

⁴For an example, see David T. Ellwood, *Poor Support: Poverty in the American Family* (New York: Basic Books, 1988). Also, Sara McLanahan and Karen Booth, in "Mother-Only Families: Problems, Prospects, and Politics" (*Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 51 [August 1989], 557–580; available as IRP Reprint no. 611), state that their review of single-parent families focuses only on mother-only families because "the number of [father-only families] is still small—less than 10% of all one-parent families."

⁵U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Poverty in the United States: 1990*. Thus, father-only families make up 15 percent of all one-parent families.

⁶U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-60, No. 168, *Money Income and Poverty Status in the United States: 1989* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. GPO, 1990).

⁷Meyer and Garasky's tabulations based on SIPP data.

⁸U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-20, No. 212, *Marital Status and Family Status: March 1970* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. GPO, 1971); and Current Population Reports, Series P-20, Nos. 287, 365, 410, and 450, *Marital Status and Living Arrangements* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. GPO, 1975, 1981, 1986, and 1991).

⁹*Ibid.* In the CPS, the number of father-only families headed by men who have never been married is, surprisingly, much larger than anticipated. The SIPP estimate of the number of never-married fathers who head families is much smaller, about 100,000 in 1986, compared to 350,000 in the CPS in 1990. One reason for this discrepancy is that the number of never-married single fathers has grown rapidly during this time period: from the 1987 to the 1990 CPS the number increased from 209,000 to 345,000, a 65 percent increase in three years. Although some of this increase may be due to the increase in children living with parents who cohabit, even in 1990 only one-third of all never-married fathers had a female partner living with them, and in some of these instances that partner may not have been the children's mother.

¹⁰*Ibid.*

¹¹*Ibid.*

¹²Meyer and Garasky's tabulations based on 1987 CPS data.

¹³Meyer and Garasky's tabulations based on 1990 CPS data.

¹⁴See Donna Hendrickson Christensen, Carla M. Dahl, and Kathryn D. Rettig, "Noncustodial Mothers and Child Support: Examining the Larger Context," *Family Relations*, 39 (1990), 388–394.

¹⁵*Ibid.*

¹⁶Nicholas Zill has begun to study these questions; see Zill, "Behavior, Achievement, and Health Problems among Children in Stepfamilies: Findings from a National Survey of Child Health," in E. M. Hetherington and J. D. Arasteh, eds., *Impact of Divorce, Single Parenting, and Stepparenting on Children* (Hillsdale, N.J.: Lawrence Erlbaum, 1988).

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