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## Unintended pregnancies

Prepare by The Women's Health Advocacy Foundation

Every year about 300,000 women have unintended pregnancies

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Many women become pregnant unintentionally. Some of these women choose to have abortions. The remaining 70% or so carry their pregnancies to term.

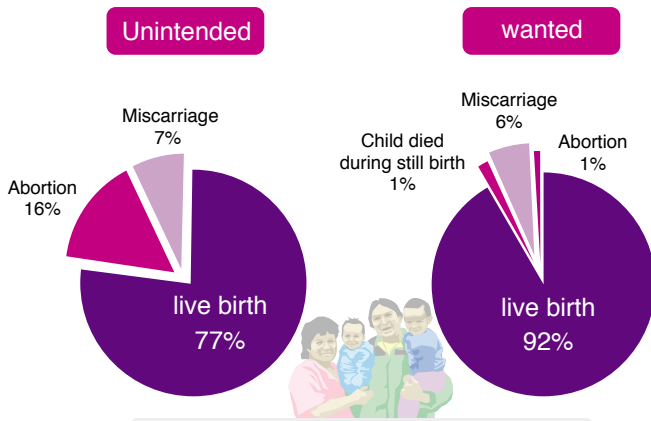
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The contraceptive prevalence rate among Thai women is high, and gradually increasing. However, 13% of women giving birth do not want to get pregnant, 20% want to get pregnant but at a later time, and a further 4% did not have firm views. Altogether, 33% of pregnancies each year are unintended. Women who do not want to get pregnant are 16 times more likely to have an abortion than women who want to get pregnant. Only one in four women with unintended pregnancies uses contraceptives. The remaining three in four are not being reached by current contraceptive programs, which are targeted at couples.

Unintended pregnancies have many consequences for society, including abortion, infant abandonment, and infanticide. Statistics on the extent of these problems are highly deficient. However, existing data from various sources allow some tentative conclusions. The Department of Health, Ministry of Public Health, states that in 1999, 13,090 women were treated at government hospitals for complications following abortions. The average cost per case for treating complications from abortions is 21,024 baht. Even though large numbers of women experience unintended pregnancies, these women are stigmatized and left to cope with the problems on their own. Government facilities lack policies to assist women with unintended pregnancies. This need to work together to solve the problem.

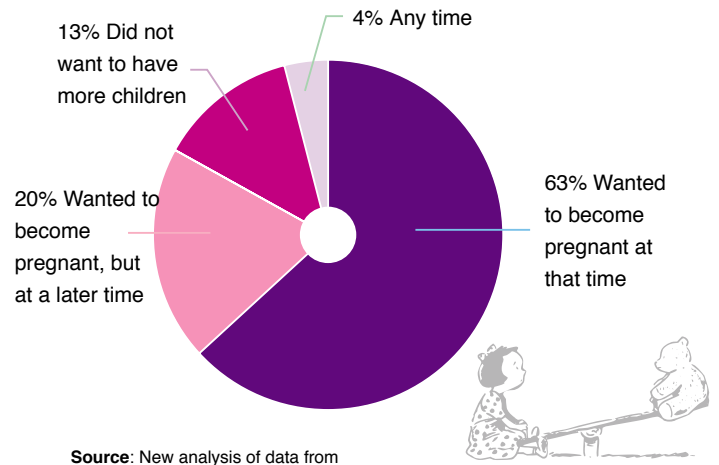


### Pregnancy outcomes, according to the status of the pregnancy



**Source:** Community Survey of Women's Health and Reproductive Histories, Population Council, 2002  
**Note:** Data obtained from two village censuses

### Status of pregnancies



**Source:** New analysis of data from Kritaya Archavanitkul et al 2005  
**Note:** Data from a representative sample of 2,800 women in Bangkok and Nakhon Sawan. The analysis is based on 630 women who had had births in the previous 5 years.

