

Half of Black Children Born to Unmarried Women

More than half the black children born in the United States during 1976 were born to unmarried women, according to a recent report by the National Center for Health Statistics.

It was the first year, officials said, that black births out of wedlock exceeded fifty per cent of all black births, although the number has been rising steadily for more than a decade. Just fourteen years ago, 26 per cent of all black children were born out of wedlock.

This recent statistic is the latest indicator suggesting significant changes in the structure of black families, and researchers in the field are more certain of the importance of the changes than the reason for them.

"The real changes that are taking place during the 1970s are just enormous," said Kristin Moore, a researcher at Urban Institute. "The changes are so rapid that they've caught us all out. No one can say definitely why it's happening."

Today, forty per cent of all black children live in

BAKKE GUIDELINES: The Department of Health and Social Services (HSS) has issued guidelines on how the nation's 3,000 colleges and universities can use affirmative action principles in admission policies without violating the ban on strict racial or ethnic quotas in the U.S. Supreme Court's Bakke decision.

They encourage: consideration of race, color or national origin as a positive factor, like geographic origin or economic circumstances; increased recruiting in minority communities; modifying admission criteria for minority applicants; offering tutoring and other special services; or pursuing numerical "goals" to achieve the racial and other ethnic composition required.

VOTING OFFENDER: A study of bilingual elections by the Federal Election Commission shows that Texas is a major voting rights "offender."

It says that even though the state is "most seriously affected" by the bilingual requirements adopted in 1975, Texas is less adequately prepared to put them into effect than California, Colorado, New Mexico, and Oklahoma.

ROUNDUP ILLEGAL: It's illegal for Immigration and Naturalization Service agents to raid a business establishment to arrest undocumented workers unless they have a search warrant specifying identities of the workers, a U.S. District Court judge in Washington, D.C., has ruled.

BOMB PLOT: Two brothers have been charged with plotting to bomb a Columbus, Ohio, elementary school while classes were in session.

One of the school's students is the daughter of Judge Robert Duncan of the U.S. District Court, who ordered the desegregation of the city's school this fall.

HANIGANS INDICTED: Patrick and Thomas Hanigan, who in 1976 were found not guilty of 21 counts of kidnapping, robbery, and assault on three undocumented Mexican workers who were walking across the Hanigan ranch, have been indicted by a Federal grand jury in Tucson, Arizona on three counts of obstruction of commerce and robbery of the same three men.

In the original case, the Hanigans were alleged to have tied the men up, taken their clothes and money, beat, stabbed, and burned them before sending them naked back across the border harried by gunshot pellets. That case was heard by an all-white jury in an area nearly one-half Mexican-American.

The Federal action follows the intense pressure the Justice Department received from a national coalition of lawyers and Hispanic organizations.

NEW SENTENCE: A U.S. District Court judge in Houston has again ignored prosecution and civil rights organizations appeals to impose substantial prison sentences on three ex-policemen in the bayou-drowning death of Joe Campos Torres.

In March 1978, Judge Ross Sterling sentenced the men to a ten-year suspended sentence, and five years probation for felony conspiracy resulting in death. He was then ordered by a Federal Court of Appeals to resentence the men because the law provides that in cases of civil rights violation where death occurs, some

Happiness Through Health

By Otto McClarrin

families headed by women, compared with about twelve per cent of white children. Some six years ago, the figure for blacks was thirty per cent.

Almost one-third of all black children now receive benefits from Aid to Families with Dependent Children, the \$11 billion-a-year federal welfare program for broken families.

The recent report says that 258,000 children were born to unmarried black women in 1976, about 9,200 more than in 1975, and accounted for 50.3 per cent of all black births.

Out-of-wedlock births among whites have risen, the report said, to 197,100 or 7.7 per cent of all white births in 1976. The proportion of white births that were out of

wedlock was four per cent in 1965.

The birthrate for unmarried black women aged 15-44 (the years of female fertility, according to health statisticians) dropped by thirteen per cent between 1970-1976. However, the number of unmarried black women in that age soared by 38 per cent as divorces surged, the average age at marriage rose, and the children of the 1950s baby boom reached maturity.

According to the recent report, married black women in the United States now have a slightly lower birthrate than married whites for the first time since such statistics have been compiled.

Among unmarried women, however, differences between the races are still wide. In 1976 there were 83.2 bir-

ths per 1,000 unmarried black women compared with 12.7 births per 1,000 unmarried whites.

Teenage mothers accounted for about half of all out-of-wedlock children born to both black and whites in 1976, and they are the only age group for whom the rate of out-of-wedlock births has increased.

In addition, fewer single teenagers who do not marry now are getting married before the child is born, said Arthur A. Campbell, deputy director of the Center for Population Research at the National Institute of Health. It is still more prevalent for pregnant white teenagers to marry before the child is born than for blacks.

One puzzling aspect about the increase in out-of-wedlock births, according to John Kanzer, chairman of the Department of Population Dynamics at Johns Hopkins University, is that it has occurred despite legalization of abortion.

From 1970 to 1972, the first years when legal abortions were widely available — white out-of-wedlock births did fall by nine per cent. But they have increased every year since then. Among blacks out-of-wedlock births have risen every year since 1965.

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time must be served. The maximum penalty for the crime is life imprisonment.

