

Commission ON THE Economic Status OF Women

Newsletter #218
Room 85 State Office Building, St. Paul, MN 55155

February/March 1997
(612) 296-8590 or 1-800-657-3949

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IN THIS ISSUE:

Poverty in the United States, 1995

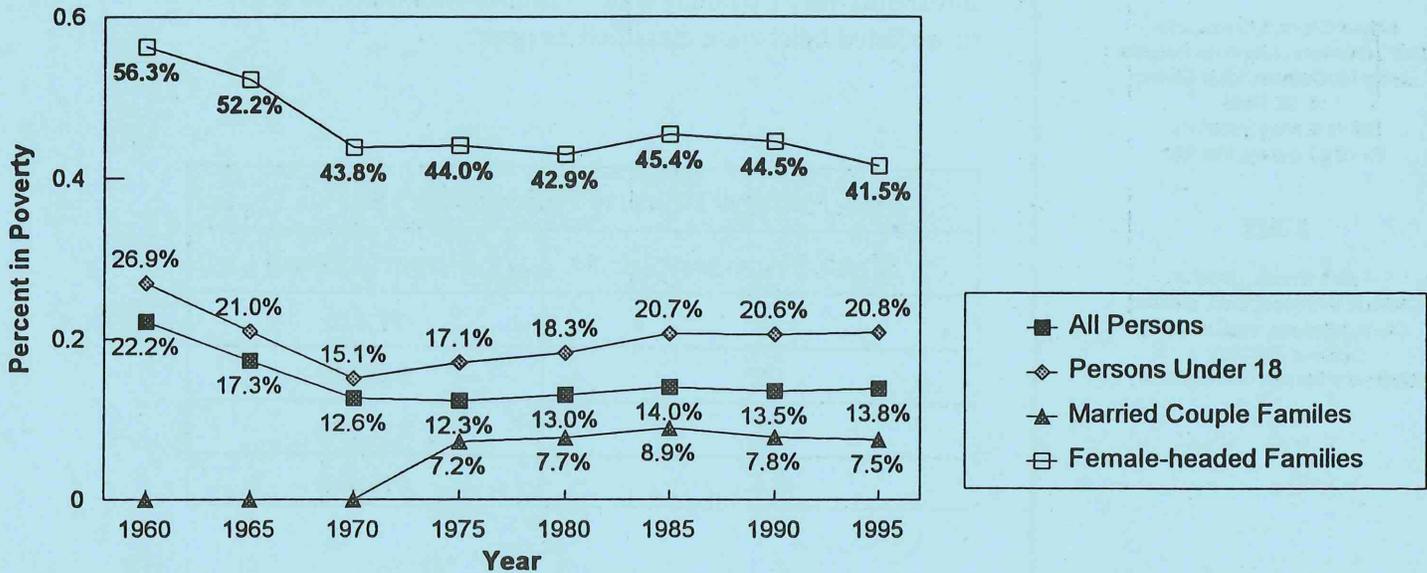
This newsletter examines poverty in the United States based on 1995 data from the US Department of Commerce Economics and Statistics Administration Bureau of the Census. The poverty threshold is determined each year by the federal government. The 1995 threshold is included here, since this detailed data is from 1995. Poverty thresholds vary by family size. Families with incomes below those listed below are classified as poor.

Federal Poverty Guidelines 1995	
Size of Household	Poverty Level
1	\$7,470
2	\$10,030
3	\$12,590
4	\$15,150

HISTORY OF POVERTY IN THE UNITED STATES

Year	All Persons	Persons Under Age 18	Married Couple Families with Children	Female-headed Families with Children
1960	26.9	22.2	NA	56.3
1965	21.0	17.3	NA	52.2
1970	15.1	12.6	NA	43.8
1975	17.1	12.3	7.2	44.0
1980	18.3	13.0	7.7	42.9
1985	20.7	14.0	8.9	45.4
1990	20.6	13.5	7.8	44.5
1995	20.8	13.8	7.5	41.5

Poverty Rates in the U.S.
1960-95



POVERTY OF INDIVIDUALS

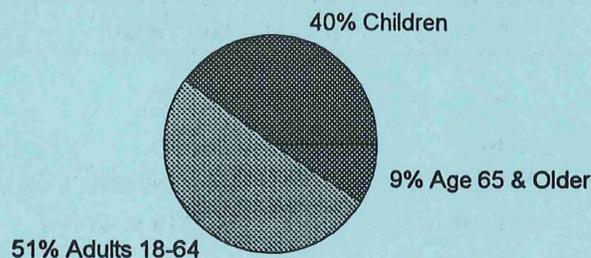
In 1995, 13.8 percent or 36.4 million persons in the United States were living in poverty. This represented a slight decrease from 1994, when 14.5 percent of persons were poor. In the last four decades, poverty rates decreased until the early 1970s and then began increasing. In 1960, 26.9 percent of persons lived in poverty.

Distribution of Individuals in Poverty

In 1995, 40.3 percent of the poor were children under the age of 18. People age 65 and older made up 9.1 percent of the poor, with the adult-age population in between accounting for 50.6 percent of the poor. Nearly two-thirds (64.8 percent) of the poor are women and children.

Distribution of Persons in Poverty by Age

U.S., 1995



Geographic differences

Individuals living in the nation's central cities or metropolitan areas were more likely to be poor than those in non-metro areas. Over 13.4 percent of people living in metropolitan areas lived in poverty in 1995, while 20.6 percent of people living in central cities were poor. Nearly 16 percent of people in non-metropolitan areas lived in poverty in 1995.

From 1994 to 1995, there were no significant changes in poverty rates in the Northeast, South, and West regions of the United States, all of which saw a decrease of .4 percent. However the decrease in the poverty rate in the Midwest was 2 percent in that same time period, from 13 percent to 11 percent.

The poverty rate in individual states in 1995 ranged from 5.3 percent in New Hampshire to 25.3 in New Mexico. In Minnesota, the poverty rate for 1995 was 9.2 percent, down from 11.7 percent in 1994. Minnesota had the seventh lowest poverty rate in the nation. The three-year average poverty rate for Minnesota between 1993 and 1995 was 10.8 percent.

10 Lowest	Percent Persons in Poverty	10 Highest	Percent Persons in Poverty
New Hampshire	5.3	New Mexico	25.3
Alaska	7.1	Washington D.C.	22.2
New Jersey	7.8	Mississippi	23.5
Utah	8.4	Alabama	20.1
Wisconsin	8.5	South Carolina	19.9
Colorado	8.8	Louisiana	19.7
Minnesota	9.2	Texas	17.4
Missouri	9.4	Oklahoma	17.1
Indiana	9.6	West Virginia; California	16.7
Connecticut	9.7	New York	16.5

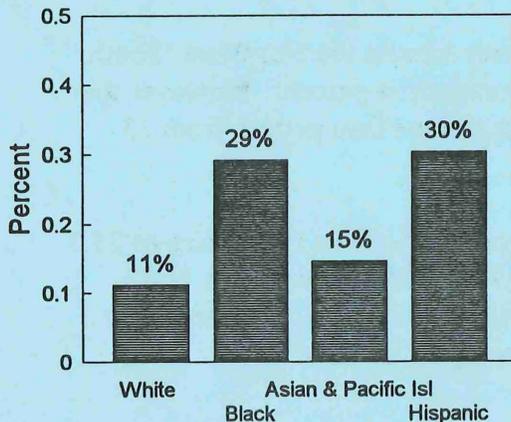
Individuals in Poverty by Race

In 1995, 11.2 percent of Whites, 29.3 percent of Blacks, 14.6 percent of Asian and Pacific Islanders and 30.3 percent of persons of Hispanic origin were in poverty.

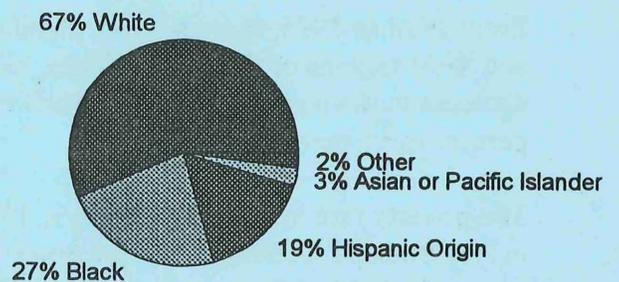
Distribution of Individuals in Poverty by Race

Of the 36.4 million poor people, 67.1 percent were White, 27.1 percent were Black, 19 percent were of Hispanic origin and 3.4 percent were Asian or Pacific Islander and 2.4 percent of those of Other race were in poverty. (Hispanic people may be of any race).

Poverty of Individuals by Race
U.S., 1995



Distribution of Persons in Poverty by Race
U.S., 1995



FAMILIES IN POVERTY

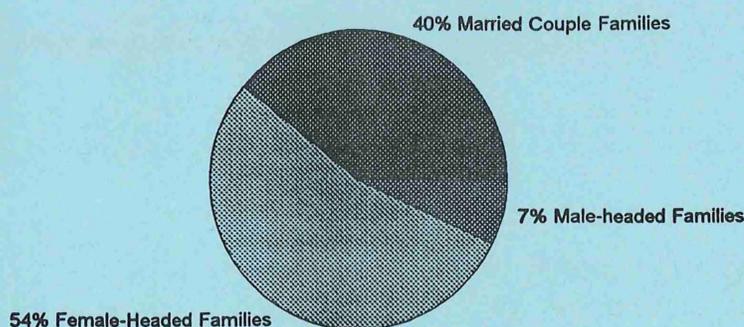
Between 1994 and 1995, the poverty rate decreased slightly for all family types, though female-headed households remain the poorest type. The poverty rate of all families decreased from 11.6 percent in 1994 to 10.8 percent in 1995. The percent of married couples living in poverty went from 6.1 percent in 1994 to 5.6 percent in 1995. Male-headed families went from 17 percent to 14 percent in poverty. Families headed by women had a decrease in poverty rates from 34.6 percent in 1994 to 32.4 percent in 1995.

Distribution of Poor by Family Types

Of the families who are in poverty, 39.6 percent were married couple families and 53.9 percent were female-headed families. The remaining 6.5 percent were male-headed families with no spouse present.

Distribution of Poverty by Family Type

U.S. 1995



Female-headed Families

Among female-headed families, 26.6 percent of white, 45.1 percent of black and 49.4 percent of Hispanic families were in poverty.

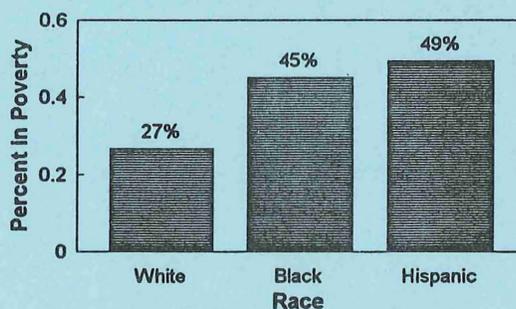
Of the 4.1 million female-headed families who were poor, 54.2 percent were white and 41.9 percent were black. Families of Other race were 3.9 percent of the poor families.

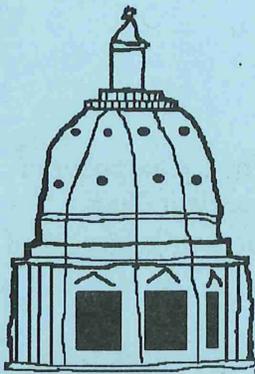
Families with Children

The presence of children in a family makes it more likely that they are poor. The highest poverty rate among families with children was 57.3 percent for female-headed households of Hispanic origin. More than half of female-headed Black families were poor, with 53.2 percent, and 35.6 percent of female-headed White families with children were in poverty. Overall, 41.5 percent of female-headed families with children were poor, compared to 7.5 percent of married couple families with children, who had a poverty rate of 7.5 percent.

Poverty Rates by Race

Female-headed Families-U.S. 1995





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Room 85 State Office Building, St. Paul, MN 55155

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(612) 296-8432 or 1-800-657-3949

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IN THIS ISSUE

Selected Vital Statistics from the Minnesota Department of Health, including marriage and divorce rates, fertility rates, and births to teenagers and unmarried women.

COMMISSION NOTES

INTERIM HEARINGS

The Commission will hold public hearings around the state after the legislature adjourns in May. Commission hearings can address a specific topic or be open-ended. The Commission is charged with following public policy relating to children, youth and their families, as well. If you are interested in hosting a Commission hearing in your community, please contact the Commission office.

SPECIAL EDITION NEWSLETTER

In May, the Commission will publish a special edition of its newsletter featuring a summary of the welfare and child care legislation passed during the 1997 legislative sessions. The June edition will summarize any remaining women's and children's issues from the legislative session.