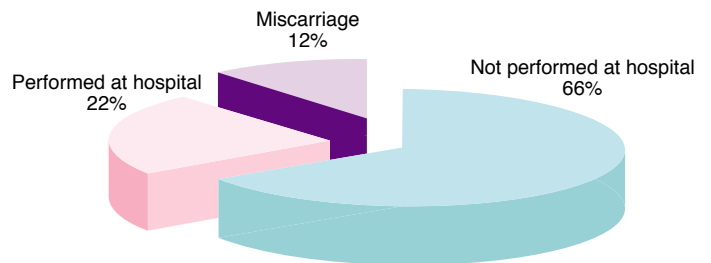
### Numbers of women consulting the NGO 'Friends of Women' about unintended pregnancy



Situation	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Not ready	-	25	26	49	44
Contraceptive error	-	4	9	15	6
Male partner refuses to take responsibility	-	7	31	37	54
Rape	-	5	-	5	7
All women seeking advice on unintended pregnancies	152	41	66	106	111
All women seeking advice on any issue	869	281	558	750	748

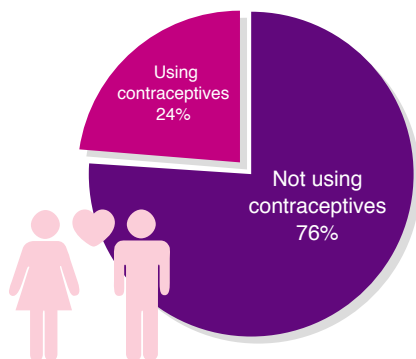
**Source:** Data Center, Friends of Women  
**Note:** Consultations are classified into four types: family problems, unintended pregnancies, social problems, other problems

### Sixty-six percent of abortions are not performed at a hospital



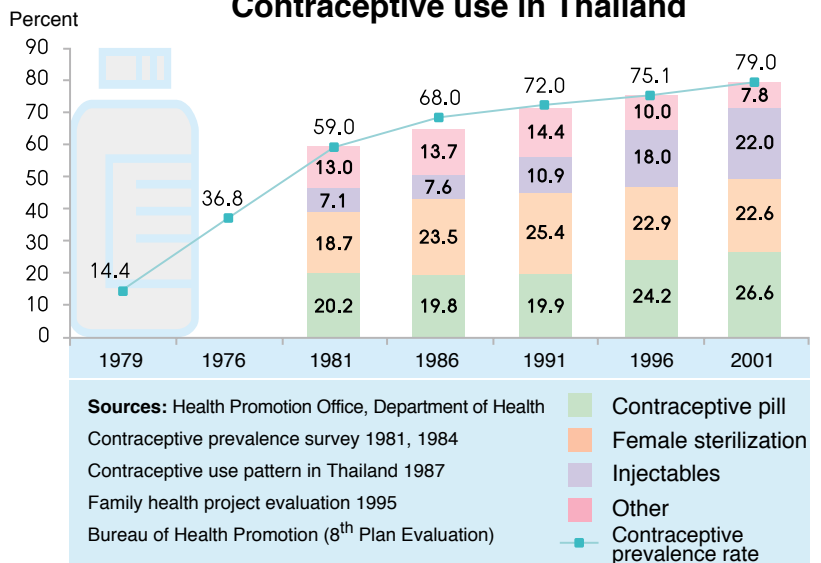
**Source:** Induced Abortion : Nationwide Survey in Thailand, 1999

### Twenty-four percent of unintended pregnancies occur to women using contraceptives



**Source:** Community Survey of Women's Health and Reproductive Histories, Population Council, 2002

### Contraceptive use in Thailand



**Sources:** Health Promotion Office, Department of Health  
 Contraceptive prevalence survey 1981, 1984  
 Contraceptive use pattern in Thailand 1987  
 Family health project evaluation 1995  
 Bureau of Health Promotion (8<sup>th</sup> Plan Evaluation)

**Note:** 'Other' contraceptives include IUDs, male sterilization, implants, and condoms.