

Half of illegitimate births to teens

Teen sex study 'startling'

WASHINGTON — One out of every five 13- and 14-year-olds in the United States has had sexual intercourse, a startling new congressional report on fertility and contraception says.

And the report, issued Tuesday by the House Select Committee on Population, said despite repeated news stories and heightened public awareness, "fewer than one-third of sexually active teen-agers regularly use contraception."

Rep. Anthony Beilenson, D-Calif., called it a "shocking fact" that more than one-half of all illegitimate births in the United States involve teen-age mothers.

Such figures underline the woeful inadequacy of the government's response, the report said. Funding for such things as contraceptive research and family planning clinics must be increased if the problem is to be managed, it said.

"I know that belt-tightening is a top priority this year," said Chairman James Scheuer, D-N.Y., "but spending a few millions now to help

teen-agers prevent unwanted pregnancies will save billions later."

He said in 1975 the government disbursed \$4.65 billion in welfare money to women who were teen-agers when they first gave birth.

There is also a problem involving reluctant teen-age participation in family planning programs due to "anxiety about confidentiality and legal impediments such as prohibitions of services to minors or requirements of parental notification or consent," it said.

"Kids felt unable to discuss sex with their parents," said Rep. Paul McCloskey, R-Calif., a member of the panel.

Such obstacles loom all the larger when placed against the report's finding that "one fifth of all 13- and 14-year-olds have had sexual intercourse."

Other findings:

—Pregnancy is the single most common cause of school dropouts among young girls.

—Catholic schools have done an "outstanding" job — better than public schools — in educating stu-

dents about sex. Catholic sex education begins in the first grade.

—A million adolescent women become pregnant each year and over one-third of them have abortions.

—Of the more than 600,000 teen-agers who gave birth last year, 250,000 were 17 or younger and 13,000 were under 15.

The committee suggested that until a safe pill is marketed, the government should earmark more money for family planning services that can reach low-income women and adolescents.

Cancer defeats Marvella Bayh

WASHINGTON — Marvella Bayh, who battled cancer in private and public for more than eight years, died Tuesday at the National Institutes of Health. She was 46.

Her husband, Sen. Birch Bayh, D-Ind., was at her side when death came Tuesday afternoon. He had kept an around-the-clock vigil for the past 10 days.

Mrs. Bayh's cancer was discovered in 1971 when she had a mastectomy. Bayh abruptly cut short his campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination to be with his wife.

After recuperating from the surgery, Mrs. Bayh launched a public campaign asking the public to watch for cancer's warning signals and to urge frequent examinations.

She made more than 175 speeches, wrote numerous magazine articles and frequently appeared on television and radio. She also was active as a special representative and longtime volunteer for the American Cancer Society.

Mrs. Bayh thought her cancer had been cured, but it returned and became so widespread that it was inoperable. In February 1978, she was given a year to live.

She was honored several times for her work and last March received the Hubert Humphrey Inspirational Award — a honor she was already "too weak" to accept. She was scheduled to receive the 1979 Philip Murray-William Green Humanitarian award later this year.

Although Mrs. Bayh knew she had less than a year to live, she wrote last November that a newfound faith in God and outpourings of love from friends had made her happier than she had ever been.

"I am wrapped in love, encircled, surrounded, covered by love," she said. "There has been such an outpouring of kindness, thoughtfulness, affection and encouragement from my friends — and even from strangers everywhere — that I feel blessed."

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This is an organization of students interested in maintaining a local organization representing the national group of Lutheran students known as the Lutheran Student Movement (LSM). The national convention of the LSM at Valparaiso, Indiana, August 6-11 will also be discussed. Travel to and from the convention is provided and subsidy for the registration fee is also available.

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