

PLANS, PRACTICES, AND PERCEPTIONS  
OF UNWED MOTHERS

By

BETTY LUCILLE WAYMAN MURRAY

Bachelor of Arts

Greenville College

Greenville, Illinois

1949

Submitted to the Faculty of the Graduate College  
of the Oklahoma State University  
in partial fulfillment of the requirements  
for the Degree of  
MASTER OF SCIENCE  
May, 1971

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OF UNWED MOTHERS

Thesis Approved:

*Nick Stinnett*

Thesis Adviser

*Josephine Hoffer*

*D. D. Durham*

Dean of the Graduate College

788690

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to all who have been instrumental in the completion of this study.

To Dr. Nick Stinnett, my adviser, whose many helpful suggestions, constructive criticism, and generous investment of time is sincerely appreciated.

To Dr. Josephine Hoffer and Dr. James Walters, members of my advisory committee, for their time and interest.

To the unwed mothers and the supervisor of each home who have made the study possible: The Right Reverend A. A. Isenbart and Mrs. Doland, Catholic Charities, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Esther Finley, Fairhaven Home and Hospital, Sacramento, California; Mrs. Henson, Florence Crittenton Home, Los Angeles, California; Sister Mary Healy, St. Agnes Home, West Hartford, Connecticut; Fort Wayne Children's Home, Woodhaven Unit, Fort Wayne, Indiana; and Florence Crittenton Home, Little Rock, Arkansas.

To Rev. and Mrs. R. E. Butterfield, Deaconess Hospital, Home of Redeeming Love, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma for their help, encouragement and granting leave from work to pursue this study.

To fellow workers from the Home of Redeeming Love for filling in and doing my work while I was away from the office.

To my mother, Mrs. Mildred Wayman, and Mrs. Mary Miller for their faith in me and encouragement to finish my study.

To Mrs. Shari Carney and Mrs. Joan Neal for their time and

expert typing of this document.

To my eight year old daughter, Kelly Murray, who has had to do without mother's time and attention in order for me to do this study.

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## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

The increase of premarital sex, illegitimacy, and teenage marriages in today's society demands one to take a greater and deeper examination of the total sexual dilemma of today's youth. Twentieth century living is complex for adults, and young people realize and experience many of the same pressures that are in the adult world. Southard (1965) states that social forces destructive to individual integrity, the conglomeration of sound values and wornout social customs, the conflicts in attitudes toward sexual behavior all make for confusion disturbing to parents and youth leaders as well as to youth themselves. The more pressures there are on adults, the less time they have to listen to young people's experiences, worries, and doubts. Nor is it easy for most adults to listen to adolescents talk frankly about their feelings. Children sense when they are being brushed aside, when there is no real interest in their personal problems. Not satisfied with the cliches and often weak convictions about sex values they get from adults, adolescents try to find their own way. They try to meet life in what seems to them to be the grownup manner, through sex. For them, sex is an expression of independence and maturity. But, it can also be an expression of loneliness, a desire to conform, a deep commitment.

Perlman (1964) cites findings by Gilbert Youth Research that

one in every four girls between ages 17 and 22 has had premarital intercourse. David (1970) stated that there were 339,200 out-of-wedlock births in 1968, an increase of 100,000 since 1960. This clearly reflects a substantial increase in illegitimate births for an eight-year period.

The U. S. Bureau of Census (1966, 1970) reported the number of girls per thousand who were bearing illegitimate children during specific times as follows: 89.5 in 1940, 117.4 in 1945, 141.6 in 1950, 183.3 in 1955, 240.3 in 1962, 259.4 in 1963, 275.7 in 1964, 291.2 in 1965, 302.4 in 1966, and 339.2 in 1968.

Ferguson (1965) asks if we are witnessing a revolution in sexual standards -- the deviation on the part of more and more younger people from the traditionally accepted sexual mores. Attitudes, values, standards, and their norms appear to be in a period of alteration. However, the contradiction and inconsistent demands often leave the adolescent confused concerning his values. Ferguson (1965) stated that "going steady" in the first grade, the preteen bra, and evening dances for 10-year-olds are among the indications that pressures from both parents and peer groups have pushed the problems of early adolescence back into the latency period. When this is combined with parental anxiety about popularity and the insistence on a busy social life, the child is likely to develop standards that will not threaten his popularity. The "other directed" personality described by David Reisman has less to guide him in making a wise choice between postponing or gratifying sexual impulses.

Cox (1964) states that we must admit that we have created a set of cultural conditions in which sexual responsibility is made "exceeding-

ly difficult. Ferguson (1965) reports that parents, after permitting self-indulgence in almost every other area, are shocked and punitive when they discover that their children have been experimenting with sex. One cannot avoid the impression that parents are more horrified at the fact that their children have been caught than at the behavior itself. Children, on the other hand, feel victimized because they know that often the criticizing adults condone similar behavior among themselves and other adults.

The increasing problem of unwed mothers can be more effectively dealt with if more knowledge and understanding is gained concerning the situation of the unwed mother. For example, more information is needed concerning the unwed mother's (a) plans to keep her baby, (b) use of a contraceptive, (c) perception of what is most desired from a sexual relationship, (d) perception of quality of previous relationship with alleged father, (e) present attitude toward alleged father, and (f) perception of major reason for becoming pregnant other than not using a contraceptive. Very little is known about the relationship of purpose in life to the above mentioned plans, practices, and perceptions of unwed mothers. Also, further investigation is needed concerning the relationship of family unity to the above mentioned plans, practices, and perceptions of unwed mothers.

#### Purposes of the Study

The general purpose of this study is to investigate plans, practices, and perceptions of unwed mothers and to relate these plans, practices, and perceptions to Purpose in Life Scale scores and to Family Unity Scale scores.

The specific purposes of this study were:

1. To determine the percentage and frequency description of unwed mothers' responses concerning each of the following:  
(a) intent to keep baby, (b) use of a contraceptive, (c) perception of what is most desired from a sexual relationship, (d) perception of quality of previous relationship with alleged father, (e) present attitude toward alleged father, (f) perception of major reason for becoming pregnant, other than not using a contraceptive.
2. To determine if there is significant relationship between Purpose in Life Scale scores and each of the following:  
(a) intent to keep baby, (b) perception of quality of previous relationship with alleged father, (c) perception of major reason for becoming pregnant, other than not using a contraceptive.
3. To determine if there is a significant relationship between Family Unity Scale scores and each of the following: (a) intent to keep baby, (b) perception of quality of previous relationship with alleged father, (c) perception of major reason for becoming pregnant other than not using a contraceptive.

## CHAPTER II

### REVIEW OF LITERATURE

#### The Problem of Unwed Mothers: Frequency and Trend

Widespread and increasing existence of unwed motherhood is a fact that is seldom challenged in the seventh decade of the twentieth century. Vincent (1962) reports an estimated 7 million people living in the United States were born out of wedlock. Each year another quarter of a million persons are added to the ranks. One in every 26 Americans is illegitimately born. The creation of new maternity homes and the expansion of existing ones are evidence of this overwhelming fact. Though many do not use maternity homes, there are still approximately 20,000 girls who enter the 150 maternity homes each year in the United States. Child Welfare (1962) states that approximately one out of ten unmarried mothers use maternity homes. An editorial in Good Housekeeping (1968) predicts that one out of six girls will be illegally pregnant before the age of twenty.

#### Possible Reasons for Unwed Pregnancy

While an increase in illegitimate births in recent years is apparent, one's understanding of this problem is increased by becoming aware of some of the possible reasons for unwed pregnancies. Lowrie (1965) stated: (a) that nearly 90 percent of all illegitimate pregnancies occur among minor girls; (b) that there appears to be no relation

between the age of initial dating and unwed pregnancy; (c) that unwed pregnancy is often associated with coming from a relatively unhappy home.