DIVORCE AND MARRIAGE

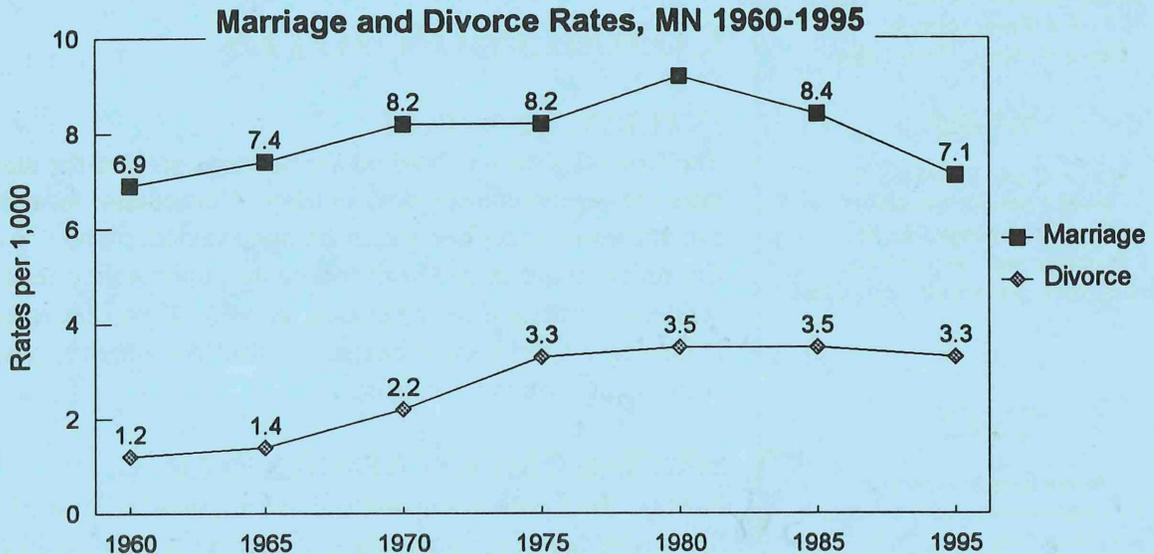
In 1995 there were 32,878 marriages and 15,486 marriage dissolutions (for the purposes of this newsletter, dissolutions includes marriage annulments.) The number of marriages has declined slightly since 1990, when 33,688 marriages occurred. The number of marriages peaked in 1980, when 37,625 couples married.

The number of divorces has declined slightly from 1990, when 15,595 divorces occurred. This was the highest number since 1960, when 4,175 divorces occurred. The largest increase in the number of divorces occurred between the years 1970 and 1975, when divorces went from 8,288 to 13,187 in 1975.

The ratio of divorces to marriages in Minnesota in 1995 was nearly 1:2. In 1960, this ratio was less than 1:5. If present trends continue one out of two marriages will end in divorce.

Rates

Marriage and divorce rates are calculated based on the number per 1,000 population. In 1995, there were 7.1 marriages to 1,000, down slightly from 1991 when the rate was 8.4. The divorce rate also declined from 3.5 in 1985 to 3.3 in 1995.



Divorce by Age of Wife

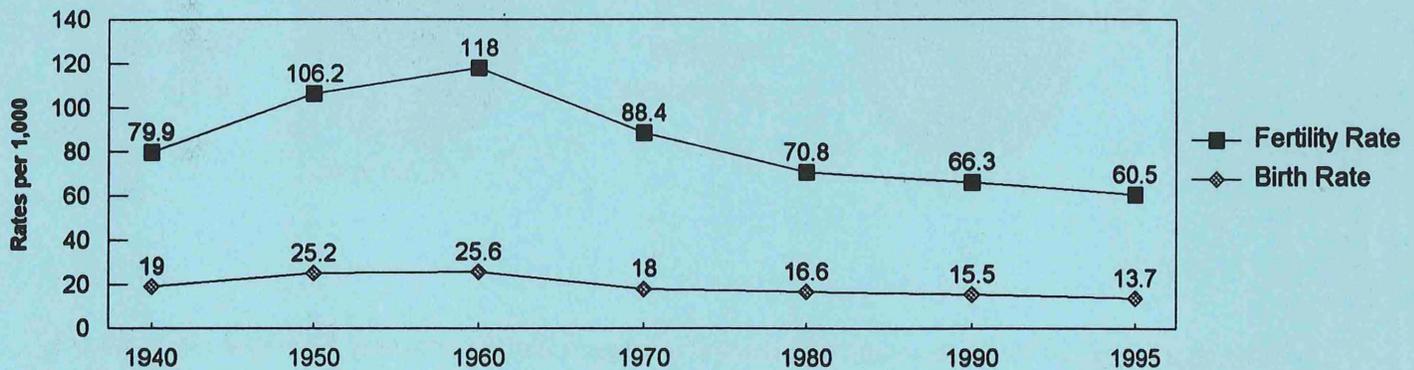
The age at which women are getting divorced has increased over the past two decades. In 1970, 53 percent of divorces happened when the woman was age 29 or younger. By 1990, this percentage declined to 35 percent of divorces. In 1995, only 28 percent of divorces in the state involved women age 29 or younger.

FERTILITY AND BIRTH RATES

Fertility rates indicate the number of births per 1,000 women of child-bearing age, ages 15 to 44. The fertility rate among these women in 1995 was 60.1, down slightly from 1990 when the rate was 66.3. Fertility rates for women 30 and older increased between 1990 and 1995, while those for women under 30 decreased.

Women in Minnesota are most likely to experience their first birth between the ages of 25 and 29, when 48.4 percent of that age group had their first child. Among women age 15 to 19, 27 percent gave birth to their first child in 1995. Among women age 40 to 44, 1 percent gave birth to their first child in 1995.

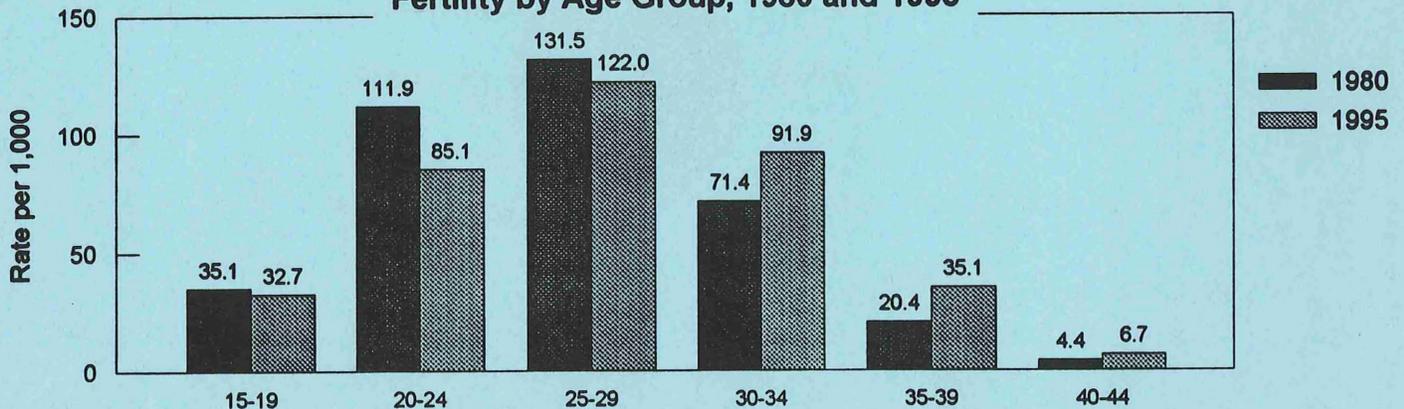
Fertility and Birth Rates in Minnesota, 1940 to 1995



First Births by Age

Birth rates are based on the number of births for every 1,000 people. In Minnesota in 1995, the birth rate was 13.7, down slightly from 15.5 in 1990. Overall birth rates in the state have been declining since 1960. However, for women over 20, rates have increased.

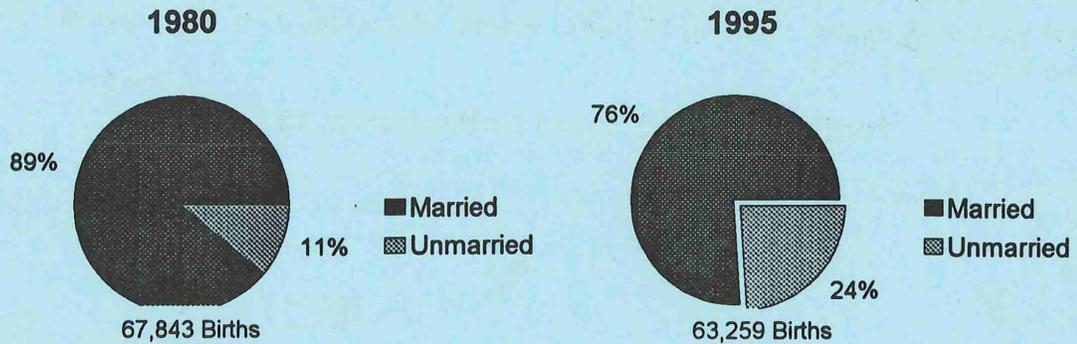
Fertility by Age Group, 1980 and 1995



BIRTHS TO UNMARRIED WOMEN

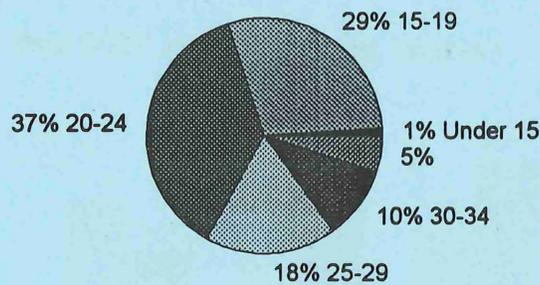
Among births to unmarried women, 37 percent were to those age 20 to 24. Women ages 15 to 19 account for 29 percent of unmarried women giving birth in 1995, compared to .8 percent in 1970.

Births by Marital Status of Mother



The percentage of births to unmarried women increased slightly between 1990 and 1995, from 22 percent of births to 24 percent in 1995. In 1980, births to unmarried women accounted for 11 percent of births.

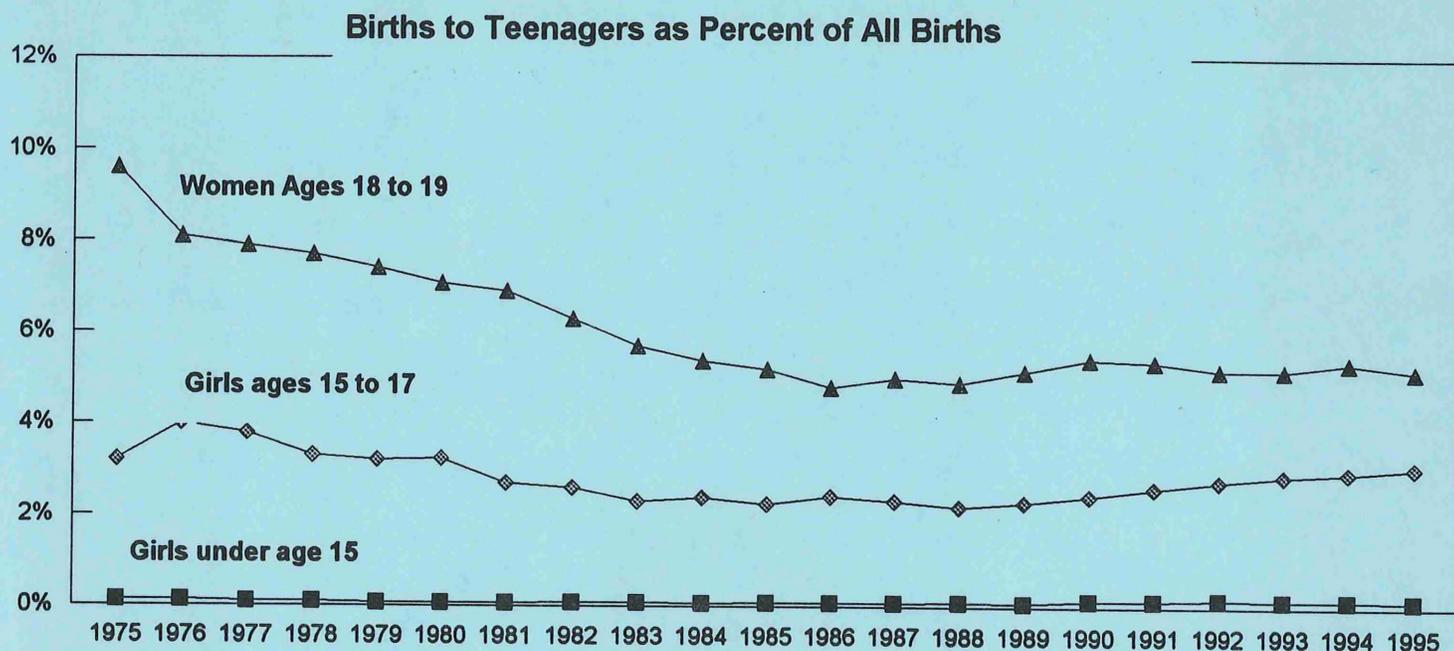
Births to Unmarried Women by Age, 1995

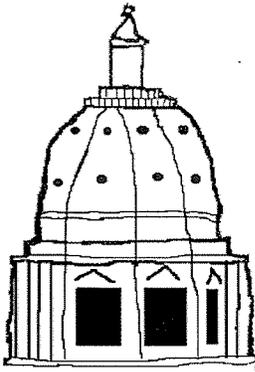


BIRTHS TO TEENS

Births to teenagers, age 19 or younger, accounted for 8.4 percent of all births in Minnesota in 1995. This is down slightly from 1990, when 8 percent of births were to teenagers and down from 11.9 percent in 1970. Births to those ages 18 or 19 account for the largest share of births to teens. Births to girls under age 15 are rare and have remained at 0.1 percent for most of the past 20 years. Births to 15 to 17 years olds have accounted for about 3 percent of all births since 1993. In 1976, it was 4 percent, the highest percentage in the past 20 years. In 1995, they were 3.1 percent of all births.

