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PRESERVATION

**A PROFILE OF
SOLE PARENTS FROM
THE 1991 CENSUS**

by
MIKE ROCHFORD

1993

Research Report Series No. 15

RESEARCH UNIT

SOCIAL POLICY AGENCY
Rōpū Here Kaupapa
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE
WELLINGTON NEW ZEALAND

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PRESERVATION

**SOCIAL POLICY
AGENCY**

Rōpu Here Kaupapa

A PROFILE OF SOLE PARENTS FROM THE 1991 CENSUS

The enclosed report is a new volume in the Research Report series published by the Social Policy Agency. It is a demographic profile of the whole sole parent population based largely on 1991 Census information obtained from the Department of Statistics. It follows on from a previous report in the series which was entitled "A Profile of Sole Parents from the 1986 Census". Some trend information from 1976 to 1991 is included in the report, as well as some comparisons with information in the previous report.

It is anticipated that the report will be of interest to those concerned with sole parent issues, as well as those with a more general interest in social policy. The characteristics of the sole parent population were examined within different categories of ethnic identity, marital status and employment status. The report should provide a useful basis for comparison with information from future Censuses, allowing for the continued monitoring of long term trends.

If further copies of the report are required, they are available from Social Policy Information Services, Department of Social Welfare, Private Bag 21, Wellington, New Zealand.

**David A Preston
GENERAL MANAGER**

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Copies of this report may be obtained from:

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Department of Social Welfare
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Enquiries concerning its contents should be addressed to:

"Manager Research"
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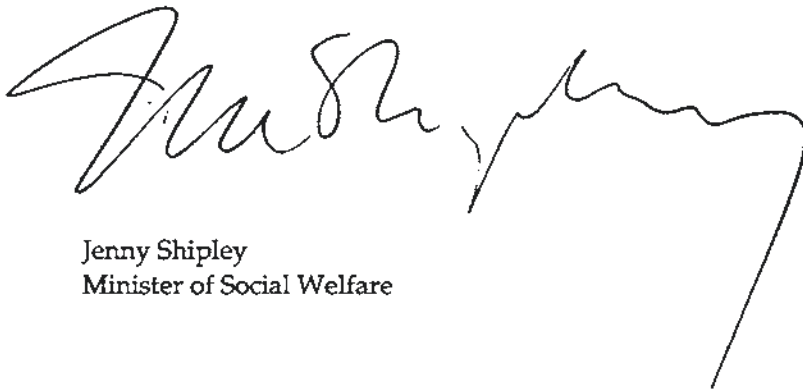
FOREWORD

When the 1986 update of the Census figures became available it was clear that the profile of sole parents in New Zealand was going through a dramatic period of change.

It was at that stage that I asked the Department of Social Welfare to update the 1986 study as soon as the material from the 1991 Census was available.

This report contains a complete analysis of the profile of New Zealand's sole parent population. Its main conclusion is that the sole parent population is not a single group of people in similar circumstances but a diverse range of groups of people who are sole parents for different reasons and who have different support needs in order to plan positive futures for themselves and their families.

This is a valuable resource tool which should be useful to Government, Government departments and the New Zealand community alike.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jenny Shipley', is positioned above the printed name and title.

Jenny Shipley
Minister of Social Welfare

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank Marion Norris, Shane Martin and Niti Pawakapan, who co-authored the previous report of which this is largely an update.

I would also like to thank Steve Kendall and Anne Spellerberg for their assistance in producing the tables, and Ross Mackay for editing the report.

Opinions expressed in this report are those of the author. They do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Social Welfare.

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SUMMARY

The sole parent population increased rapidly over the 1976-1991 period, until a quarter of all families with children were one parent families by 1991. The increase has been particularly rapid in the Maori population, with 44% of all Maori families with children being one parent families in 1991. This compares with 32% of Pacific Islands families and 18% of European families.

While the sole parent population is a heterogeneous one, when compared with partnered parents sole parents generally showed characteristics of disadvantage in terms of employment, income education and housing tenure. Within the population of sole parents, 29% were Maori and these sole parents stood out as the disadvantaged of the disadvantaged in terms of the same variables, although Pacific Islands sole parents shared similar characteristics of disadvantage.

Over the 1976-1991 period the trend has been for an increased rate of benefit take-up amongst sole parents and a decreased rate of paid employment. In 1991 only 21% of sole parents were in full-time paid employment (compared with 27% in 1986). Partnered mothers, on the other hand, increased their rate of paid employment between 1976 and 1991, in spite of the general rise in unemployment. The three factors most strongly associated with the employment rate of sole parents were gender, educational background and age of youngest child. Different combinations of these variables resulted in a wide range of full-time employment rates, from 3% to 73%.

Of the marital status groups, never married sole parents have increased fastest from 10% of all sole parents in 1976 to 36% in 1991. Widowed sole parents have decreased from 24% to 8% of the sole parent population over the same period. Separated or divorced sole parents made up the majority of sole parents (56% in 1991). The majority of separated, divorced or widowed sole parents lived in an owner-occupied dwelling, whereas the majority of never married sole parents lived in a rental dwelling.

The population of sole fathers grew faster than that of sole mothers between 1986 and 1991, from 13% of all sole parents to 16%. The rate of full-time employment of sole fathers has decreased substantially, from 81% in 1976 to 44% in 1991. For sole mothers the decrease was from 25% in 1976 to 17% in 1991.

The majority (53%) of sole parents had one child only in 1991, compared with a third (34%) of two parent families. Although sole parents were more likely to have older children than two parent families, the proportion of sole parents with a child aged less than 5 years has increased markedly from 35% in 1986 to 42% in 1991.

Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION

In 1992 the Social Policy Agency published a profile of sole parents based on the 1986 Census. This report updates that profile with information from the 1991 Census. The one parent family population in New Zealand has more than doubled during the fifteen years from 1976 to 1991, even though the total number of families with children has declined over the same period. This growth is due primarily to an increase in marriage breakdown, and secondarily to an increased proportion of children born ex-nuptially being kept by their birthmothers, rather than being adopted. The majority of sole parents receive income support in the form of Domestic Purposes Benefits, Unemployment Benefits or Widow's Benefits, so the sole parent population is of particular interest to the Department of Social Welfare.

Some earlier New Zealand work has examined the sole parent population, but has tended to concentrate on specific issues (such as income or employment) rather than providing a general profile of the sole parent population. The 1986 Census profile was designed to expand and update information available from previous New Zealand studies, and this present profile represents a further update using the same approach.

Two other studies have used Census data: one to make comparisons between sole parents in employment and those not employed; and the other to make comparisons between sole parent and two parent families. Mowbray and Khan (1983) used 1976 and 1981 Census data to make comparisons between sole parent families and two parent families with regard to their material standard of living.

Dominick, Rochford, and Robb (1988) also used 1981 Census data, along with Department of Social Welfare records, to examine factors which were associated with the employment status of sole parents. That report, which brought together for publication a collection of papers which had originally been produced in 1984, also contained a review of literature concerning sole parents and employment.

In addition to these studies using Census data, the Statistics Unit of the Department of Social Welfare produced a profile of the Domestic Purposes Beneficiary population based on its own collection of benefit statistics¹ for the year ending 31 March 1985. This profile was limited by the range of variables collected as part of the Department's statistical collection system (for example, ethnic information was not collected until recently), and was restricted to those members of the sole parent population who were receiving benefits. For a more general picture of sole parents, these statistics would need to be put alongside the characteristics of sole parents who do not receive Social Welfare benefits.

Some interview studies of sole parents have also been carried out in New Zealand, which have been directed at in-depth investigation of particular issues. Wylie (1980) interviewed 82 female sole parents, and examined factors affecting the present and planned employment of these women. Shipley (1982) interviewed 12 sole parents who wanted paid work, as part of a wider study of the relationship between employment and women's domestic and family roles. She explored the characteristics and work histories of women in the labour force, and examined the effects of unemployment on the women and their children.

In a recent study by Levine, Wyn and Asiasiga (1993), 95 sole parents were interviewed about factors affecting their labour force participation, and critical issues were identified for the development of policy to facilitate the entry of sole parents into the paid labour force.

The present study covers the whole of the sole parent population, and has a more general intention, aiming to provide a socio-demographic profile of that population. Using data from previous Censuses, a picture of trends in the sole parent population over the fifteen years from 1976 to 1991

¹ This profile was produced as an in-house document for internal use within the Department of Social Welfare, but copies are available from the Management Information Systems Unit of the Department on request.

is built up. Since the sole parent population is not homogeneous, the report also makes some comparisons between various sub-groups of sole parents, so that the characteristics of particular sub-groups can be identified. Marital status, ethnic group, and employment status comparisons have been made in this way.

Before going on to describe the findings of the study, the next section provides an account of the methodology used to extract the data from the Census file, and gives details of the definitions of the variables reported upon in later sections.

Chapter 2

METHODOLOGY

2.1 The Census File

The 1991 tables presented in this report were obtained from the Department of Statistics' 1991 Census 100% file. This file contains all Census records, not just a sample, so there is no sampling error. Thus, the number of one and two parent families and their characteristics can be tabulated.

The information from 1976-1986 was obtained from special Census files known as family files. The 1976 and 1981 family files were produced from 10% samples and weighted up to give estimates of total population figures. As a result, the totals for 1976 and 1981 given in tables in the Appendix and reported in the following section on trends in the sole parent population do not always exactly match those published by the Department of Statistics. The 1986 family file comprised a 10% sample of European-only families which was weighted up to produce total population estimates, plus a full count of families of persons from other ethnic groups. The 1986 figures were randomly rounded to the nearest multiple of 3 in order to protect the confidentiality of the non-Europeans in each cell. In consequence, the 1986 totals do not always exactly match those previously published by the Department of Statistics. The 1991 figures were all randomly rounded to the nearest multiple of 3 for reasons of confidentiality.

2.2 Missing Data

There is also some apparent inconsistency between the totals for 1991 in different 1991 tables presented in the Appendix to the report. This is due either to missing data or to the random rounding procedure. Some data are missing because some respondents failed to answer some questions on the Census form.

For ease of interpretation, only percentage values have been included in the tables. Numbers are given in the column totals so that the approximate numbers in each cell can be calculated if required. The percentages have been rounded to the nearest whole value, and as a result they do not always sum exactly to 100%.

2.3 Sampling Error

As a result of the sampling procedure used in creating the family files, the figures from the 1976-86 Censuses presented in the trends section of this report may be subject to some error. In general terms, the smaller the cell size is, the greater the expected error would be. Hence, small percentage differences between cells containing small numbers of cases may not be statistically significant and should be treated with caution. The tables from the 1976 and 1981 Census files are most affected by sampling error. The 1986 tables included a full count of non-European families (which amounted to 33% of all one parent families and 26% of all two parent families). This eliminated the chance of error among the non-European groups, and reduced it for the overall study sample. Since all the 1991 Census information is drawn from the 100% file, there is no sampling error affecting the 1991 figures presented in this report.

2.4 Family Definitions

As with the previous profile from the 1986 Census, the following definitions were adopted for the purposes of the present study. The definition of "family" is based on the presence of dependent children. This is at variance with the standard Census definition of family, but it was considered that these families were of most interest to the Department of Social Welfare.

Sole parent.

A parent without a partner, and with one or more dependent children.

Sole parent family.

A sole parent and dependent children, with or without adult children. A sole parent living with adult children only was not defined as a family for the purposes of the present study. If adult children were present in addition to dependent children, however, they were counted as members of the family.

Two parent family.

To qualify as a family for the purposes of this study, a couple must have had one or more dependent children. In this event, adult children (if present) were also counted in the family. However, a couple living with adult children only was not defined as a family for the purposes of this study.

Dependent children.

Persons present in the dwelling at the date of the Census and aged less than 16 years, or aged 16-18 years and still at school. Also included were those temporarily absent from the dwelling and aged less than 16 years.

Adult children.

Persons present in the dwelling at the date of the Census aged 19 years and over, or aged 16-18 years and not at school. Also included were those temporarily absent from the dwelling and over 15 years of age.

2.5 Variables

In extracting the tables from the Census files for this study, 16 variables were defined. These variables fell into four broad groupings, as follows:

Family Type

1. Number of parents
2. Number of dependent children
3. Age of youngest child

Demographic

4. Sex
5. Age
6. Education
7. Ethnicity
8. Marital status

Living Arrangements

9. Household type
10. Tenure of dwelling
11. Location of dwelling

Employment and Income

12. Hours employed
13. Employment status

14. Occupation
15. Income
16. Income support received

These variables were defined so as to correspond as closely as possible to the definitions used in the previous profile from the 1986 Census, thus allowing for comparability between the two profiles.

2.6 Education

The education variable defined for this study and the previous study has three categories. The first category contains all those who had completed a tertiary qualification. The second category contains those who had not gained a tertiary qualification, but had gained a secondary school qualification. A secondary qualification refers to completed courses only and may include one or two passes in School Certificate, a full pass in School Certificate, 6th Form Certificate, Matriculation, University Entrance, Higher School Certificate, Higher Leaving Certificate, University Bursary or Scholarship. A tertiary qualification means a qualification gained since leaving school, including all completed certificates, degrees or diplomas obtained, regardless of the nature of the qualification, i.e., educational, vocational or personal interest.

Those who have gained no secondary school or tertiary qualification form the third category in the tables. It should be noted that persons who did not specify whether they had a secondary, tertiary or no qualification are also included in this category. The inference was made that the absence of a qualification would have been the major reason for not responding to this Census question, and the close similarity of the "no qualification" and "not specified" groups on other characteristics supported this view.

2.7 Ethnicity

Four categories of ethnicity were defined for sole parents: European, Maori, Pacific Islands, and other. In cases of mixed ethnicity, the following rules were used: any person of Maori ethnicity was classified as a Maori. Any person who was not classified as Maori and who was of mixed ethnicity including Pacific Islands was classified as of Pacific Islands ethnicity. Those who were of mixed ethnicity excluding Maori and Pacific Islands were classified as being of "other" ethnicity. No one of mixed ethnicity (in terms of these categories) was classified as European.

The same basic classification was used for the ethnicity of parents in two parent families where both parents were of the same ethnicity. Where the parents were from different ethnic groups they were classified as "Maori and non-Maori" if one parent was Maori; as Pacific Islands if neither parent was Maori and one was of Pacific Islands ethnicity; and as "other" if neither parent was of Maori or Pacific Islands ethnicity. They were categorised as European only if both parents were of European ethnicity.

The same classification was also used for the ethnicity of the dependent children in the family. Where there were children of different ethnicity in the same family, then the same rules were applied as for parents of different ethnicity.

2.8 Marital Status

This variable has three categories: "never married", "separated/divorced" and "widowed". The Department of Social Welfare has another category in its DPB statistics, that of "living apart from de facto spouse". However, the Census classification of marital status uses the legal definition of marriage which excludes de facto relationships. Therefore, sole parents who became sole parents through the break up of de facto relationships, will be classified by their legal marital status. Judging by Census information on those in de facto relationships, in the majority of cases this is likely to be "never married".

2.9 Household Type

Five household types have been generated in the tables:

- i One family with dependent child/ren only
- ii One family with dependent and adult children
- iii One family with dependent children (with or without adult children), plus individual relatives
- iv One family with dependent children (with or without adult children), plus unrelated individuals
- v Two or more families

If a family lives in a household which does not include any other persons or families, then it will fall into one of the first two categories, as appropriate. If the household includes other person/s but not another family, then it will appear in either of categories iii or iv, as appropriate. If the household includes both relatives and non-relatives of the family, then it will appear in category iii. In any case where a household includes more than one family, regardless of whether the families are related and regardless of any other relatives and/or non-relatives who might also be living in the household, that household will appear in category v.

The definition of a family is somewhat broader with respect to the second family in a two family household than it is in the case of single family households. Married couples without dependent children and sole parents living with adult children only also qualify as second families for the purpose of defining two family households.

2.10 Tenure of Dwelling

This variable describes the nature of the tenure on the dwelling in which the family resides. The five categories of tenure are: owned with mortgage; owned without mortgage; rented privately; rented from a public authority; and rent free. Where a dwelling was owner-occupied, it does not necessarily follow that it was the sole parent who held the mortgage or freehold title.

2.11 Location of Dwelling

The location of dwellings was classified into rural and urban areas, with the urban areas being further classified into main, secondary and minor urban areas. These locations are defined as follows:

Main urban areas.

These are population centres of 30,000 or more encompassing a major city or borough and the suburban areas belonging to the centre.

Secondary urban areas.

These are defined in a similar way to main urban areas except that the population ranges between 10,000 and 29,999.

Minor urban areas.

All other towns with a population of 1,000 or more which are not included in a main or secondary urban area fall into this category.

Rural areas.

These comprise areas not classified as urban, including towns of less than 1,000 population, county territory not classified as urban, and extra-county islands.

2.12 Hours Employed

In the 1991 Census, hours employed were defined as the total usual hours worked in all jobs for wages, salary and other financial reward, including part-time and overtime hours. Hours worked in unpaid jobs were excluded except where a person was an unpaid worker in a family business. The definitions of part-time and full-time work pertaining in the tables are as follows:

Full-time work. 30 hours or more per week.

Part-time work. 1 to 29 hours per week.