Vincent (1961) states that pregnancies of unmarried women often represent attempts to become married and to obtain husbands. Pope (1967) reports that 49 percent of unwed mothers were in love and that 35 percent thought they were in love.

The first illegitimate pregnancy, according to Church (1965), results from attempts to fulfill certain basic needs and that as long as these remain unfulfilled, other unwed pregnancies are likely to occur. Garland and Hyland (1966) state the following reasons for out-of-wedlock pregnancy: (a) need to find fulfillment in the female and mother roles, (b) need to achieve personal identity; and (c) need to resolve unsatisfactory parent-child relationships.

Concerning illegitimate births among Negroes, Derbyshire's research (1967) indicates: (a) that many Negroes attempt to gain social and sexual status by having children within or without wedlock; (b) that Negroes have a negative approach toward contraceptiveness; (c) that the high birth rate among Negroes indicates a greater status of potency; (d) and that illegitimate births are a way for the Negro to retaliate against the white for the Negroes' lack of social acceptance.

Kelly (1963) points out that many girls in high school try to achieve socially by attempting to demonstrate their adequacy and success in sexual and reproductive roles. Townsend (1967) also points out that social status, so significant to the girl who is in school, is in part dependent on academic status and that those who cannot achieve this way try to demonstrate their adequacy and success in sexual and repro-

ductive roles.

Good Housekeeping (1968) reports that unwed mothers: (a) are usually lonely, (b) are immature, (c) long for affection, and (d) have sibling rivalry. Concurring with Good Housekeeping's report, Werner (1966) states immaturity as a reason for illegitimate pregnancy.

As previously stated, Lowrie (1965) found that unwed pregnancy was associated with a relatively unhappy home and that little religious instruction in childhood is related to unwed pregnancy. Vincent (1961) reports the following reasons for unwed pregnancies: (a) inability to plan for the future and to postpone gratifying immediate wants; (b) a lack of basic trust in people; (c) lack of self discipline; and (d) poor self concept.

Kirkendall (1963) states the following reasons for girls not remaining virgins and thus leading to the unwanted pregnancy: (a) girls used to be more closely supervised with males than they are now; (b) the boy has much more convincing arguments than he used to have as contraceptives are much improved, and there is a greater knowledge of them; and (c) girls are apparently more willing to give up virginity to maintain their relationship with the boy.

Young (1954) found the following reasons that were given for unwed pregnancy: (a) lack of normal social and romantic contacts; (b) stress; (c) the girl never considered the use of contraceptives though they knew the possible result; (d) the girl actually wanted a baby; (e) the girl came from a mother dominated home; and (f) the girl came from a home where the father is seen as a person who uses strength not to protect but to abuse.

Summing up the known and most common reasons for illegitimate



pregnancies, Washburn (1967) states the following situations as those that create a climate for illegitimacy: (a) the new "Fun Morality" philosophy; (b) 'good vs. bad' fallacy - the parents telling their girls that only the poor, ignorant, and mentally ill become pregnant out of wedlock (thus the girl thinks that it wouldn't happen to her); and (c) contributing family attitudes. Examples of the ways in which family attitudes can contribute to unwed pregnancy are: (a) the impulsive girl who comes from a home that has been oversubmissive; (b) the rebellious girl who comes from a home where parents are critically demanding, distrusting and punishing, and (c) the neglected girl where no one has taken the time or trouble to form a personalized, caring relationship with her.

In Washburn's study, some of the reasons given by the teenage unwed mothers for unwed pregnancy were: (a) religious differences which prevent marriage but do not prevent feeling; (b) long pent-up emotions and frustrations which seek an outlet; (c) loss of inhibition due to alcohol; (d) naivete and lack of sex knowledge, and (e) desire to feel needed, wanted, and loved.

#### Characteristics of Unwed Mothers

Anderson and Lotts (1965) found that the rate of premarital pregnancies is higher in schools located in communities of population up to 40,000 than in communities of more than 40,000 population. Vincent (1960) found between 1938 and 1958 that the illegitimacy rate increased least among the women aged 15 to 19 years (108%) and most among the women between the ages of 25 and 29 (453%). In Levy's study (1955) unwed mothers' ages ranged from 14 to 40 years. Times

Educational Supplement (1961) states that of the 782 cases studied, only 128 were under 21; 126 of these were 16 or under -- including one who was only 12, two who were 14, and one who was 15. Times Educational Supplement (1961) states that a majority of young unwed mothers came from the least educated schoolgirls.

Washburn (1967) states that in a study of more than 500 unwed mothers, family occupational and educational data showed that the unwed mothers were not predominantly of low socio-economic status nor predominantly of any one particular socio-economic stratum. Reiss (1964) reports that there seems to be a relation between various socio-cultural background factors and attitudes and reported sexual behavior.

Whitehurst (1968) reports that church and family ties have an influence on girls. When comparing the variable level of premarital sex involvement, girls primarily influenced by peers more frequently indulged in premarital sex than those primarily influenced by church and family. These findings tend to support most other research which shows that priority in socialization by the conventional institutions of family and church tends to be associated with ability to cope with conventional demands with marriage. Lindenfeld (1960) gives data which indicates that sex, social mobility and religiosity are each related to attitudes toward premarital intercourse and incidence of experience. He states that coeducation college students of high religiosity are more restrictive than those of lower religiosity. Twenty-nine percent of the men and 64 percent of the women are opposed to premarital relations. Among those of high religiosity 31 percent of the men and 7 percent of the women had intercourse. For those of lower religiosity 48 percent of the men and 18 percent of the women had premarital intercourse.

### General Attitudes Toward Sex

To a large extent attitudes toward sex influence sexual behavior. Therefore, one should examine the public's opinion of sex and the views of leading sex educators regarding sex.

Washburn (1967) reported that while society seems to condone extramarital sex as long as it is kept private, it is particularly punitive of the unwed pregnant girl who bears physical witness of her transgression. The effect of these practices and attitudes is to confuse the young, for we seem to encourage the cause (illicit sex) while condemning the result (illegitimacy).

Bell (1963) states that social penalties for the girl "who is found out" continue to be severe in American society. She has been reared in a society which stresses the values of virginity, and to a great extent internalizes the values so that their violation is often also an internal personal violation. Consequently, the girl commonly has a high sense of guilt. The internalized values of chastity are probably the strongest female deterrents to sexual intercourse.

On the other hand Reiss (1961) stated that boys prefer to have coitus with girls they do not care for because they regard the girls whom they do care for as "too good" for such behavior. This seems to reflect an attitude which disassociates sex from deeper emotions of love and affection.

Reiss (1960) presents four common types of premarital attitudes existing in our society: (1) abstinence - premarital intercourse is wrong for both man and woman regardless of circumstance; (2) permissiveness with affection - premarital intercourse is right for both man and woman under certain conditions when a stable relationship with

engagement, love or strong affection is present; (3) permissiveness without affection - premarital intercourse is right for both man and woman regardless of amount of affection or stability present providing there is a physical attraction; and (4) double standard - acceptable for men but wrong and unacceptable for women.

Kirkendall (1968) states that aside from the physiological differences that occur in sexes, there is a network of social practices that further divide the sexes concerning attitudes toward sex. One of these is the double standard.

Washburn (1967) comments upon the recent and widespread use of sex in advertising. Advertising today uses sexual enticements to sell everything from perfume to oil furnaces.

Kirkendall (1963) states that sex is far more than a physical expression; it is a major aspect of personality. As such it is intimately related to the individual's emotional and social adjustment and to his physical development. Sex can never be fully understood simply by focusing upon it as a physiological process, by concentrating on the sex act, nor by counting or classifying instances of sexual behavior. The facts do represent aspects of sex, and they do need to be known. But the significance of human sexuality can be fully understood only by relating it to the total adjustment of the individual in his family and society. Hey (1966) says of sex, "It describes who a person is."