The number of births to teenagers over the past 20 years peaked in 1975 when 7,341 of the 56,806 births in Minnesota were to teenagers. Births in the state overall declined since 1970, when 68,278 babies were born, compared to 63,259 in 1995.





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IN THIS ISSUE

Summary of the 1997 legislative session, featuring issues concerning women's health and economic status and selected children, youth and family issues.

Bills not signed by the governor as of this writing are indicated by their bill number. When signed by the governor, they appear as chapter numbers, indicated their place in the session laws for 1997.

COMMISSION MEETING

The Commission will meet June 25 to review the 1997 session and to plan interim hearings. The meeting is 10 a.m., Room 300 South, State Office Building.

STALKING		
Violation of an Order for Protection	Expands the penalties for violation of an Order for Protection (OFP), making a second violation within 5 years a gross misdemeanor, and a third violation within 5 years a felony. A second violation while possessing a dangerous weapon also becomes a felony. A felony under this section requires a mandatory 30-day incarceration as a condition of probation as well as participation in counseling or other programs as ordered by the court.	Chap. 96
	Increases the penalties for certain violations of restraining orders.	
Harassment and Stalking	Makes harassment and stalking crimes for which mandatory minimum sentences must be served. Clarifies that the standard for harassment is intentional conduct which the actor "knows or has reason to know" would cause the victim to feel frightened, threatened, oppressed, persecuted or intimidated. Proof of specific intent will not be required.	
DOMESTIC ABUSE		
Prohibiting Lease Restrictions on Domestic Abuse Emergency Calls	Prohibits a landlord from barring or limiting a tenant's right to call for police or emergency assistance in response to domestic abuse or any other conduct. Prohibits local ordinances or rules which require eviction after a certain number of calls in response to domestic abuse or which provide that such calls can be used to charge a fee or penalty to a landlord. Allows local ordinances which penalize a landlord for conduct on the premises that constitutes a nuisance or other disorderly conduct.	Chap. 133
	Allows a tenant to bring a civil action for violation of this section and recover \$250 or actual damages. Gives the Attorney General the authority to investigate and prosecute violations.	
Orders for Protection	Allows a hearing to be held when an order for protection from another state is violated, if the petitioner and the respondent do not reside in the same state.	Chap. 239
	Adds provisions that an OFP must contain: a notice that states it is enforceable in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, tribal lands and U.S. territories; that violation of the order may also subject the respondent to federal charges and punishment under federal law (the Violence Against Women Act of 1994); and that pursuant to the federal Gun Control Act, the respondent may be prohibited from possessing, transporting or accepting a firearm.	
	Clarifies that domestic abuse OFPs or orders issued under a similar law in another state are enforceable in this state in the same manner as OFPs in this state.	
Family Visitation Centers	Requires the Commissioner of Children, Families and Learning to develop standards to ensure the safety of custodial parents and children in family visitation centers.	Chap. 239
	Requires Family Visitation Centers to have an individual knowledgeable about or experienced in providing services to battered women on its staff, its board or on a consultation basis.	
Judicial Training on Domestic Abuse	Requires the Supreme Court Judicial Education Program to include: 1) education on the impact of domestic abuse and domestic abuse allegations on children and 2) the importance of considering these impacts when making visitation and child custody decisions.	
Petition for Marriage Dissolution	Requires petitions for marriage dissolutions to state whether an OFP is in effect and, if so, the district court or other jurisdiction in which it was entered.	
Supervised Visitation	Requires judges or judicial officers to consider an OFP, if one is in effect, when a custodial parent requests supervised visitation in a marriage dissolution.	
	Requires the state court administrator to develop standards to be met by persons responsible for supervising visitation. Allows either parent to challenge the appropriateness of an individual selected to supervise visitation.	
Domestic Abuse Perpetrated by a Minor	Establishes a pilot program in Hennepin County to allow petitions (similar to the current OFP petition) for an OFP alleging the existence of domestic abuse perpetrated by minors. Requires the availability of an alternative safe living arrangement proposed by the petitioning parent or guardian if a court excludes the minor from the parent's or guardian's home. The alternative living arrangement must be separate from the victim of domestic abuse and safe for the minor respondent.	

WELFARE REFORM

The new welfare reform program, to be known as Minnesota Family Investment Plan-Statewide (MFIP-S) will go into effect January 1, 1998. Conversion of current Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) cases to MFIP-S will begin at that time and be completed by March 31, 1998. MFIP-S replaces AFDC and Family General Assistance (G.A.) for families with children and pregnant women.

Eligibility	<p>Eligibility for MFIP-S is similar to eligibility for AFDC.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There must be a minor child or pregnant woman in the assistance unit. There does not have to be an absent parent. 2. The applicant must be a citizen of the United States, a qualified noncitizen as defined in the statute or a noncitizen who is otherwise residing lawfully in the United States. 3. An applicant may have assets up to \$2,000 and a licensed vehicle with a market value of up to \$7,500. On-going recipients may have assets up to \$5,000. Other property limitations, such as exempting the homestead, are similar to those in the AFDC program. 4. Legal immigrant families with minor children are eligible for MFIP-S. They will also receive assistance to replace the value of food stamps. Legal Immigrants are no longer eligible for federal food stamp benefits. 	Chap. 85
Ineligibility	<p>Persons are ineligible for MFIP-S if they are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Convicted of a drug offense after July 1, 1997, unless they submit to random drug testing and have their benefits paid directly to housing and utility services (vendor paid); 2. Violating parole, probation or supervised release; 3. Fleeing to avoid prosecution, custody or confinement after conviction of a felony; or 4. Convicted of fraudulently misrepresenting residency in order to become eligible for assistance in two or more states. These persons are ineligible for 10 years. 	
Residency	<p>Applicants for MFIP-S must have resided in the state for at least 30 days before receiving any benefits. Then they will receive the benefits level in the state they came from for the next 11 months. Time spent in a shelter for battered women counts toward satisfying the 30-day residency requirements.</p> <p>Residency requirements can be waived by the county when an unusual hardship would result from a denial of assistance. Unusual hardship is defined as without alternative shelter or without available resources for food.</p> <p>Migrant workers who have worked in the state within the last 12 months and have earned at least \$1,000 in gross wages during that time are exempt from the 30-day residency requirement.</p>	
Interstate Payment Standards	<p>Families who have not resided in the state of Minnesota for 12 months immediately preceding their application for assistance will receive the lesser of the amount they would have received in the state of immediate prior residence or the amount calculated according to AFDC or MFIP-S standards. This lesser payment will continue until the family has resided in the state for 12 months.</p> <p>If a family has exhausted benefits in the state from which they came, the family will not be eligible for any benefits in Minnesota for 12 months.</p>	
Pregnant or Parenting Minors	<p>A parenting or pregnant minor must live with a parent, another adult relative or caregiver or in an adult supervised living arrangement unless:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *there is no appropriate adult who allows the minor to live with them; *the minor has lived apart for at least one year before the birth of the child; or *the physical or emotional health or safety of the minor parent would be jeopardized if they were in the same household with their parent, adult relatives or legal guardian and there is no adult supervised living situation available. <p>The parent of a minor caregiver with a dependent child is financially responsible for that minor caregiver. The amount of support is based on a formula established in statute.</p> <p>Minor parents, or 18- or 19-year-old parents without a high school diploma or its equivalent must attend school unless:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * transportation or child care are not available; * the caregiver is ill or incapacitated; or * the caregiver is needed at home to care for a child under six, or an ill or incapacitated household member 	
60-month Time Limit	<p>Eligibility is limited to 60 months of assistance. This includes assistance received in another state. The 60 months does not apply to minor parents who are attending school and complying with their plan.</p>	

Exemptions from the 60-month Time Limit	Caregivers are exempt from the 60-month limit if they are: 1. 60 years old or older; 2. victims of domestic violence who are complying with a safety plan; or 3. pregnant or parenting minors who are complying with an education or employment plan.
MFIP-S Payment Standard	The monthly payment level for families who are eligible for cash assistance and food stamps will be combined into the amounts shown on the table below. It list the transitional standards for the number of eligible people. 1 \$351 2 \$609 3 \$763 4 \$903 5 \$1025 6 \$1165
Family Wage Level	When a family begins working and receiving earned income, they will receive the family wage level standard, which is 110% of the transitional standard.
Earned Income Disregard	A 36 percent income disregard will be applied to gross earnings. This amount is subtracted from the family wage level. When family income reaches 120% of the poverty level the family will no longer be eligible for assistance.
Orientation	Each caregiver must receive a face-to-face orientation which will inform the caregiver of: * details of the MFIP-S program; * the rights, responsibilities and obligations of participants; * the various benefits and services available to participants in the program; * the eligibility of the caregiver for transition year child care and extended medical assistance when the caregiver loses eligibility due to increased earnings or child support; and * the caregiver's option to choose an employment and training provider.
Sanctions	Failure to comply with MFIP-S requirements may result in a sanction. Ten days notice is given before a sanction becomes effective. * For the first occurrence of non-compliance, the grant is reduced by ten percent of the transitional standard. * For a second or subsequent occurrence, the participant's rent is vendor paid (paid directly to the landlord) and the remaining grant is reduced by 30 percent of the transitional standard. * During the second month of a sanction the participant's case file must be reviewed to determine if there is a needed pre-employment activity, the participant qualifies for a good cause exception or if the participant should be exempt. A participant may also be subject to sanctions for refusal to cooperate with child support requirements. The sanctions may be applied at the same time.
Diversions Assistance	A family may be eligible for diversionary assistance once every 36 months if they have resided in the state for at least 30 days and have had an unexpected occurrence or a temporary loss of income which would make them eligible for MFIP-S if the diversionary assistance is not available, is not based on refusal to accept or keep employment, and the diversionary assistance will resolve the emergency and divert them from MFIP-S. The maximum amount of the diversionary assistance is equal to the amount of the transitional grant for four months.
Employment and Training	Every county must develop an employment and training services component. Participation in employment and training services is mandatory for all MFIP-S caregivers unless the care giver is exempt. For single parent cases, mandatory participation is required within six months of eligibility for cash assistance. For two-parent cases, participation is required immediately. An exempt care giver may volunteer for services. During the first meeting with participants, job counselors must give an overview of employment and training services and stress the need for immediate employment, outline the job search resources, explain the requirements to comply with an employment plan and the consequences for failing to comply.
Initial Assessment	The job counselor must assess the participant's ability to obtain and retain employment. If the job counselor determines that the participant possesses sufficient ability and is likely to succeed in obtaining suitable employment, the participant must conduct up to eight weeks of job search for at least 30 hours per week. The participant must accept suitable employment.