2.13 Occupation of Parent

The classification of occupations derives from the New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations at the one digit (major group) level, with some categories combined. The full titles of the occupational categories which appear in the tables are:

- Professionals, technicians and associate professionals
- Legislators, administrators and managers
- Clerks
- Service and sales workers
- Agriculture and fishery workers
- Trades workers, plant and machine operators and assemblers
- Elementary occupations

2.14 Employment Status

The three categories for this variable are: employed; unemployed but seeking employment; and not in the labour force and not seeking employment. Persons "employed" are defined as those who stated an occupation on the Census questionnaire. The numbers of employed people have been calculated by aggregating the appropriate data from the occupation variable table. The definitions of "seeking employment" and "not in the labour force" are the same as used in the Census. The labour force consists of persons who regularly work for one or more hours per week for financial gain, or who are unemployed and seeking either full or part-time work, in accord with the definition used in the Census.

2.15 Income

The income question in the 1991 Census measured income before tax from all sources including wages, salary, Social Welfare payments, Family Support, Family Benefit, interest, dividends, rent, commission, fringe benefits, income in kind, business and farming income, Accident Compensation weekly payments, Bursary, Scholarship and superannuation received in the year ended 31 March 1991.

The income of each person was recorded in categories representing income ranges rather than in specific dollar amounts. To calculate the combined income of parenting couples, therefore, each range has been transformed into a single income figure by taking the mid-point of the range and the amounts thus arrived at for each partner aggregated to produce an estimate of their total income. This imputed dollar amount was then reallocated to the appropriate income range.

The grouped income data from the Census have been further grouped into four broad income ranges. These ranges are compared below with four benchmark measures of actual incomes in the 1990-91 year: Domestic Purposes Benefit, average earnings of women, overall average earnings, and average earnings of men. The categories were as follows:

Below \$15,000...	Sole Parent Benefits. (\$15,860 with one child in 12 months to 31 March 1991, before tax, including Family Support and Family Benefit)
\$15,000-\$20,000...	Below Total Average Earnings for Women. (\$24,123 averaged over 4 Quarterly Employment Surveys to Feb 1991)
\$20,000-\$30,000...	Total Average Earnings for All Persons. (\$28,824 averaged over 4 Quarterly Employment Surveys to Feb 1991)
Above \$30,000...	Total Average Earnings for Men. (\$32,544 averaged over 4 Quarterly Employment Surveys to Feb 1991)

2.16 Income Support Received

This variable describes the type of Social Welfare payment or other income support received by the sole parent (if any) during the 12 months prior to the Census. In the tables the following abbreviations have been used:

WB = Widow's Benefit

DPB = Domestic Purposes Benefit

UB = Unemployment Benefit

Sick/Invalid's = Sickness or Invalid's Benefit

ACC = Accident Compensation Corporation weekly payments

A comparison of Social Welfare and Census data by age groups provides strong evidence that some parents who were receiving DPB or WB at the time of the Census were not classified as sole parents in the Census family file. According to the 1991 Census, there were 37,977 sole parents aged 16-29 living in permanent or temporary private dwellings. Of these sole parents, 3,441 reported that they were employed full-time. According to Department of Social Welfare statistics, a total of 44,278 sole parents aged 16-29 were receiving DPB or WB as at 31 March 1991. Therefore, a minimum of 6,301 sole parent beneficiaries aged under 30 years were not identified by the Census as sole parents living in private dwellings. This number is possibly over 10,000, given that full-time employment is rarely compatible with receipt of DPB or WB. In 1986 a minimum of 2,104 sole parent beneficiaries aged under 30 were not identified by the Census, so the magnitude of the discrepancy increased between 1986 and 1991.

While some sole parents will have been living in non-private dwellings at the time of the Census, it is unlikely that more than a thousand or so were in this situation. Only 2% of the total population were in a hotel, motel, boarding house or motor camp on Census night in 1986 (figures have not been published for 1991), and most other types of non-private dwellings contained occupants less likely to be sole parents (such as the elderly, prisoners or student hostel residents). Another group not counted will be those who were temporarily overseas at the time of the Census, but again the number of sole parents in this category was probably small.

It seems likely that the Census under-estimated the sole parent population by several thousand. One factor which possibly contributed to this discrepancy is the fact that the definition of sole parent in the Census did not match the definition which operated in practice in the benefit system. The Census definition was based on usual family composition, including persons temporarily absent for less than three months. In cases where a relationship had recently broken down, a person may have been receiving DPB, but have classified their former partner as temporarily absent because of hopes of an eventual reconciliation.

When applications for DPB are assessed, information on the nature of relationships, living arrangements and degrees of parental responsibility is considered. This information is more

detailed than that collected in the Census, so an exact match between the populations would not be expected. Also there is some provision for DPB to be paid during the formative stage of a new relationship which may develop into a marriage type relationship, and this constitutes another source of difference between the two sets of figures.

It is possible that some people were receiving DPB incorrectly when they were not actually sole parents. In May 1987, a benefit amnesty was in force for a month. About 2,000 DPBs were surrendered during this period, although it is not known how many of these people had not actually been sole parents while receiving the benefit (some, for example, will have been sole parents in employment who were earning more than the allowable income).

However, the overall number of benefits surrendered does suggest that the number of people receiving DPB without entitlement may have made a significant contribution to this discrepancy, assuming that numbers had built up again since the amnesty. It also has to be assumed that these people reported their situation correctly in the Census, but not to the Department of Social Welfare.

In the 1991 Census, a total of 97,302 people reported receipt of the DPB at some time during the year before the Census. Of these, 70,032 were classified as sole parents in the Census (including 3,573 who were in full-time paid employment). Some 9,849 were classified as partnered parents caring for dependent children, 11,706 were classified as not caring for any dependent children, and the remaining 5,715 had an unknown parenting status.

The bulk of those in the last category can be assumed to have been sole parents. This confirms one reason for the discrepancy: many sole parents were not classified as such in the Census. The main reason that their parenting status was unknown was that they were not in their usual place of residence on Census night.

Of those 11,706 DPB recipients classified as not caring for any dependent children, many may have in fact been sole parents. One parent families could not always be identified as such if they were living with others and if relationships within the household were unclear. For example, a household consisting of a couple, their two adult children and a grandchild would not have been coded in the Census as including a sole parent unless one of the adult children was identifiable as the parent of the grandchild.

Two categories of DPB do not involve caring for dependent children ("women alone" and "care of sick or infirm"). There were 3,472 beneficiaries in these two categories as at 31 March 1991, and they would have been included amongst the 11,706 classified as not caring for dependent children.

Also, many of the DPB recipients not classified as sole parents, particularly many of those classified as partnered parents of dependent children, may have received DPB within the past year, but may not have been beneficiaries at the time of the Census. Repartnering is the most common reason for the cessation of a DPB: Some 24,259 DPBs ceased in the year ended 31 March 1991.

Whatever the source of this discrepancy between Census and Social Welfare data, it makes for difficulties in estimating the proportion of the sole parent population who were reliant on benefits, as will be seen in the next section.

Chapter 3

TRENDS IN THE NUMBERS AND CHARACTERISTICS OF SOLE PARENT FAMILIES FROM 1976 TO 1991

3.1 A Note on the Figures

This section examines trends in the number and characteristics of sole parent families with dependent children, by comparing data from the 1976, 1981, 1986 and 1991 Censuses. The results reported in this section draw on Tables 1 to 12 in the Appendix.

The figures in these tables are subject to some uncertainty due to the likelihood that some sole parents aged under 30 were omitted from the Census file (as noted in the preceding Section 2.16 of the report). Around 16,000 more people were receiving sole parent benefits at the time of the 1991 Census than were identified as eligible sole parents in the Census. It is likely that some of these people were not actually sole parents and were receiving the benefit without entitlement, but there is also reason to believe that some were genuine sole parents who were missed by the Census.

This means that estimates of the number and proportion of sole parent families in the total population, the proportion of the sole parent population who are receiving benefits, and the size of the non-beneficiary sole parent population are subject to some uncertainty.

The analysis of the characteristics of sole parent families may also have been affected if those families which were omitted from the Census had a markedly dissimilar character to the bulk of sole parent families which were included in the Census. If such a dissimilarity existed, this would also have affected the trends reported here, especially if the dissimilarity varied in nature between Census enumerations.

It has not been possible to make any corrections for these problems so that the numbers and trends presented in the tables should be regarded as indicative approximations only.

3.2 Incidence of Sole Parenthood

Over the four Censuses 1976, 1981, 1986 and 1991, the number of sole parent families increased absolutely and as a proportion of the total number of families with dependent children.

Between 1976 and 1981 the number of sole parents rose from 46,000 to 61,000; an increase of approximately 15,000 or 32%. Between 1981 and 1986 the number increased at a slightly higher rate, by approximately 21,000 (34%), to 82,000. Between 1986 and 1991 the number also increased by 34%, to 110,000, an increase of approximately 28,000. Over the whole 1976-91 period, the number of sole parents grew by an average of 6% per year. This produced an overall increase of 64,000 or 137%.

As a proportion of total families with children, sole parent families also increased from 10% in 1976 to 13% in 1981, 18% in 1986, and 24% in 1991.

On 1 April 1991, four weeks after the Census, benefit rates were reduced as part of a package of welfare reforms. Since the reforms were announced in December 1990, the number of current Domestic Purposes Benefits has remained relatively stable. This represents a dramatic change, since the number of DPBs had previously grown steadily by about 10% each year since the 1970s.

It is not known what effect this change has had on the total sole parent population since 1991. The number of applications for DPB has not decreased, but the rate at which people go off DPB has increased, which has kept the total number of DPBs from growing. This could mean either that a reduced proportion of sole parents now receive DPB, or else that the total sole parent population has also stabilised in numbers. It may be that a combination of these two factors is operating, with increased numbers of sole parents leaving DPB to re-partner and also increased numbers leaving DPB to take up full-time paid employment.

Whatever the situation, it cannot be assumed that the rate of growth in the sole parent population recorded over 1976-1991 has continued to the present day or will continue in the future. The 1996 Census results will be of particular interest, given the stalling of the growth in DPB numbers and the uncertainty of the effect of this on the total sole parent population.

3.3 Proportion of Sole Parents on Benefit

As described in the previous report, Census figures underestimated the number of sole parents receiving Domestic Purposes and Widow's Benefit in 1976, 1981 and 1986. The 1991 Census figures also underestimated the number of sole parents receiving DPB by about 23,000.

Part of the discrepancy could be explained by the 6,300 or more (possibly over 10,000) sole parent families not represented in the 1991 Census file (see the preceding Section 2.16).

A degree of under-reporting in the responses to the Census questionnaire is another contributing factor. Department of Social Welfare figures show 97,381 DPBs current as at 31 March 1991, while 24,259 DPBs ceased in the year prior to that date. There will be some overlap between these two figures because some of those who were in current receipt of DPB will also have gone off DPB previously during the 1990-91 year. The maximum number of people who received DPB during 1990-91 was 121,640 therefore, but the actual number would have been less than that by an unknown amount.

The number of persons reporting receipt of DPB in the 1990-91 year in the Census was 97,302. When compared with the maximum number above, a considerable degree of under-reporting seems likely.

While the Social Welfare figures may have been affected by errors in statistical collection or by fraud, it is unlikely that these errors were of the same magnitude as the various factors, such as omissions from the Census file and under-reporting, which affected the Census figures. Overall, it is considered that departmental records provide better estimates of the number of sole parent beneficiaries than do the Census tables. Figures in Tables 2a, 2b and 3 cover only those sole parents who were receiving Domestic Purposes Benefits or Widow's Benefits, and exclude sole parent beneficiaries who were receiving income support through other benefits such as Unemployment Benefit.

Social Welfare records indicate that the number of sole parents receiving DPB or WB more than trebled between 1976 and 1991, from 27,688 to 97,420. The average annual increase was 9%. As a proportion of all sole parents recorded by the Census the beneficiary population also expanded. In 1976 the proportion was already quite large: well over half (60%) of sole parents were collecting either Domestic Purposes or Widow's Benefits. In 1986 more than three quarters of sole parents (77%) were receiving these benefits, and by 1991 this proportion had risen to 89%.

An estimate of the number of non-beneficiary sole parents can be calculated by subtracting the number of sole parents on Domestic Purposes or Widow's Benefits from the total number of sole parents. Table 3 shows that this estimated non-beneficiary sole parent population changed very little (only a fraction of a percent) between the 1976-1986 Census years, giving the impression of stability. However, for 1991 this calculation yielded a much lower number, so the very similar results obtained for the previous three Censuses may have been coincidental to some extent. Also, it should be noted that sole parents in receipt of ACC weekly payments or benefits other than DPB or Widow's Benefits were included in the non-beneficiary population by this definition.

In the previous report, the apparent stability in the "non-beneficiary" population allowed the series to be projected forward. This was done up to 1991 in line with the compound average growth rate for the previous five year period. Since the number of sole parents receiving Domestic Purposes or Widow's Benefit was already known for these years from the annual reports of the Department of Social Welfare, estimates of the total number of sole parents were derived by summing the two quantities.

The sole parent population in March 1991 was estimated by this method to have been approximately 115,700. This was higher than the actual number of 110,055 measured by the 1991 Census.

However, because not all of those who received the DPB in 1991 as sole parents were included in the Census sole parent population (as previously noted), the 1991 Census count may be an underestimate, and the estimate in the previous report may be closer to the true figure.

Using the above methodology, the estimated number of non-beneficiary sole parents decreased from around eighteen and a half thousand during 1976-86 to about twelve and a half thousand in 1991. The number and proportion of sole parents receiving Widow's Benefit declined from 6,389 (14%) in 1976, to 5,264 (9%) in 1981, 3,897 (5%) in 1986, and 3,511 (3%) in 1991. Therefore, the increase in the number of DPB beneficiaries appeared to account for the whole increase in total sole parent numbers.

However, given the partial mis-match between the beneficiary and Census populations, it should be concluded only that the increase in DPB numbers accounted for the great majority of the increase in sole parent numbers. The proportion of sole parents receiving DPB increased from 46% in 1976 to 61% in 1981, 73% in 1986, and 85% in 1991. If the number of sole parents who received Domestic Purposes, Widows, Unemployment, Sickness, Invalids' or Training Benefit are combined they account for 94% of the sole parent population counted by the Census in 1991. This estimate of benefit take-up rate is too high because it doesn't take account of those sole parents not counted in the Census. The true rate is likely to be between 79% (the proportion of sole parents not in full-time employment) and 94%. A take-up rate in the range 80-85% seems most likely.

The increasing rate of benefit take-up in New Zealand was in contrast to the trend in Australia, where the benefit take-up rate amongst sole parents rose from 57% in 1974 to a peak of 84% in 1986, but then declined to 69% by 1990. This decline in take-up rate was associated with an increasing rate of labour force participation amongst sole parents in Australia since the mid-1980s, also in contrast to the trend in New Zealand.

3.4 Marital Status
A majority of sole parents were separated/divorced. In 1991, about 60,000 or 56% of sole parents fell into this category. A lesser number (36%) had never been married, and the smallest number of sole parents fell into the "widowed" category (8%).

The numbers of sole parents reporting widowed status declined from around 11,000 in 1976 to 9,000 in 1986, and 8,000 in 1991. Over the same period, the total number of sole parents increased by 137% from 46,000 odd to 110,000. Hence, as a proportion of all sole parents, the widowed group has shrunk, falling from one in four to about one in thirteen.

The increase in the number of never married sole parents also seems remarkable. In each intercensal period the number approximately doubled, increasing eightfold over the fifteen years between 1976 and 1991 from around 4,500 to over 38,000. In 1976 one out of every ten sole parents had never been legally married. In 1991 the figure was more than one out of three. The population of never married sole parents increased by 82% between 1986 and 1991, compared with a 16% increase in the population of all other sole parents.

The Census classification of marital status is based on the legal definition of marriage. Sole parents who had previously been living in a de facto relationship are thus often classified as "never married". Using Department of Social Welfare benefit statistics, it is possible to break down further the never married group into those who were previously living in a de facto relationship ("living apart from de facto") and those who were not previously living in a de facto relationship ("unmarried"). The statistics show that, of those sole parents who received DPB, the proportion who were "living apart from de facto" has more than trebled (from 7% in 1977 to 24% in 1991) while the proportion who were "unmarried" has risen more slowly (from 21% in 1977 to 26% in 1991). It is likely, therefore, that the increasing proportion of never married sole parents reported in the Census tables resulted mainly from the expansion of the "living apart from de facto" sub-group.

Little is known about the demographic characteristics of this sub-group from the benefit statistics. One characteristic on which information is available is age. At 31 March 1985, the average age of the

sub-group "living apart from de facto" (27 years) was similar to the "unmarried" sub-group (25 years). This is consistent with the 1991 Census tables, where the under-30s predominate among never married sole parents (see Table 43). Yet, in another obvious respect, namely the formation of sole parent families through the breakup of relationships, those "living apart from de facto" more closely resemble separated/divorced sole parents (who are concentrated on the other side of 30 years of age). The growth of this sub-group may reflect an underlying trend for increasing numbers of young people to live in de facto relationships.