According to Stokes (1962) there is a change in attitude toward sexual behavior. More and more young people, although not their parents, believe that premarital intercourse "within relationship" is acceptable.

Burgess and Wallin (1953) found that about one third of the

engaged women reacted unfavorably to their engaged partner telling them of previous sexual experiences. They also found that 86.8 percent of the girls did not feel it was "right" to have intercourse before marriage. Bell and Buerkle (1961) found that out of a large number of college girls, when asked about intercourse during engagement, 35 percent said it was wrong, 48 percent said it was generally wrong, and 17 percent said it was right in many situations.

Bell and Blumberg (1960) reported that 50 percent of the females in a study in contrast to 25 percent of the males felt that they had gone "too far" during a date when they had intercourse. About one third of the females indicated they wished they had been more intimate in their relationships. In fact about three fourths of the males indicated they wished they had been more intimate. Over one third of the females and less than one third of the males who had gone steady and who had done any petting expressed guilt over their behavior. General attitudes toward sex are rather relaxed and yet they portray sex as what one, or a couple, makes of it.

Calderone (1965) goes on to state that the message one needs to convey to our children is that sex is not a problem to be controlled, but a great force to be utilized; not a relationship to be played at by children, but an intense and vital human experience, admission to which must be earned by some degree of maturity.

Calderone (1964) states that sex should never be casual or accidental, but should be the result of the conscious decision of two people mutually arrived at after they have taken the time to consider their total relationship, its past, its present, and its future. Sex is a sixth sense, for when it is used non-exploitably, it seems to give

each participant full knowledge of the other.

### Reported Sexual Behavior of Females

According to Gebsherd, Pomeroy, Martin and Christensen (1966) 50 out of every 100 women have had sex relations before marriage and that one out of ten women in their 30's and 40's stated that they had been pregnant at some time in their lives before marriage. Nineteen percent of the women who became pregnant while single, married during the pregnancy. Bernstein and Hale (1965) state that: (a) at age 21, 49 percent of the college girls had intercourse; (b) 77 percent of the high school girls had intercourse; (c) and 84 percent of the grammar school girls had intercourse. Karlsoon, Karlsoon, and Busch (1959) found that females reported their first intercourse was usually with a steady or fiance. Calderone (1964) stated that Freedman in his study on the sexual behavior of American college women found the incidence of non-virginity among college women to be 25 percent or lower.

### Problems of the Unwed Father

Vincent (1960) states that unwed fathers are half the biological cause of illegitimacy, yet the ratio of studies of them to studies of the unwed mothers is approximately one to 25. In numbers the problem obviously exists in approximately the same proportion as the problem of the unmarried mother.

Vincent (1962) states that in the case of the unwed father, we must either change the traditional standard by which we are more lenient toward sexual misbehavior in male than in female or we must remain satisfied with the conventional efforts which presume to under-

stand illegitimacy by studying only half its cause, the unwed mother. With only limited data on the unwed father, we still discover the "double standard" theory of our society. Young (1954) says that biologically the man's role ends with conception, and physically he is free to go his own way. His feelings for the girl, for the child, and his obligation to them are subordinated all too often to the artificial and largely unnecessary problems raised by the attitude of condemnation. Because of this punitive attitude we have had little opportunity to learn what the unmarried father is like even though he has been identified.

Vincent (1962) reports that fathers, in some cases, are but pawns of unwed mothers, who use them only to resolve their own psychological problems and deprive the fathers of the dignity of even having identity.

Long after the initial involvement and conception the unwed father may have specific problems. School Health News (1968) says that if the unwed father is not involved in planning and working out the problem of pregnancy, he may attempt to detach himself physically and emotionally from the situation. This can develop a callous attitude toward all responsibilities of any kind. Therefore, his relations with others and later toward marriage and its responsibility may suffer.

#### Characteristics of Unwed Father

Vincent (1962) found the following in counseling with thirty-seven unwed fathers and data on more than one thousand unmarried fathers as reported in questionnaire forms by unmarried mothers:

- (a) unmarried fathers represent a cross section of American males;
- (b) derogatory descriptions of unmarried fathers are labels given to

them after the illegitimate pregnancy occurs; (c) unmarried fathers experience fairly intense conflicting feelings toward the females they impregnate and the children they beget (there is something in the typical man which exacts a price when he is denied identification with that which he has helped create, even when the denial is of his own choosing); (d) unmarried fathers partially resolve their conflicting feelings by way of derogatory stereotyping of unwed mothers; and (e) the unmarried father's lack of tangible involvement in the processes of pregnancy and birth tends to prolong whatever guilt feelings he may have.

Dedman (1959) states that social status of the father does not entirely account for difference in attitude toward premarital sex relations. There is a relationship between attitude toward premarital sex relations and religious belief.

Young (1954) summarizes the public's attitude regarding the unmarried father: "In short it was more or less taken for granted that he was in any case a pretty worthless character probably without scruples or conscience, from whom little could be expected, and that little to be exacted for the most part only by compulsion. She also observes that there is "no possibility of knowing what the unmarried father is like as a person . . . until this accusing and punitive attitude toward him is abandoned."

#### Attitude of Unwed Mothers Toward Unwed Father

Prior to conception, girls usually have other motives for sex than becoming mothers. Vincent (1960) states that unmarried mothers use sex (or sexual enticement in the larger sense) as a means to obtain dates, companionship and expense account, upward mobility and



possible marriage.

Missildine (1966) found that whether the unwed mother's relationship with the child's father is as casual as a blind date or a more enduring one, she is frequently uninterested in him as a person. Vincent (1962) reported that unwed mothers may accuse the fathers of "deception," "betrayal," and "desertion" but they usually assure them a protective anonymity by being unwilling to identify them. Vincent (1961) reported various attitudes reflected by unwed mothers toward the unwed father: "perfect gentleman," "showed kindness to me," "kind and considerate," "happy and carefree," "they should say what they really mean," "they want a virgin yet treat you like the opposite," "understanding," and "sexual exploiter". Young (1954) reports that very few unmarried mothers are interested in men. Often they select a man who offers them neither security nor genuine affection. Bernstein and Hale (1965) found that a number of girls talked bitterly of their lovers and said, "He used me."

Khlemtzos and Pagleoro (1965) found in their study that 82 percent of unmarried mothers had some contact with the baby's father after the baby's birth. Eighteen percent did not. Over 75 percent were at one time or another involved with the unwed partner in working through some unresolved aspect of their relationship. Those harboring hostile feelings toward the unmarried father are not interested in punitive action toward the unmarried father.

## CHAPTER III

### PROCEDURE

#### Selection of Subjects

The 207 subjects of this study were residents of The Home of Redeeming Love and Catholic Charities of Oklahoma City; Florence Crittenton Homes of Little Rock, Arkansas and Los Angeles, California; Fairhaven Home, Sacramento, California; Ft. Wayne Children's Home, Woodhaven Unit, Fort Wayne, Indiana; and The St. Agnes Home, West Hartford, Connecticut. The subjects were between 12-35 years of age. The majority were white, Protestant and represented all sections of the United States.

A letter requesting assistance in administering the questionnaire was sent to the Directors of Maternity Homes picked at random by the investigator. Enclosed was a self-stamped card to be returned for response. Questionnaires were then sent with postage included for their return. The questionnaires were administered during the fall (September, October and November) of 1970.

#### Description of Instrument

The questionnaire included fixed alternative type questions which were designed to secure information concerning: (a) background characteristics such as age and religious preference and (b) plans, practices and perceptions such as intent to keep baby, use of

contraceptive devices, and perception of quality of previous relationship with the alleged father. One open-end question was used to determine the reason for becoming pregnant other than not using a contraceptive. Responses to this question were placed in the following categories: love, carelessness, rebellion, raped, depression, wanted a baby, to please father of the baby, and search for a close emotional relationship.