	<p>"Suitable employment" is employment which pays at least the minimum wage, meets health and safety standards and anti-discrimination laws and is within the participant's abilities.</p> <p>The job counselor may approve an education or training program and postpone the job search requirements if the participant has a proposal for an education program which can be completed within 12 months and is likely to lead to earnings which will meet or exceed the family wage level.</p> <p>Caregivers who were in MFIP or MFIP-R or STRIDE or ACCESS may continue in their employment plan for up to two years if they are making satisfactory progress.</p> <p>During the required job search period, the counselor or the participant may request a review of the job search plan and progress toward obtaining employment.</p>	
Secondary Assessment	<p>If a review is conducted, or after the eight weeks of job search, the job counselor must conduct a secondary assessment to evaluate the participant's skills and prior work experience, family circumstances, interests and abilities, need for pre-employment activities or educational services and the extent of barriers to employment.</p> <p>Based on the secondary assessment, an employment plan must be developed that includes specific activities tied to an employment goal and a plan for long-term self-sufficiency.</p>	
Post-Secondary Education	<p>Post-secondary education may be an approved work activity if it lasts 12 months or less, if there are suitable employment opportunities requiring this education, and the education or training will result in significantly higher wages than could be earned without the education or training.</p> <p>Education lasting 24 months may be approved on an exception basis if the participant can meet the requirements for admission and the criteria for the 12 months training are also met. The participant must agree to repay the employment and training funds paid by the county for any month after 12 months of training. The participant must maintain satisfactory progress in order to continue in a post-secondary education or training program.</p> <p>A participant may not be approved for more than 24 months of training.</p>	
Deferral from Employment and Training Requirements	<p>A victim of domestic abuse who develops a safety plan is deferred from the employment and training and job search requirements for three months. The deferral may be renewed for up to one year as long as the participant is still complying with the plan and is still at risk.</p>	
Exemptions from Employment and Training Requirements	<p>Caregivers are exempt from the employment and training requirement if they are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * 60 years old or older; * ill, injured or incapacitated; * caring for an ill household member; * pregnant women whose pregnancy incapacitates them; * caregivers of a child under one (these caregivers must enroll in an early childhood and family education or parenting class, if available); or * individuals who are already working 40 hours a week, or 30 hours a week and searching for a job for 10 hours per week. 	
Notice and Referral for Victims of Domestic Abuse	<p>All applicants and recipients must be notified that referral for counseling and supportive services are available; that they are exempt from the 60-month time limit while they are complying with an approved safety plan; and that non-permanent resident battered individuals married to a U.S. citizen or permanent resident may be eligible to petition for permanent residency under the Violence Against Women Act.</p>	
Legal Immigrants	<p>Legal immigrants who have lost eligibility for Social Security Income (SSI) and Food Stamps will be eligible for a grant of \$203 per month and an additional grant of \$87 (the equivalent value of food stamps no longer available to legal immigrants).</p>	
TRANSPORTATION		
Grants to Help Public Assistance Recipients with Transportation Needs	<p>Appropriates \$925,000 to the Department of Transportation for grants to non-metro counties and to eligible recipients of public transit subsidies to facilitate the transition between public assistance and employment. Requires grant recipients to seek federal or private sector funding to transport economically disadvantaged persons to jobs and employment-related activities including child care facilities.</p> <p>Appropriates \$2 million to Metropolitan Council Transit for grants to metro counties for the same purpose.</p>	SF 1881

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT		
Job Training	Appropriates \$15.3 million to the Job Skills Partnership for customized training agreements between training programs and employers.	Chap. 200
Grants to Schools for Education and Training of Public Assistance Recipients	Appropriates \$3.5 million for education and training programs that serve public assistance recipients transitioning from assistance to employment. Projects must include workforce centers, state colleges and universities, other institutions and private enterprise.	Chap. 200
Microenterprise Businesses	Appropriates \$500,000 to the Department of Trade and Economic Development for grants to microenterprise programs to provide technical assistance to very small businesses. Organizations that serve non-traditional entrepreneurs such as women, members of a minority, low income individuals or persons who are currently on or recently removed from welfare assistance will be given preference. The department must develop a plan to help small businesses to gain electronic access to Internet.	Chap. 200
Small Business Assistance for Low-income People	Appropriates \$505,000 to WomenVenture to help low income women start small businesses and to improve their work opportunities and to expand statewide.	Chap. 200
Displaced Homemakers	Appropriates \$3.6 million to Displaced Homemaker programs. An additional \$250,000 in 1998 will establish "empowerment groups" of individuals who are looking for or have obtained jobs, including those in welfare to work programs trying to attain self sufficiency.	Chap. 200
Welfare Reform Impact Reports	Requires the state's Commissioner of Finance to report by January 20, 1998, on potential budget impacts of welfare reform on each state department and agency. Requires a report by January 20, 1999, on programs enacted to address welfare-to-work requirements of welfare reform, including evaluation of rates of job placement and retention. Requires the commissioner to solicit input from the public about the budgetary impacts.	Chap. 200
Family Stabilization	Appropriates \$5.5 million for rent assistance for family stabilization to help families are on public assistance, have a child and are working.	Chap. 200
Sister-to-Sister	Appropriates \$500,000 to expand the "Sister-to-Sister" mentoring, support and training network in Ramsey County for public assistance recipients.	Chap. 200
STATE GOVERNMENT		
Commission on the Economic Status of Women	Authorizes the biennial budget for the Commission.	Chap. 203
Coya Knutson Memorial	Appropriates \$25,000 for predesign of a memorial to Coya Knutson, former U.S. Congresswoman from Minnesota.	Vetoed
Women's Suffrage Garden	Appropriates \$100,000 to complete the women's suffrage garden on the Capitol grounds.	Vetoed
Winter Sports Programs for Females	Appropriates \$50,000 to Minnesota's U.S. Olympic Committee to develop winter sports programs for females ages 13-18.	Chap. 203
Small Business Procurement	Creates a small business and targeted group procurement advisory council.	Chap. 203
CRIME PREVENTION		
Legal Services to Low-Income Clients	Appropriates \$11.2 million for legal services to low income clients and for family farm legal assistance.	Chap. 239
	Appropriates \$1.75 million for legal representation of low income clients in family law matters.	Chap. 239
Family Violence Coordinating Council	Appropriates \$75,000 for a family violence coordinating council in the Fourth Judicial District.	Chap. 239
Women in Prostitution	Appropriates \$50,000 for grants to organizations or local units of government providing support services to women leaving systems of prostitution. Requires a funding match.	Chap. 239
Battered Women's Shelters	Appropriates \$103,000 for a battered women's shelter in Washington County and \$104,000 for a battered women's shelter in Goodhue County.	Chap. 239
Battered Women, Sexual Assault and Crime Victim Programs	Requires the state's Commissioner of Corrections and Public Safety to develop a comprehensive, coordinated plan for funding statewide services for battered women, sexual assault and general crime victims.	Chap. 239

Marriage Dissolution	Clarifies that spouses are not liable to creditors for the debts of the other spouse but that in a marriage dissolution the court may apportion debts between the spouses. Also clarifies that either spouse may close a joint credit card account or other line of credit by giving written notice to the creditor.	SF 830
Cooperation for the Children	Requires the state court to establish a 24-month pilot program in at least two counties to promote parental relationships with children for cases with visitation as the sole issue in conflict will be involved.	SF 830
Data Match System	Establishes a process for comparing account information held by financial institutions with the database of child support obligors. The financial institutions are required to provide quarterly information to the child support enforcement office on each obligor who maintains an account.	Chap. 203
Publication of Child Support Obligor Names	Requires the Social Security numbers of the petitioner and respondent in a marriage dissolution petition when there will be child support or maintenance. Child support orders must contain the social security numbers. An application for a marriage license shall also include the parties Social Security numbers but the numbers will not appear on the marriage license.	
	Requires families receiving child care Basic Sliding Fee program to assign to the state all right to child care support from any other person. The assignment is effective for current child care and any child care arrears. The recipient of the child care subsidy must cooperate with the child support agency in establishing paternity, child support, modification of a child support order, or enforcement of an existing order.	
	The state's Commissioner of Human Services is required to establish domestic violence and sexual abuse training programs for child support agency employees.	
	The child support agency may not release information on the location of one party to the other party, if the agency knows that there is a protective order or has reason to believe that release of the information may result in physical or emotional harm to the other party.	
	The definition of income for child support purposes is expanded to include non-periodic distributions of workers compensation claims payments, reemployment claims, personal injury recoveries for lost wages or salary, severance pay and bonuses.	
	Allows suspension of occupational and drivers licenses for failure to comply with an approve payment agreement and failure to comply with a subpoena relating to a paternity or child support proceeding.	
	Makes income withholding easier to establish without waiting for a child support arrearage to occur. Requires that every child support order address income withholding.	
	If income withholding is not effective because of the obligor's method of obtaining income, the court can order the obligor to establish or identify a child support deposit account in a financial institution for the purpose of depositing court-ordered child support payments. The court shall order the obligor to execute an agreement for pre-authorized transfers from the child support account to the child support agency.	
	Expands the authority of child support officers in the administrative process.	
	Allows publication once a year of names, photos or other identifying information of no more than 25 individuals who are obligors who are at least \$10,000 in arrears, are not in compliance with a written payment plan, cannot currently be located and have not made a support payment, except tax intercept payments, in the preceding 12 months.. The names cannot be published without the written consent of the obligee.	
CHILD WELFARE		
Child Welfare Pilots	The Commissioner of Human Services will encourage and authorize alternative local child welfare reform projects.	Chap. 203
Child Welfare Prevention/Early Intervention Reform	Appropriates \$2 million for the biennium.	
Family Preservation Fund	Appropriates \$17.7 million for family preservation.	
Legal Services for Child Protection	Appropriates \$120,000 for grants for legal counsel, guardians ad litem and other child welfare services and \$180,000 for training and materials.	

HEALTH

Alcohol Use by Pregnant Women	Requires the Commissioner of Public Safety to study and recommend legislation that will: decrease the sale to and consumption of alcoholic beverages by pregnant women; reduce the occurrence of fetal alcohol syndrome and fetal alcohol exposure; encourage responsible alcoholic beverage sales and service to pregnant women; and heighten awareness of the importance of responsible use of alcohol by pregnant women.	Chap. 239
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CHILD SUPPORT

Liens on Motor Vehicles for Enforcement of Child Support	Allows liens to be filed only if the value of the motor vehicle exceeds the exemption allowed in the statute.	SF 830
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Child Support Enforcement and Administrative Process	<p>Allows the suspension of collection of arrears if an obligor has reunited with the family and lives in the same household with the child. The agency may suspend collections as long as the obligor continues to live with the child if the total household income is less than 185 percent of the federal poverty level.</p> <p>In establishing support if a court is unable to determine the earning ability of a parent, the medical support or child care contribution must be determined using 40 hours per week at 150 percent of the minimum wage. Income from self-employment is defined as gross receipts minus ordinary and necessary expenses. This means net income may be different from taxable income.</p> <p>A support order may provide that during any period of 30 days or longer that the child resides with the non-custodial parent, the amount of support otherwise due may be reduced.</p> <p>Minor parents and parents enrolled in secondary schools are not required to pay the \$25 application fee for child support and collection services.</p> <p>Makes clear that the administrative process for child support enforcement is not available in cases where there is no assignment of support or in which the child support enforcement agency is not providing services.</p> <p>Requires the state's child support office to provide a case reviewer for obligors and obligees. The case reviewer will be available to answer questions concerning the collection process and to review collection activity, and to make recommendations to the state and the applicable county regarding a collection action which the reviewer considers to be unreasonable or unfair.</p> <p>Allows collection remedies to be used if the children are emancipated and the obligor owes past support or has accumulated arrearage.</p> <p>Allows a modification of support if the medical support provisions are not enforceable or the health coverage ordered is not available to the child.</p> <p>Allows retroactive modification if the order was originally entered by default and the party shows good cause for not appearing. Also allows retroactive modification if the party seeking modification was a recipient of SSI, OASKI or other disability benefits or public assistance during the period when the retroactive modification is sought.</p>	SF 830
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Visitation	<p>Requires each judicial district to have at least one parent education program on the impact of divorce. Children may be required to attend a separate education program.</p> <p>Requires the Minnesota Supreme Court to set minimum standards for parent education programs. Parents of a minor child may be required to attend an orientation and education program. If there is past or present domestic abuse, the court shall not require the parties to attend but shall include an order describing how parties may safely participate in a program. The court may sanction parents for failure to attend or complete a parent education program.</p> <p>Requires the court to make findings if it does not grant a request for compensatory visitation when there has been a denial of court ordered visitation. Also the court may award attorneys fees or require the party who violated the visitation order to reimburse the other party for costs incurred as a result of the violation of the order or agreement.</p> <p>Clarifies the purpose of the visitation expeditor and when the visitation expeditor is to be used. Requires a visitation expeditor to complete 40 hours of family mediation training, including certified training in domestic abuse issues.</p> <p>Gives notice to parties in a marriage dissolution that reasonable visitation guidelines are available from the court administrator.</p>	SF 830
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JUVENILE JUSTICE		
Gang Research and Intervention	Appropriates \$50,000 to community based programs to research gangs and develop prevention techniques. Another \$200,000 will fund a gang intervention pilot program. A criminal gang strike force and a computer data base of gang activity will be created.	Chap. 239
Female Juvenile Offenders	Appropriates \$330,000 for housing and programs for female juvenile offenders.	Chap. 239
EARLY CHILDHOOD		
Early Childhood Family Education	Appropriates \$29.7 million to Community Based education for children from birth to kindergarten and their parents. \$100,000 of this appropriation must go for pilot technology grants.	Chap. 162
Learning Readiness	Appropriates \$20.7 million for early childhood program for a continuum of services including child development, health referral, nutrition, and parent involvement.	
Head Start	Appropriates \$37.5 million for Headstart programs. \$1 million of this must be used for new full-year programs for children age 0 to 3.	
Children with Disabilities	Appropriates \$400,00 for interagency services to young children from birth to age 2 with disabilities.	
Way to Grow	Appropriates \$950,000 to promote child development and school readiness for children pre-birth to age 6 in the Way to Grow program.	
Early Childhood Screening	Appropriates \$3.1 million to improve the health of young children through early detection of health, developmental, and family factors which may interfere with child growth and development.	
Early Childhood Infant Development Grants	Appropriates \$2 million to early childhood family education programs for families with infants.	
PREVENTION PROGRAMS		
Abused Children Program	Appropriates \$2.1 million for the biennium for services to victims of child abuse and their families.	Chap. 203
Children's Trust Fund	Funds to community-based groups to prevent child abuse through education, information, and child abuse prevention councils.	
Drug Policy and Violence Prevention	Appropriates \$6 million for drug policy, violence prevention, and family visitation programs, \$800,000 of which must be used for mentoring at risk youth.	
After-School Enrichment	Appropriates \$9.8 million to community collaboratives to reduce juvenile crime, school suspensions and drop-outs, and increase student achievement, attendance, and community involvement.	
Extended Day Programs for Children with Disabilities	Appropriates \$651,000 for after-school programs fo children with disabilities or to children experiencing temporary family problems.	
Male Responsibility	Appropriates \$500,000 for youth and parenting programs to educate males ages 10-21 on parenting responsibilities.	Chap. 162
Violence Prevention Grants	Appropriates \$3 million for violence prevention education grants to school districts to develop programs for K-12 students. Programs include conflict resolution, peer mediation, parent education, theater, counseling and restorative measures.	
Adolescent Parenting Grants	Appropriates \$800,000 to school-based, comprehensive programs to ensure self-sufficiency for adolescent families and school readiness for their children.	
Crisis Nurseries	Appropriates \$800,000 to crisis nurseries where children can stay up to 72 hours when their parents are in crisis.	Chap. 203
Universal Voluntary Home Visiting	Appropriates \$1 million to creates a voluntary universal pilot home visiting project to offer services to all families with newborns in two geographic areas.	
Targeted Home Visiting Program	Appropriates \$405,000 for nine home visiting programs to high risk families.	
Juvenile Assessment Centers	Funds grants for the Department of Health to three judicial districts to develop juvenile centers to assess children who are accused of committing delinquent acts or are victims of abuse.	
CHILD CARE		
Child Care Licensing-Fire Marshall	Appropriates \$200,000 to improve licensing requests in child care programs. Two state fire marshalls will be assigned.	Chap. 162
Basic Sliding Fee	Appropriates \$92.5 million to the Basic Sliding Fee child care subsidy program, which helps low- to moderate income families pay for their child care costs while working or in school.	
MFIP-S Child Care	Appropriates \$99.2 million for child care assistance to families who are on public assistance and participating in a work or training program as required by MFIP-S. This funding is also used for one year of transition year child care for recipients who have left AFDC.	