3.5 Number of Dependent Children

Table 5 shows that there was a clear swing toward smaller one parent families between 1976 and 1991. The biggest families ("five or more" children) declined most as a proportion of all sole parent families. Four child families declined by a lesser degree, as did three child families. The proportion of two child families was fairly stable, and the number and proportion of one child families increased markedly. In 1991, the majority of sole parent families (53%) included only one dependent child, compared with 45% in 1976. While 30% of sole parents had two dependent children in 1991, only 16% had more than two dependent children (down from 24% in 1976).

3.6 Age of Youngest Child

The age distribution of youngest children did not change markedly over the 1976-86 period, but between 1986 and 1991 there was a marked rise of seven percentage points in the proportion of sole parents with a child aged less than five years, from 35% to 42%. The population of sole parents with children aged 0-4 years increased by 64% between 1986 and 1991, compared with an increase of 19% in the population of sole parents with a youngest child aged 5 years or over.

3.7 Housing Tenure

In 1976, 54% of sole parents lived in owner-occupied homes, while 44% were renting, and 2% lived rent-free. In subsequent Censuses these proportions remained virtually unchanged. Within the former category, however, there was an increase in the proportion living in homes owned with mortgages (from 37% to 43%) and a corresponding decrease in the proportion living in homes owned outright (from 17% down to 11%) between 1976 and 1991. This might be explained by the decrease (noted earlier) in the proportion of widowed sole parents, who were more likely to own mortgage-free homes. Among the whole population of sole parents over the period 1976-1991, a home owned with a mortgage was the most common housing situation.

In 1981, a greater proportion of sole parents lived in public rental accommodation (25%) than in private rental accommodation (21%). In 1986, the same proportion were in private rental accommodation, and there was a small decrease in the proportion in public rental accommodation—from 25 to 23 percent. However, in 1991 the proportion in public rental accommodation increased to 24 percent, while the proportion in private rental accommodation decreased to 20%.

3.8 Household Type

By far the greatest number of sole parents live in households with their dependent children only and with no other families, relatives, or unrelated persons present. This was true of a little over half of sole parent families in each Census year.

Between 1976 and 1991, there was no clear trend in the changes in household types, except for a steady decrease in the proportion of "one family, dependent and adult children" from 15% in 1981 to 10% in 1991.

Between 1986 and 1991 "one parent and dependent children" households increased from 56% to 58% of the total, and "one family, and unrelated individuals" also experienced a relative increase, from 9% to 12%.

There were small decreases in the "two family" and "more than two family" household types between 1986 and 1991.

3.9 Location of Dwelling

There were some changes in the geographic distribution of sole parent families over the 1976-1991 period. There was a steady decline in the proportion of one parent families living in Auckland (from 30% to 27%). This was reflected by a steady increase in the proportion living in other urban areas (from 59% to 63%). The proportion living in rural areas did not show a consistent trend, with a decrease between 1976 and 1981 being followed by a small rise between 1981 and 1986, then a small decrease between 1986 and 1991.

3.10 Ethnicity

Between 1976 and 1991, there was substantial change in the ethnic distribution (as defined in Section 2.7) of sole parents. As a proportion of all sole parents, the biggest ethnic group, Europeans, fell from 76% to 62%. The proportion of sole parents of Maori ethnicity rose markedly from 19% to 29%. The number of Pacific Islands sole parents increased sixfold, from 1,290 to 7,959, although these numbers were relatively small, representing an increase from 3% to 7% of the total population of sole parents. Between 1986 and 1991 the percentage increases in the sole parent ethnic group populations were 21% for Europeans, 51% for Maori and 81% for the Pacific Islands sole parent population. The "Other" ethnic group remained constant at only 2% of sole parents throughout the 1976-1991 period, the only category which showed no relative change.

The marked increase in the proportion of sole parents who were Maori is also apparent when population-adjusted rates of sole parenthood are calculated for the Maori and non-Maori populations aged 15 and over, and was not simply due to an increase in the proportion of Maori of parenting age in the general population. (In 1976 8.5% of the population 15 years and over was Maori; in 1991 the figure was 10.5%.) Table 11 shows that between 1976 and 1991 the population-adjusted rate of sole parenthood among both Maoris and non-Maoris increased. Yet, among Maori it had increased by 146%, while among non-Maori it had increased by 77%. The Maori rate of 47 sole parents for every thousand persons aged 15 and over was already relatively high in 1976—2.5 times that in the non-Maori population. In 1991 it was considerably higher again—116 per thousand adult population—and it had increased to 3.5 times the non-Maori rate.

3.11 Sex

Over the 1976-1986 period the population of sole fathers grew at a slower rate than the population of sole mothers, so the proportion of male sole parents decreased, from 16% in 1976, to 14% in 1981 and 13% in 1986. In 1991 there was a notable increase to 16%, reversing the previous trend and restoring the proportion to that found in 1976. The population of sole fathers increased by 59% between 1986 and 1991, compared with a 28% increase in the population of sole mothers. The reason for this reversal of relative growth rates is not known.

3.12 Hours Employed

In 1991, for the first time, a majority of sole fathers were not in full-time paid employment. The trend toward a relative decline in full-time employment of sole fathers and an increase in the proportion who were not employed is evident over the whole fifteen years covered by this study. In 1976, 81% of sole fathers were employed for 30 hours or more per week, compared with 74% in 1981, 61% in 1986, and 44% in 1991. The proportion who were not employed increased from 17% in 1976 to 24% in 1981, then to 35% in 1986 and to 52% in 1991. The number of sole fathers employed part-time (1-29 hours per week) is noteworthy for its smallness—it remained at 2 to 4 percent in each Census from 1976 to 1991.

The majority of sole mothers were not in paid employment, and the trend was toward an increase in the proportion who were not employed. In 1976, 60% were not employed, and this increased to

65% in 1981, 68% in 1986, and 73% in 1991. Unlike sole fathers a significant proportion of female sole parents were in part-time employment, although the proportion had declined from 15% in 1976 to 11% in 1991. A much smaller proportion of women than men were employed for 30 hours or more per week: 25% in 1976, 22% in both 1981 and 1986, and 17% in 1991.

The decline in rates of employment of both sole mothers and sole fathers needs to be considered in the context of a more general trend of rising unemployment and a decline in the availability of jobs. The 1976-91 period saw a significant increase in the overall rate of unemployment in New Zealand.

Although declining as a proportion of all sole parents, the number of sole parents employed full-time grew from 15,440 in 1976 to 17,630 in 1981, to 21,981 in 1986, and then to 23,109 in 1991. This is in contrast to the estimates of the non-beneficiary sole parent population, which declined by nearly six thousand between 1986 and 1991 (see Section 3.3 and Table 3). However, trends in the non-beneficiary population were not necessarily identical to trends in the full-time employed population, because not all non-beneficiary sole parents were employed full-time.

The number of non-beneficiary sole parents who were not employed full-time may have declined in tandem with the decline in the widowed sole parent population. There is evidence, presented later in Section 6.4, that widowed sole parents were more likely to be neither employed full-time nor receiving a benefit, with some receiving ACC payments instead. Their relative decline may have offset, to some extent, the increase in the number of sole parents who were employed full-time.

Nevertheless, the apparent sharp decline in the non-beneficiary population between 1986 and 1991 cannot be explained solely by the decline in the widowed sole parent population. It was probably due largely to an increase in the number of sole parents not counted in the Census. In other words, the Census count understated the number of sole parents to a greater degree in 1991 than in 1986.

Since 1986 there has been a big increase in the number of sole parents receiving benefits other than DPB or Widows Benefits. As at 31 March 1991, there were 5,872 sole parents receiving Unemployment, Invalids, Sickness or Training Benefits, with 4,535 of these receiving Unemployment Benefits. This number of sole parents receiving Unemployment Benefits compares with 628 in March 1983 and 1,825 in March 1988. Unemployment Benefit is now more important than Widows Benefit as a source of income for sole parents.

If all the beneficiary sole parents counted by the Department of Social Welfare as at 31 March 1991 are subtracted from the 1991 Census population, an apparent non-beneficiary population of only 6,760 sole parents is the result. This is difficult to reconcile with the 23,109 sole parents in the Census who were in full-time paid employment. This is further evidence of the extent to which the beneficiary population and the Census enumeration of sole parents do not overlap. Given this difficulty, the best estimate of the non-beneficiary sole parent population may be the number who were in full-time paid employment.

COMPARISONS BETWEEN ONE PARENT AND TWO PARENT FAMILIES

4.1 One and Two Parent Families

One in every four families was a sole parent family in 1991. One parent families made up 24% of all families with dependent children, the other 76% being two parent families. All families were classified as either one or two parent families, although either family may have been part of an extended family household (where other adults may also have had parenting roles). This section compares the characteristics of one and two parent families, drawing on Tables 13 to 27 in the Appendix. These tables all relate to the 1991 Census, so that all of the following findings (except where otherwise indicated) are for the year 1991.

4.2 Ethnicity of Families

According to the Census, 79% of the total population belonged solely to the European ethnic group. Families in which the parents were of solely European ethnicity made up 62% of sole parent families and 74% of two parent families (where both parents were of solely European ethnicity). A sole parent was more likely than a parent in a two parent family to be Maori (29% and 11% respectively were Maori). However, comparisons between one and two parent families in terms of ethnicity are complicated by the high incidence of intermarriage between ethnic groups. For example, in both 1986 and 1991 families with two Maori parents were outnumbered by families with one Maori parent and one non-Maori parent.

It is of some interest to know what proportion of Maori families are one parent families, but in order to do this it was first necessary to define a "Maori family". The definition adopted here for the purposes of this study is as follows: a family with children was considered to be a Maori family if the children were of Maori ethnicity, or if at least one child was of Maori ethnicity (in cases where children in the same family belonged to different ethnic groups).

In published Census tables which use ethnicity as a variable, families are classified by the ethnicity of the parents. By basing family ethnicity on the ethnicity of the children rather than the ethnicity of the parents, the definition used here avoids the problem of a two parent family changing ethnicity from Maori to non-Maori on becoming a one parent family (when the absent or deceased parent is Maori, and the remaining parent is non-Maori). It is desirable to have a definition of family ethnicity which remains constant through any transition from two parent to one parent status, so that the relative proportions of one and two parent families can be calculated for different ethnic groups.

Using the above definition, it was calculated that 44% of all Maori families with children were one parent families in 1991. This compares with 32% of Pacific Islands families, 18% of European families and 14% of families of other ethnic origin (these families are also defined by the ethnicity of the children).

In 1986 an estimated 34% of Maori families were one parent families, and the increase to 44% in five years raises the question of whether this proportion will increase further in the future. In the United States, 55% of African American families were one parent families in 1988, showing that the Maori rate is not the highest in the world. However, if it continues to increase as it did between 1986 and 1991, the majority of Maori families will be one parent families within a few years.

In the 1991 Census a new question asked whether people had any Maori ancestry. Results from this question show that in 24% of all families there were children of Maori ancestry and in 65% of all families children were of European ethnicity only. By comparison, in 39% of all one parent families there were children of Maori ancestry, while in 47% children were of European ethnicity only.

While this wider definition includes children who were of Maori descent but were not identified by their parents as belonging to the Maori ethnic group, the figures underline the importance of

ensuring that social policy which concerns one parent families is appropriate to Maori people. By the narrower definition, 37% of all one parent families included children belonging to the Maori ethnic group, compared with 15% of all two parent families. In 21% of all families there were children belonging to the Maori ethnic group.

The proportion of sole parents who were of Pacific Islands ethnicity (7%) indicates an over-representation of this ethnic group among the sole parent population, but not to the same extent as for Maori. In the 1991 Census, 5% of all persons aged 15-59 years were of Pacific Islands ethnicity. Of all two parent families, 5% included at least one parent of Pacific Islands ethnicity.

By the children's ethnicity, the figures were the same: 7% of all one parent families and 5% of all two parent families included children of Pacific Islands ethnicity. About one in every three Pacific Islands families was a one parent family in 1991 (32%). An 81% increase in the number of Pacific Islands sole parents between 1986 and 1991 (compared with a 28% increase in the total Pacific Islands population) suggests that the incidence of one parent families among the Pacific Islands population has increased considerably in that period.

Sole parents of "Other" ethnic origin were under-represented at 2%, compared with 5% of two parent families where at least one parent was of "Other" ethnicity. By the children's ethnicity, 2% of all one parent families and 4% of all two parent families included children of "Other" ethnicity. At 14%, the proportion of families of "Other" ethnicity who were one parent families was the lowest proportion of any ethnic group. The majority of those in this "Other" category were of Chinese, Indian or South East Asian ethnicity. A lower rate of marriage breakdown and a lower rate of extramarital births may therefore be indicated for these ethnic groups.

4.3 Number and Age of Children

Mowbray and Khan (1983) found that one parent families, on average, had older and fewer children than two parent families in 1981. This was also true in 1986 and 1991. In 1991, sole parents were more likely to have only one child than two parent families (53% and 34% respectively). While sole parents still had older children in 1991 than two parent families (on average), the difference in 1991 was not as great as in 1986.

In 1986, children of pre-school age (0-4 years) were present in 41% of two parent families, compared with 35% of one parent families. In 1991, children of pre-school age were present in 45% of two parent families, compared with 42% of one parent families. Over the 1986-1991 period, therefore, there was an increase in the proportion of families with pre-school aged children among both family types, but the gap between them narrowed from six to three percentage points.

By 1991, the distribution of age of youngest children in one parent families was similar to that which had applied in two parent families in 1986. It may be that as the number of one parent families increases, they resemble two parent families more in terms of family structure.

4.4 Rate of Employment

One of the greatest differences between one and two parent families is the rate of paid employment of the parents, and consequently the income sources of the family. It is likely that a majority of two parent families had two sources of labour force income, with 86% of fathers and 58% of mothers engaged in paid employment either full-time or part-time. In contrast, only a minority of sole parents had any labour force income, with just 31% engaged in paid employment (either full-time or part-time).

Sex differences in the number of paid hours worked are evident in both types of family. A much higher proportion of fathers than of mothers were employed full-time in both one and two parent families. These sex differences can be related to traditional sex roles and the particular difficulties faced by mothers in the labour force, such as lack of affordable childcare and occupational segregation. However, both sole mothers and sole fathers had rates of employment which were substantially lower than partnered mothers and partnered fathers respectively. This has not always

been the case (at least for sole mothers), as a comparison with 1976 and 1981 Census figures shows. The following table is based on figures presented in the report "Solo Parents, Benefits and Employment" described in the introduction to this report, with comparable 1986 and 1991 figures added.

Table A:
Trends in Parents' Employment 1976-1991

<i>Census</i>	<i>%Employed 20 Hours Per Week or More</i>			
	<i>Sole Mothers (%)</i>	<i>Partnered Mothers (%)</i>	<i>Sole Fathers (%)</i>	<i>Partnered Fathers (%)</i>
1976	31	29	82	97
1981	26	34	75	95
1986	26	41	63	91
1991	20	43	46	85

In 1976 sole mothers had a slightly higher rate of paid employment than partnered mothers, but in 1981 this situation was reversed and by 1991 the gap had widened to 23 percentage points. The gap between the employment rates of sole fathers and partnered fathers also widened over the fifteen year period, from 15 to 39 percentage points. This indicates an increasing tendency for both mothers and fathers to reduce their paid labour force participation upon becoming sole parents, given that most one parent families were originally two parent families.

Table 17 shows that, in 1991, 27% of mothers in two parent families were working part-time (less than 30 hours a week), but only 11% of sole mothers worked part-time. Of those mothers who were employed, sole mothers were less likely to be employed part-time than partnered mothers, and more likely to be employed full-time. Of those mothers who were not in employment, sole mothers were more likely than mothers in two parent families to be seeking employment (16% compared with 10%). Factors associated with sole parents' employment are examined later in this report.

4.5 Income

Given the differences in rates of paid employment, it might be expected that sole parent income would be much lower, on average, than the combined income of two parents, and this was indeed the case. When comparing the incomes of one and two parent families, it should be borne in mind that sole parent families have fewer children on average, as well as one less adult, to be supported by the family income. A more detailed comparison should take this into account through some technical adjustment to the data, for example by applying an equivalence scale to the income data. As this was not done in this study, the comparison is only broadly indicative.

To put the reported annual income figures in context, \$20,000 was below average female earnings and \$30,000 was above overall average earnings, but below average male earnings in 1990-91. Whereas 82% of sole parents reported an income below \$20,000, this was the case for only 13% of two parent families (when both incomes were combined). For 68% of two parent families the parents' income was above \$30,000, compared with just 7% of one parent families. Even without the application of an equivalence scale, it is clear that two parent families were generally in a better financial position than one parent families. Given their income distribution, one parent families can be expected to form a large proportion of those families which experience financial difficulties.

4.6 Education

The tables show that partnered parents, both female and male, had gained more formal qualifications than those who were sole parents. Some 38% of mothers in two parent families, for instance, had a tertiary qualification and 31% had no qualification, against only 27% of sole mothers who had a tertiary qualification and 49% who had no qualification.

By comparison, half of the total of fathers in two parent families (51%) had completed a tertiary qualification and 30% had no qualification, while 34% of sole fathers had a tertiary qualification and 49% had no qualification. Within each of the sole parent and partnered parent populations, fathers were more likely to have a tertiary qualification than mothers. However, mothers in two parent families were more likely to have a tertiary qualification than either mothers or fathers in one parent families.