Duncan's Socioeconomic Index (1961) was employed as means of classifying the occupations of parents of participants. The occupational categories represented by parents in this study were as follows: (a) professional-managerial, (b) clerical-sales, (c) skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled labor, (d) farm-ranch and (e) welfare. Two major scales utilized in the questionnaire were Family Unity Scale (Murphy, 1968) and Purpose in Life Scale (Crumbaugh and Maholick, 1964).

#### Family Unity Scale

The Family Unity Scale used for this study was developed by Murphy (1968). The purpose of the use of the scale was to determine if there is a significant relationship between family unity scale scores and each of the following: (a) intent to keep the baby; (b) perception of quality of previous relationship with alleged father; and, (c) perception of major reason for becoming pregnant other than not using a contraceptive.

The Family Unity Scale is a 10-item Lickert type scale including alternating positive and negative statements. The alternative responses to these questions were: (a) strongly agree, (b) agree, (c)

neutral, (d) disagree, and (e) strongly disagree. In all responses a high rating of five was given for the most positive response.

As an index of the validity of the Family Unity Scale, Murphy (1968) reported that an item analysis indicated all ten items in the scale were significantly discriminating at the .001 level. Also, a split-half reliability coefficient of .96 was obtained for the Family Unity Scale.

### Purpose in Life Test

The Purpose in Life Test used in this study was developed by Crumbaugh and Maholick (1964). This instrument was developed to discern the degree to which a person experiences purpose in life. Answers on a seven-point scale were combined to yield a total score which is the sum of all the responses circled.

The purpose for the use of the Purpose in Life Test was to determine if there was a significant difference in Purpose of Life Scale Score according to each of the following: (a) intent to keep the baby, (b) perception of quality of previous relationship with alleged father, and (c) perception of major reason for becoming pregnant other than not using a contraceptive. The one-way classification of analysis of variance was used to determine the reliability of the instrument.

Crumbaugh and Maholick (1964) have administered the Purpose in Life Test to a wide variety of samples, and the results have indicated that the reliability and concurrent validity are sufficient to suggest that the Purpose in Life test is a dependable group indicator.

### Analysis of the Data

A percentage and frequency count was made to analyze certain background characteristics such as age, race, religion, education and residence, as well as the plans, practices and perceptions of the subjects.

The one-way classification of analysis of variance was used to examine the following null hypotheses:

1. There is no significant difference in Purpose in Life Scale scores classified according to: (a) intent to keep baby; (b) perception of quality of previous relationship with alleged father; and (c) reason for becoming pregnant other than not using a contraceptive.
2. There is no significant difference in Family Unity Scale scores classified according to: (a) intent to keep baby; (b) perception of quality of previous relationship with alleged father; and (c) perception of major reason for becoming pregnant other than not using a contraceptive.

## CHAPTER IV

### RESULTS

#### Description of the Subjects

A detailed description of the 207 subjects who participated in this study is presented in Table I. Their ages ranged from 12-35 years with the greatest percentage (41.35%) in the age group 16-18 years of age. Ninety-one percent of the sample was white. Most of the subjects are from a small town under 25,000 (28.64%). The majority of the respondents were single (97.58%), were of the Protestant faith (74.36%) and were from the State of Oklahoma (56.32%). A majority of the respondents' parents had achieved a high school education (38.65%) and 37.38 percent of the respondents received a high school education. In addition to this, 16.5 percent had two or more years of college. The age characteristics of these respondents tend to coincide with Lowrie's (1965) observation that the great majority of illegitimate pregnancies occur among minor girls. This study agrees with Washburn (1967) that unwed mothers were not predominantly of low socio-economic status nor predominantly of any one particular socio-economic stratum.

#### Plans, Practices, Perceptions

The following plans, practices, and perceptions of the unwed mothers were examined by percentage and frequency: (a) intent to keep the baby, (b) use of contraceptive, (c) perception of what is most

TABLE I  
CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SUBJECTS

Variable	Classification	No.	Percent
Age	12-15	32	15.38
	16-18	86	41.35
	19-21	64	30.77
	22-25	23	11.06
	26-29	2	.96
	30-35	1	.48
Religious Preference	Catholic	49	25.13
	Protestant	145	74.36
	Jewish	0	0
	Morman	1	0.51
	Blank	10	
	Other	3	
Residence	Farm or Country	17	8.25
	Town under 25,000	59	28.64
	City 25,000-50,000	43	20.87
	City 50,000-100,000	38	18.45
	Over 100,000	49	23.79
Area of United States	Northeastern	38	20.00
	Southeastern	20	10.53
	Pacific Coast	25	13.16
	Oklahoma	107	56.32
	No Response	18	
Race	White	191	91.83
	Black	14	6.73
	Indian	2	0.96
	Other	1	0.48
Education Level Completed by Respondents	Less than 8th	4	1.94
	8th but not 9th	7	3.40
	Some high school	78	37.86
	Graduated from high school	77	37.38
	2 or more college years	34	16.50
	Graduated from college	4	1.94
	Graduate work	2	0.97

TABLE I "Continued"

Variable	Classification	No.	Percent
Educational Attainment of Principal Earner Family Income	Graduate work	23	11.11
	Completed college	10	4.83
	2 or more college years	40	19.32
	Completed high school	80	38.65
	Completed 9th grade but didn't graduate	21	10.14
	Completed 8th grade	23	11.11
	Less than 8th grade	10	4.83
Occupation of Principal Earner of Family Income	Professional	66	33.85
	Clerical	24	12.31
	Skilled, unskilled	84	43.08
	Farmers	15	7.69
	Welfare	6	3.08
Marital status	Single	202	97.58
	Widowed	0	0
	Divorced	5	2.42

desired from a sexual relationship, (d) perception of quality of previous relationship with alleged father, (e) present attitude toward alleged father, (f) perception of major reason for becoming pregnant other than not using a contraceptive.

#### Intent to Keep Baby

As shown in Table II, the greatest proportion of the respondents said they did not plan to keep the baby (80.49%). Only 10.73% said that they did intend to keep their baby.

This study supports the findings of Blood (1969) who states that though a premaritally pregnant girl may choose to bear her child



out of wedlock, she is unlikely to rear it herself. Rather, she will try to place it for adoption.

TABLE II  
PERCENTAGE AND FREQUENCY DESCRIPTION CONCERNING  
THE RESPONDENTS INTENT TO KEEP THE BABY

Intent to Keep Baby	No.	Percentage
Yes	22	10.73
Undecided	18	8.78
No	165	80.49

#### Contraceptive Practice

The contraceptive practices of the respondents were examined according to the following three areas: (a) was contraceptive being used at time of pregnancy, (b) who was responsible for the use of the contraceptive, and (c) what type of contraceptive was used. A total of 91 percent of the respondents said they were not using contraceptives. Of those who were using contraceptives, 65 percent of the respondents said that she was responsible. Of those who reported using contraceptives, the rhythm method (36.84%) and the pill (36.84%) were the most frequently mentioned method used by the respondents.

This study agrees with Young (1954) who found that one of the reasons for unwed pregnancy was the girls never considered the use of contraceptives though they knew the possible result and Schofield (1965) whose study showed 51% boys and 70% girls feared pregnancy, yet despite such fears of the girls, the majority neither took precautions themselves nor insisted partners use contraceptive methods.

Pohlman (1969) suggests that planning for contraception may mean that the guilt-ridden individual must live for hours or days with the knowledge of premeditation to "sin" (have sexual relations). Thus, those who feel most guilty are least likely to use them.

