

# U.S. releases pregnancy stats

## In '92, live births outnumbered abortions, stillbirths

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Some 6.5 million American women were pregnant in 1992, but only five pregnancies out of eight resulted in live births, the government reported yesterday.

Besides 1.5 million abortions, there were 900,000 miscarriages and stillbirths, the National Center for Health Statistics said. Some 4.1 million babies were born that year.

The center said the abortion rate dropped by 12 percent from 1980 to 1992, partly due to a drop in the number of pregnant women in their late teens and 20s, when abortion rates are highest.

The average American woman has 3.3 pregnancies during her

lifetime, representing 2.1 live births, 0.8 abortions, and 0.4 miscarriages and stillbirths, the agency said.

Stephanie Ventura, a demographer and co-author of the report on American pregnancy trends, said it demonstrates that black and Hispanic women have more pregnancies than white women.

The average black women becomes pregnant 5.1 times during her lifetime, the average Hispanic woman 4.7 times and the average white woman 2.8 times.

The difference in lifetime births "is considerably smaller," with Hispanic women bearing three babies, black women 2.6 and whites

1.8.

Pregnancies among black women were twice as likely to end in abortion, said the study.

The study drew its figures from birth registrations, family surveys and estimates of abortions from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Alan Guttmacher Institute.

About one woman in nine in the childbearing years of 15 to 55 is pregnant in any given year, the center said.

Ms. Ventura said more women in the aging generation of baby boomers — those born from 1946 to 1964 — are likely to remain childless.