Although the proportion of sole parents with an educational qualification increased from 45% in 1986 to 51% in 1991, the proportion of partnered parents with an educational qualification increased also (from 62% to 69%), so the gap between sole parents and partnered parents has actually increased slightly.

4.7 Occupation Type

The type of occupation held by parents who were employed was examined. Broadly similar distributions of occupation types were found when sole and partnered mothers were compared. One of the biggest differences amongst mothers was that sole mothers were less likely to have a job in the area of agriculture or fishing (4% compared with 9% of partnered mothers). This undoubtedly relates to the more urban distribution of sole parents (see Section 4.8). Despite the fact that sole mothers were less likely to have secondary or higher educational qualifications, sole mothers who were in employment were not noticeably more likely to be employed in lower skilled occupations.

A higher proportion of sole fathers (10%) than partnered fathers (6%) had an elementary occupation, while a lower proportion (32% compared with 41%) were professionals, technicians, administrators or managers. Unlike sole mothers, therefore, there is evidence that employed sole fathers were more likely to be found in lower skilled occupations.

4.8 Location

Almost three-quarters of the sole parent population (72%) was living in the main urban areas, compared with two thirds (66%) of two parent families, so sole parents were more likely to live in a main urban area. However, it was the minor urban areas (towns with a population between 1,000 and 10,000) which had the highest concentration of one parent families, 28% of all families living in such centres being one parent families. By contrast, one parent families made up just 15% of all rural families. Only 10% of one parent families (compared with 18% of two parent families) were living in rural areas.

Either people were more likely to become sole parents in urban areas, or else sole parents in rural areas had a tendency to move to urban areas upon becoming sole parents. The high concentration in small towns may be a result of sole parents moving there from surrounding rural areas. Accommodation costs may also be a factor, since these are likely to be lower on average in small towns than in large urban centres.

4.9 Household Type

When household type was examined, it emerged that 92% of two parent families, as against 67% of one parent families, were living in parents-and-children-only households. One parent families were thus more likely to reside with other people, either relatives or non-relatives, or with other families. This is perhaps related to the fact that 44% of sole parents were living in rented accommodation, compared with 16% of two parent families. Sharing a rental dwelling is one way in which those on lower incomes can reduce their housing costs. Another factor may be the different ethnic composition of the two family types. Maori and Pacific Islands families are more likely to share their households with other relatives for cultural as well as economic reasons.

4.10 Housing Tenure

Between 1986 and 1991 the proportion of one parent families in publicly rented accommodation increased from 23% to 24%, whereas for two parent families the proportion decreased from 8% to

6%. These divergent trends may be related to moves to target public housing assistance more tightly to those on low incomes. Since most one-parent families have markedly lower incomes, they are more likely to meet any low income criteria than two parent families. For both family types the proportion in privately rented accommodation decreased by one percentage point between 1986 and 1991, from 21% to 20% for one parent families, and from 10% to 9% for two parent families.

On the other hand, 81% of two parent families and 54% of sole parents were living in owner-occupied housing in 1991, with or without mortgages. The proportion of two parent families in mortgage-free homes increased from 13% to 17% between 1986 and 1991, whereas for sole parents there was a decrease from 13% to 11%. It should be borne in mind that 13% of sole parents were living in multi-family households (compared with 2% of two parent families), and in those situations the sole parent was often not the owner of an owner-occupied dwelling.

Table 18.4

Table 18.4 shows the percentage of one parent families and two parent families living in owner-occupied housing with or without mortgages in 1986 and 1991. The proportion of two parent families in mortgage-free homes increased from 13% to 17% between 1986 and 1991, whereas for sole parents there was a decrease from 13% to 11%. It should be borne in mind that 13% of sole parents were living in multi-family households (compared with 2% of two parent families), and in those situations the sole parent was often not the owner of an owner-occupied dwelling.

Table 18.4

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A PROFILE OF SOLE PARENTS BY ETHNICITY

5.1 A Note on Sole Parents of "Other" Ethnicity

The following section sketches out profiles of sole parents of European ethnicity, of Maori ethnicity, and of Pacific Islands ethnicity. It draws on Tables 28 to 42 in the Appendix, which, again, all come from the 1991 Census. Sole parents classified as being of "Other" ethnicity were a heterogeneous group, and easily the smallest group. For these reasons, sole parents of "Other" ethnicity were not profiled separately. When considering the profiles described below, it should be remembered that the ethnicity of children living in sole parent households may differ from that of the parent. These profiles are based on the recorded ethnicity of the sole parent, so that they cannot be regarded as describing the ethnicity of the family as a whole.

5.2 Sole Parents of European Ethnicity

The sole parent population of solely European ethnicity comprised 66,300 individuals, just over three-fifths (62%) of all sole parents in the 1991 Census.

Nearly three-quarters of these sole parents were aged over 30 years at the time of the Census. The age distribution was quite peaked, with two-fifths (41%) of all European sole parents being aged between 30 and 39 years of age, and another quarter in each of the 20-29 and 40-49 year age groups. Only 3% of the sole parents were under twenty years of age.

As might be expected from the age distribution, most (65%) of these sole parents were separated or divorced, while another 7% were widowed. The proportion recorded as never married (28%) was smaller than the figure (49%) for sole parents who were not in the European ethnic group. However, the interpretation of these figures is complicated by the exclusion of de facto relationships from the Census definition of marriage, so that some sole parents recorded as "never married" will have come from broken de facto relationships.

Sole parents of European ethnicity tended to have only one (56%) or two (31%) dependent children. Most of these children were of school age, since only 36% of youngest children were aged less than five years.

While 64% of these sole parents lived in households with dependent children only living with them, another 10% had both adult and dependent children living with them. The quarter who did not live in a one-family-only household were most likely to be sharing their accommodation with unrelated individuals (12%), while smaller numbers shared with other families (8%) or with other relatives (5%).

The majority of European sole parents (61%) lived in an owner-occupied dwelling, although many (49%) of these properties were mortgaged. Of those who were living in rental accommodation, a greater proportion were in private rather than in public rental accommodation. The proportion who lived in public rental accommodation was slightly higher among those sole parents who had never married, while the proportion who lived in an owner-occupied dwelling was greater among those who had been widowed. Sole parents of European ethnicity were most likely to be living in a main urban area (72%), with 22% living in the Auckland urban areas. However, European sole parents made up only 51% of all sole parents living in the Auckland urban areas, a lower proportion than in any other category of location.

Sole parents of European ethnicity were more likely to have formal educational qualifications than sole parents of Maori or Pacific Islands ethnicity. Just over a third (35%) had a tertiary qualification,

while a quarter (25%) had a secondary qualification. The remaining 40% were without any educational qualification.

While the proportion having a tertiary qualification may seem high, these sole parents actually had lower levels of educational qualifications than other individuals of similar age who were not sole parents. For example, 45% of all individuals between 25 and 44 years of age had a tertiary qualification in 1991. If the age range is extended to all individuals aged between 20 and 59 years, then the proportion with a tertiary qualification drops to 42%. This figure can be broken down to 37% for women and 46% for men, but both figures are still above the 35% figure for sole parents of European origin.

About half (51%) of the sole parents of European ethnicity were not in the labour force and not actively looking for work, while an additional 11% were unemployed and seeking work. The other 38% were in paid employment. Census records indicate that 65% of the European sole parents had received Domestic Purposes Benefit at some time in the year preceding the Census. However, as noted earlier (in the Methodology section), Census records may under-estimate numbers in the sole parent beneficiary population.

Sole parents of European ethnicity who were employed at the time of the Census were most likely to be in a professional/technical (29%) or clerical (20%) occupation. Service and sales occupations (17%) were also fairly common amongst the European sole parents who were employed. Some 32% of those who were employed at the time of the 1991 Census worked part-time (less than 30 hours), while 68% were working full-time.

5.3 Sole Parents of Maori Ethnicity

Sole parents of mixed ethnicity who reported any Maori ethnicity, together with those of exclusively Maori ethnicity, were classified as being of Maori ethnicity. The 1991 Census recorded that 31,509 sole parents were of Maori ethnicity using this definition, comprising more than a quarter (29%) of all sole parents.

The proportion of Maori sole parents who had never married (53%) was higher than the proportion who were separated or divorced (39%), although those recorded as never married may have been separated from a de facto partner. The remaining 9% had been widowed. The proportion who had never married was considerably higher than among the European sole parent population (28%). This was partially due to age differences in the two populations, but Maori sole parents were more likely to have never married regardless of age. For example, in the 30-39 year age group, 39% of Maori sole parents had never married compared with 18% of European sole parents. It should be noted that Maori have different cultural norms and attitudes in relation to de facto and de jure marriages. De facto marriages have long been more prevalent and more accepted in the Maori community than in the European community.

Maori sole parents tended to be younger than European sole parents, reflecting the younger age distribution of the whole Maori population compared with the non-Maori one, and the higher fertility rate (and particularly ex-nuptial fertility) for young Maori women compared with non-Maori women (Pool and Pole, 1987). Around two-fifths (41%) of the Maori sole parents were between 20 and 29 years of age, and a further 32% were aged between 30 and 39 years of age at the time of the Census. A small proportion of the Maori sole parents were aged less than 20 (5%), or aged 60 or more (3%).

The overwhelming majority (79%) of Maori sole parents had only one or two dependent children. However, families with four or more children were more likely to be headed by a Maori or Pacific Islands sole parent than by a sole parent of any other ethnicity. Sole parents with four or more dependent children comprised 8% of all Maori sole parents.

Maori and Pacific Islands sole parents were more likely to have a child below school age than were parents of other ethnic origins. Over half (53%) of the Maori sole parents had a child aged less than five years.

More than half of the Maori sole parents lived in households with their children only and with no other persons present. Some 8% of households included both dependent and adult children, while another 50% contained dependent children only. Those Maori sole parents who lived in a household containing other individuals most often lived with another family or families (19%), or with individual relatives (13%). The proportion of Maori sole parents sharing accommodation with other families is much higher than among European sole parents (8%).

A majority (65%) of Maori sole parents lived in a main urban area, with 23% located in the Auckland urban areas, and 42% located in some other main urban area. However, a higher proportion of Maori sole parents lived in a town with a population of less than 10,000 (15%), or in a rural area (13%), than among sole parents of any other ethnicity. Maori sole parents made up 39% of all sole parents living in rural areas or in towns with a population of less than 10,000.

Regardless of marital status, Maori sole parents were less well off than European sole parents with respect to both housing tenure and income. The proportion of Maori sole parents living in an owner-occupied mortgage-free home (9%) was lower than the proportion of European sole parents in this situation (12%), and the proportion living in a mortgaged home (33%) was also lower than among European sole parents (49%). Over half (55%) of sole parents of Maori descent lived in rental accommodation, more often with a public (36%) than a private (19%) tenancy. At the time of the 1991 Census, 78% of Maori sole parents had received an income of less than \$15,000 in the last year² while only 9% had received more than \$20,000. Comparable figures for sole parents of European origin were 57% and 23% respectively.

Over two-thirds (69%) of the sole parents of Maori origin were not in the labour force and were not seeking work, which was higher than among the European sole parent population (51%). However, the proportion who were not employed but were actively seeking work (14%) was greater than the proportion seeking work among sole parents in any other ethnic group. As a proportion of those in the labour force, those actively seeking work comprised 47%, the highest rate of unemployment of any ethnic group.

The proportion of Maori sole parents who reported receipt of full income support (such as Domestic Purposes Benefit, Widow's Benefit or Unemployment Benefit) from the Department of Social Welfare or ACC at some time in the year preceding the Census (88%) was the same as the proportion who were not currently in full-time paid employment (88%) and more than among the European ethnic group (74%).

Maori sole parents who were in paid employment at the time of the Census were not concentrated in any one occupational group. Some 20% were trades workers or plant and machine operators or assemblers. A further 17% were employed as clerical workers, while 19% were in professional or technical occupations. Over three-quarters (78%) of those who worked did so full-time. Maori sole parents who were employed were more likely to be working full-time than European sole parents, but less likely to be in professional jobs and more likely to be in production/transport occupations.

Two-thirds (66%) of the sole parents of Maori ethnic origin had no school qualification, while 17% had a tertiary qualification. These levels are likely to be lower than those for a comparable group of people who were not sole parents, since 26% of all Maori aged between twenty and forty had a tertiary qualification in 1991. Maori sole parents were also much less likely to have formal qualifications than European sole parents, of whom 35% had a tertiary qualification.

5.4 Sole Parents of Pacific Islands Ethnicity

Sole parents of mixed ethnicity who reported any Pacific Islands ethnicity and no Maori ethnicity, together with those reporting exclusively Pacific Islands ethnicity, were classified as being of Pacific Islands ethnicity. The Pacific Islands sole parent population, using this definition, contained a total of 7,959 individuals, making up 7% of the total sole parent population at the time of the 1991 Census.

² As a benchmark for comparative purposes, a Domestic Purposes Benefit would have generated an annual income of around \$15,000, depending on the number of dependent children a sole parent had.

Sole parents of Pacific Islands ethnicity were most likely to be aged between 20 and 29 years (36%), or between 30 and 39 years (32%). Only a small proportion (3%) were aged less than 20 years, while another 5% were aged 60 or more. This means that Pacific Islands sole parents were younger, on average, than European sole parents, but not as young as Maori sole parents.

Like sole parents of other ethnic groups, the majority of Pacific Islands sole parents had only one or two children, although less than half (45%) had only one dependent child. The proportion having four or more dependent children (11%) was larger than that for sole parents of any other ethnic origin. More than half (57%) of the Pacific Islands sole parents had at least one child aged less than five years, and another 18% had a youngest child aged between five and eight, which was a distribution similar to that for Maori.

While 41% of Pacific Islands sole parents lived only with dependent children, and a further 10% with both adult and dependent children, about half lived in a household containing individuals other than dependent or adult children. Many Pacific Islands sole parents lived with another family or families (27%), or with individual relatives (15%). Both of these proportions were higher than for any other ethnic group.

Pacific Islands sole parents were about as likely to have been separated or divorced from a *de jure* partner (45%) as never married or separated from a *de facto* partner (44%). The remaining 11% had been widowed. Among those aged 15-29 years, Pacific Islands sole parents were less likely than Maori sole parents to be never married in 1991, whereas in 1986 in each age group Pacific Islands sole parents had been more likely to have never married.

Regardless of marital status, fewer Pacific Islands sole parents lived in owner-occupied dwellings than did sole parents of any other ethnic group. Just over a quarter (27%) lived in an owner-occupied mortgaged dwelling, while another 5% lived in a house which was owned outright by one or more of the occupants (not necessarily the sole parent). Conversely, the proportion in public rental accommodation (50%) was larger than that among sole parents of any other ethnic group.

Pacific Islands sole parents were highly concentrated in the Auckland urban areas and were highly unlikely to be living outside major urban areas. Almost three-quarters (71%) lived in the Auckland urban areas, while another 24% lived in other main urban centres. This is in considerable contrast to both Maori and European sole parents: less than a quarter of both of these groups lived in the Auckland urban areas, while 28% of Maori sole parents lived outside centres with 10,000 or more people (compared with 2% of Pacific Islands sole parents). Of all sole parents in the Auckland urban areas, 20% were of Pacific Islands ethnicity, while 25% were Maori, 51% were European and 4% were of "Other" ethnicity.

A majority (59%) of Pacific Islands sole parents had no educational qualification, while 23% had a secondary qualification and 18% a tertiary qualification. Pacific Islands sole parents were slightly more likely to have educational qualifications than Maori sole parents, of whom 66% had no formal qualifications.

Pacific Islands sole parents had received a slightly higher average level of income than Maori sole parents in the year preceding the Census, but were less well off than sole parents of European ethnic origin. Three-quarters (74%) of the Pacific Islands sole parents were in the lowest income category (less than \$15,000).

Over two-thirds (70%) of the Pacific Islands sole parents were not in the paid labour force and were not seeking work, while 10% were unemployed and reported actively seeking work in the four weeks preceding the Census. Of those in the labour force, the rate of unemployment among Pacific Islands sole parents was 35%. Pacific Islands sole parents who were in paid employment at the time of the 1991 Census were most likely to be working full-time (80%) rather than part-time (20%), and were most likely to be employed as trades workers or plant and machine operators or assemblers (27%). Elementary (19%) and clerical (20%) occupations were also fairly common. Proportionately more Pacific Islands than Maori sole parents were employed and, of those in paid work, a larger proportion were working full-time.

Pacific Islands sole parents were less likely than parents of European ethnicity to be in full-time paid employment, but no more likely to report having received some form of full income maintenance (that is, an income-tested benefit, National Superannuation or weekly payments from ACC). The proportion with neither paid employment nor full income maintenance was greater for Pacific Islands sole parents than it was for either Maori or European sole parents. Although 84% of the sole parents of Pacific Islands ethnicity were not in full-time paid employment, only 75% reported receiving some form of full income maintenance at any time in the year preceding the Census.

This may indicate that Pacific Islands sole parents relied more on income support from family or other private sources than did sole parents of Maori or European ethnicity, or that Pacific Islands sole parents under-reported receipt of income support in the Census to a greater degree than did Maori or European sole parents. Those who relied on income support from family or other private sources may have been unaware of their eligibility for a benefit, or unwilling to apply for one. Some who had settled in New Zealand more recently may not have been eligible for benefits until they had met the residential requirements.

