

Out-of-wedlock births rise, abortion rates ensue

By Patty Pryor

The number of out-of-wedlock births has increased 50 percent over the last decade, so that now, at least one in every six American babies is born to unwed parents, according to a U.S. government study. Figures in Nebraska also show an increase.

A variety of societal changes, including later marriages, have contributed to this increase, said Kristin A. Moore, a senior researcher with the Urban Institute in Washington, D.C.

"So many more women are delaying marriage," she said, "so there are just more unmarried women in the population overall."

The number of American women of childbearing age has risen by 4 percent over the last decade, but overall childbearing by unmarried women has increased by 6.1 percent during the same period, according to National Center for Health Statistics figures.

This decrease in the number of marriages is partially the result of less rigid social stigmas attached to a mother who chooses to raise her child alone, Moore said.

Lessened stigma

"The lessened social stigma reason is frequently given, and I think it's an accurate one," she said.

"More women are weighing the alternatives and realistically deciding that a stable marriage is not always a real good possibility." This situation is particularly true among black pre-marital pregnancies, Moore said, in which the chances for successful marriage are even more greatly reduced by poor economic conditions.

"In the black community, unemployment among males is pretty striking," she said.

In 1979, the most recent year for which statistics are available, 55 percent of all black babies were born out of wedlock, compared to 38 percent in 1970.

White increase greater

However, the increase in out-of-wedlock births among teen-agers is still greater

among whites than among blacks, according to U.S. Census Bureau statistics.

The increase in teen-age pregnancies is also the result of changes in societal structure, Moore said.

"There is a larger at-risk percentage of the population," she said, "which has brought an increase in non-marital sex, particularly among teen-agers."

Moore said the high incidence of teen-age pregnancies presents a more serious problem.

"I've always considered the age of the mother more critical than the marital status," she said.

Other than the heightened psychological burdens usually incurred by teen-age mothers, teen-age pregnancies create a greater economic burden as well.

"Over the half of the mothers on welfare now were teen-agers when they had their first birth," Moore said.

"The problem becomes clear to the taxpayer too, when it becomes a tax burden," she added.

Of the 1.1 million teen-age pregnancies each year, according to Urban Institute figures, 22 percent end in out-of-wedlock births, 10 percent result in marriage, 17 percent are post-marital conceptions, 13 percent end in miscarriages and 38 percent result in abortions.

Abortion rates play a major role in determining pre-marital birth statistics, Moore said.

"The incidence of pre-marital pregnancy is very high," she said, "but abortions are partially keeping a lid on the situation."

"The increase in absolute all abortions is tremendous," she added. More than 400,000 teen-agers received abortions last year, Moore said, and the 20- to 24-year-old age bracket accounted for a third of all abortions last year.

The percentages of abortions for 20- to 24-year-olds is particularly interesting, she said.

"I think it shows that they're just not as sophisticated and mature as they're made out to be," she said.

The frequency of adoption as an alternative to abortion is hard to assess because

adoption figures are unavailable, Moore said.

"There are no adoption statistics," she said, "but we know there's been a decline (in the number put up for adoption) because the waiting lists are years long."

The Urban Institute report was based on records from Washington D.C., and the 39 states that require a mother's marital status on the birth certificate, Moore said.

Figures show increase

Figures from the Health, Data and Statistical Research Department of the Nebraska Vital Statistics Bureau also show an increase in pre-marital births, according to

Kris Blitz-Kent, a statistical clerk with the department.

However, the state increase has been slower than the national increase, probably because "Nebraska is rather conservative," she said.

There were 324 more out-of-wedlock births this year than last year, she said.

In 1980, there were 3,165 out-of-wedlock births, which represented 11.4 percent of all births in the state that year.

"Abortions have gone up very steadily, too," Blitz-Kent said.

The number of abortions for Nebraska residents has increased from 3,255 in 1977 to 6,060 in 1980, she said.

Bust of Venezuelan author shows international amity

By Joi Patterson

The long-standing friendship between UNL and Venezuela will be reinforced by a gift to be presented to UNL Monday by former Venezuelan President Rafael Caldera.

According to Roberto Esquenazi-Mayo, director of the Institute for International Studies, the gift is a bronze bust of Andres Bello, a man regarded as "the father of intellectual freedom." The bust is the work of Venezuelan sculptor F. Gonzalez.

"This recognition of the close and cordial relationship which has developed between UNL and Venezuela is a distinct, unique and unusual honor," Esquenazi-Mayo said.

In 1975, Venezuelan authors, folklore dancers, singers and artists put on a festival at the university for an entire month. The festival was a token of appreciation from Venezuela, and a part of the United States' bicentennial celebration, Esquenazi-Mayo said.

Caldera, who was president of Venezuela from 1969 to 1974, is now a senator in Venezuela. The Venezuelan Constitution states that when a president ends his term, he becomes a senator for life. Caldera is also a law professor at the Central University of Venezuela in Caracas and president of the World Interparliamentary Union, a representa-

tion of senators from democratic nations around the world.

Caldera, a biographer of Bello, will present the bust at 9:30 a.m. in the Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery. UNL Chancellor Martin Massengale will preside over the ceremony and NU President Ronald Roskens will introduce Caldera.

Caldera will also meet with students and the public in an open forum at 2:30 p.m. in the Nebraska Union.

Caldera is an internationally noted authority on Bello, Esquenazi-Mayo said. Bello settled in Chile in 1829 and founded the University of Chile in 1843, serving as its head until his death in 1855. He spent 19 years in London as secretary to the legations of Chile and Columbia. Bello also was an author, and his position in literature was secured by two poems which conveyed the majestic impression of the South American landscape.

Caldera will present the bust as part of the world commemoration of Bello's 200th birthday. Caldera will be here for just one day, Esquenazi-Mayo said. Caldera will be in Washington, D.C. Tuesday, to give a presentation on Bello at the Library of Congress.

"We felt very honored he will bring the gift," Esquenazi-Mayo said. "It will afford students to meet a distinguished scholar and a great statesman."

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HOME COMING WEEK:

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● Display Judging Homecoming-theme displays judged at Greek houses and Residence Halls at 3 p.m.

FRIDAY, OCT. 30

● Homecoming Parade. Starts at the Union, 15th and R streets, at 6:30 p.m. Applications for participation available until Oct. 28 in Nebraska Union, Room 200.

● Pep Rally on Coliseum steps following parade.

SATURDAY, OCT. 31

● College Showcase. College boards display their colleges in Union, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

● Entertainment in the Plaza. UNL Varsity Glee Club at 10:30 a.m. Scarlet and Cream Singers outside Union at 11:15 a.m.

● NEBRASKA vs. KANSAS football game. Kickoff in Memorial Stadium at 1:30 p.m.

● Crowning of Royalty. Halftime football game.

● Hot Air Balloons. Weather permitting, balloons will fly over campus Saturday morning.

SUNDAY, NOV. 1

● Dan Fogelberg Concert. Bob Devaney Sports Center, 8 p.m.

Call Office of Campus Activities and Programs 472-2454 for more information.

All events coordinated by the All-University Homecoming Committee. (The committee is represented by Corncobs, Tassels, UNL Marching Band, Panhellenic, ASUN, Daily Nebraskan, Interfraternity Council, Phi Sigma, URC-East, URC-City, RHA, Student Alumni Association.)

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