Kirkendall (1969) has stated that in general couples who had a more sustained friendship and attachment to one another were more likely to use contraception. The number not using contraceptives may suggest girls feeling that unwanted pregnancy would not happen to them. Cutright (1971) states that never-pregnant women are less realistic about the risks of pregnancy from unprotected coitus.

There must be some reason why never-pregnant women are less concerned about pregnancy and do not frequently use contraceptives. Cutright (1971) states that the major reason unmarried women do not use effective contraception is because they are unmarried. Marital status is the most important determinant of access to contraception and thus of contraceptive use.

#### Perception of What is Most Desired From a Sexual Relationship

As shown in Table IV, emotional closeness (43.63%) was what was most desired from a sexual relationship, while 4.90 percent of the respondents stated that physical satisfaction was what was most

desired. A total of 22.55 percent reported that companionship was what was most desired. This study agrees with Washburn (1967) who stated in his study that many girls felt the desire to be needed, wanted and loved.

TABLE III  
 PERCENTAGE AND FREQUENCY DESCRIPTION CONCERNING  
 WHETHER CONTRACEPTIVES WERE USED; WHO WAS  
 RESPONSIBLE FOR USE; AND TYPE OF  
 CONTRACEPTIVE USED

Variable	Classification	No.	Percent
Whether contraceptives were being used at the time of becoming pregnant	Yes	18	8.70
	No	189	91.30
Who was primarily responsible for using contraceptive	Male	7	35.00
	Female	13	65.00
Type of contraceptive used	Rhythm	7	36.84
	Condom	2	10.53
	Pill	7	36.84
	Diaphragm	0	0
	Foam or Jellies	3	15.79
	IUD	0	0

TABLE IV  
 PERCENTAGE AND FREQUENCY DESCRIPTION OF  
 PERCEPTION OF WHAT IS MOST DESIRED  
 FROM A SEXUAL RELATIONSHIP

Variable	Number	Percent
Emotional closeness	89	43.63
Physical satisfaction	10	4.90
Companionship	46	22.55
Uncertain	59	28.92

Perception of Quality of Previous Relationship  
with Alleged Father

A love relationship of some duration was stated as the quality of previous relationship with the alleged father by 57.49 percent of the respondents (Table V).

This study tends to agree with Pope (1967) who reports that: (a) 49 percent of unwed mothers were in love and that (b) 35 percent thought they were in love. This study also tends to agree with Mackey (1969) who suggests that we need more study and understanding of the concept love.

Present Attitude of Subjects toward the Alleged Father

It was found that 26.21 percent of the respondents gave love as their present attitude toward the alleged father as shown on Table VI.

It was also found that 10.68 percent still consider him as a friend while only 6.31 percent stated disgust as their attitude. In contrast, Pope (1967) reported that 49 percent of unwed mothers were in love and that 35 percent thought they were in love.

TABLE V  
 PERCENTAGE AND FREQUENCY DESCRIPTION OF  
 PERCEPTION OF QUALITY OF PREVIOUS  
 RELATIONSHIP WITH ALLEGED  
 FATHER

Variable	Number	Percent
Casual relationship	20	9.66
Close friendship relationship	28	13.53
Love relationship of some duration	119	57.49
Uncertain about relationship	32	15.46
Other	8	3.86

TABLE VI  
 PERCENTAGE AND FREQUENCY DESCRIPTION OF  
 PRESENT ATTITUDE OF SUBJECTS TOWARD  
 THE ALLEGED FATHER

Variable	Number	Percent
Disgust	13	6.31
Disappointment	41	19.90
No particular feeling one way or the other	51	24.76
Love	54	26.21
Dislike	25	12.14
Consider him a friend	22	10.68

Perception of Major Reason for Becoming Pregnant  
 Other Than Not Using a Contraceptive

One would naturally expect the respondents to state carelessness as the major reason for becoming pregnant (30.98%), however, love 28.26 percent, and a search for close emotional relationship, 9.78 percent, were the second and third most frequently given reasons.

This study would suggest there is a weakening of the family structure which is contributing to this increase in illegitimacy and search for love and emotional closeness.

This study fails to support the findings of Vincent (1961) who states that pregnancies of unmarried women often represent attempts

TABLE VII  
 PERCENTAGE AND FREQUENCY DESCRIPTION OF  
 PERCEPTION OF MAJOR REASON FOR  
 BECOMING PREGNANT OTHER  
 THAN NOT USING A  
 CONTRACEPTIVE\*

Variable	Number	Percent
Love	52	28.26
Carelessness	57	30.98
Attempt to maintain deteriorating rela- tionship	3	1.63
Drinking	4	2.17
Rebellion	9	4.89
Raped	6	3.26
Depression	7	3.80
Wanted a baby	12	6.52
To please father of baby	5	2.72
Fatalism	3	1.63
Escape	2	1.09
In order to get married	4	2.17
Self punishment	2	1.09
Search for close emo- tional relationship	18	9.78

\*The two categories love and search for close emotional relationships were separated as respondents stated definitely they were in love while others gave search for a close emotional relationship.

to become married and to obtain husbands. This study agrees with Church (1965) who stated first illegitimate pregnancies result from attempts to fulfill certain basic needs; an editorial in Good Housekeeping (1968) which reports that unwed mothers are usually lonely and long for affection; Youngs (1954) who states that the girls actually wanted the babies; and Washburn (1967) who stated unwed mothers desire to feel needed, wanted, and loved.

Cutright (1971) has reported that 1960 data from Germany, Great Britain, United States, and Italy indicated that there was no systematic relationship between degrees of family authoritarianism and rates of illegitimacy.

#### Examination of Major Hypothesis

Hypotheses I(a): There is no significant difference in Purpose in Life Scale Scores according to intent to keep baby.

The one-way classification analysis of variance was applied in order to examine this hypothesis. As Table VIII indicates, an F score of 3.55 was obtained, indicating that a significant difference existed in Purpose in Life Scale scores classified according to intent to keep baby. Those who indicated that they did not intend to keep baby received the highest mean Purpose in Life Scale Score, while those who were undecided about keeping their baby received the lowest score.

This finding suggests that those who felt the lowest degree of purpose in life were more likely to want to keep their babies in an attempt to give their lives more meaning and purpose.



TABLE VIII

F SCORE REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN PURPOSE IN  
LIFE SCALE SCORES ACCORDING TO INTENT  
TO KEEP BABY

Description	No.	X	F	Level of Significance
<u>Intent to keep baby</u>				
Yes	22	71.54		
Undecided	18	67.67	3.55	.05
No	165	78.13		

Hypothesis I(b): There is no significant difference in Purpose in Life Scale scores classified according to perception of quality of previous relationship with alleged father.

Table IX indicates that when the one-way classification analysis of variance was used to examine this hypothesis, an F score of 1.40 was obtained, which was not significant.

Hypothesis I(c): There is no significant difference in Purpose in Life Scale scores classified according to perception of major reasons for becoming pregnant, other than not using a contraceptive.

A significant difference was found to exist at the .05 level in Purpose in Life Scale scores classified according to perception of major reason for becoming pregnant, other than not using a contraceptive. As Table X illustrates, an F score of 2.24 was obtained. Those who indicated that love was the major reason for becoming pregnant

received the highest mean Purpose in Life Scale scores. Those who indicated that the major reasons for becoming pregnant were to please the father of the baby and rebellion received the lowest mean Purpose in Life Scale scores.

TABLE IX

F SCORE REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN PURPOSE IN LIFE SCALE SCORES ACCORDING TO PERCEPTION OF QUALITY OF PREVIOUS RELATIONSHIP WITH ALLEGED FATHER

Description	No.	X	F	Level of Significance
Casual relationship	20	75.20		
Close friendship relationship	28	78.64		
Love relationship of some duration	119	78.09	1.40	N. S.
Uncertain about relationship	32	69.81		
Other	8	76.25		

It seems logical that those respondents whose relationship with the father were characterized by love would tend to have a greater feeling of purpose in life. The reasons "to please the father" and "rebellion" seem to reflect self defeating attempts to gain a sense of purpose in life.