Chapter 6

PROFILES OF SOLE PARENTS BY MARITAL STATUS

6.1 Routes to Sole Parenthood

Marital status of sole parents is of interest because it corresponds to the different routes by which people become sole parents. Three marital status groups are examined in this section, which draws on Tables 43 to 56 in the Appendix. Again these tables all relate to the 1991 Census. The three groups are sole parents who were never married, those who had formerly been married but were now separated or divorced, and those who had been widowed (36%, 56% and 8% respectively of the total population of sole parents in 1991).

These groups represent the three main routes to sole parenthood:

- a) the birth of a first child outside marriage;
- b) the break-up of a marriage relationship;
- c) the death of a spouse.

As previously noted in the section on methodology, the Census classification is based on legal marital status. Therefore, the never married group probably includes the majority of those who were formerly living in a *de facto* relationship with the other parent of their child or children. This means that the match between the above causes of sole parenthood and these marital status groups is far from perfect.

6.2 Never Married Sole Parents

In the 1991 Census, more than a third of all sole parents (36%) were recorded as having never married. Most of those who were never married were aged between 20 and 29 years (60%) or between 30 and 39 years (26%). Although the unmarried teenage mother is a common stereotype, only 9% of this group were under 20 years old. Teenage sole parents made up only 3% of the total sole parent population. Nearly two-thirds (65%) of never married sole parents had only one child and another one-quarter (24%) had two children. Two-thirds had a child of pre-school age. Eleven per cent of never married sole parents were male, an increase from 5% in 1986. These sole fathers would have been formerly living in a *de facto* relationship in most cases. A majority (52%) of never married sole parents were of non-European ethnicity including 43% who were Maori.

A majority (55%) of never married sole parents did not have any educational qualification, while 24% had a secondary qualification and 21% had completed a tertiary qualification. Over half of the total of never married sole parent households comprised parent and dependent child (or children) only. It is interesting to note, however, that 21% were living in households comprising two or more families and a further 24% resided with other individuals, who were either relatives or non-relatives. In many of these cases, the sole parent would have been living with her or his own parents.

A majority (56%) of never married sole parents lived in rented accommodation, with a higher proportion in public (30%) than in private (25%) rental dwellings. Although 42% lived in an owner-occupied dwelling, in 7% of cases without a mortgage, the proportion who actually owned a dwelling was probably much lower, given that one in five never married sole parents lived with another family. Where the other family consisted of the parents of the sole parent, it seems particularly unlikely that the sole parent owned the home.

Most never married sole mothers (81%) were not in paid employment, although 6% were employed part-time and 12% were employed full-time. Just over one-third (36%) of never married sole fathers were employed full-time in 1991, compared with about half in 1986. Of the never married sole parents who were employed, about half were working in sales, service or elementary occupations

or as trades workers or as plant or machine operators or assemblers. Of those who were not employed, one in six were actively seeking employment at the time of the Census.

Nearly all never married sole parents (91%) had an income below \$20,000, which represents less than average female earnings in the 1990-91 year. About three-quarters had an income below \$15,000, indicating an income at sole parent benefit level or below. Nearly nine out of ten reported receiving an income-tested Social Welfare benefit, most often Domestic Purposes Benefit, at some time in the year preceding the Census.

6.3 Separated or Divorced Sole Parents

At the 1991 Census, more than one half of sole parents (56%) were recorded as separated or divorced. By comparison with the never married group, most sole parents who were separated or divorced were older: specifically, 48% were aged between 30 and 39 years and 30% were aged between 40 and 49 years, while only 17% were under 30 years old. Some 18% were male, which is higher than among the never married group.

Less than half (45%) of separated/divorced sole parents had only one child, while about one-fifth had three or more children, which again is higher than among the never married group. At 72%, the proportion who were of solely European ethnic origin was higher than for other marital status groups. However, the proportion who were Maori (20%) still indicates an over-representation compared with parents in two parent families (11% of whom were Maori), suggesting a higher rate of marriage breakdown among couples where one or both partners were Maori. This is confirmed by Census information which shows a higher than average proportion of Maori adults were divorced or separated.

Separated/divorced sole parents were more likely to have a higher educational qualification than those in other marital status groups (33% had completed a tertiary qualification), although 44% had not completed any educational qualification.

Three-quarters (76%) of separated/divorced sole parents were living with their children only, while only 7% shared their accommodation with another family. These figures are in contrast to those for never married sole parents (of whom just over half lived with their children only, and a fifth lived with other families). Also in contrast to never married sole parents, the majority (59%) of separated/divorced sole parents lived in owner-occupied dwellings. Some 49% lived in dwellings owned with a mortgage, while 10% lived in mortgage-free dwellings. Those in rental dwellings were fairly evenly split between public and private renting (20% and 19% respectively).

Separated/divorced sole parents had the highest rate of employment of any marital status group. In this group, 22% of mothers and 50% of fathers were in full-time employment. Amongst those employed, about two-fifths were in professional, technical or administrative occupations. Amongst those not employed, one in five were seeking employment.

In contrast to the never married group, less than sixty per cent of separated/divorced sole parents had an income of less than \$15,000. As might be expected from their higher rate of employment, a higher proportion had incomes above benefit level, with 24% above \$20,000. Nearly three-quarters reported receipt of an income-tested benefit at some time over the past year (72%), which, again as expected, is lower than for the never married group.

6.4 Widowed Sole Parents

In the 1991 Census, 8% of sole parents were recorded as widowed. Widowed sole parents were usually older than other sole parents. Three-quarters were aged over 40 years old, while, on the other hand, only 4% were under 30 years old. The average age of youngest child was also older. Some 39% were living with a youngest child aged over 12 years and 25% with a youngest child aged between 9 and 12 years. More than four-fifths of the widowed group had only one or two dependent children. Widowed sole parents had more dependent children, on average, than never married sole parents, but less than separated or divorced sole parents. The proportion of widowed sole parents who were male, 22%, was higher than for any other marital status group.

Maori sole parents made up 33% of the widowed group, which means that they are over-represented in all three marital status groups. The high proportion of widowed Maori sole parents can be attributed to the lower life expectancy of Maori, and to the tendency for Maori women to have given birth at an older age, leading to parenthood continuing later in life. This latter tendency existed up until about 1980, and is not so apparent today, but was recent enough to affect the 1991 population of widows.

More widowed sole parents possessed a tertiary qualification than those who had a secondary qualification, i.e. 26% against 17%. However, a majority (57%) of this group had completed no educational qualification, which is more than among the separated / divorced group and similar to the never married group.

Like separated / divorced sole parents, nearly three-quarters of the widowed were living only with their children, including those who also had adult children living with them. As might be expected with an older group of sole parents, adult children were more likely to be present. A further 15% were sharing accommodation with other adults and 14% were living with another family or families.

More than two-thirds of widowed sole parents (70%) lived in owner-occupied dwellings (a higher rate than for either of the other two groups), while 19% were living in public rental and 7% in privately rented dwellings. The proportion who were living in mortgage-free homes (37%) was particularly high compared with other sole parents. This was also high compared with two parent families, only 17% of whom lived in mortgage-free homes.

Some 15% of widows and 42% of widowers were employed full-time. Their rate of employment was therefore intermediate between the lower rate for the never married group and the higher rate for the separated / divorced group. The proportion of the widowed who were actively seeking employment (5%) was less than half that for the other marital status groups.

The proportion of widowed sole parents with an income above \$20,000 (23%) was around the same as for separated / divorced sole parents, even though widowed sole parents had a lower rate of employment. This suggests that some of the widowed may have sources of income apart from benefits or employment. This is also indicated by the fact that the proportion of widowed sole parents who reported that they had received a Social Welfare income-tested benefit in the past year was lower (at 51%) than for either of the other two marital status groups. A further 13% reported receipt of National Superannuation, but it seems that a number of the widowed were neither employed nor in receipt of income from the Department of Social Welfare.

Although there was no information available on private income sources, it is likely that some were supported by investments, an occupational pension, or life insurance payouts following the death of their spouse.

Another significant income source for some would have been earnings-related compensation from the Accident Compensation Corporation because of the accidental death of their spouse. In the 1990-91 year, 9% of widowed sole parents reported receiving weekly income from the ACC.

When income was examined by housing tenure, it was found that those in higher income groups were the ones most likely to have mortgaged homes, while those in lower income groups were the ones most likely to be in rental housing, particularly public rental housing. This was true for all three marital status groups.

Chapter 7

SOLE PARENTS AND EMPLOYMENT

7.1 Employment of Sole Parents

This section is concerned with the paid employment of sole parents. It draws on Tables 55 to 87 in the Appendix, which are based on 1991 Census data.

In 1991, about a quarter of sole mothers and nearly half of sole fathers were employed. Sole fathers were, in most cases, working full-time (only 9% of those in paid employment worked part-time), while 39% of sole mothers who were in paid employment were working part-time. The definitions of full-time and part-time employment used here are as follows: persons working 30 hours or more per week were considered to be working full-time and persons working 1 to 29 hours per week were considered to be working part-time.

In the following discussion, and in the corresponding tables, males and females are generally treated separately. This is because males and females have divergent rates of employment, so that to investigate rates of participation of sole parents in the labour market, it is necessary to examine the employment rates of male and female sole parents separately.

Sole parents who were not employed at the time of the 1991 Census are profiled in the first part of this section, and those who were employed at that time are profiled in the second part of the section. Sole parents who were employed part-time are not profiled separately, but as Tables 55-84 show, they were a smaller group with characteristics generally intermediate between those of the full-time employed and those who were not employed. In the third part of this section, factors associated with the employment of sole parents are examined.

In comparing the characteristics of full-time employed sole parents with those who were not employed, the results are very similar to those which would result from a comparison between non-beneficiary and beneficiary sole parents. This is because of the considerable congruence between these two partitions of sole parents into two groups. The great majority of sole parents who were not employed full-time (including those employed part-time) were beneficiaries, and conversely the great majority of those who were employed full-time were not beneficiaries. For this reason, and because people who were currently receiving a benefit were not identified in the Census, this report does not include profiles of beneficiary and non-beneficiary sole parents. As mentioned in the introduction, a statistical profile of Domestic Purposes Benefit recipients is available from the Management Information Systems Unit of the Department of Social Welfare.

7.2 Sole Parents who were Not Employed at the Time of the 1991 Census

In 1991, three quarters of sole mothers (73%) and half of sole fathers (52%) were not in paid employment. These two groups were different from each other in some respects, but there were also differences between sole parents who were employed and those who were not.

For example, sole mothers who were not employed tended to be younger (45% were aged less than 30) than both sole mothers who were employed (17% were under 30) and sole fathers who were not employed (26% were under 30). And sole fathers who were not employed tended to be younger than employed sole fathers (of whom 15% were under 30).

In terms of marital status, sole fathers generally were more likely to be separated/divorced or widowed and less likely to be never married than sole mothers. However, among those who were not employed, both sole mothers and sole fathers were more likely to be never married and less likely to be separated/divorced than those who were employed.

Some 45% of sole mothers who were not employed belonged to ethnic groups other than European, compared with 22% of employed sole mothers. Sole fathers who were not employed were even more likely to belong to ethnic groups other than European (52%). About half of sole mothers and

one quarter of sole fathers who were not employed had a child of pre-school age, whereas employed sole parents were less likely to have a child of this age. About half of the sole parents who were not employed lived in rented accommodation, sole mothers being marginally more likely to do so. Sole parents who were not employed were also more likely to live in a multi-family household (14%) than were employed sole parents.

While the great majority (80%) reported receiving DPB at some point in the preceding year, 6% of sole mothers and 8% of sole fathers who were not employed did not report receiving any income-tested benefit or income maintenance over this period. While some under-reporting of benefits is a possibility (as noted in Section 3.3), it also seems likely that some sole fathers, in particular, had incomes which derived neither from employment nor from Social Welfare benefits. Some widowed sole mothers were also likely to have been in this situation (see Section 6.4), and possibly some Pacific Islands sole parents as well (see Section 5.4).

Turning to income, 81% of sole mothers and 81% of sole fathers who were not employed had an income below \$15,000.

7.3 Sole Parents who were Employed at the Time of the 1991 Census

One in every six sole parents was a sole father, and members of this sub-group were more likely to be employed (48%, compared with 27% of sole mothers in 1991). Among those who had paid jobs, sole fathers were more likely than sole mothers to be employed full-time. Two-fifths of employed sole mothers were employed part-time, compared with only one in eleven employed sole fathers.

Employed sole parents were more likely to be of European ethnicity, and this was particularly true for mothers who were employed part-time (81%).

The likelihood of employment varied according to marital status, although the picture was complicated by differential sex effects. The highest rate of employment, whether full-time or part-time, was among separated or divorced sole parents, while the lowest employment rate was among never married sole parents. It should be borne in mind, however, that within this pattern there were also different rates of employment among males and females.

Thus, although more never married sole parents were outside the workforce than among other marital status groups, more than a third of never married sole fathers (36%) were employed full-time, while only 10% of never married sole mothers had full-time jobs. Sex was also an important factor in the employment rates of widowed sole parents (42% of the males and 15% of the females were employed full-time) and separated or divorced sole parents (50% of the males and 22% of the females were employed full-time).

Nine-tenths of both male and female sole parents who were employed full-time had either one or two children, while sole parents who were not employed were slightly more likely to have larger families. Sole parents who had paid jobs were also more likely to have older children. For example, only 18% of sole mothers who were employed full-time had youngest children aged less than 5 years old. This is in contrast to sole mothers who were not employed, more than half of whom had a child of pre-school age. The pattern for sole fathers was similar, although much less marked: 22% of those who were employed full-time had youngest children aged less than 5, while a third of sole fathers who were not employed had children aged less than 5.

Employed sole mothers were more likely to live in Auckland or some other main urban area and less likely to live in minor urban or rural areas than those who were not employed. This finding did not hold for sole fathers, since both the employed and the not employed had a similar distribution in terms of location. A majority of employed sole parents lived in an owner-occupied dwelling with a mortgage, unlike those who were not employed, who were more likely to live in rental accommodation. Employed sole parents were more likely to live in a household which included adult children, which reflects the fact that their children were generally older, or, in other words, they were at a later stage in the family life cycle. Employed sole parents were also less likely to live in a multi-family household.

It is clear from Tables 57 and 58 that the prime age group for employment for both sole mothers and sole fathers was between 30 and 49 years of age. Of those sole parents who were employed full-time, 77% were aged 30-49, whereas only 46% of those not employed were aged 30-49. Employment rates were highest in the 40-49 year age group, with 48% of sole mothers and 63% of sole fathers in employment. Sole fathers were generally older, with 79% aged over 30 years compared with 62% of sole mothers. However, of those in full-time employment, 85% of both sole mothers and sole fathers were aged over 30. The age distributions of employed sole mothers and sole fathers were more similar than for those not employed, therefore.

As might be expected, employed sole parents had incomes which were generally higher than those who were not employed. For example, 62% of full-time employed sole mothers had an annual income above \$20,000, compared with just 3% of sole mothers who were not employed. Of particular interest is the extent to which sole fathers who were employed full-time had higher incomes than sole mothers who were employed full-time. An income above \$30,000 was reported by 25% of sole mothers and 41% of sole fathers who were employed full-time. This was despite the fact that the educational levels of the two groups were broadly similar. Full-time employed sole mothers were more likely than full-time employed sole fathers to have an educational qualification (74% compared with 66%), and slightly more likely to have a tertiary qualification (49% compared with 47%).

There was a sizeable group of full-time employed sole parents (comprising 25% of mothers and 11% of fathers) who reported receiving an income-tested benefit such as DPB, at some time in the twelve months prior to the Census. This gives some indication of movement on and off the DPB. If 25% of full-time employed sole mothers had been on a benefit in the previous twelve months, it is reasonable to assume that a larger proportion of the sub-group of sole mothers in employment will have been on a benefit at some time during the whole period of their sole parenthood.

Amongst sole mothers who were employed full-time, occupations in the professional/technical and clerical areas were the most common. Such occupations were less common amongst part-time employed sole mothers, however, where service and sales occupations were more common. Employed sole fathers were more likely to be plant or machine operators or assemblers or trades workers.

7.4 Factors Associated With Sole Parents' Employment

A survey of female sole parents by Wylie (1980) found a link between education and work skills and the probability of being in employment. A strong association between sole parents' educational qualifications and their rate of employment was also found in a previous study of 1981 Census data (Dominick, Rochford and Robb, 1988), as well as in the 1986 Census profile report. Comparative figures from the 1991 Census confirm that this association remained just as strong five years on. For example, 31% of sole mothers with a tertiary qualification were employed full-time, compared with 9% of sole mothers with no educational qualification.

Another strong association found in both 1981 and 1986 was that between employment and age of youngest child. Again this association remained strong in 1991. The full-time employment rate of sole mothers rose steadily with age of youngest child, from 7% for sole mothers with a pre-school age child to 43% when the youngest child was aged over 15. The employment rate of sole fathers also increased with age of youngest child, but it began, and remained, at a higher level, from 35% when the youngest child was a pre-schooler to 66% where the youngest child was aged over 15.