At-Home Infant Care Program	Establishes, within the Basic Sliding Fee child care program, an At-Home Infant Care program that will allow families who otherwise qualify for the Basic Sliding Fee to use their subsidy while staying home with their infant child. The family will receive 75 percent of what they would have received in their child was in child care, based on the average cost of family child care in that community. Assistance is only available for 12 months and the child must be below age 1. The program begins July 1, 19	
Child Care Program Development	Appropriates \$7.7 million for child care service development. Of this, \$2 million will fund programs that expand training, apprentice and mentorship opportunities for child care providers and programs to assist providers who are persons of color. The appropriation will also be used for child care Resource & Referral programs throughout the state, including an educational loan. Up to 5 percent of the \$7.7 million can be used for a non-profit corporation which will set up a child care facilities loan program for students in child care training for a maximum of \$1,500 per loan. The loan may be forgiven if the student provides child care services for 1 year following completion of the course.	
Portable Basic Sliding Fee	Ensures that families who are receiving Basic Sliding Fee assistance can continue that assistance if they move to another county where there is a waiting list for Basic Sliding Fee.	
Co-Pays	Begins a child care subsidy co-pay for all families receiving child care assistance, including families receiving public assistance. Any family earning between 75 and 100 percent of the poverty level, must have a co-pay of \$5 per month. Co-pay cannot go down when another child is added to the family. The co-pay is based on a percentage of family income.	
Application Methods	Requires each county to have at least two methods of applying for Basic Sliding Fee child care assistance.	
	Allows families receiving Basic Sliding Fee assistance to receive the assistance while obtaining a post-secondary education and allows that assistance as long as the family is eligible and has not received an associate or baccalaureate degree.	
COMMUNITY PROGRAMS		
Family Services Collaboratives	Appropriates \$15 million for family service collaboratives and requires a collaborative to include at least one school district, one public health organization, one county, and one community action program or Head Start program in addition to representation by broad community organizations. Collaboratives deliver comprehensive services to children and families in their local communities.	Chap. 203
Children's Mental Health Collaboratives	Expands the partners in a collaborative to include: parent, consumer, civic, religious, and non-profit organizations, foundations, businesses and by July 1, 1988, one juvenile justice or corrections agency must be involved.	
HEALTHCARE		
Direct Patient Access to Obstetric & Gynecological Services	Requires Health Plan companies to allow female enrollees direct access to obstetricians & gynecologists for: maternity care; annual preventative health examinations including gynecological exams & any subsequent gynecological visits & evaluation & necessary treatment for acute gynecological conditions or emergencies.	
Children's Mental Health	Appropriates \$1.4 million for grants to counties for children's mental health services.	Chap. 26
WIC-Women, Infants, and Children Food Program	Food supplement program for women, infants, and children. \$2.15 million for the biennium.	Chap. 203
Health Care for Disabled Children Ineligible for SSI	If children are eligible for SSI as of 6-30-97 and become ineligible due to federal law changes and are not eligible for MNCARE, they will be eligible for MN services for children with special health care needs for the fiscal year ending 6-30-98, until medical assistance is reestablished.	Chap. 203
Fetal Alcohol Syndrome	To prevent and reduce harm from fetal alcohol syndrome and fetal alcohol effect. \$1.25 million for the biennium. Health workers who have primary responsibility for diagnosing and treating FAS and FAE will receive education on screening, identification and referral.	Chap. 203
Programs for Nurses of Color	Appropriates \$250,000 each year of the biennium for grants to nursing programs to recruit persons of color and to provide grants to nursing students who are persons of color.	
Infant Child Care Programs	Appropriates \$150,000 in the first year of the biennium to establish pilot programs at one community college, one technical college and one consolidated community technical college to expand child care offerings on campus to include infant care.	
U of M Women's Ice Sheet and Tennis Facility	Appropriates \$3 million for a women's ice sheet and tennis facility at the University of Minnesota.	



Commission ON THE Economic Status OF Women

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IN THIS ISSUE

page 2. Fact sheet of selected census information on women in Minnesota from 1970, 1980 and 1990 and data for women in the U.S. from 1990 and 1995.

page 3. Recently released estimates from the 1994 Bureau of the Census survey on the poverty population and median household income for Minnesota and its counties. Included are children ages 5 to 17.

page 4. Women on Soil and Water Conservation Boards in the state. This information was gathered and compiled by the Commission from a survey distributed last spring to these boards.

page 5. Map of women's programs in the state. Included are: the battered women's shelters and community programs, sexual assault programs and displaced homemaker programs.

COMMISSION NOTES

STAFF NOTES

We are sorry that Chris Halvorson, who has been with the commission for nearly ten years, has left us to move to New Hampshire. We wish her well in her new life. A replacement will be hired this fall.

	Minnesota			U.S.	
	1970	1980	1990	1990	1995
Population					
Population That Is Female	51%	51%	51%	51%	51%
Age					
Female Population That Is Over 65	8%	14%	15%	15%	15%
Population Over Age 65 That Is Female	56%	59%	60%	60%	59%
Population Over Age 85 That Is Female	63%	68%	72%	72%	72%
Median Age-Male	26.0	28.4	31.7	31.6	33.1
Median Age-Female	27.5	30.2	33.4	34.0	35.4
Marital Status					
Never Married Women	25%	25%	24%	19%	19%
Married Women	60%	58%	57%	60%	59%
Divorced Women	3%	6%	8%	9%	10%
Widowed Women	12%	11%	11%	12%	11%
Education					
Women With High School Diploma or Higher	61%	71%	83%	81%	82%
Men With High School Diploma or Higher	54%	68%	82%	80%	82%
Women With Bachelor's Degree or Higher	9%	12%	19%	20%	20%
Men With Bachelor's Degree or Higher	14%	17%	25%	25%	26%
Households					
Married-couple Households	71%	55%	57%	56%	54%
Female-headed Households	19%	25%	26%	28%	29%
Families					
Married-couple Families	90%	84%	83%	79%	78%
Female-headed Families	8%	13%	13%	16%	18%
Families With Children					
Married-couple Families With Children	59%	54%	50%	47%	47%
Married-couple Families With Children Under 6	30%	25%	25%	23%	22%
Female-headed Families With Children	53%	25%	68%	61%	62%
Female-headed Families With Children Under 6	27%	23%	26%	25%	25%
Employment					
Women Age 16 and Over In The Labor Force	44%	54%	63%	58%	58%
Women Age 16 To 64 In The Labor Force	50%	64%	75%	66%	78%
Women Age 16 And Over Employed Full-time	24%	31%	43%	36%	36%
Women, With Children, In The Labor Force	+	60%	76%	67%	70%
Women, With Children 6-17, In The Labor Force	+	67%	82%	75%	77%
Women, With Children Under 6, In The Labor Force	+	50%	69%	58%	62%
Families In Poverty					
Married-couple Families	NA	5%	4%	6%	6%
Female-headed Families	24%	23%	29%	33%	32%
Married-couple Families With Children	NA	6%	5%	45%	42%
Female-headed Families With Children	34%	32%	40%	8%	8%
Married-couple Families With Children Under 6	NA	7%	4%*	12%	9%
Female-headed Families With Children Under 6	47%	51%	56%*	66%	62%

+Data available for married women only--see chart below

Employment	1970
Married Women With Children, In The Labor Force	41%
Married Women With Children 6 to 17, In The Labor Force	50%
Married Women With Children Under 6, In The Labor Force	29%

*With children under 5

Estimated Number and Percent of Persons and Related Children Age 5 to 17 in Poverty and Estimated Median Household Income: Minnesota and Counties, 1993

State and County	Total Number of Persons	Total Percent Poor	Number of Poor Related Children 5 to 17	Percent of Related Children 5 to 17 Poor	Median Household Income (Dollars)
Minnesota	490,363	10.8	118,182	12.9	33,240
Aitkin County	2,383	18.1	619	24.9	21,020
Anoka County	17,316	6.4	4,434	7.2	45,567
Becker County	5,012	17.4	1,355	20.7	25,348
Beltrami County	8,023	21.5	2,169	25.8	24,997
Benton County	3,352	10.4	852	11.7	31,708
Big Stone County	813	13.8	221	18.5	23,961
Blue Earth County	6,775	12.5	1,313	13.7	30,357
Brown County	2,346	8.7	533	9.3	31,443
Carlton County	3,476	11.6	909	13.7	30,212
Carver County	2,637	4.6	559	4.5	46,903
Cass County	4,733	20.0	1,202	24.0	22,391
Chippewa County	1,700	13.1	442	15.8	28,061
Chisago County	2,872	8.1	754	9.0	37,586
Clay County	8,020	15.5	1,822	18.2	31,325
Clearwater County	1,737	21.1	490	25.8	22,285
Cook County	306	7.0	71	9.3	28,056
Cottonwood County	1,570	12.7	411	16.2	26,876
Crow Wing County	6,726	13.8	1,740	17.3	27,477
Dakota County	17,109	5.5	3,307	4.9	48,803
Dodge County	1,485	9.0	361	9.1	35,587
Douglas County	3,366	11.3	756	11.9	28,012
Faribault County	2,132	13.0	533	15.1	26,655
Fillmore County	2,571	12.6	689	15.4	26,862
Freeborn County	3,820	11.9	897	14.0	29,021
Goodhue County	2,811	6.8	642	7.2	35,967
Grant County	827	13.8	207	16.9	25,265
Hennepin County	124,558	11.9	30,561	17.4	38,709
Houston County	1,706	9.0	427	10.3	31,340
Hubbard County	2,587	16.3	649	19.3	24,310
Isanti County	2,665	9.7	661	9.8	36,449
Itasca County	6,573	15.4	1,777	18.5	27,220
Jackson County	1,380	11.8	322	13.0	27,767
Kanabec County	1,971	14.7	541	17.2	27,090
Kandiyohi County	5,751	14.4	1,465	16.6	30,838
Kittson County	603	11.2	134	12.3	29,179
Koochiching County	1,951	12.2	482	15.3	28,401
Lac qui Parle County	910	10.9	222	12.6	27,461
Lake County	1,041	9.9	234	11.8	28,690
Lake of the Woods County	468	10.7	109	12.4	28,450
Le Sueur County	2,112	8.8	492	8.9	33,464
Lincoln County	939	14.0	229	15.7	23,996
Lyon County	2,542	10.2	624	11.7	31,209
McLeod County	2,400	7.3	542	7.5	35,225
Mahnomen County	1,037	20.3	323	24.5	21,813
Marshall County	1,278	12.0	330	13.2	27,241
Martin County	2,622	11.7	629	13.6	29,149
Meeker County	2,317	11.0	573	11.9	29,732
Mille Lacs County	2,630	13.5	649	14.7	26,573
Morrison County	4,341	14.5	1,193	16.1	26,813
Mower County	4,119	11.1	1,047	14.2	28,497
Murray County	1,139	11.9	297	14.2	27,924
Nicollet County	2,174	7.5	473	8.0	37,342
Nobles County	2,306	11.5	587	14.1	28,768
Norman County	1,224	16.1	323	19.4	27,202
Olmsted County	8,220	7.3	1,868	8.2	42,611
Otter Tail County	7,002	13.5	1,717	15.9	26,883
Pennington County	1,790	13.6	440	15.6	26,779
Pine County	3,362	15.4	826	16.7	25,511
Pipestone County	1,207	11.8	308	13.8	26,378
Polk County	5,421	16.8	1,372	19.2	27,845
Pope County	1,439	13.3	405	17.1	25,345
Ramsey County	64,150	13.3	15,085	17.4	35,384
Red Lake County	556	12.4	145	13.7	25,156
Redwood County	1,736	10.3	446	12.0	29,051
Renville County	2,598	15.2	739	19.6	29,067
Rice County	4,387	8.7	885	8.5	35,626
Rock County	950	9.6	260	11.6	30,236
Roseau County	1,309	8.4	327	9.2	32,956
St. Louis County	27,960	14.2	6,153	16.3	29,293
Scott County	3,197	4.7	762	5.0	48,416
Sherburne County	3,378	6.8	831	6.8	42,726
Sibley County	1,586	10.9	395	12.3	30,007
Stearns County	12,816	10.3	2,766	10.2	33,156
Steele County	2,405	7.7	566	8.2	36,267
Stevens County	1,116	10.8	233	12.0	30,016
Swift County	1,400	13.9	355	15.7	25,041
Todd County	3,909	16.4	1,084	18.5	24,437
Traverse County	609	14.3	156	17.4	26,098
Wabasha County	1,699	8.3	424	9.4	32,395
Wadena County	2,357	18.3	619	21.7	22,930
Waseca County	1,674	9.3	444	11.0	32,369
Washington County	8,429	4.9	1,985	4.9	53,168
Watsonwan County	1,392	12.1	392	15.7	26,673
Wilkin County	1,006	13.7	245	15.5	29,092
Winona County	4,967	10.3	984	10.7	31,270
Wright County	5,568	7.3	1,432	7.6	39,539
Yellow Medicine County	1,504	13.0	350	14.2	26,956

