman, a random procedure was used to select only one to be interviewed. Since the interviews were always conducted with the sample person, the term "woman" is used throughout this report as synonymous with sample person. Interviews were completed for 3,856 Negro women and for 5,941 women of other races. A detailed description of the sample design will be presented in a forthcoming report "Sample Design, Estimation Procedures, and Variance Estimation for a National Survey of Family Growth."

The interview was narrowly focused on the respondents' marital and pregnancy histories, on their use of contraception and the planning status of each pregnancy, on the respondents' intentions regarding the number and spacing of future births, on maternity and family planning services, and on a broad range of social and economic characteristics. While the interviews varied greatly in the time required for their completion, they averaged about 70 minutes. Quality control procedures were applied at all stages of the survey. This included a verification of listing completeness with unlisted dwelling units being brought into the sample, a preliminary field review of completed questionnaires for possible missing data or inaccurate administration, a 10-percent sample recheck of all households to be screened in the survey, observation of inter-

views in the field, and an independent recoding of a 5-percent subsample of completed interviews.

RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES: Since the statistics presented in this report are based on a sample, they may differ somewhat from the figures that would have been obtained if a complete census had been taken, using the same questionnaires, instructions, interviewing personnel, and field procedures. This chance difference between sample results and a complete count is referred to as "sampling error." In addition, the results are also subject to nonsampling error due to respondent misreporting, data processing mistakes, and nonresponse. It is very difficult, if not impossible, to obtain accurate measures of nonsampling errors. These types of errors were kept to a minimum by the quality control procedures and other methods incorporated into the survey design and administration.

Sampling error, or the extent to which samples may differ by chance from a complete count, is measured by a statistic called the "standard error of estimate." Approximate standard errors for estimated numbers and percentages from this survey are shown in tables I and II for all pregnancies, regardless of their outcome.

The chances are about 68 out of 100 that an estimate from the sample would differ from a

Table I. Approximate standard errors for estimated numbers for pregnancies: 1973 National Survey of Family Growth

Size of estimate	Relative standard error	Standard error
100,000	46.4	46,000
250,000	29.3	73,000
500,000	20.7	104,000
1,000,000	14.6	146,000
2,500,000	9.2	230,000
5,000,000	6.4	322,000
10,000,000	4.5	445,000
25,000,000	2.6	658,000
50,000,000	1.6	811,000

Table II. Approximate standard errors for estimated percentages expressed in percentage points for pregnancies: 1973 National Survey of Family Growth

Base of percentage	2 or 98	5 or 95	10 or 90	20 or 80	30 or 70	40 or 60	50
700,000	2.5	3.8	5.3	7.0	8.0	8.6	8.8
1,000,000	2.1	3.2	4.4	5.9	6.7	7.2	7.3
3,000,000	1.2	1.8	2.5	3.4	3.9	4.1	4.2
7,000,000	0.8	1.2	1.7	2.2	2.5	2.7	2.8
10,000,000	0.6	1.0	1.4	1.9	2.1	2.3	2.3
30,000,000	0.4	0.6	0.8	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.3
70,000,000	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.9

complete census by less than the standard error. The chances are about 95 out of 100 that the differences between the sample estimate and a complete count would be less than twice the standard error. The relative standard error is the ratio of the standard error to the statistic being estimated. In this report, numbers and percentages that have a standard error that is more than 25 percent of the estimate itself are considered "unreliable." They are marked with an asterisk to caution the user but may be combined to make other types of comparisons of greater precision.

In this report, terms such as "similar" and "the same" mean that any observed difference

between two estimates being compared is not statistically significant. Similarly, terms such as "greater," "less," "larger," "smaller," etc., indicate that the observed differences are statistically significant. The normal deviate test with a .05 level of significance was used to test all comparisons that are discussed in the text. A statistically significant difference is one large enough that in repeated samples of the same size and type as this one, such a large difference would be expected to be found in less than 5 percent of the samples. Lack of comment in the text between any two statistics does *not* mean the difference was tested and found not to be significant.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

Wantedness.—The definition of wantedness is based on direct responses to several questions about each time that a woman has conceived. For a woman who reports that contraceptive use was stopped prior to conception, and for those who report that no contraceptive method was used in the interval preceding conception (which begins with the end of the preceding pregnancy, if applicable), the question on wantedness is phrased as follows: "Was the reason you (were not/stopped) using any method because you, yourself, wanted to become pregnant?" An affirmative response to this question is defined as a "wanted" pregnancy. If the woman answers negatively, she is asked two followup questions which are identical to those asked of all other respondents. These questions are: "At the time

you became pregnant (THIS INTERVAL)^d did you, yourself, actually want to have a(nother) baby at some time?" and "As you recall, is that how you felt *before* you became pregnant, or did you come to feel that way later?" The latter question is rephrased as follows for women who indicated that they did not know or care whether or not they wanted to have a(nother) baby: "It is sometimes difficult to recall these things, but as you look back to *just before* that pregnancy began, would you say you probably

^dParentheses indicate that the interviewer chose the appropriate wording for respondent. "THIS INTERVAL" means that the interviewer inserted the name or dates of the child or pregnancy that defined the interval in question.

wanted a(nother) baby some time or probably not?"