TABLE X

F SCORE REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN PURPOSE IN LIFE SCALE SCORES ACCORDING TO PERCEPTION OF MAJOR REASONS FOR BECOMING PREGNANT, OTHER THAN NOT USING A CONTRACEPTIVE

Description	No.	X	F	Level of Significance
Love	52	81.45		
Carelessness	57	77.72		
Rebellion	9	63.33		
Raped	6	81.17	2.24	.05
Depression	7	79.43		
Wanted a baby	12	76.83		
To please father of baby	5	58.00		
Search for close emotional relationship	18	71.89		

Hypothesis II(a): There is no significant difference in Family Unity Scale scores classified according to intent to keep baby.

The one-way classification analysis of variance was applied in order to examine this hypothesis. As Table XI indicates, an F score of 16.97 was obtained, indicating that a significant difference existed at the .001 level in Family Unity Scale scores classified according to intent to keep baby. Those who indicated they did not intend to keep baby received the highest mean Family Unity Scale score, while those

who intended on keeping their baby received the lowest score.

TABLE XI  
F SCORE REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN FAMILY UNITY  
SCALE SCORES ACCORDING TO INTENT TO KEEP BABY

Description	No.	X	F	Level of Significance
<u>Intent to keep baby</u>				
Yes	22	31.50		
Undecided	18	33.17	16.97	.001
No	165	41.85		

This finding coincides with the finding reported in Hypothesis I(a) that those who felt the lowest degree of purpose in life were more likely to want to keep their babies. The present finding suggests that those who reported the lowest degree of family unity were more likely to want to keep their babies in an attempt to gain the close relationships, emotional fulfillment and sense of purpose that they did not receive in their families.

Hypothesis II(b): There is no significant difference in Family Unity Scale scores classified according to perception of quality of previous relationship with alleged father.

Table XII indicates that when the one-way classification analysis

of variance was used to examine this hypothesis, an F score of 1.42 was obtained, which was not significant.

TABLE XII  
F SCORE REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN FAMILY  
UNITY SCALE SCORES ACCORDING TO  
PERCEPTION OF QUALITY OF  
PREVIOUS RELATIONSHIP  
WITH ALLEGED  
FATHER

Description	No.	X	F	Level of Significance
Casual relationship	20	26.75		
Close friendship relationship	28	38.21		
Love relationship of some duration	119	41.03	1.42	N.S.
Uncertain about relationship	32	40.62		
Other	8	35.87		

Hypothesis II(c): There is no significant difference in Family Unity Scale scores classified according to perception of major reason for becoming pregnant other than not using a contraceptive.

A significant difference was found to exist at the .001 level in Family Unity Scale scores classified according to perception of major

reason for becoming pregnant, other than not using a contraceptive. As Table XIII illustrates, an F score of 4.12 was obtained. Those who indicated that they were raped as the major reason for becoming pregnant received the highest mean Family Unity Scale score. Those who indicated that rebellion was the major reason for becoming pregnant received the lowest mean Family Unity score. This study agrees with those of Washburn (1967) and Young (1954) and Lowrie (1965).

The present results coincide with the findings of Lowrie (1965) and Washburn (1965) that premarital pregnancy is associated with coming from a relatively unhappy family life. Washburn has indicated that the unwed mother has often been neglected by her family and has not experienced close, caring relationships within the family. Therefore, the reason for the pregnancy is the desire to feel needed, wanted, and loved. Washburn also notes that the unwed mother is frequently in rebellion against her parents who have been extremely critical, demanding, distrustful, and punishing.

The finding that those respondents who indicate rebellion as the major reason for becoming pregnant received the lowest mean family unity score is related to the finding reported in hypothesis I(c). In hypothesis I(c), it was found that those who indicated rebellion as the major reason for becoming pregnant received one of the lowest mean Purpose in Life Scale Scores.

TABLE XIII

F SCORE REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN FAMILY UNITY  
SCALE SCORES ACCORDING TO PERCEPTION OF  
MAJOR REASON FOR BECOMING PREGNANT,  
OTHER THAN NOT USING A  
CONTRACEPTIVE

Description	No.	X	F	Level of Significance
Love	52	40.32		
Carelessness	57	43.53		
Rebellion	9	29.56		
Raped	6	45.67	4.12	.001
Depression	7	38.14		
Wanted a baby	12	33.33		
To please father of baby	5	41.00		
Search for close emotional rela- tionship	18	36.39		

## CHAPTER V

### SUMMARY

The general purpose of this study was to investigate the plans, practices, and perceptions of unwed mothers.

The sample was composed of 207 residents of maternity homes in various areas of the United States. The majority of the subjects were white, Protestant, from Oklahoma and between the ages of 12-36. The data were obtained during the fall of 1970.

The questionnaire used in this study included the following: (a) a general information section; (b) questions concerning plans, practices and perceptions of unwed mothers; (c) Family Unity Scale; and (d) Purpose in Life Scale.

The percentage and frequency count was used to analyze background information as well as to analyze the plans, practices and perceptions of the subjects.

A one-way classification variance of analysis was used to determine if a significant scale score difference existed according to Family Unity Scale and Purpose in Life Scale in relation to intent to keep baby, perception of previous relationship with alleged father and perception for reason for becoming pregnant other than not using a contraceptive.

The results of this study were as follows:

1. 80.49 percent of the respondents did not intend to keep their baby.



2. A total of 91.30 percent of the respondents were not using contraceptives. Of those respondents who were using contraceptives, 65 percent said that she was responsible for the use. Of those who reported using contraceptives, the rhythm method, 36.84 percent, and the pill, 36.84 percent, were the most frequently mentioned method used.
3. Emotional closeness, 43.63 percent, was what most respondents desired from a sexual relationship.
4. A total of 57.49 percent of the respondents stated a love relationship of some duration in describing the quality of previous relationship with the alleged father.
5. A total of 26.21 percent indicated love reflected their present attitude toward the alleged father.
6. Reasons for becoming pregnant other than not using a contraceptive were: carelessness, 30.98 percent; love, 28.26 percent; and a search for a close emotional relationship, 9.78 percent.
7. A significant difference existed at the .05 level in Purpose in Life Scale Score classified according to intent to keep baby.
8. No significant difference was found to exist in Purpose in Life Scale scores classified according to Perception of Quality of Previous Relationship with Alleged Father.
9. A significant difference existed at the .05 level in Purpose in Life Scale scores classified according to Perception of Major Reason For Becoming Pregnant Other Than Not Using A Contraceptive. Those who stated love as the major

reason received the highest mean Purpose in Life Scale score while those who gave to please father of baby and rebellion as their reason received the lowest mean Purpose in Life Scale score.

10. A significant difference existed at the .001 level in Family Unity scores classified according to intent to keep the baby.
11. No significant difference was found to exist in Family Unity Scale scores classified according to perception of quality of previous relationship with alleged father.
12. A significant difference existed at the .001 level in Family Unity scores classified according to perception of major reason for becoming pregnant other than not using a contraceptive. Those who stated they were raped received the highest mean Family Unity Scale score. Those who indicated that rebellion was the major reason received the lowest mean Family Unity score.

The general conclusion which could be drawn from the analysis of this study is that unwed mothers are searching for love.

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APPENDIX

*the  
Home  
of  
Redeeming  
Love*

August 31, 1971

Dear Director:

You have been identified as a person who would be interested in, and qualified to, participate in a research project being conducted by the Assistant Superintendent of the Home of Redeeming Love, a home for unwed mothers in Oklahoma City, in partial fulfillment for a master's degree.

