

Interviews

Parents with children 12-years-old and younger are being interviewed by telephone to assess the quality of family life and services to youngsters in Clark County.

The survey is being conducted by the Social Research Facility and Telephone Survey Center of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Interviews will continue through next week.

"We are attempting to get some idea of child-rearing patterns and attitudes in Clark County so this information can be used in program planning and development," said Dr. James Frey, assistant professor of sociology and director of the UNLV Social Research Facility.

The project is funded by a \$2,500 grant from Children's Behavioral Services in Las Vegas, a state agency serving children under the age of 13 who have not yet completed the sixth grade and who suffer from emotional, behavioral and social adjustment problems.

The major function of the agency is to provide prevention, early detection and treatment services for the children and their families. The agency presently provides child counseling, individual and group parent training, classroom and treatment home programs, social skills group and family therapy for approximately 300 Clark County families.

"This study will help us plan our future services to the community," said Dr. Dave Like, director of Children's Behavioral Services. "We will use the findings to organize services based on what the population sees as problems and needs and to evaluate services as they exist."

The 15-minute interview includes questions on discipline, behavior problems and what makes rearing children difficult.

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High Blood Pressure

The salt content of food should be listed on package labels, so the more than 23 million Americans suffering from high blood pressure can better monitor their sodium intake, Rep. Jim Santini said today.

"There is considerable evidence that excess sodium (salt) in the diet can contribute to the development of high blood pressure," said Santini. "However, at present, it's impossible for those suffering from the disease to know how much salt a product actually contains."

He said he has sent a letter to Donald Kennedy, commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), asking that food manufacturers be required to list the exact sodium content on all packages.

"High blood pressure causes thousands of deaths each year due to heart attacks and strokes," Santini added, "and nearly one-fifth

of the adult population is currently suffering from it. These facts alone should be reason enough to require salt labelling."

The Nevada legislator has introduced a bill which would require similar labelling for foods containing sugar.

"Both the salt and sugar content of foods should be listed in amounts per serving," he said, "and those containing large amounts of the two substances should have warnings like 'highly salted' or 'highly sugared' on the front of the package."

He noted that the labelling concept is supported by many national nutrition and health groups as well as the Center for Science in the Public Interest.

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