A pregnancy is defined as "wanted" if the woman reports that (a) contraception was not used in the interval or was stopped prior to conception *because* the woman wanted to become pregnant, or (b) she wanted to have a(nother) baby at some time and felt that way *before* becoming pregnant, or (c) she reported that she probably wanted a(nother) baby at some time. A pregnancy is defined as "unwanted" if the woman reports that she did not want, or probably did not want to have a(nother) baby at some time and felt that way *before* becoming pregnant. All other pregnancies are termed "undetermined." Table III shows the breakdown by the subcategories of the components of wantedness for pregnancies ending in live births and fetal losses.

Age.—In this report, age is classified by the age of the respondent at her last birthday before the date of interview.

Race.—Classification by race, based on interviewer observation, was reported as Negro, white, or other. Race refers to the race of the woman interviewed.

Spanish origin.—A respondent was classified as being of Spanish origin if she reported her origin or descent as Mexican, Chicano, Mexican American, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or other Spanish.

Region.—Region refers to the part of the country where the respondent was living at the time of the survey according to the definition of the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Marital Status.—Persons are classified by marital status as married, widowed, divorced, separated, or never married. Married persons include those who report themselves as married or as informally married, such as living with a partner or common-law spouse. Persons who are temporarily separated for reasons other than marital discord, such as vacation, illness, or Armed Forces, are classified as married. Divorced persons are those whose most recent marriage was legally dissolved and who are free to remarry. The annulled, while having the legal status of never having been married, are classified together with the divorced. The category "separated" includes those who are legally or informally separated from their most recent spouse due to marital discord. The "never mar-

Table III. Percent distribution of subcategories of wantedness by race for all pregnancies regardless of outcome: United States, 1973

Category of wantedness	Total	Negro	White and other
Total.....	100.0	100.0	100.0
<u>Wanted</u>			
Contraception stopped or not used.....	44.7	29.5	56.8
Wanted prior to conception.....	27.0	29.4	25.2
Probably wanted prior to conception.....	1.0	1.1	0.9
<u>Unwanted</u>			
Unwanted prior to conception.....	18.6	28.3	10.9
Probably unwanted prior to conception.....	0.3	0.4	0.2
<u>Undetermined</u>			
Wanted after conception.....	5.9	7.0	4.9
Unwanted after conception.....	2.2	3.9	0.9
Don't know or care.....	0.3	0.4	0.2

ried" include those who have never had a formal marriage and do not consider themselves in any of the preceding categories. However, in the NSFG, single women with children of their own in the household were included.

Times married.—The number of times a woman has been married, according to the definition of marital status as offered in the preceding paragraph.

Education.—The highest year of regular schooling completed is used to define education for the woman and her current or most recent husband.

Labor force status.—A woman is categorized as being in the labor force if she was working full time or part time, had a job but was not at work because of temporary illness, vacation, or a strike, or if she was unemployed, laid off, or looking for work.

Poverty level.—The poverty index ratio was calculated by dividing the total family income by the weighted average threshold income of nonfarm residents, head under 65, based on the poverty levels shown in the U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports*, Series P-60, No. 98, "Characteristics of the Low-Income Population, 1973," table A-3. This definition takes into account the sex of the family head and the number of persons in the family. Total family income includes income from all sources for all members of the respondent's family.

Religion.—Women were asked whether they were Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, or something else. Protestant includes most of the Christian groups other than Roman Catholic. The "other" category includes non-Christians except those answering "none."

Parity.—Parity refers to the number of live births the respondent has had.

Desired family size.—The number of children a woman reported that she would have if she could start life over again and have exactly the number of children she wanted.

Fetal losses.—The number of pregnancies reported by the respondent ending in miscarriage, stillbirth, or induced abortion.

Most recent contraceptive use.—Nonusers are women who have never used a contraceptive method or gave no indication of ever having used a method for the purpose of delaying or preventing a pregnancy. Users are women who have ever used at least one contraceptive method (including sterilization at least partly for contraceptive reasons) for that purpose, and this is the current method for women using contraception at the date of the interview.

EFFECTS OF IMPUTATION: In 477 cases out of 27,198 records of pregnancies, there was no code for determining the wantedness status of the pregnancy concerned. Interviewer's error, coding and keypunching errors or the respondent's nonresponse for a specific item are some possible reasons for this. Thus, for 1.8 percent of all pregnancies, a code for wantedness was imputed on the basis of respondents matched on race, age, pregnancy interval order, and parity, using the "hot deck" procedure for imputations. It is possible to assess the effects of this procedure by comparing the resulting distribution with one including the unknown values as a separate category. The imputed proportions differ from the unimputed proportions by an average of 0.4 percentage points, with the largest difference being in the "wanted" category for Negro women of 0.9 percent.

SYMBOLS	
Data not available—	---
Category not applicable—	...
Quantity zero—	-
Quantity more than 0 but less than 0.05—	0.0
Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision—	*

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