By coming to a better understanding of the attitudes of unwed mothers we can better serve them. The purpose of this research is to increase such understanding. It is through cooperation of such individuals such as you that we can reach better solutions to some of our pressing problems in society.

Enclosed is a copy of the questionnaire being used in this research. It would be greatly appreciated if you could administer this questionnaire to the girls in your home. Their names would not be required on the questionnaire and their response would be anonymous. If you would be interested in participating in this research, please return the enclosed card and I will send you the required number of questionnaires. I will also be happy to send a summary of the results of the study.

Thank you very much for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

*Betty L. Murray*

Mrs. Betty L. Murray  
Assistant Superintendent



General Information

Your cooperation in this research project is greatly appreciated. The absence of your name assures anonymity. Please check or fill in answers as appropriate to each question. The blanks at the extreme left of the page are for purposes of coding (do not fill in). Begin with item 4.

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. - 3. \_\_\_\_\_ (do not fill in)

_____ 4. Age	_____ 1. 13-15	_____ 5. 26-29
	_____ 2. 16-18	_____ 6. 30-35
	_____ 3. 19-21	_____ 7. 35-40
	_____ 4. 22-25	

\_\_\_\_\_ 5. Religious Preference

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. Catholic

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. Protestant

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. Jewish

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. Mormon

\_\_\_\_\_ 6. Where do you live

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. On a farm or in the country

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. Small town under 25,000 population

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. City of 25,000 to 50,000 population

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. City of 50,000 to 100,000 population

\_\_\_\_\_ 5. Over 100,000 population

\_\_\_\_\_ 7. In what state do you claim your residence? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ 8. Race

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. White
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Negro
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Indian
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Other

\_\_\_\_\_ 9. Educational level which you have completed?

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Less than grade 8
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Completed 8th, but haven't attended 9th
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Attended high school, but didn't graduate
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Graduated from high school
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Attended college two or more years
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Graduated from 4-year college
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Completed graduate work

\_\_\_\_\_ 10. What is the highest educational attainment of the principal earner of your family's income.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Completed graduate work for a profession
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Graduated from a 4-year college
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Attended college or university for two or more years
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Graduated from high school
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Attended high school, completed grade 9, but did not graduate
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Completed grade 8, but did not attend beyond grade 9
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Less than grade 8

\_\_\_\_\_ 11. What is the occupation of the head of your family? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ 12. Who expressed the most affection toward you while you were growing up?

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Mother
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Father
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. A brother
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. A sister
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Other \_\_\_\_\_  
specify

\_\_\_\_\_ 13. Were your attitudes toward sex influenced primarily by

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Mother
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Father
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Friends of your age level
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. School
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Church
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Books and magazines
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Movies
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Other \_\_\_\_\_  
specify

\_\_\_\_\_ 14. At what stage are you in your pregnancy?

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. 3 months or less
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. 4-6 months
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. 7-8 months
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Over 8 months

\_\_\_\_\_ 15. Do you plan to keep your baby?

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Yes
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. No
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Undecided

- \_\_\_\_\_ 16. At the time you became pregnant were you using contraceptives?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Yes  
\_\_\_\_\_ 2. No
- \_\_\_\_\_ 17. If you were using contraceptives, who was responsible for using them?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. You  
\_\_\_\_\_ 2. Partner
- \_\_\_\_\_ 18. If you were using contraceptives, what type were you using?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Rhythm  
\_\_\_\_\_ 2. Condom  
\_\_\_\_\_ 3. Pill  
\_\_\_\_\_ 4. Diaphragm  
\_\_\_\_\_ 5. Foam or jellies  
\_\_\_\_\_ 6. IUD
- \_\_\_\_\_ 19. What do you most desire from a sexual relationship?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Emotional closeness  
\_\_\_\_\_ 2. Physical satisfaction  
\_\_\_\_\_ 3. Companionship  
\_\_\_\_\_ 4. Uncertain
- \_\_\_\_\_ 20. Was your relationship with the father of the baby you are now carrying?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. A casual relationship  
\_\_\_\_\_ 2. A close friendship relationship  
\_\_\_\_\_ 3. A love relationship of some duration  
\_\_\_\_\_ 4. Uncertain about relationship  
\_\_\_\_\_ 5. Other \_\_\_\_\_  
specify

\_\_\_\_\_ 21. How do you feel now toward the father of the baby you are now carrying?

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Disgust  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Disappointment  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 3. No particular feeling one way or the other  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Love  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Dislike  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Consider him a friend

\_\_\_\_\_ 22. What is your marital status

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. single  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 2. divorced  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 3. widowed

For each item below indicate the degree to which you agree or disagree by circling the response which best describes your feelings.

The response code is as follows: SA - strongly agree; A - agree; N - neutral; D - disagree; SD - strongly disagree.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 23. SA A N D SD Sex is primarily an expression of love and emotional closeness between two individuals.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 24. SA A N D SD Sex is primarily a problem in life.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 25. SA A N D SD Sex usually involves deceit and exploitation of others.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 26. SA A N D SD Sex usually makes a relationship between a man and woman closer and more meaningful.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 27. SA A N D SD Men generally try to see things from the other person's point of view.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 28. SA A N D SD Men generally are not honest in expressing their true feelings.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 29. SA A N D SD Men generally behave responsibly toward others.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 30. SA A N D SD Men generally tend to "put on a front" and not really be themselves.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 31. SA A N D SD Men generally are considerate of others.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 32. SA A N D SD Men generally do not have a high degree of self respect.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 33. SA A N D SD Men generally express respect toward others.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 34. SA A N D SD Men generally are not understanding of others.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 35. SA A N D SD Men generally are guided by the value of being genuinely concerned about the welfare of others.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 36. SA A N D SD Men generally are not very loving or affectionate.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 37. SA A N D SD With respect to women, men generally are only interested in sex.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 38. SA A N D SD I feel that marriage brings happiness to most people.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 39. SA A N D SD I feel that marriage involves many difficult problems.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 40. SA A N D SD I do not feel that it is very difficult to achieve a successful marriage.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 41. SA A N D SD I feel that marriage usually prevents an individual from achieving his or her potential as a person.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 42. SA A N D SD I feel that marriage usually fulfills a person's need for appreciation.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 43. SA A N D SD I feel that marriage usually results in husbands and wives becoming less interesting persons.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 44. SA A N D SD I feel that marriage usually fulfills a person's need for love.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 45. SA A N D SD I feel that there is little excitement and adventure in marriage.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 46. SA A N D SD I do not feel that marriage usually results in husbands and wives losing their individuality.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 47. SA A N D SD I feel that marriage tends to decrease a couple's respect for each other.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 48. SA A N D SD I feel that marriage offers one of the best opportunities available for positive personal development.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 49. SA A N D SD I feel that marriage usually results in husbands and wives taking each other too much for granted.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 50. SA A N D SD I feel that marriage encourages love to grow and become even more meaningful.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 51. SA A N D SD I feel that marriage demands too much from an individual.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 52. SA A N D SD I feel that marriage offers a great opportunity for intimate, meaningful communication with another person.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 53. SA A N D SD I feel that marriage is more likely to create hostility between husbands and wives rather than happiness.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 54. SA A N D SD I feel that marriage encourages the development of a greater understanding of the needs of others.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 55. SA A N D SD I feel that marriage is usually disappointing with respect to the husband and wife continuing to love each other.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 56. SA A N D SD I feel that most husbands and wives do not desire to be single again.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 57. SA A N D SD About the best one can hope for in marriage is to keep conflict to a minimum and try to agree on as many things as possible.