Women on Minnesota Soil and Water Conservation Boards

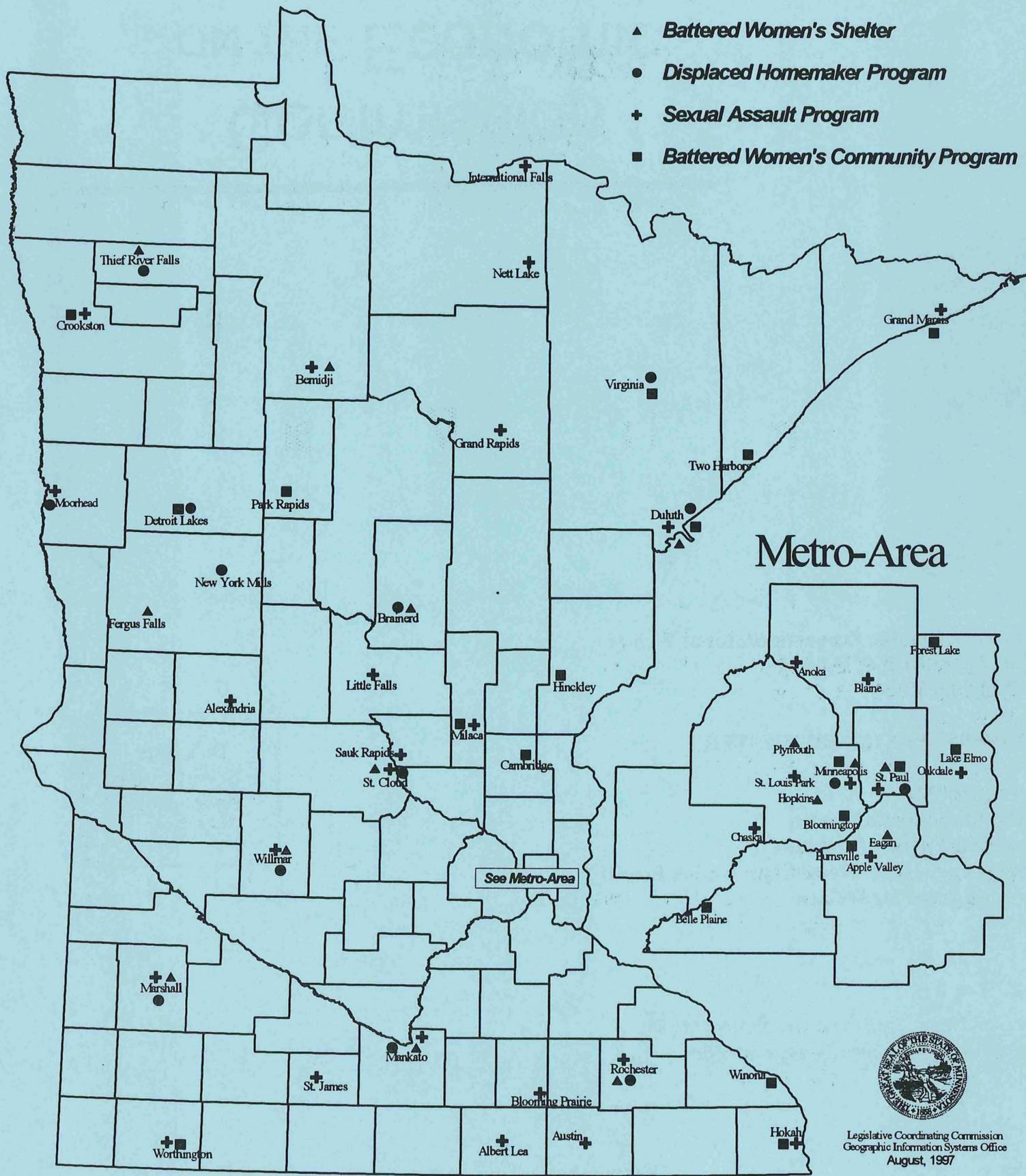
July 1997

Soil & Water Conservation Board	Board Members	Women on the Board	% Women on Board	Soil & Water Conservation Board	Board Members	Women on the Board	% Women on Board
Aitkin	5	0	0.0%	Mower	5	0	0.0%
Anoka	4 *	2	50.0%	Murray	5	0	0.0%
Becker	5	0	0.0%	Nicollet	5	0	0.0%
Belton	5	1	20.0%	Nobles	5	0	0.0%
Beltrami	5	0	0.0%	Norman	5	0	0.0%
Benton	5	1	20.0%	Olmsted	5	1	20.0%
Big Stone	4	0	0.0%	Otter Tail, East	5	0	0.0%
Blue Earth	5	1	20.0%	Otter Tail, West	5	0	0.0%
Brown	5	0	0.0%	Pennington	5	0	0.0%
Carlton	5	1	20.0%	Pine	5	1	20.0%
Carver	5	0	0.0%	Pipestone	5	0	0.0%
Cass	5	0	0.0%	Polk, East	5	0	0.0%
Chippewa	5	1	20.0%	Polk, West	5	0	0.0%
Chisago	5	1	20.0%	Pope	5	1	20.0%
Clay	5	0	0.0%	Ramsey	5	2	40.0%
Clearwater	5	0	0.0%	Red Lake	5	0	0.0%
Cook	5	0	0.0%	Redwood	5	1	20.0%
Cottonwood	5	0	0.0%	Renville	5	0	0.0%
Crow Wing	5	1	20.0%	Rice	5	0	0.0%
Dakota	5	1	20.0%	Rock	5	1	20.0%
Dodge	5	0	0.0%	Root River	5	0	0.0%
Douglas	5	0	0.0%	Roseau	5	1	20.0%
Faribault	5	0	0.0%	Saint Louis, North	5	1	20.0%
Fillmore	5	2	40.0%	Saint Louis, South	5	2	40.0%
Freeborn	5	0	0.0%	Scott	5	0	0.0%
Goodhue	5	0	0.0%	Sherburne	5	2	40.0%
Grant	5	0	0.0%	Sibley	5	1	20.0%
Hennepin	5	1	20.0%	Stearns	5	0	0.0%
Hubbard	5	1	20.0%	Steele	5	0	0.0%
Isanti	5	0	0.0%	Stevens	5	0	0.0%
Itasca	5	0	0.0%	Swift	5	0	0.0%
Jackson	5	0	0.0%	Todd	5	0	0.0%
Kanabec	5	0	0.0%	Traverse	5	0	0.0%
Kandiyohi	5	0	0.0%	Wabasha	5	0	0.0%
Kittson	5	1	20.0%	Wadena	5	0	0.0%
Koochiching	5	1	20.0%	Waseca	5	0	0.0%
Lac Qui Parle	5	1	20.0%	Washington	5	1	20.0%
Lake County	5	3	60.0%	Watsonwan	5	0	0.0%
Lake of the Woods	5	0	0.0%	West Polk	5	0	0.0%
Le Suer	5	0	0.0%	Wilkin	5	0	0.0%
Lincoln	5	0	0.0%	Winona	5	0	0.0%
Lyon	5	0	0.0%	Wright	5	0	0.0%
Mahnomen	5	0	0.0%	Yellow Medicine	5	1	20.0%
Marshall	5	0	0.0%				
Marshall-Beltrami	5	0	0.0%	Metropolitan Area (7)	34	7	20.6%
Martin	5	0	0.0%	Greater Minnesota (80)	429	30	7.0%
McLeod	5	0	0.0%	MN Total	463	37	8.0%
Meeker	5	0	0.0%				
Mille Lacs	5	0	0.0%	MN Association of SWCDs	8	0	0.0%
Morrison	5	1	20.0%				

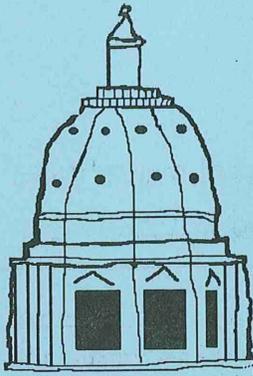
*currently has 1 vacant seat

Minnesota Women's Programs

- ▲ *Battered Women's Shelter*
- *Displaced Homemaker Program*
- + *Sexual Assault Program*
- *Battered Women's Community Program*



Legislative Coordinating Commission
 Geographic Information Systems Office
 August, 1997



Commission ON THE Economic Status OF Women

Newsletter #222

Room 85 State Office Building, St. Paul, MN 55155

October/November 1997

(612) 296-8590 or 1-800-657-3949

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ANNOUNCEMENT

The Commission will hold a public hearing on teenage pregnancy on Thursday, November 20, at 1:30 p.m. in the lunchroom at Arlington High School in St. Paul.

INTRODUCTION

This newsletter examines the estimated costs of raising children in single-parent and husband-wife families. The data used to estimate expenditures on children are from the 1990-92 Consumer Expenditure Survey, administered by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Expense estimates were updated to 1995 dollars using the Consumer Price Index.

Included in this survey are husband-wife and single-parent families with one or more children, but no other persons in the household. Households with four members (two children) were selected as the standard since this was the average size of two-parent families in 1990-92. Those with one child or more than two children would show different expenses per child because of the economy of scale that results with more children (it costs less to buy more).

The following information highlights the child-rearing expenditures on the younger child in a two-child household in both husband-wife and single-parent families. Therefore, if a household contained one child age 6 and one child age 12, the survey considered the expenditures on the 6 year old as the average cost per child for that family.

Child-related expenses estimated in this study are composed of direct parental expenses made on a child through age 17. These direct expenditures exclude costs related to childbirth and prenatal care. None of the expense figures in this survey include costs of college for children. The estimates do not include all government expenditures on children. Indirect costs involved in child rearing such as the effect of raising children on parents' current or future earnings are not included in the estimates.

TYPES OF CHILD-RELATED EXPENSES

This survey included seven major budget areas to determine a family's expenses for each child. These budget areas are detailed in the table below.