Another study, concerned with the labour force participation of married women in New Zealand (Hall, 1987), also showed a strong association between rates of employment and both women's education and the age of their youngest dependent child. In 1984-85, married women with no secondary qualifications had a full-time employment rate of 17%, compared with 28% for those with secondary qualifications. Married mothers with a pre-school aged child had a full-time employment rate of 8%, compared with 32% for those whose youngest dependent child was aged thirteen or over. The strong influence of age of children and education on labour force participation is not unique to sole parents, therefore, and is similarly strong for mothers in two parent families.

When education was cross-tabulated by employment within different categories of age of youngest child (Table 72), it was found that the association between education and employment was similar in each category. Within each category of age of youngest child, more than two thirds of sole parents employed full-time reported having a qualification, while more than half of those not employed had no educational qualification. This indicates that the twin effects of education and age of youngest child on employment rates are relatively independent of each other. The combined effect of these two factors resulted in full-time employment rates which ranged from 6% among those with a pre-school child and no educational qualification to 62% among those who had a tertiary qualification and whose youngest child was aged sixteen or over. When these rates of full-time employment were also broken down by sex the range was extended further, from 3% among sole mothers with a pre-school child and no educational qualifications to 73% among sole fathers with a tertiary qualification and a youngest child aged sixteen or over.

The sex of the sole parent remained a key influence on the likelihood of employment in 1991. However, as shown in Table 12, the gap between male and female sole parent employment rates has decreased since 1976. This is due to a faster declining employment rate among sole fathers than among sole mothers. In fact, benefit figures show that sole fathers make up the fastest growing component of the DPB population, increasing by 118% between 1981 and 1986, and by a further 167% between 31 March 1986 and 31 March 1991. As at 31 March 1991 there were 9,047 sole fathers in receipt of DPB, which indicates that more than half of all sole fathers may now be beneficiaries (compared with one in six in 1981). It seems that sole fathers are moving towards the same pattern of benefit take-up as sole mothers.

Ethnicity was also associated with employment of sole parents. European sole parents were most likely to be in employment (35% of sole mothers and 61% of sole fathers were employed full-time or part-time in 1991), while Maori sole parents were least likely to be employed (15% of sole mothers and 30% of sole fathers). Pacific Islands sole parents had rates of employment which were only slightly above those of Maori sole parents (17% of sole mothers and 35% of sole fathers).

When age of youngest child and education were also taken into account, however, the differences in employment rates between ethnic groups were not as great (see Table 85). The gap between the rates of employment of Maori and European sole parents was not large if their youngest child was aged eight years or under, while Pacific Islands sole parents and sole parents of "other" ethnic origin with children aged eight or less had higher employment rates than either Maori or European sole parents. A large majority of Maori and Pacific Islands sole parents had a youngest child aged eight years or under (74% and 75% respectively). Where the youngest child was aged nine years or over, Maori sole parents had lower rates of employment than both Pacific Islands and European sole parents with similar educational backgrounds. European sole parents had the highest rates of employment when the youngest child was aged nine years or over.

Marital status, too, showed an association with employment (as noted above), separated/divorced sole parents having the highest employment rate (36% of sole mothers and 55% of sole fathers were employed full-time or part-time), followed by widowed sole parents (27% and 46% respectively were employed), while never married sole parents were least likely to be employed (16% and 40% respectively). It should be noted that some of this effect may be due to the above results for ethnicity, since there were different distributions of marital status within different ethnic groups. The age of youngest child would also have had an influence, since never married sole parents were more likely to have younger children. However, even within each category of age of youngest child, never married sole parents had lower rates of employment than those who were separated or divorced, as shown by Table 86.

Widowed sole parents had intermediate rates of employment amongst those with a youngest child aged under nine years, but the lowest rates where the youngest child was aged nine years or older. In fact, their employment rates were markedly lower than those of both never married and separated/divorced sole parents where the youngest child was aged thirteen years or over. It is not clear why this pattern applied to widowed sole parents in particular, but it may be that those with older children were more likely to have received an insurance payout or a significant inheritance from the deceased spouse, making it possible for them to have an income above benefit level without being in paid employment.

There may also have been an age cohort effect operating in respect of this widowed group. Widowed sole parents had an older age structure than other sole parents, and widows with older children were likely to be an older sub-group within this group. These women would have been from a generation with less paid work experience and subject to less expectation of paid labour force participation than more recent generations.

Another factor associated with employment was the number of children in the family. The more children a sole parent had, the less likely the sole parent was to be employed. Those with one child had a full-time employment rate of 25%, compared with 20% for those with two children and 13% for those with three or more children.

However, these differences are partially due to the fact that those with several children were more likely to have at least one child aged under five years. When employment rates were examined within each category of age of youngest child, the effect of number of children on employment is not as great. Having two children rather than one reduced the employment rate only of those sole parents who had a child aged under nine years, or a youngest child aged 16-18 years. The reduction in the employment rate of those with a pre-school child was from 12% (of sole parents with one child aged under five) to 8% (of sole parents with two children, at least one of whom was aged under five).

The employment rates of sole parents whose youngest child was aged nine years or over were not affected by the number of children they had, except for the small number with four or more children the youngest of whom was aged 9-12 years, and the very small number with two children aged 16-18 years. Number of children mainly affected the employment rates of sole parents with younger children, therefore.

Age also influenced employment. The peak age for employment was 40-49 years at the time of the 1991 Census (39% of this group were employed full-time), with the lowest rates occurring amongst those aged over 60 (7%) and under 30 (9%). Location was also associated with employment, with sole parents who were located outside the main urban areas having a lower rate of full-time employment (19%, compared with 22% of those living in main urban areas).

DISCUSSION

This profile of sole parents reinforces the conclusion reached in the previous 1986 profile: sole parents cannot be regarded as a homogeneous population. Although an increased proportion were beneficiaries in 1991, there was still a great deal of diversity amongst different sub-groups in terms of age structure, housing tenure, household type, educational background, rate of employment and income.

Social policy which is aimed at sole parents needs to have regard to the diverse nature of this population. Policies which may be appropriate for one group of sole parents may not be effective for other groups, and a multi-strand approach may be called for to meet the needs of particular groups.

Maori sole parents were a large and fast growing group, in relation both to the total sole parent population and to the total Maori population. An important finding of this study was that, even within the relatively disadvantaged population of sole parents, Maori sole parents formed a disadvantaged group relative to European sole parents. This was indicated by their lower levels of income, employment, education, occupation and housing tenure. This finding was true in both 1986 and 1991, and there is no evidence of any lessening of the relative disadvantage.

It could be argued that improving the economic position of Maori one parent families is one of the most important requirements for Maori economic development. With 44% of Maori families being one parent families, and approximately 88% of these being supported by income-tested benefits, an estimated 38% of all Maori families with children are headed by sole parent beneficiaries. This compares with an estimated 8% of all Maori families with children which are two parent families supported by Unemployment Benefit. It is clear that the current level of benefit dependency in the Maori family population is largely due to the numbers of sole parent beneficiaries, most of whom are women receiving the DPB.

It cannot be assumed that any future economic growth which leads to falling unemployment will change this situation greatly. Although sole parent beneficiary numbers have stabilised in recent years, there is no evidence of a downward trend. In previous times of falling unemployment, such as in 1984-85, the number of sole parent beneficiaries continued to increase. Even during the full employment conditions of the mid-1970's, the majority of sole parents were beneficiaries.

In 1991 only 12% of Maori sole parents were in full-time paid employment. A general decrease in the rate of Maori unemployment will not necessarily benefit the majority of economically disadvantaged Maori families, therefore, unless it leads to a substantial increase in the rate of employment amongst Maori sole parents. Developing strategies which promote the employment of Maori sole mothers in well-paying jobs could do a great deal to improve the economic well-being of Maori families, and perhaps this should be a key goal for those concerned with Maori economic development.

Pacific Islands sole parents were also relatively disadvantaged within the sole parent population, with characteristics closer to Maori than to European sole parents. The population of Pacific Islands sole parents grew faster than any other ethnic group between 1986 and 1991. With one in every three families being a sole parent family, facilitating the paid employment of sole parents is a key issue for the economic well-being of Pacific Islands families also.

The differences between the marital status groups remained similar in 1991 to those found in 1986. In spite of the expansion of the never married group, there was still a marked degree of age separation between the three groups. More than two thirds of the never married were aged under 30, three quarters of the separated/divorced were aged 30-49 and nearly half the widowed were over 50 years of age. This age separation contributed to many of the differences between the groups, for example on characteristics such as age of children and housing tenure. Because never married sole parents are more likely to have young children and less likely to be employed, the growth of this group (from 15% of the sole parent population in 1981 to 36% in 1991) has contributed to the decline in the overall employment rate of sole parents.

The rate of full-time paid employment amongst sole parents decreased from 27% in 1986 to 21% in 1991, a sharper decline than that experienced during the two previous inter-censal periods. The three most important factors associated with sole parents' employment were identified in both 1986 and 1991 as gender, education and age of youngest child. As the previous report suggested, vocational training and childcare may be key issues to be considered in the development of policies to promote the employment of sole parents.

Most of the demographic trends in the sole parent population between 1976 and 1991 represent faster growth amongst groups with lower rates of paid employment: those with younger children, those never married, Maori and Pacific Islands sole parents. If these trends continue, any policies aimed at increasing the overall paid employment rate of sole parents may face difficulties. For example, any gains made by introducing a work test for those with older children may be offset by the increased proportion of sole parents with younger children.

The Census shows that the majority of sole parents (58%) are not in the paid labour force (either full-time or part-time), because they are neither employed nor actively seeking employment. If policies were to be designed to encourage more of those in this group to seek employment, it is likely that those with educational qualifications and older children would be the most successful in obtaining jobs.

So even if policies are effective in facilitating increased sole parent employment, those most likely to benefit are middle class separated/divorced Pakeha sole parents living in owner-occupier dwellings. Those who arguably need training or paid employment experience the most are those with young children and no educational qualifications, who are most likely to become long-term beneficiaries, but this is the group which is the most difficult to facilitate into employment. This latter group is more likely to include never married Maori and Pacific Islands sole parents living in rental accommodation. Given the high proportion of Maori and Pacific Islands families headed by sole parent beneficiaries, it may be necessary to develop policies specifically tailored to the needs of these groups in order to facilitate their movement into paid employment more effectively. Such policies would ideally be developed in partnership with Maori and Pacific Islands peoples.

Even if the trend of an increasing rate of benefit take-up by sole parents can be reversed (as happened in Australia in the 1980s), the current high level of benefit take-up suggests that the majority of sole parents in New Zealand will continue to be supported by benefits for some years to come. New Zealand is not unique in having a majority of sole parents supported by social security, since in many OECD countries a sizable proportion (40% – 80%) of the sole parent population is supported by some form of social security. However, New Zealand is at the high end of this range, with a higher level of benefit take-up than most countries.

New Zealand is not unique in having a sole parent population which has grown in recent decades either, since this has also happened in many other OECD countries. Growth in the sole parent population seems to be a long term socio-demographic trend common to most OECD countries, which might suggest that it is a trend not easily reversed, although New Zealand is not bound to follow overseas trends.

However, until there is some evidence of a reduction in the sole parent population in this country, it may be necessary to accept that a significant proportion of New Zealand's family population will be one parent families and that the majority of these will continue to be supported in full or in part by Social Welfare benefits unless there is a substantial increase in the full-time paid employment rate of sole parents. While future economic growth can be expected to lead to a sizable reduction in the number of people on Unemployment Benefit, sole parent beneficiary numbers may not reduce at the same rate.

Changes in the characteristics of the DPB recipient population since the 1991 Census suggest that the 1991 benefit reforms have had an impact on trends in the sole parent population. Apart from the abrupt stalling of growth in total DPB numbers, by March 1993 there had been a decline in the number of people on DPB aged under 30 years, including a particularly sharp decrease in the number aged under 20 years. The number of sole parents on DPB who were formerly partnered has also decreased, although the number who were never partnered has increased. The number of sole

parents on DPB whose youngest child is aged under 7 years has remained static since March 1991, suggesting that the 1986-91 growth in the population of sole parents with younger children has since stalled. The Child Support scheme which replaced the Liable Parent Contribution scheme in July 1992 is designed to deliver an increased level of child support from non-custodial parents to those sole parents who are not beneficiaries. This policy change may have a positive influence on the full-time employment rate of sole parents in the future.

Alongside policies designed to reduce benefit dependency there may be a case for periodic reviews of provisions for those sole parents who, for whatever reason, remain on a benefit. As long as substantial numbers of sole parents receive income support then the appropriate form and structure of Social Welfare benefits and other types of assistance will remain an ongoing policy issue. There may need to be further consideration of other ways of providing resources to sole parents who remain outside the paid labour force in the long term.

With one in every four families being a one parent family in 1991, and one in every five families being a one parent family supported by an income-tested benefit, interest in the sole parent population is likely to remain high. This study provides an up-dated information base on sole parents from the 1991 Census, and it is intended that further updates from future Censuses will allow for the continued monitoring of trends in this fast changing population. A demographic profile such as this can also be regarded as a starting point for further research and development of policy options aimed at enhancing the well-being of sole parents.

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Note: To allow for ease of comparability with the profile based on the 1986 Census, each table number in this report is the same as for the corresponding table in the previous profile report. To preserve this correspondence, one table number (Table 48) is missing from this report because no table was produced corresponding to Table 48 in the previous report.

Table 1:
Incidence of Sole Parenthood Per Cent Families, 1976 to 1991

<i>Year</i>	<i>One Parent Families</i>	<i>Inter-Censal Increase</i>	<i>Inter-Censal Increase Per Cent</i>	<i>Average Annual Increase Per Cent</i>	<i>Total Families</i>	<i>One Par Families Per Cent Families</i>
1976	46,360	NA	NA	NA	463,006	10
1981	61,030	14,670	32	6	461,211	13
1986	81,867	20,837	34	6	455,330	18
1991	110,055	28,188	34	6	449,736	24

Table 2a:
Rate of DPB/WB Take-Up Among Sole Parents, 1976 to 1991 (Census Tables)

<i>Social Welfare Benefits Received</i>	<i>Year</i>			
	<i>1976 (%)</i>	<i>1981 (%)</i>	<i>1986 (%)</i>	<i>1991 (%)</i>
DPB	25	49	54	66
Widows Benefit	12	8	5	2
Non-DPB/WB	63	43	42	32
Total	100	100	100	100
n	(46360)	(61030)	(81867)	(106788)
Missing Values =	-	-	-	3273

Table 2b:
Rate of DPB/WB Take-Up Among Sole Parents, 1976 to 1991 (Department of Social Welfare Records)

<i>Social Welfare Benefits Received</i>	<i>Year</i>			
	<i>1976 (%)</i>	<i>1981 (%)</i>	<i>1986 (%)</i>	<i>1991 (%)</i>
DPB	46	61	73	85
Widows Benefit	14	9	5	3
Non-DBP/WB	40	31	23	11
Total	100	100	100	100
n	(46360)	(61030)	(81867)	(110055)

Table 3:
Estimated Rates Of DPB/WB Take-Up Among Sole Parents, 1976 to 1991

<i>Year</i>	<i>All Sole Parents (Census) (1)</i>	<i>DPB plus Widows Ben (D.S.W.) (2)</i>	<i>DPB/WB Per Cent All Sole Parents</i>	<i>Non-DPB/WB Sole Parents (1)-(2)</i>
1976	46,360	27,688	60	18,672
1981	61,030	42,348	69	18,682
1986	81,867	63,380	77	18,487
1991	110,055	97,420	89	12,635

Table 4:
Marital Status of Sole Parent, 1976 to 1991

<i>Marital Status</i>	<i>Year</i>			
	1976	1981	1986	1991
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Never Married	10	15	26	36
Separated/Divorced	66	68	62	56
Widowed	24	17	11	8
Total	100	100	100	100
n	(46260)	(60420)	(80619)	(107235)
Missing Values =	100	610	1248	2820

Table 5:
Number of Dependent Children of Sole Parent, 1976 to 1991

<i>Number of Dependent Children</i>	<i>Year</i>			
	1976	1981	1986	1991
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
1	45	49	52	53
2	31	32	32	30
3	14	13	12	11
4	6	5	3	4
5 or More	4	2	1	1
Total	100	100	100	100
n	(46360)	(61030)	(81867)	(110055)

Table 6:
Age of Youngest Child of Sole Parent, 1976 to 1991

<i>Age of youngest Child</i>	<i>Year</i>			
	1976	1981	1986	1991
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
0-4 Years	33	32	35	42
5-8 Years	24	24	22	21
9-12 Years	21	24	21	18
13-15 Years	17	15	17	14
16-18 Years	6	5	4	5
Total	100	100	100	100
n	(46360)	(61030)	(81867)	(110055)

Table 7:
Tenure of Sole Parent's Dwelling, 1976 to 1991

<i>Type of Tenure</i>	<i>Year</i>			
	<i>1976</i> <i>(%)</i>	<i>1981</i> <i>(%)</i>	<i>1986</i> <i>(%)</i>	<i>1991</i> <i>(%)</i>
Mortgage Free	17	12	13	11
Mortgaged	37	41	41	43
TOTAL OWNING	54	53	54	54
Private Rental	NA	21	21	20
Public Rental	NA	25	23	24
TOTAL RENTING	44	45	44	44
Rent Free	2	2	2	2
Total	100	100	100	100
n	(46090)	(60720)	(81210)	(107700)
Missing Values =	270	310	657	2355

Table 8:
Household Type of Sole Parent Family, 1976 to 1991

<i>Household Type</i>	<i>Year</i>			
	<i>1976</i> <i>(%)</i>	<i>1981</i> <i>(%)</i>	<i>1986</i> <i>(%)</i>	<i>1991</i> <i>(%)</i>
One Family, Dependent Children Only	55	61	56	58
One Family, Dependent and Adult Children	15	15	13	10
One Family and Individual Relatives	7	6	8	8
One Family and Unrelated Individuals	11	9	9	12
Two Families	11	9	13	11
More Than Two Families	1	1	2	1
Total	100	100	100	100
n	(46360)	(61030)	(81357)	(110055)
Missing Values =	-	-	510	-

Table 9:
Location of Sole Parent's Dwelling, 1976 to 1991

<i>Location of Dwelling</i>	<i>Year</i>			
	<i>1976</i> <i>(%)</i>	<i>1981</i> <i>(%)</i>	<i>1986</i> <i>(%)</i>	<i>1991</i> <i>(%)</i>
Auckland	30	29	28	27
Other Urban*	59	61	62	63
Rural	12	10	11	10
Total	100	100	100	100
n	(46360)	(61030)	(81357)	(110055)
Missing Values =	-	-	510	-

* Other Main Urban Areas, Secondary Urban Areas, and Minor Urban Areas combined.

