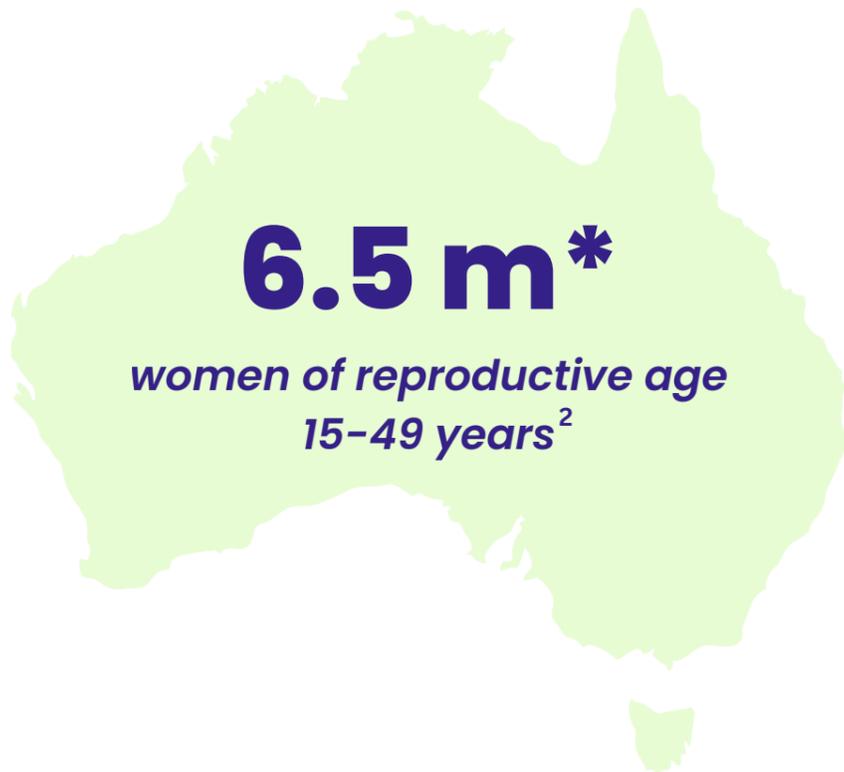


UNINTENDED PREGNANCY IN AUSTRALIA

An unintended pregnancy is a pregnancy that occurs when no children or no more children are desired or a pregnancy that occurs earlier than desired. An unintended pregnancy does not necessarily mean the pregnancy is unwanted.¹



*As of January 2026

1 in 4 ←

Australian women had an unintended pregnancy in the past 10 years³

31% ←

of unintended pregnancies ended in abortion.³

RURAL AREAS

Women living in rural areas are **1.4 times** more likely to experience unintended pregnancy.⁴



YOUNG PEOPLE

41% of women aged 18-32 years reported that their first pregnancy was unintended.⁴

13% of women aged 19-24 years who have ever had vaginal sex report experiencing an unintended pregnancy.⁵



REFERENCES

1. Santelli J, Rochat R, Hatfield-Timajchy K, Gilbert BC, Curtis K, Cabral R, et al. The measurement and meaning of unintended pregnancy. *Perspect Sex Reprod Health*. 2003;35(2):94–101.
2. Australian Bureau of Statistics. Population – states and territories: National, state and territory population 2025 [updated September 18 2025. Available from: <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/population/national-state-and-territory-population/latest-release>.
3. Taft AJ, Shankar M, Black KI, Mazza D, Hussainy S, Lucke JC. Unintended and unwanted pregnancy in Australia: a cross-sectional, national random telephone survey of prevalence and outcomes. *Med J Aust*. 2018;209(9):407–8.
4. Rowe H, Holton S, Kirkman M, Bayly C, Jordan L, McNamee K, et al. Prevalence and distribution of unintended pregnancy: the Understanding Fertility Management in Australia National Survey. *Aust N Z J Public Health*. 2016;40(2):104–9.
5. Shankar M, Hooker L, Edvardsson K, Norman WV, Taft AJ. The prevalence and variations in unintended pregnancy by socio-demographic and health-related factors in a population-based cohort of young Australian women. *Aust N Z J Public Health*. 2023;47(3):100046.

CONTACT US



www.spherecre.org



sphere-cre@monash.edu