Please check the response which most nearly describes your feeling.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 58. Which of the following do you most desire out of marriage?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Happiness
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Security
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Companionship
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Personality growth
- \_\_\_\_\_ 59. Which of the following do you believe to be the most important characteristic of a successful marriage?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Respect
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Personality growth
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Emotional closeness
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Sexual satisfaction
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Sharing the same interests
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Effectively expressing true feelings to each other
- \_\_\_\_\_ 60. Which of the following do you believe to be the most important in achieving marital success?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Being in love
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Determination to make the marriage succeed
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Having common interests
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Compatibility of personalities
- \_\_\_\_\_ 61. Which of the following do you believe to be the major problem involved in marriage?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. In-laws
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Money
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Lack of appreciation
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Sexual adjustment
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Children
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Effectively expressing true feelings to each other

Check the five (5) values which you consider most important for parents to assist their children in learning.

\_\_\_\_\_ 62 - 66.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Determination and perserverance
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Self-reliance
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Seeing each person as having dignity and worth (this involves respecting the rights and needs of others.)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Moral courage (courage to stand by one's inner convictions.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Spiritual development
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Cooperation
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Honesty and integrity
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Loyalty
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Self-discipline
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Feeling genuine concern for responsibility toward others
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Initiative
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. Intellectual inquisitiveness
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. Responsibility in performing tasks
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. Self-respect
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. Friendliness
- \_\_\_\_\_ 16. Appreciation

\_\_\_\_\_ 67 - 69. Which three (3) of the following values do you think parents of today most often fail to help children learn?

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Determination and perserverance
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Self-reliance
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Seeing each person as having dignity and worth (this involves respecting the rights and needs of others.)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Moral courage (courage to stand by one's inner convictions.)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Spiritual development
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Cooperation
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Honesty and integrity
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Loyalty
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Self-discipline
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Feeling genuine concern and responsibility toward others.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Initiative
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. Intellectual inquisitiveness
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. Responsibility in performing tasks
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. Self-respect
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. Friendliness
- \_\_\_\_\_ 16. Appreciation

\_\_\_\_\_ 70. Circle the point on the scale which most nearly describes the type of discipline you had in your family.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Very Permissive					Very Strict			



- \_\_\_\_\_ 71. Which of the following indicates your relationship with your parents during childhood?
- |                       |                  |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| _____ 1. Very happy   | _____ 2. Happy   |
| _____ 3. Undecided    | _____ 4. Unhappy |
| _____ 5. Very unhappy |                  |

#### FAMILY UNITY SCALE

Directions: Circle the rated responses that you feel characterized your family the majority of the time. Responses are SA - strongly agree; A - agree; N - neutral; D - disagree; SD - strongly disagree. Whenever possible refrain from using neutral - N. The blanks at the left are for coding (do not fill in). Since your name is not required, be as frank in your answers as possible.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 72. SA A N D SD We seldom took vacations together as a whole family.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 73. SA A N D SD I always felt free to ask my parents for advice.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 74. SA A N D SD Everyone in my family enjoys different type of recreation and we seldom did things together.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 75. SA A N D SD If I were in a situation where I really needed help, I feel my family would readily come to my aid.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 76. SA A N D SD When I was younger, my parents were seldom around when I needed to talk to them or get advice.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 77. SA A N D SD My parents usually enjoyed listening to me about my experiences.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 78. SA A N D SD I seem to feel little affection toward my parents.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 79. SA A N D SD I feel my parents enjoyed having me around.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 80. SA A N D SD As I grow older I have less regard for my parent's values.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 81. SA A N D SD When decisions that affected the entire family were made, everyone discussed the issue and offered their opinion.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 82. SA A N D SD I felt I was loved by all members of my family.

#### THE PURPOSE IN LIFE TEST

For each of the following statements, circle the number that would be most nearly true for you. Note that the numbers always extend from one extreme feeling to its opposite kind of feeling. "Neutral" implies no judgment either way. Try to use this rating as little as possible. The blanks at the extreme left of this page are for purposes of coding (do not fill in).

- \_\_\_\_\_ 83. I am usually:  
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7  
 completely (neutral) exuberant  
 bored enthusiastic
- \_\_\_\_\_ 84. Life to me seems:  
 7 6 5 4 3 2 1  
 always (neutral) completely  
 exciting routine
- \_\_\_\_\_ 85. My personal existence is:  
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7  
 utterly meaningless, (neutral) very purposeful  
 without purpose and meaningful
- \_\_\_\_\_ 86. Every day is:  
 7 6 5 4 3 2 1  
 constantly new (neutral) exactly the same  
 and different
- \_\_\_\_\_ 87. If I could choose, I would:  
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7  
 prefer never to (neutral) like nine more  
 have been born lives just like  
 this one
- \_\_\_\_\_ 88. In achieving life goals I have:  
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7  
 made no progress (neutral) progressed to com-  
 whatever plete fulfillment
- \_\_\_\_\_ 89. My life is:  
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7  
 empty, filled only (neutral) running over with  
 with despair exciting good things
- \_\_\_\_\_ 90. If I should die today, I would feel that my life has been:  
 7 6 5 4 3 2 1  
 very worthwhile (neutral) completely worthless
- \_\_\_\_\_ 91. In thinking of my life, I:  
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7  
 often wonder why (neutral) always see a reason  
 I exist for my being here
- \_\_\_\_\_ 92. As I view the world in relation to my life, the world:  
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7  
 completely confuses (neutral) fits meaningfully  
 me with my life

- \_\_\_\_\_ 93. I am a:  
 1            2            3            4            5            6            7  
 very irresponsible            (neutral)            very responsible  
 person
- \_\_\_\_\_ 94. Concerning man's freedom to make his own choices, I believe man is:  
 7            6            5            4            3            2            1  
 absolutely free to            (neutral)            completely bound by  
 make all life choices            limitations of heredity  
 and environment
- \_\_\_\_\_ 95. With regard to suicide, I have:  
 1            2            3            4            5            6            7  
 thought of it seriously            (neutral)            never give it a  
 as a way out            second thought
- \_\_\_\_\_ 96. My life is:  
 7            6            5            4            3            2            1  
 in my hands and I am            (neutral)            out of my hands and  
 in control of it            controlled by external  
 forces
- \_\_\_\_\_ 97. Facing my daily tasks is:  
 7            6            5            4            3            2            1  
 a source of pleasure            (neutral)            a painful and boring  
 and satisfaction            experience
- \_\_\_\_\_ 98. I have discovered:  
 1            2            3            4            5            6            7  
 no mission or            (neutral)            clear-cut goals and  
 purpose in life            a satisfying life  
 purpose

99. What do you feel was the main reason for your becoming pregnant other than not using a contraceptive? \_\_\_\_\_

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VITA

2

Betty Lucille Wayman Murray

Candidate for the Degree of

Master of Science

**Thesis: PLANS, PRACTICES, AND PERCEPTIONS OF UNWED  
MOTHERS**

**Major Field: Family Relations and Child Development**

**Biographical:**

**Personal Data:** Born in Goltry, Oklahoma, August 20, 1927, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Wayman; married June 19, 1953, to Donald Edward Murray in Goltry, Oklahoma.

**Education:** Graduated from Goltry High School, Goltry, Oklahoma, in May, 1945; received degree from Central College, McPherson, Kansas, 1947; attended Oklahoma A&M College 1947-48; received B.A. degree from Greenville College, Greenville, Illinois, May, 1949; completed the requirements for Master of Science degree at Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma, in May, 1971.

**Professional Experience:** Home Economics, English Instructor and Librarian, Byers High School, Byers, Kansas, 1949-50; Home Economics, English Instructor and Librarian, Partridge High School, Partridge, Kansas, 1950-59; Home Economics Instructor, Central Christian High School, Hutchinson, Kansas, 1959-62; Founder and Director, Glencoe Senior Citizens Center, Glencoe, Oklahoma, 1966-67; Coordinator-Counselor, Home of Redeeming Love, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, 1967-69; Assistant Superintendent, Home of Redeeming Love, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, 1969-present time.