He resented each man to one year and a day in jail, but ordered the time to be served concurrently with a separate one-year sentence he imposed in 1978 for misdemeanor assault.

With time off for good behavior, the three men can be free in nine months.

CHICANO ARREST — An American in Dallas, Gerardo Rivera, is suing the city of Grand Prairie for \$5.4 million because he alleges that when he was arrested last year for a traffic violation, he was held in jail for almost two days until he could prove his citizenship.

This suit is drawing national attention from civil rights groups who claim that such abuse of Americans frequently happens.

ERA SUIT: A Federal judge in Idaho who is an officer of the Mormon Church accepted a case that will decide whether states have a right to rescind ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and whether Congress had the right to extend the ratification period last year.

Judge Marion Callister, Jr. says he can rule impartially because the real issues are the procedures used in amending the Constitution, not the merits of ERA, which his church opposes.

The Justice Department had asked him to disqualify himself.

HISPANIC HOUSING — Increased Hispanic participation in housing and community development will be the focus of a conference cosponsored by the National Hispanic Housing Coalition and four other organizations December 16-19 in San Antonio, Texas.

Some 1,500 persons are expected to participate in this first national effort to mobilize housing and community development resources for Hispanics.

HISPANIC PUPILS — The Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund has filed a class action suit against New York city and state education officials for allegedly denying "an appropriate education" to thousands of physically and mentally handicapped Hispanic children.

The plaintiffs charge that these children need both bilingual and special education, and the state and city are not complying with Federal law or a 1975 consent decree under which bilingual education programs were started in the city school system.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT — Federal Judge Albert Bryan, Jr., of Alexandria, Virginia has approved a \$1.25 million settlement in a discrimination suit filed against American Airlines by two women on behalf of themselves and 1,502 other flight attendants.

The 1977 suit charged that the airline forced the women to leave work without pay when they became pregnant.

Louise Milotes was awarded \$5,321 and Linda Timberlake \$9,155. The remainder of the money will be put into a fund for flight attendants who can prove they were also victims of the airline policy.

PUBLIC HOUSING — The Department of Justice has entered into consent decrees with Helena and West Helena, Arkansas to desegregate their low-rent housing projects.

The two housing authorities had been assigning blacks to all-black buildings and whites to all-white or virtually all-white buildings in violation of the Fair Housing Act of 1968.

CHAINED ALIENS — A Marion, Louisiana farmer has been indicted by a Federal grand jury for allegedly concealing nine undocumented workers from Mexico and chaining two of them to force debt payments through their labor.

GROUP ACTIVITIES — Ku Klux Klan cases handled by the Department of Justice's Community Relations Service increased from eight in Fiscal Year '78 to 44 during FY '79.

AGENTS INDICTED — A Federal grand jury in San Diego has indicted our border Immigration and Naturalization Service agents on six counts of beating and mistreating undocumented workers.

RACIST CLUBS — Financial institutions have been asked by the Federal government to stop paying their executives' membership dues to racist clubs and to stop using those facilities for social and business functions.

A survey of savings and loan associations revealed that 65 per cent of them have no policy against such payments, and 17 per cent said they would still pay even if there were proof of discrimination. Two-thirds of the commercial banks surveyed indicated they had no policy and 44 per cent said they'd continue to pay dues to pay dues to discriminatory clubs.

Issuing the statement discouraging such practices was the Federal Financial Examination Council.

PRISON ALTERNATIVES — The Edna McConnell Clark Foundation, with assets of almost \$200 million, has announced that \$1,259,000 in grants is available for

the development of alternatives to imprisonment in the nation's criminal justice system.

Organizations receiving funds will be asked to create and test models for reducing unnecessary confinement in order to cut down on prison populations and costs.

For further information, contact the Foundation at 250 Park Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017.

CHURCH LEADER: Patricio Fernandez Flores, who as a boy helped his father pick cotton, has become the preeminent Mexican-American in the nation's Roman Catholic Church through his elevation to Archbishop.

In this position, the fifty-year old prelate will be spiritual leader of 650,000 Catholics in south Texas, where there is a high concentration of Hispanics.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE — Attorney June Zeitlin of the Health and Social Services Department (HSS) has been appointed the director of its new Office on Domestic Violence.

She will be responsible for the coordination and strengthening of the group's research, demonstration and service activities on violence.

HANDICAPPED RIGHTS — The Department of Justice is inviting public participation in the development of proposed regulations to eliminate discrimination against the handicapped as outlined in the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

It has scheduled a public hearing on November 27 at the HSS Auditorium, 330 Independence Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. and invited comments to be sent before December 21 to Robert Dempsey, LEAA, 633 Indiana Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20531.

Copies of the proposed regulations are available by writing to Dempsey.

WARD CHARGED — Montgomery Ward & Company has been charged by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission with violating the Equal Pay Act at its Glendale, Ariz., store by paying some women employees, including department managers, less than their male counterparts.

The suit is asking for a nationwide injunction to stop such practices in all Montgomery Ward stores.

ADULTS ONLY — The California Court of Appeals has ruled in Los Angeles that refusing to rent to couples with children "is a purely private and unregulated act of discrimination for which the law offers no redress."

It acted on a 1975 case in which a couple living in a "no children" apartment building had a child and was evicted by the owner.

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