TYPE OF EXPENSE	EXPLANATION OF EXPENSE
Housing	Shelter (mortgage interest*, taxes, or rent; maintenance and repair; and insurance), utilities (gas, electricity, fuel, etc.), furnishings and equipment *Does not include mortgage principal payments
Food	Food budget at all types of stores, dining out, school meals
Transportation	Net outlay for new or used car, finance charges, gas, maintenance, repairs, insurance, public transportation
Clothing	Children's clothing and clothing services such as laundry, dry-cleaning, alterations or repairs, storage
Health Care	All out-of-pocket expenditures on medical, dental, drugs, supplies, and insurance premiums
Child Care and Education	Tuition, fees, books, supplies, babysitting
Miscellaneous	Personal care items, entertainment, and reading materials

CHILD EXPENSES BY HOUSEHOLD TYPE

Child-rearing expenditures generally increase with the age of the child and family income. Child expenditures are slightly higher in husband-wife families than in single-parent families in the same income groups. Total child expenditures average 5 percent lower in single-parent families than in husband-wife families. However, single-parent families spend a larger proportion of their income on children. This reflects the fact that on average, total household income is lower for single-parent than husband-wife families.

Child-related expenses are calculated for three different types of husband-wife families: low income, middle income, and high income. For the purpose of this survey, "low income" husband-wife families had a 1995 annual income of less than \$33,700, "middle income" husband-wife families had a 1995 income from \$33,700 to \$56,700, and "high income" husband-wife families had a 1995 income of more than \$56,700. Child-related expenses are calculated for two types of single-parent families: low income and high income. For the purpose of this survey, a "low income" single-parent family had a 1995 income of less than \$33,700 and a "high income" single-parent family had a 1995 income of \$33,700 or more.

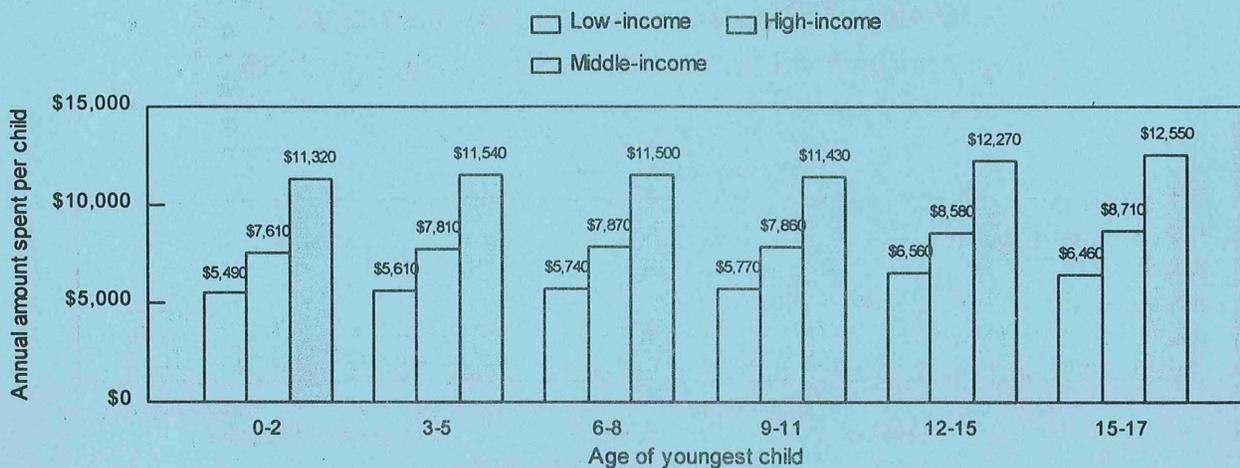
The vast majority of single-parent families, 83 percent, fell into the low income category. Only 33 percent of the husband-wife families fell into this low income group. Even within the low income group, single-parent families were more likely to fall at the low end of the income range, while husband-wife families were more likely to be at the high end. Ninety percent of the single-parent families in the survey were headed by females.

OVERALL CHILD-RELATED EXPENSES

HUSBAND-WIFE FAMILY EXPENSES

Estimated annual child-rearing expenses per child ranged from \$5,490 to \$6,460 for a husband-wife family in the low income group to \$7,610 to \$8,710 for families in the middle income group to \$11,320 to \$12,550 for families in the high income group. Expenses within income groups vary depending upon the youngest child's age. Generally, overall expenditures increase with the age of the youngest child. The highest expenditures are for children ages 12 to 14 and 15 to 17. The chart below compares the estimated annual child expenditures between low, middle and high income husband-wife families.

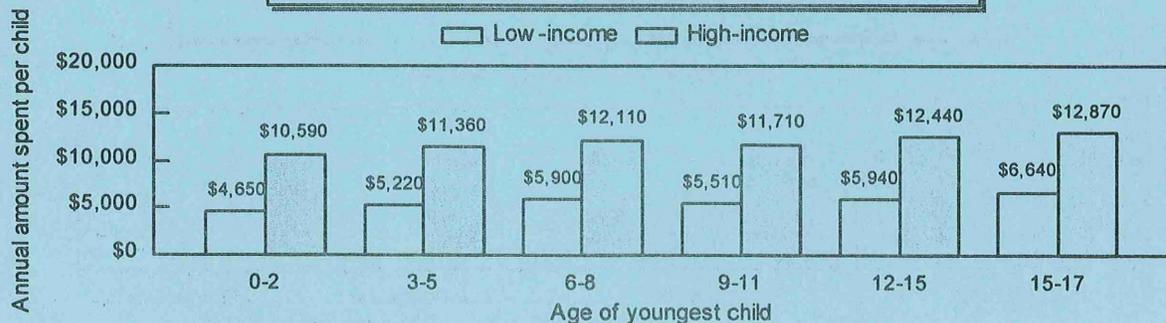
Estimated annual expenditures on a child by husband-wife families, U.S. 1995



SINGLE-PARENT FAMILY EXPENSES

Estimated annual expenses per child ranged from \$4,650 to \$6,640 for a single-parent family in the low income group to \$10,590 to \$12,870 for families in the higher income group. As in husband-wife families, single-parent families' overall expenses generally increase with the age of the youngest child and are highest for children ages 12 to 14 and 15 to 17. The following chart compares the estimated annual child expenditures between low and high income single-parent families.

Estimated annual expenditures on a child by single-parent families, U.S. 1995

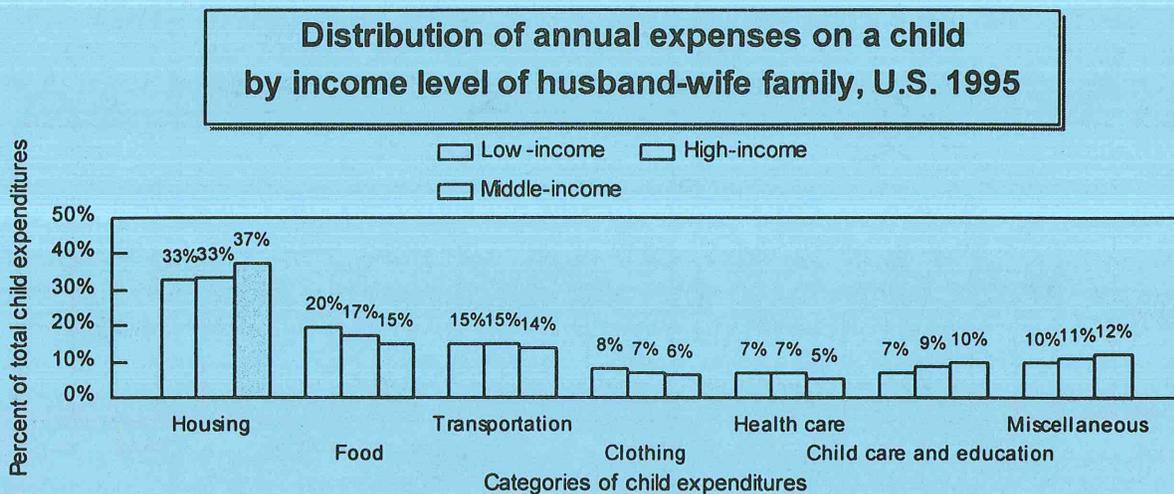


TYPES OF EXPENSES

Low income husband-wife families spend approximately one-third of child expenditures on housing, while low income single-parent families spend nearly two-fifths. Low income single-parent families spend a smaller percentage of child expenses on transportation and miscellaneous items than low income husband-wife families. Food, clothing, health care, and child care and education expenses amounted to similar proportions of child expenses for low and high income single-parent and husband-wife families.

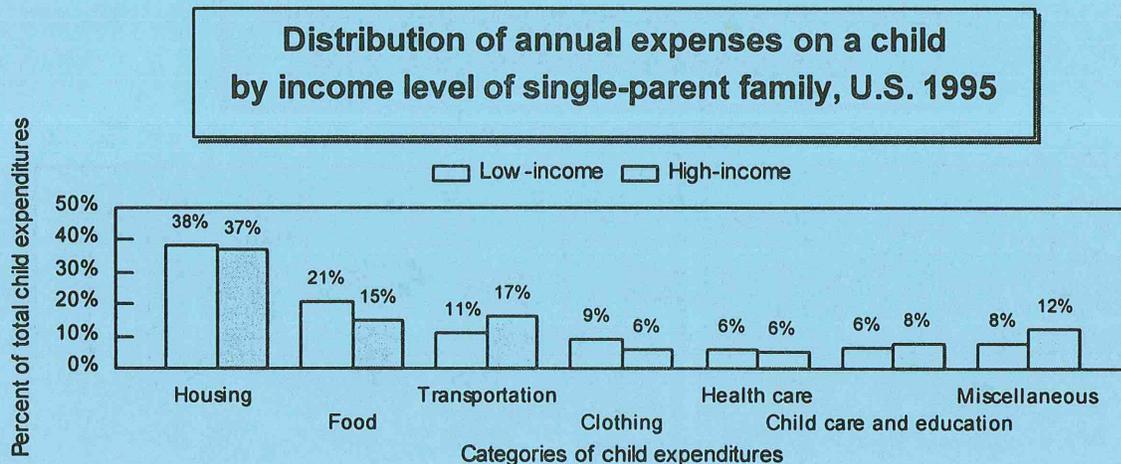
TYPES OF EXPENSES IN HUSBAND-WIFE FAMILIES

Housing, food and transportation are the three largest average expenses on a child for all income categories of husband-wife families. Low income husband-wife families spend a greater percentage of child expenses on food than middle and high income husband-wife families, while high income husband-wife families spend a greater percentage of child expenses on housing. The following chart depicts the distribution of annual child expenses by income level of husband-wife families. Expenses were averaged across all child age categories.



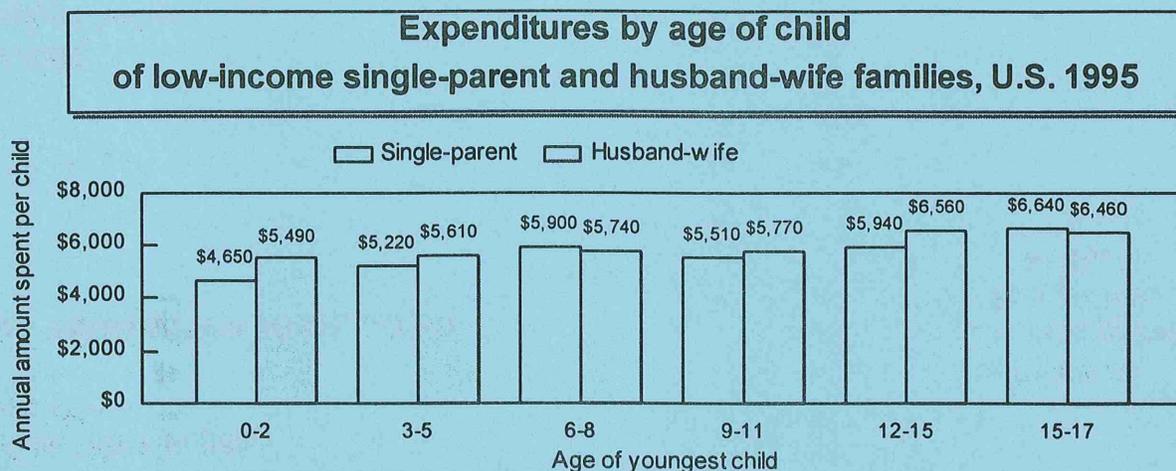
TYPES OF EXPENSES IN SINGLE-PARENT FAMILIES

As in husband-wife families, housing, food and transportation constitute the three largest shares of child expenditures for both low and high income single-parent families. Both low and high income single-parent families spend about the same percentage of total child expenditures on housing. Low income single-parent households spend a greater percentage on food than high income single-parent families, whereas high income single-parent households spend a greater percentage on transportation.



EXPENSES BY AGE OF CHILD AND TYPE OF EXPENDITURE

Single-parent and husband-wife families differ in expenses among age groups of children. The chart below compares the expenses-per-child by the age of the youngest child between low income single-parent and husband-wife families. Expense comparisons between high income husband-wife and single-parent families could not be made because so few single-parent families are in the high income group.



Within each child age category, child expenditures between single-parent (SP) and husband-wife (HW) families vary by type of expense. The following table compares the percentage of total child expenditures allocated toward each spending category by low income families in the 0 to 2 and 15 to 17 age groups.