Table 10:
Sole Parents, 1976 to 1991, by Ethnicity of Parent

<i>Ethnicity of Parent</i>	<i>Year</i>			
	1976 (%)	1981 (%)	1986 (%)	1991 (%)
European	76	73	67	62
Maori	19	20	26	29
Pacific Islands	3	5	5	7
Other	2	2	2	2
Total	100	100	100	100
n	(46360)	(61030)	(81867)	(107772)
Missing Values =	-	-	-	2283

Table 11:
Population Rates of Sole Parenthood for Maori and Non-Maori, 1976 to 1991

<i>Ethnicity</i>	<i>Year</i>			<i>Increase in Rate Per Cent</i>
	1976	1986	1991	
<i>Maori</i>				
Sole Parents	8,890	20,913	31,509	
Total Sub-Pop	188,490	247,017	271,803	
Rate/1000	47	85	116	146%
<i>Non-Maori</i>				
Sole Parents	37,470	60,954	76,263	
Total Sub-Pop	2,012,688	2,221,284	2,318,484	
Rate/1000	19	27	33	77%
Ratio Maori to Non-Maori Rate	2.5	3.1	3.5	

Table 12:
Hours Employed by Sex of Sole Parent, 1976 to 1991

<i>Sex</i>	<i>Hours Employed</i>	<i>Year</i>			
		1976 (%)	1981 (%)	1986 (%)	1991 (%)
<i>Female</i>					
	Nil	60	65	68	73
	Part-Time	15	13	11	11
	Full-Time	25	22	22	17
	Total	100	100	100	100
	n	(38280)	(51660)	(71001)	(91284)
<i>Male</i>					
	Nil	17	24	35	52
	Part-Time	2	2	4	4
	Full-Time	81	74	61	44
	Total	100	100	100	100
	n	(7030)	(8580)	(10866)	(17850)
Missing Values =		1050	790	-	918

Table 13a:
One and Two Parent Families by Parents' Ethnicity in the 1991 Census

<i>Parents' Ethnicity</i>	<i>One Parent</i> (%)	<i>Two Parents</i> (%)
European	62	74
Maori	29	7
Maori and Non-Maori	NA	9
Pacific Islands	7	5
Other	2	5
Total	100	100
n	(107769)	(325041)

Missing Values = 16923

Table 13b:
One and Two Parent Families by Children's Ethnicity in the 1991 Census

<i>Children's Ethnicity</i>	<i>One Parent</i> (%)	<i>Two Parents</i> (%)
European	53	75
Maori	37	15
Pacific Islands	7	5
Other	2	4
Total	100	100
n	(103662)	(324285)

Missing Values = 21783

Table 14:
One and Two Parent Families by Age of Youngest Child in the 1991 Census

<i>Age of Youngest Child</i>	<i>One Parent</i> (%)	<i>Two Parents</i> (%)
0-4 Years	42	45
5-8 Years	21	19
9-12 Years	18	18
13-14 Years	9	9
15 Years	5	4
16-17 Years	5	5
18 Years	0	0
Total	100	100
n	(110055)	(339678)

Table 15:
One and Two Parent Families by Number of Dependent Children in the 1991 Census

<i>Number of Dependent Children</i>	<i>One Parent (%)</i>	<i>Two Parents (%)</i>
1	53	34
2	30	40
3	11	19
4	4	6
5 or More	1	2
Total	100	100
n	(110055)	(339678)

Table 16:
One and Two Parent Families by Income in the 1991 Census

<i>Income</i>	<i>One Parent (%)</i>	<i>Two Parents (%)</i>
Below \$15,000	64	7
\$15,000-\$20,000	17	7
\$20,001-\$30,000	11	18
Above \$30,000	7	68
Total	100	100
n	(102540)	(386203)

Missing Values = 60987

Table 17:
One and Two Parent Families by Hours Employed of Mother in the 1991 Census

<i>Hours Employed of Mother</i>	<i>One Parent (%)</i>	<i>Two Parents (%)</i>
Nil	73	42
1-19 Hours	7	16
20-29 Hours	3	11
30 Hours or More	17	31
Total	100	100
n	(91284)	(334722)

Missing Values = 5709

Table 18:
One and Two Parent Families by Hours Employed of Father in the 1991 Census

<i>Hours Employed of Father</i>	<i>One Parent (%)</i>	<i>Two Parents (%)</i>
Nil	52	14
1-19 Hours	2	2
20-29 Hours	2	2
30 Hours or More	44	83
Total	100	100
n	(17850)	(328929)

Missing Values = 10926

Table 19:**One and Two Parent Families by Educational Qualification of Mother in the 1991 Census**

<i>Highest Educational Qualification of Mother</i>	<i>One Parent (%)</i>	<i>Two Parents (%)</i>
None	49	31
Secondary	24	30
Tertiary	27	38
Total	100	100
n	(91281)	(334722)

Missing Values = 5706

Table 20:**One and Two Parent Families by Educational Qualification of Father in the 1991 Census**

<i>Highest Educational Qualification of Father</i>	<i>One Parent (%)</i>	<i>Two Parents (%)</i>
None	49	30
Secondary	16	19
Tertiary	34	51
Total	100	100
n	(17853)	(328929)

Missing Values = 10926

Table 21:**One and Two Parent Families by Occupation of Employed Mothers in the 1991 Census**

<i>Occupation of Mother</i>	<i>One Parent (%)</i>	<i>Two Parents (%)</i>
Professional/Technical	29	26
Administrative/Managerial	8	9
Clerks	24	26
Sales/Service	20	17
Agricultural/Forestry/Fishing	4	9
Trades/Machine Operators	7	6
Elementary	8	7
Total	100	100
n	(24252)	(191205)

Missing Values = 1398

Table 22:

One and Two Parent Families by Employment Status of Mother in the 1991 Census

<i>Employment Status of Mother</i>	<i>One Parent (%)</i>	<i>Two Parents (%)</i>
Employed	27	58
Seeking Employment	12	4
Not Seeking Employment	62	38
Total	100	100
n	(90627)	(331389)

Missing Values = 9696

Table 23:

One and Two Parent Families by Occupation of Employed Fathers in the 1991 Census

<i>Occupation of Father</i>	<i>One Parent (%)</i>	<i>Two Parents (%)</i>
Professional/Technical	19	23
Administrative/Managerial	13	18
Clerks	4	3
Sales/Service	7	6
Agricultural/Forestry/Fishing	12	13
Trades/Machine Operators	35	31
Elementary	10	6
Total	100	100
n	(8367)	(281046)

Missing Values = 405

Table 24:

One and Two Parent Families by Employment Status of Father in the 1991 Census

<i>Employment Status of Father</i>	<i>One Parent (%)</i>	<i>Two Parents (%)</i>
Employed	47	86
Seeking Employment	13	6
Not Seeking Employment	40	8
Total	100	100
n	(17622)	(325683)

Missing Values = 14403

Table 25:
One and Two Parent Families by Location of Dwelling in the 1991 Census

<i>Location of Dwelling</i>	<i>One Parent (%)</i>	<i>Two Parents (%)</i>
Auckland Urban	27	25
Other Main Urban	45	41
Secondary Urban	8	8
Minor Urban	10	9
Rural	10	18
Total	100	100
n	(110055)	(339678)

Table 26:
One and Two Parent Families by Household Type in the 1991 Census

<i>Household Type</i>	<i>One Parent (%)</i>	<i>Two Parents (%)</i>
One Family, Dependent Children only	58	78
One Family, Dependent and Adult Children	10	14
One Family and Individual Relatives	8	4
One Family and Unrelated Individuals	12	2
Two or more Families	13	2
Total	100	100
n	(110055)	(339678)

Table 27:
One and Two Parent Families by Housing Tenure in the 1991 Census

<i>Housing Tenure</i>	<i>One Parent (%)</i>	<i>Two Parents (%)</i>
Mortgaged	43	64
Mortgage Free	11	17
Private Rental	20	9
Public Rental	24	6
Rent Free	2	3
Total	100	100
n	(107700)	(337092)

Missing Values = 4944

Table 28:
Ethnicity by Age of Sole Parent in the 1991 Census

<i>Age of Sole Parent</i>	<i>Ethnicity of Sole Parent</i>			
	<i>European (%)</i>	<i>Maori (%)</i>	<i>Pacific Is. (%)</i>	<i>Other (%)</i>
15-19 Years	3	5	3	3
20-24 Years	10	19	15	6
25-29 Years	16	23	21	12
30-39 Years	41	32	32	39
40-49 Years	25	12	18	31
50-59 Years	4	5	7	6
60+ Years	1	3	5	2
Total	100	100	100	100
n	(66300)	(31509)	(7959)	(2007)

Missing Values = 2286

Table 29:
Ethnicity by Sex of Sole Parent in the 1991 Census

<i>Sex of Sole Parent</i>	<i>Ethnicity of Sole Parent</i>			
	<i>European (%)</i>	<i>Maori (%)</i>	<i>Pacific Is. (%)</i>	<i>Other (%)</i>
Male	16	16	17	22
Female	84	84	83	78
Total	100	100	100	100
n	(66300)	(31509)	(7959)	(2007)

Missing Values = 2286

Table 30:
Ethnicity by Marital Status of Sole Parent in the 1991 Census

<i>Marital Status of Sole Parent</i>	<i>Ethnicity of Sole Parent</i>			
	<i>European (%)</i>	<i>Maori (%)</i>	<i>Pacific Is. (%)</i>	<i>Other (%)</i>
Never Married	28	53	44	15
Separated/divorced	65	39	45	70
Widowed	7	9	11	14
Total	100	100	100	100
n	(66009)	(31206)	(7836)	(1962)

Missing Values = 3039

Table 31:
Ethnicity of Sole Parent by Age of Youngest Child in the 1991 Census

<i>Age of Youngest Child</i>	<i>Ethnicity of Sole Parent</i>			
	<i>European (%)</i>	<i>Maori (%)</i>	<i>Pacific Is. (%)</i>	<i>Other (%)</i>
0-4 Years	36	53	57	32
5-8 Years	21	20	18	20
9-12 Years	19	15	14	22
13-15 Years	17	10	9	18
16-18 Years	7	2	3	9
Total	100	100	100	100
n	(66300)	(31509)	(7959)	(2007)

Missing Values = 2283

Table 32:
Ethnicity of Sole Parent by Number of Dependent Children in the 1991 Census

<i>Number of Dependent Children</i>	<i>Ethnicity of Sole Parent</i>			
	<i>European (%)</i>	<i>Maori (%)</i>	<i>Pacific Is. (%)</i>	<i>Other (%)</i>
1	56	50	45	54
2	31	29	29	30
3	10	13	15	11
4	2	5	7	3
5 or More	1	2	4	1
Total	100	100	100	100
n	(66300)	(31509)	(7959)	(2007)

Missing Values = 2283

Table 33:
Ethnicity of Sole Parent by Household Type in the 1991 Census

<i>Household Type</i>	<i>Ethnicity of Sole Parent</i>			
	<i>European (%)</i>	<i>Maori (%)</i>	<i>Pacific Is. (%)</i>	<i>Other (%)</i>
One Family, Dependent Children only	64	50	41	52
One Family, Dependent and Adult Children	10	8	10	11
One Family and Individual Relatives	5	13	15	12
One Family and Unrelated Individuals	12	9	7	9
Two or more Families	8	19	27	16
Total	100	100	100	100
n	(66300)	(31509)	(7959)	(2007)

Missing Values = 2283

Table 34:
Ethnicity of Sole Parent by Location of Dwelling in the 1991 Census

<i>Location of Dwelling</i>	<i>Ethnicity of Sole Parent</i>			
	<i>European (%)</i>	<i>Maori (%)</i>	<i>Pacific Is. (%)</i>	<i>Other (%)</i>
Auckland Urban	22	23	71	53
Other Main Urban	49	42	24	37
Secondary Urban	9	7	3	3
Minor Urban	10	15	1	3
Rural	10	13	1	3
Total	100	100	100	100
n	(66300)	(31509)	(7959)	(2007)

Missing Values = 2283

Table 35:
Ethnicity by Highest Educational Qualification of Sole Parent in the 1991 Census

<i>Highest Educational Qualification</i>	<i>Ethnicity of Sole Parent</i>			
	<i>European (%)</i>	<i>Maori (%)</i>	<i>Pacific Is. (%)</i>	<i>Other (%)</i>
None	40	66	59	36
Secondary	25	17	23	28
Tertiary	35	17	18	36
Total	100	100	100	100
n	(66300)	(31509)	(7959)	(2007)

Missing Values = 2283

Table 36:
Ethnicity by Income by Marital Status of Sole Parent in the 1991 Census

<i>Marital Status</i>	<i>Income</i>	<i>Ethnicity of Sole Parent</i>			
		<i>European (%)</i>	<i>Maori (%)</i>	<i>Pacific Is. (%)</i>	<i>Other (%)</i>
Never Married					
	Below \$15,000	75	83	77	66
	\$15,000-\$20,000	14	11	14	14
	\$20,001-\$30,000	7	5	8	16
	Above \$30,000	4	1	1	4
	Total	100	100	100	100
	n	(17868)	(15195)	(3024)	(279)
Separated/Divorced					
	Below \$15,000	50	72	70	58
	\$15,000-\$20,000	22	15	16	18
	\$20,001-\$30,000	15	8	11	13
	Above \$30,000	12	4	2	11
	Total	100	100	100	100
	n	(42096)	(11244)	(3078)	(1272)
Widowed					
	Below \$15,000	49	78	77	59
	\$15,000-\$20,000	18	12	11	19
	\$20,001-\$30,000	17	7	9	14
	Above \$30,000	16	3	3	8
	Total	100	100	100	100
	n	(4308)	(2493)	(777)	(264)
All					
	Below \$15,000	57	78	74	59
	\$15,000-\$20,000	20	13	14	17
	\$20,001-\$30,000	13	7	10	14
	Above \$30,000	10	2	2	9
	Total	100	100	100	100
	n	(64458)	(29124)	(6933)	(1827)

Missing Values = 8157 for figures by Marital Status, 7716 for 'All' category

Table 37:

Ethnicity of Sole Parent by Housing Tenure by Marital Status in the 1991 Census

Marital Status	Housing Tenure	Ethnicity of Sole Parent			
		European (%)	Maori (%)	Pacific Is. (%)	Other (%)
Never Married					
	Mortgaged	40	30	24	28
	Mortgage Free	7	7	4	18
	Private Rental	29	22	20	32
	Public Rental	21	38	50	16
	Rent Free	2	3	1	6
	Total	100	100	100	100
	n	(18294)	(16185)	(3375)	(300)
Separated/Divorced					
	Mortgaged	55	37	30	39
	Mortgage Free	11	7	3	19
	Private Rental	19	18	13	27
	Public Rental	14	35	52	12
	Rent Free	2	3	1	2
	Total	100	100	100	100
	n	(42783)	(11880)	(3447)	(1356)
Widowed					
	Mortgaged	36	29	31	35
	Mortgage Free	46	32	13	29
	Private Rental	7	7	8	17
	Public Rental	10	26	46	14
	Rent Free	2	5	2	5
	Total	100	100	100	100
	n	(4362)	(2634)	(873)	(282)
All					
	Mortgaged	49	33	27	37
	Mortgage Free	12	9	5	20
	Private Rental	21	19	16	27
	Public Rental	16	36	50	13
	Rent Free	2	3	1	3
	Total	100	100	100	100
	n	(65700)	(30981)	(7815)	(1977)

