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Results Of Study On Characteristics Of Chilean Family

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In January, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Catholic University reported on results of a study titled "The Chilean Family: A Socio-Demographic Analysis." The study presents a profile of Chilean family units, based on marriage at the average age of 22 for women, and 24 for men, and concluding with the death of the husband at 74 years of age. Highlights of findings are summarized below. * Eighty-three percent of urban-based family units are headed by husbands, and average family size is four. * Over 100,000 Chileans under the age of 18 work to help support their families. Approximately 20,000 work more than 40 hours per week earning less than US\$30 per month. * The number of children arrested by police or incarcerated increased from 3,224 in 1984 to 10,623 in 1988. * In 1982, the average age for marriage annulments was 34.5 years of age for women, and 36.9 for men. By 1987, the average ages had increased to 34.9 and 37.5, respectively. Divorce law does not exist in Chile. * In 1982, 29.9% of new mothers were unmarried, compared to 33.5% in 1988. The proportion is higher for women under 20 years of age, and over 40. * 14.1 of every 1,000 women of child-bearing age have had an abortion performed in a public hospital. [Sources: Chinese news service Xinhua, 01/21/92; La Epoca (Chile), 01/27/92]

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