Age of youngest child:	0-2		15-17	
	HW	SP	HW	SP
Housing	38%	41%	25%	35%
Food	14%	18%	24%	22%
Transportation	13%	14%	20%	13%
Clothing	7%	7%	10%	13%
Health care	7%	4%	7%	6%
Child care and education	11%	8%	5%	3%
Miscellaneous goods	10%	7%	9%	8%

NUMBER OF CHILDREN

The realities of the economy of scale are apparent in spending per child when there is only one child in the family, compared with two or more. For example, a single parent with only one child spends 35 percent more on that child than the average per child expenses in a two-child single-parent family. If there are three or more children, single-parent households spend 28 percent less per child than the average two-child single-parent family. A husband-wife family with only one child spends 24 percent more for that child than husband-wife families with two children. Husband-wife families with three or more children spend 23 percent less per child than husband-wife families with only one child.

*If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter,
please call or write the Commission office.*

Newsletter #222
Cost of Raising Children

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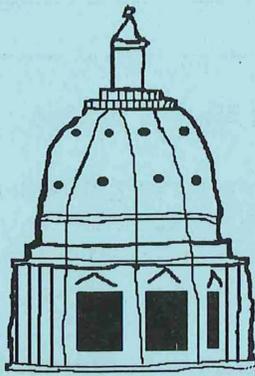
CHILD EXPENDITURES OVER TIME

Estimates in the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Consumer Expenditure Survey show that costs of raising a child to age 18 have increased sharply over the past four decades. In 1960, the average total expenditure on a child from birth through age 17 for a middle income husband-wife family was \$25,230, compared with \$145,320 in 1995. Child-related expenditures have risen even when adjusted for inflation: In 1995 dollars, a middle income husband-wife family in 1960 spent \$129,900 to raise a child to age 18. One factor contributing to this increase has been rising expenditures on child care. As more mothers have entered the labor force, child care expenses have risen to one of the largest expenditures middle-income families make on preschool children.

Commission ON THE Economic Status OF Women

Due to a printing malfunction the shading in the charts in this newsletter is not evident. To help you understand the charts please note the following:

- Bars are arranged according to income level from left to right.
- Low income is always the left bar. High income is always on the right.
- In the chart on page 5 single-parent is on the left, husband-wife is on the right.



Commission ON THE Economic Status OF Women

Newsletter #223

Room 85 State Office Building, St. Paul, MN 55155

December 1997/January 1998

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COMMISSION NOTES

We are pleased to welcome Roberta Gibbons to the CESW staff as a communications/policy specialist. Roberta replaces Chris Halvorson, who moved to New Hampshire last spring.

IN THIS ISSUE

Facts about U.S. women, an overview of various data about U.S. women from the most recent information available. The data are from 1995 and 1996 and were compiled from reports of the U.S. Bureau of the Census, the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the National Center for Health Statistics. Data are broken down into the following categories:

Labor Force Participation	2
Household and Family Status	2
Marital Status and Fertility	3
Age and Life Expectancy	4
Income and Poverty	5

LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION

Labor force participation rates for women continue to climb.

- ▶ In 1996, women made up 46 percent of the total work force, compared to 44 percent in 1986.
- ▶ Of women 16 and over, 59 percent were in the labor force in 1996, an increase from 55 percent in 1986 and 43 percent in 1970. For women of usual working age (18 to 64) the labor force participation rate increased to 71 percent, and for women in prime working age (25 to 54) to 76 percent.

Mothers in the Workforce

The increase of women in the labor force is also true for women with children.

- ▶ In 1996, just over 72 percent of employed mothers with children under 18 worked full-time, compared to 71 percent in 1986.
- ▶ The labor force participation rates of married women whose children were between 6 and 17 years old increased from 68 percent in 1986 to 77 percent in 1996.
- ▶ Labor force participation rates increase with the age of the child, but even for mothers of children under 6, labor force participation was 63 percent in 1996, compared to 54 percent in 1986.
- ▶ In 1995, 55 percent of women age 15 to 44 were in the labor force within a year of giving birth.

Employment and Marital Status

- ▶ Nearly three-fifths (59 percent) of women in the labor force in 1996 were married, 26 percent were single (never married) and 16 percent were either divorced or widowed.

Full-time and Part-time Employment

Women continue to be less likely than men to work full-time year-round.

- ▶ In 1996, just over 69 percent of women in the labor force worked full-time year-round, while 88 percent of men in the labor force worked full-time year-round.
- ▶ Women continue to represent a large percentage of the part-time employed. In 1996, 68 percent of all part-time workers were women.

Occupation

Women workers continue to be concentrated in clerical and service work.

- ▶ Nearly half (41 percent) of all employed women were in the technical, sales and administration field (including clerical work) in 1996.
- ▶ In 1996 over a quarter (30 percent) of employed women worked in managerial or professional jobs and 18 percent were service workers.
- ▶ Women continued to represent a small proportion (9 percent) of all precision production, craft and repair workers in 1996.

HOUSEHOLD AND FAMILY STATUS

Household

The proportion of married-couple households has declined and single-person households has increased.

- ▶ Fifty-four percent of households were maintained by a married couple in 1996, down from 56 percent in 1986.

- ▶ The number of households maintained by women grew 59 percent between 1970 and 1996. Families headed by women made up 13 percent of all households in 1996.
- ▶ Non-family households (people unrelated by blood, marriage or adoption) represented over 30 percent of all households in 1996. This has nearly doubled from 1970 when they represented less than one-fifth of all households.
- ▶ In 1996, 17 percent of households were non-family households headed by women. Of non-family households, 56 percent were headed by women.
- ▶ Nearly one-quarter of all households in 1996 consisted of one person living alone. Nearly 59 percent of these households were women.

Families

Fewer families (a householder and one or more additional persons related through marriage, birth or adoption) are likely to be married-couple families.

- ▶ The proportion of married-couple families has declined from 83 percent of all families in 1980 to 77 percent in 1996. Female-headed families have increased from 16

percent of all families in 1986 to 18 percent in 1996. There was a slight increase in the percent of male-headed families, increasing from 4 percent of families in 1986 to 5 percent in 1996.

Families with Children

Fewer households and families have children in them.

- ▶ In 1996, 34 percent of households had children under 18, compared to 36 percent in 1986.
- ▶ In 1996, 49 percent of families had children under 18, compared to 50 percent in 1986.
- ▶ A decreasing proportion of children live in two-parent families. In 1995, 69 percent of children under 18 lived in two-parent families, down from 85 percent in 1970. An additional 23 percent of children lived with their mother in 1995, 4 percent with their father, 3 percent with other relatives, and 1 percent with nonrelatives only.
- ▶ One-parent families accounted for 27 percent of all families with children under 18 in 1996, compared with 26 percent in 1986 and 13 percent in 1970.

MARITAL STATUS AND FERTILITY

Marital Age

There is an increasing tendency among younger persons to remain single or marry at a later age.

- ▶ The median age at first marriage for women increased from 20.8 years in 1970 to 24.5 years in 1995. Men married at an average age of 26.9 in 1995 and 23.2 in 1970.
- ▶ In 1995, 81 percent of women under age 25 were single (never married), compared to 66 percent in 1986. The proportion of women

age 25 to 29 remaining single rose from 28 percent in 1986 to 35 percent in 1995.

Birth Rates and Expectations

Birth and fertility rates over the past decade have declined as women have postponed childbearing.

- ▶ Nationally in 1996, there were 60 births for every 1,000 women age 15 to 44. This amounted to approximately 3.9 million births in 1996.

- ▶ Birth rates (the number of births for every 1,000 women) and fertility rates (the number of births per 1,000 women of child-bearing age) have been declining in the 1990s due to changes in age-specific birth rates and changes in the number and age composition of women in childbearing ages. The 1996 birth rate (14.8) is the lowest since 1976, while the fertility rate (65.4) is the lowest since 1986.
- ▶ The annual fertility rate for black women for 1996 fell to 70.8, the lowest ever recorded.
- ▶ The birth rate for teenagers for 1996 was 54.7 births per 1,000 teenagers age 15 to 19. This amounted to 494,272 births to teenagers age 15 to 19 in 1996. The teenage birth rate has declined by 12 percent since 1991.
- ▶ In 1995 women age 15 to 44 years old had an average of 1.2 children ever born. Women between 25 and 44 years old had an average of 1.6 children ever born in 1995, compared to 1.7 in 1986.
- ▶ About 42 percent of women age 15 to 44 were childless in 1995. Among women age 25 to 29, 44 percent were childless in 1995, compared to 41 percent in 1986. Among women age 40 to 44, just under 18 percent were childless in 1995, compared to 13 percent in 1986.
- ▶ Among 30- to 34-year-old women ever married, 19 percent were childless in 1995, compared to 15 percent in 1986.
- ▶ The birth rate for women age 30 to 34 in 1996 was 84.5 births per 1,000 population, the highest observed rate since 1966. The birth rate for women age 35 to 39 was 35.4 in 1996, the highest rate since 1968. The birth rate for women age 40 to 44 was 6.8 in 1996, higher than any year since 1971.
- ▶ In 1996, 32 percent of births were to unmarried mothers. Teenagers age 15 to 19 represented 30 percent of births to these unmarried women.

Divorce and Widowhood

The 1996 divorce rate was the lowest in more than two decades.

- ▶ The number of divorces granted in 1996 (1.15 million) was 2 percent fewer than the number for 1995 (nearly 1.17 million). The divorce rate per 1,000 population for 1996 was 4.3, which represented the lowest annual divorce rate in over two decades.
- ▶ The divorce rate per 1,000 married women age 15 and older was 19.5 in 1996, 2 percent lower than for 1995 and the lowest annual divorce rate for women since 1974.

In 1996 there were nearly five times as many widowed women as there were widowed men.

- ▶ Just over 10 percent of all women were widowed in 1996, compared to just under 3 percent of men.

AGE AND LIFE EXPECTANCY

Life expectancy from birth for both men and women has increased since 1970.

- ▶ Women's life expectancy increased from 78.2 years in 1986 to 79.0 years in 1996. For men, life expectancy increased from 71.2 years in 1986 to 73.0 years in 1996.
- ▶ It is expected that by the year 2005, the life expectancy average of men and women will be 76.7 years, compared to 76.0 in 1997.
- ▶ The number of women age 85 and older increased 73 percent between 1980 and 1996. The number of women above age 75 grew by 50 percent from 1980 to 1996. The number of women over age 65 grew 31 percent from 1980 to 1996.
- ▶ In 1996, 15 percent of females were age 65 and older, while 11 percent of males were in this age group.

- ▶ Women were 51 percent of the population, but they made up more than 54 percent of

the population age 65 to 69 and 72 percent of the population age 85 and older in 1996.

INCOME AND POVERTY

Annual Earnings of Women and Men

- ▶ In 1996, the median earnings for all women age 15 and older were \$16,028 and for men age 15 and older were \$25,785.
- ▶ In 1996, the median earnings for full-time, year-round workers age 15 and older were \$23,710 for women and \$32,144 for men. Since 1990, women's earnings have been at least 70 percent of men's earnings, with the exception of 1991 when women's earnings were 69.9 percent of men's. The wage gap was the smallest ever recorded in 1996, when women's earnings were 73.8 percent of men's.
- ▶ Median weekly earnings for full-time, year-round workers in 1996 were \$418 for women and \$557 for men.

Annual Income of Women and Men

- In 1996, the median income for women age 15 and older was \$12,815 and for men was \$23,834.
- The median income for full-time, year-round workers in 1996 amounted to \$24,935 for women and \$33,538 for men.

Income and Educational Level

- ▶ For both men and women, income increases with higher levels of educational attainment. However, the median income for full-time, year-round female workers with a bachelors degree in 1996 was \$33,525, while men with the same educational attainment had a median income of \$45,846.

Income and Marital Status

- ▶ The median income for married-couple families in 1996 was \$49,707. The median income for married-couple families in which

both spouses worked in 1996 was \$59,833, compared with \$40,999 for families where the wife was not in the labor force.

- ▶ The median income for divorced women was \$18,690 in 1996, compared to \$17,975 (in 1996 dollars) in 1986. It was \$24,858 for divorced men in 1996, compared with \$24,705 (in 1996 dollars) in 1986.

Women and Poverty

- ▶ Of the nearly 37 million Americans who lived in poverty in 1996, 77 percent were women and children.
- ▶ Approximately 12 percent of all U.S. families lived in poverty in 1996. Of these, about 50 percent were maintained by women without a husband present.
- The poverty rate for female-headed families was 36 percent, compared with 7 percent for married-couple families and less than 15 percent for families with a male householder.

Poverty rates are highest among female-headed families with children at home.

- ▶ Nearly half (49 percent) of female-headed families with children under 18 were poor in 1996.
- ▶ The poverty rates were higher for families with younger children. Fifty-nine percent of female-headed families with children under age 6 were in poverty in 1996.

Older Women in Poverty

- ▶ Nearly 14 percent of women age 65 and older were poor in 1996, compared to 7 percent of their male counterparts. Because older women outnumbered older men, there were nearly three times as many older women in poverty as there were older men.