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Birth Rate Declines

by Steven Ranieri

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According to Jorge Martinez Manautou, family planning chief for the Mexican Social Security Institute (IMSS), the birth rate has dropped from 3.2% to 1.9% in the past 13 years and could reach 1% by 1994. Martinez said 54% of childbearing age practice some form of birth control. By means of contrast, he added, only five men per month come to the IMSS for vasectomies. President Carlos Salinas de Gortari observed that despite the decline in the birth rate, the population will reach 91 million by 2000. During the two years of his tenure as president, the population has increased by 10 million. (Sources: Notimex, 10/18/90, 11/01/90)

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