

marri *Findings*

FAITH & FAMILY

Modern Family Choices

“It is a poverty to decide that a child must die so that you may live as you wish.” – Mother Theresa of Calcutta

Fertility Rates are Dropping Worldwide



In 1996, five years before he received the Nobel Prize in economics, [George Akerlof](#) in “[An Analysis of Out-of-Wedlock Childbearing in the United States](#)” labeled contraception the “technology shock” that gave us the death of the ‘shot-gun marriage’ and the rise of single motherhood. A [second paper](#) refined his argument still more. One of his coauthors was his wife, [Janet Yellen](#), who later became Chairman of the Federal Reserve System, the central bank of the United States. Central banks around the world now must deal with the slowing [velocity](#) of money as marriage and birth rates fall in developed countries, leading to less spending on children and new homes, phenomena closely linked to rates of contraception. These unintended consequences are playing out in the most unforeseen ways, one of which is the growing shortage of native-born workers in the developed economies of the world, a vacuum drawing young legal and illegal immigrants from poorer homelands in search of a better life. [Continue Reading Here...](#)

Contraception Does Not Prevent Abortion



A [2018 study from the Guttmacher Institute](#) examined whether types of contraceptive methods used by women who had abortions in the month they became pregnant changed between 2000 and 2014. Using data from the Abortion Patient Surveys, which were administered to women who obtained abortions at selected facilities, the study found that, for those who aborted their babies, condoms were the most commonly used contraceptive method used in the month pregnancy began. It also found a statistically significant increase in the proportion of women using long-acting reversible methods of contraception in the month they got pregnant. Astoundingly, the estimated number of abortions attributed to these users was greater in 2014 than in 2000 (9500 vs. 1800).



Abortions Decreased in the Past Decade

The most recent data from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) found that from 2007 to 2016, the total number of reported abortions decreased 24% from 825,240 to 623,471. In this same period, the abortion rate decreased 26% from 15.6 abortions per 1,000 women to 11.6 abortions per 1,000 women. Women in their 20s accounted for the majority of abortions.

The Poor, the Young, the Unmarried, and the Religiously



Unaffiliated Have More Abortions

The only study that detailed the characteristics of women who have had abortions and their use of contraceptives was [the 25-year-old Guttmacher Institute study](#), which used data from the 1995 National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG). Results showed that women who cohabit are 3.5 times more likely to have had an abortion, while those without a religious affiliation are 4.0 times more likely to have had an abortion. Those twice as likely to have an abortion: black women; women aged 18 to 24 years; women with a family income of less than \$15K; and women with Medicaid coverage.



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