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National

Unwed partners up 72% in U.S.

Like divorce and single parenthood in earlier times, cohabitation spilled out of big cities and university towns in the 1990s and has become part of life even in the nation's most conservative regions, U.S. census data show. The number of unmarried-partner households rose 31% in the '90s in Los Angeles County, the birthplace of palimony, but shot up 72% nationwide. The largest gains came in the Bible Belt and across the Great Plains. Even in seven states where laws against cohabitation remain on the books, living together almost doubled over the decade of the '90s, according to the 2000 census data.

Read the story:

"Unwed partners up 72% in U.S." - [Los Angeles Times](#)

See the resources:

'Cohabitation: A snapshot' - [Center for Law and Social Policy](#)

'Census details Arizona cohabitation' - [The Arizona Republic](#)

[®] In the East

New York: Mixed success in fixing welfare

As the nation marks the fifth anniversary of welfare reform, New York state is doing a mixed job of getting people off public assistance and into the work force, according to two reports released Tuesday. The reports from Comptroller H. Carl McCall's agency found the state's Office of Children and Family Services is taking steps to ensure that the working poor have access to child care. But the Department of Labor has yet to set up a system to track the long-term success of welfare-to-work programs. State Labor Commissioner Linda Angello said her department is working on a system to monitor people for months and years after they leave welfare.

Read the story:

"Mixed success in fixing welfare" - [Times Union](#)

See the resources:

"Welfare reform - four years later" - [Spectrum, The Journal of State Governments](#), a CSG publication. CSG members [click here](#) to receive a free password to view the story in our STARS database, a vast collection of periodicals, research and analysis pertaining to state government. Others may purchase a password to the database by calling (800) 800-1910.

"States waver on welfare reform's next step" - [The Christian Science Monitor](#)

[®] In the West

DEA chief looks at California drug policy as blueprint for U.S.

The newly installed head of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration said Monday that California's landmark approach to rehabilitating drug offenders can serve as a model for the rest of the country--if shortcomings in the program are fixed. "We need to watch the California experiment. I think it's a strong statement by the population there that [residents want to] take a look at treatment for nonviolent drug users rather than incarceration," DEA administrator Asa Hutchinson told reporters on his first official day leading the 9,200-employee federal agency. But Hutchinson added that he wants to work with California authorities to overcome two potential "difficulties" in Proposition 36, the novel initiative approved by California voters in November and put into effect July 1.

Read the story:

"DEA chief looks at California drug policy as blueprint for U.S." - [Los Angeles Times](#)

See the resources:

"Implementation of Proposition 36" - [California Department of Health and Social Services' Legislative Analyst's Office](#)

"Voters take a new tack in war on drugs" - [The Union-Tribune](#)

"Drug Court News" - [Judicial Council of California](#)

* In the Midwest

Minnesota: National Guard to prepare for potential state workers' strike

Gov. Jesse Ventura ordered the Minnesota National Guard on Monday to begin preparing for a potential strike by state employees in September. The order calls for Guard personnel to be trained to care for "vulnerable citizens," including those in regional treatment centers for chemical dependency and mental illness, in veterans homes and in community-based residential centers. Union officials described the move as unusual, perhaps unprecedented.

Read the story:

"National Guard to prepare for potential state workers' strike" - [Star Tribune](#)

See the resources:

"Another state workers' strike looms" - [Pioneer Press](#)

"1982-97 State and local government work stoppages and their legal background" - [U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics](#)

* In the South

Kentucky: Juveniles excluded from DNA registry

Juvenile offenders do not have to provide DNA samples to a registry of sex offenders because the law does not consider them to be convicted felons, the Court of Appeals has ruled. Even if a juvenile pleaded guilty to crimes that would be considered felonies under other circumstances, the statute seems to carve out an exception for juveniles, the court said in a unanimous ruling.

Read the story:

"Juveniles excluded from DNA registry" - [Lexington Herald-Leader](#)

See the resources:

"Legislators seek right match between DNA technology, laws" - [Stateline Midwest](#), a CSG publication. CSG members [click here](#) to receive a free password to view the story in our STARS database, a vast collection of periodicals, research and analysis pertaining to state government. Others may purchase a password to the database by calling (800) 800-1910.

"DNA testing: An introduction for non-scientists" - [Scientific Testimony](#)

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