Missing Values = 4284 for figures by Marital Status, 3588 for 'All' category

Table 38:
Ethnicity of Sole Parent by Age by Marital Status in the 1991 Census

<i>Ethnicity</i>	<i>Marital Status</i>	<i>Age of Sole Parent in Years</i>				
		<i>15-19 (%)</i>	<i>20-24 (%)</i>	<i>25-29 (%)</i>	<i>30-39 (%)</i>	<i>40+ (%)</i>
European						
	Never Married	98	83	50	18	5
	Separated/Divorced	2	17	49	78	80
	Widowed	0	0	1	4	16
	Total	100	100	100	100	100
	n	(1698)	(6912)	(10467)	(26724)	(20205)
Maori						
	Never Married	98	90	69	39	11
	Separated/Divorced	2	10	30	57	55
	Widowed	0	0	1	4	34
	Total	100	100	100	100	100
	n	(1662)	(5898)	(7047)	(10137)	(6462)
Pacific Islands						
	Never Married	95	79	60	39	14
	Separated/Divorced	5	20	38	57	54
	Widowed	0	1	2	4	32
	Total	100	100	100	100	100
	n	(222)	(1188)	(1632)	(2487)	(2301)
Other						
	Never Married	93	60	32	11	3
	Separated/Divorced	7	38	63	79	73
	Widowed	0	2	5	10	24
	Total	100	100	100	100	100
	n	(45)	(126)	(234)	(774)	(783)

Missing Values = 3051

Table 39:
Ethnicity of Sole Parent by Income Support Received in the 1991 Census

<i>Income Support Received</i>	<i>Ethnicity of Sole Parent</i>			
	<i>European (%)</i>	<i>Maori (%)</i>	<i>Pacific Is. (%)</i>	<i>Other (%)</i>
DPB	65	72	57	33
Widows'	2	3	3	3
UB	3	8	10	8
Sickn/Invalids'	1	2	2	1
ACC	2	1	1	1
National Super	1	2	2	1
Other or none	26	12	25	53
Total	100	100	100	100
n	(65916)	(31182)	(7770)	(1920)

Missing Values = 3273

Table 40:
Ethnicity of Sole Parent by Hours Employed in the 1991 Census

<i>Hours Employed</i>	<i>Ethnicity of Sole Parent</i>			
	<i>European (%)</i>	<i>Maori (%)</i>	<i>Pacific Is. (%)</i>	<i>Other (%)</i>
Nil	61	83	80	64
1-29 Hours	13	5	4	7
30 Hours or more	26	12	16	29
Total	100	100	100	100
n	(66300)	(31509)	(7959)	(2007)

Missing Values = 2283

Table 41:
Ethnicity by Occupation of Employed Sole Parents in the 1991 Census

<i>Occupation</i>	<i>Ethnicity of Sole Parent</i>			
	<i>European (%)</i>	<i>Maori (%)</i>	<i>Pacific Is. (%)</i>	<i>Other (%)</i>
Professional/Technical	29	19	14	21
Administrative/				
Managerial	10	4	3	16
Clerks	20	17	20	17
Sales/Service	17	16	15	19
Agricultural/Forestry/				
Fishing	6	7	2	3
Trades/Machine				
Operators	12	20	27	17
Elementary	7	17	19	6
Total	100	100	100	100
n	(25248)	(5067)	(1536)	(699)

Missing Values = 3162

Table 42:
Ethnicity of Sole Parent by Employment Status in the 1991 Census

<i>Employment Status</i>	<i>Ethnicity of Sole Parent</i>			
	<i>European (%)</i>	<i>Maori (%)</i>	<i>Pacific Is. (%)</i>	<i>Other (%)</i>
Employed	38	16	19	35
Seeking Employment	11	14	10	9
Not Seeking				
Employment	51	69	70	56
Total	100	100	100	100
n	(65799)	(31218)	(7884)	(1983)

Missing Values = 3162

Table 43:
Marital Status by Sex of Sole Parent in the 1991 Census

<i>Sex of Sole Parent</i>	<i>Marital Status</i>		
	<i>Never Married (%)</i>	<i>Separated/Divorced (%)</i>	<i>Widowed (%)</i>
Female	89	82	78
Male	11	18	22
Total	100	100	100
n	(38715)	(60222)	(8301)

Missing Values = 2820

Table 44:
Marital Status by Age of Sole Parent in the 1991 Census

<i>Age of Sole Parent</i>	<i>Marital Status</i>		
	<i>Never Married (%)</i>	<i>Separated/Divorced (%)</i>	<i>Widowed (%)</i>
15-19 Years	9	0	0
20-24 Years	31	3	1
25-29 Years	29	13	3
30-39 Years	26	48	21
40-49 Years	4	30	33
50-59 Years	1	5	22
60+ Years	0	1	20
Total	100	100	100
n	(38715)	(60222)	(8301)

Missing Values = 2820

Table 45:
Marital Status of Sole Parent by Age of Youngest Child in the 1991 Census

<i>Age of Youngest Child</i>	<i>Marital Status of Sole Parent</i>		
	<i>Never Married (%)</i>	<i>Separated/Divorced (%)</i>	<i>Widowed (%)</i>
0-4 Years	68	30	18
5-8 Years	17	23	17
9-12 Years	9	22	25
13-15 Years	5	18	27
16-18 Years	1	7	12
Total	100	100	100
n	(38715)	(60222)	(8301)

Missing Values = 2820

Table 46:
Marital Status of Sole Parent by Number of Dependent Children in the 1991 Census

<i>Number of Dependent Children</i>	<i>Marital Status of Sole Parent</i>		
	<i>Never Married (%)</i>	<i>Separated/Divorced (%)</i>	<i>Widowed (%)</i>
1	65	45	57
2	24	35	29
3	8	14	10
4	2	4	3
5 or More	1	2	1
Total	100	100	100
n	(38715)	(60222)	(8301)

Missing Values = 2820

Table 47:
Marital Status by Educational Qualification of Sole Parent in the 1991 Census

<i>Highest Educational Qualification of Sole Parent</i>	<i>Marital Status</i>		
	<i>Never Married (%)</i>	<i>Separated/Divorced (%)</i>	<i>Widowed (%)</i>
None	55	44	57
Secondary	24	23	17
Tertiary	21	33	26
Total	100	100	100
n	(38715)	(60222)	(8301)

Missing Values = 2820

Table 49:
Marital Status of Sole Parent by Household Type in the 1991 Census

<i>Household Type</i>	<i>Marital Status of Sole Parent</i>		
	<i>Never Married (%)</i>	<i>Separated/Divorced (%)</i>	<i>Widowed (%)</i>
One Family, Dependent Children only	53	63	46
One Family, Dependent and Adult Children	2	13	25
One Family and Individual Relatives	12	6	8
One Family and Unrelated Individuals	13	11	7
Two or more Families	21	7	14
Total	100	100	100
n	(38715)	(60222)	(8301)

Missing Values = 2820

Table 50:
Marital Status of Sole Parent by Income Support Received in the 1991 Census

<i>Income Support Received</i>	<i>Marital Status of Sole Parent</i>		
	<i>Never Married (%)</i>	<i>Separated/Divorced (%)</i>	<i>Widowed (%)</i>
DPB	78	65	14
Widows'	0	0	31
UB	7	4	4
Sickness/Invalids'	2	1	2
ACC	1	1	9
National Super	0	1	13
Other or none	12	28	26
Total	100	100	100
n	(38445)	(59811)	(8187)

Missing Values = 3618

Table 51:
Marital Status by Occupation of Employed Sole Parents in the 1991 Census

<i>Occupation</i>	<i>Marital Status of Sole Parent</i>		
	<i>Never Married (%)</i>	<i>Separated/Divorced (%)</i>	<i>Widowed (%)</i>
Professional/Technical	20	29	28
Administrative/ Managerial	5	10	10
Clerks	19	20	17
Sales/Service	20	16	13
Agricultural/Forestry/ Fishing	7	5	9
Trades/Machine Operators	17	13	15
Elementary	13	8	8
Total	100	100	100
n	(6984)	(23025)	(2481)

Missing Values = 3684

Table 52:
Marital Status of Sole Parent by Employment Status in the 1991 Census

<i>Employment Status</i>	<i>Marital Status of Sole Parent</i>		
	<i>Never Married (%)</i>	<i>Separated/Divorced (%)</i>	<i>Widowed (%)</i>
Employed	18	39	30
Seeking Employment	14	12	5
Not Seeking Employment	68	50	65
Total	100	100	100
n	(38481)	(59673)	(8208)

Missing Values = 3684

Table 53:
Marital Status of Sole Parent by Income in the 1991 Census

<i>Income</i>	<i>Marital Status of Sole Parent</i>		
	<i>Never Married</i> (%)	<i>Separated/Divorced</i> (%)	<i>Widowed</i> (%)
Below \$15,000	78	56	61
\$15,000-\$20,000	13	21	15
\$20,001-\$30,000	7	13	13
Above \$30,000	2	10	10
Total	100	100	100
n	(36450)	(57801)	(7842)

Missing Values = 7959

Table 54:
Income by Housing Tenure by Marital Status of Sole Parent in the 1991 Census

Marital Status	Housing Tenure	Income of Sole Parent			
		Below \$15,000 (%)	\$15,000-\$20,000 (%)	\$20,001-\$30,000 (%)	Above \$30,000 (%)
Never Married					
	Mortgaged	34	35	42	56
	Mortgage Free	7	6	9	12
	Private Rental	24	35	28	24
	Public Rental	33	23	18	6
	Rent Free	2	2	3	2
	Total	100	100	100	100
	n	(28215)	(4593)	(2361)	(873)
Separated/Divorced					
	Mortgaged	44	52	58	66
	Mortgage Free	9	9	12	14
	Private Rental	18	23	19	14
	Public Rental	27	14	9	4
	Rent Free	2	2	2	2
	Total	100	100	100	100
	n	(31887)	(11781)	(7731)	(5835)
Widowed					
	Mortgaged	29	35	38	47
	Mortgage Free	35	40	45	45
	Private Rental	7	10	6	5
	Public Rental	25	12	9	3
	Rent Free	4	2	2	1
	Total	100	100	100	100
	n	(4728)	(1203)	(996)	(804)
All					
	Mortgaged	38	47	53	62
	Mortgage Free	10	10	15	17
	Private Rental	20	25	20	15
	Public Rental	30	16	11	4
	Rent Free	2	2	2	2
	Total	100	100	100	100
	n	(64830)	(17577)	(11088)	(7512)

Missing Values = 9048

Table 55:

Hours Employed by Marital Status of Sole Mother in the 1991 Census

<i>Marital Status of Sole Mother</i>	<i>Hours Employed</i>		
	<i>Nil (%)</i>	<i>Part-Time (%)</i>	<i>Full-Time (%)</i>
Never Married	44	23	22
Separated/Divorced	48	69	72
Widowed	7	8	6
Total	100	100	100
n	(65346)	(9591)	(15222)

Missing Values = 1875

Table 56:

Hours Employed by Marital Status of Sole Father in the 1991 Census

<i>Marital Status of Sole Father</i>	<i>Hours Employed</i>		
	<i>Nil (%)</i>	<i>Part-Time (%)</i>	<i>Full-Time (%)</i>
Never Married	29	21	19
Separated/Divorced	59	69	71
Widowed	12	10	10
Total	100	100	100
n	(8529)	(783)	(6549)

Missing Values = 948

Table 57:

Hours Employed by Age of Sole Mother in the 1991 Census

<i>Age of Sole Mother</i>	<i>Hours Employed</i>		
	<i>Nil (%)</i>	<i>Part-Time (%)</i>	<i>Full-Time (%)</i>
15-19 Years	5	1	1
20-24 Years	18	6	5
25-29 Years	22	14	10
30-39 Years	35	47	43
40-49 Years	13	28	37
50-59 Years	4	4	5
60+ Years	2	0	0
Total	100	100	100
n	(66381)	(9609)	(15300)

Missing Values = 747

Table 58:
Hours Employed by Age of Sole Father in the 1991 Census

<i>Age of Sole Father</i>	<i>Hours Employed</i>		
	<i>Nil (%)</i>	<i>Part-Time (%)</i>	<i>Full-Time (%)</i>
15-19 Years	2	2	1
20-24 Years	8	5	5
25-29 Years	16	10	9
30-39 Years	37	39	34
40-49 Years	21	31	39
50-59 Years	8	12	10
60+ Years	7	3	1
Total	100	100	100
n	(9252)	(789)	(7815)

Missing Values = 171

Table 59:
Hours Employed by Ethnicity of Sole Mother in the 1991 Census

<i>Ethnicity of Sole Mother</i>	<i>Hours Employed</i>		
	<i>Nil (%)</i>	<i>Part-Time (%)</i>	<i>Full-Time (%)</i>
European	55	81	76
Maori	35	15	16
Pacific Islands	8	3	6
Other	2	1	2
Total	100	100	100
n	(65679)	(9585)	(15267)

Missing Values = 1494

Table 60:
Hours Employed by Ethnicity of Sole Father in the 1991 Census

<i>Ethnicity of Sole Father</i>	<i>Hours Employed</i>		
	<i>Nil (%)</i>	<i>Part-Time (%)</i>	<i>Full-Time (%)</i>
European	48	71	75
Maori	40	22	17
Pacific Islands	10	5	6
Other	2	3	3
Total	100	100	100
n	(8661)	(786)	(7797)

Missing Values = 789

Table 61:
Hours Employed by Ethnicity by Marital Status of Sole Parent in the 1991 Census

<i>Marital Status</i>	<i>Ethnicity</i>	<i>Hours Employed of Sole Parent</i>		
		<i>Nil (%)</i>	<i>Part-Time (%)</i>	<i>Full-Time (%)</i>
Never Married				
	European	45	66	56
	Maori	45	28	31
	Pacific Islands	9	6	11
	Other	1	1	2
	Total	100	100	100
	n	(31425)	(2373)	(4827)
Separated/Divorced				
	European	65	85	82
	Maori	26	11	12
	Pacific Islands	7	2	4
	Other	2	2	3
	Total	100	100	100
	n	(36573)	(7134)	(16392)
Widowed				
	European	44	78	72
	Maori	39	17	19
	Pacific Islands	13	3	5
	Other	4	2	4
	Total	100	100	100
	n	(5718)	(831)	(1731)
All				
	European	55	80	76
	Maori	35	15	16
	Pacific Islands	9	3	6
	Other	2	1	2
	Total	100	100	100
	n	(74340)	(10371)	(23064)

Missing Values = 2283

Table 62:
Hours Employed of Sole Mother by Age of Youngest Child in the 1991 Census

<i>Age of Youngest Child</i>	<i>Hours Employed of Sole Mother</i>		
	<i>Nil (%)</i>	<i>Part-Time (%)</i>	<i>Full-Time (%)</i>
0-4 Years	55	27	18
5-8 Years	20	26	19
9-12 Years	14	24	25
13-15 Years	9	17	26
16-18 Years	3	6	12
Total	100	100	100
n	(66381)	(9609)	(15300)

Missing Values = 747

Table 63:
Hours Employed of Sole Father by Age of Youngest Child in the 1991 Census

<i>Age of Youngest Child</i>	<i>Hours Employed of Sole Father</i>		
	<i>Nil (%)</i>	<i>Part-Time (%)</i>	<i>Full-Time (%)</i>
0-4 Years	32	22	22
5-8 Years	26	22	18
9-12 Years	22	25	23
13-15 Years	17	22	27
16-18 Years	4	9	11
Total	100	100	100
n	(9252)	(789)	(7815)

Missing Values = 171

Table 64:
Age of Youngest Child by Sole Mother's Full-Time Employment in the 1991 Census

<i>Sole Mother's Full-Time Employment</i>	<i>Age of Youngest Child</i>				
	<i>0-4 (%)</i>	<i>5-8 (%)</i>	<i>9-12 (%)</i>	<i>13-15 (%)</i>	<i>16-18 (%)</i>
Employed	7	15	25	34	43
Not Employed	93	85	75	66	57
Total	100	100	100	100	100
n	(41520)	(18564)	(15387)	(11475)	(4344)

Missing Values = 747

Table 65:

Age of Youngest Child by Sole Father's Full-Time Employment in the 1991 Census

<i>Sole Father's Full-Time Employment</i>	<i>Age of Youngest Child</i>				
	<i>0-4 (%)</i>	<i>5-8 (%)</i>	<i>9-12 (%)</i>	<i>13-15 (%)</i>	<i>16-18 (%)</i>
Employed	35	35	45	55	66
Not Employed	65	65	55	45	34
Total	100	100	100	100	100
n	(4812)	(3978)	(3987)	(3810)	(1269)

Missing Values = 171

Table 66:

Hours Employed of Sole Mother by Number of Dependent Children in the 1991 Census

<i>Number of Dependent Children</i>	<i>Hours Employed of Sole Mother</i>		
	<i>Nil (%)</i>	<i>Part-Time (%)</i>	<i>Full-Time (%)</i>
1	50	50	61
2	31	35	29
3	13	12	8
4	5	2	2
5 or More	2	1	0
Total	100	100	100
n	(66381)	(9609)	(15300)

Missing Values = 747

Table 67:

Hours Employed of Sole Father by Number of Dependent Children in the 1991 Census

<i>Number of Dependent Children</i>	<i>Hours Employed of Sole Father</i>		
	<i>Nil (%)</i>	<i>Part-Time (%)</i>	<i>Full-Time (%)</i>
1	60	63	63
2	26	27	27
3	9	8	8
4	3	2	2
5 or More	1	1	1
Total	100	100	100
n	(9252)	(789)	(7815)

Missing Values = 171

Table 68:
Hours Employed by Educational Qualification of Sole Mother in the 1991 Census

<i>Highest Educational Qualification of Sole Mother</i>	<i>Hours Employed</i>		
	<i>Nil (%)</i>	<i>Part-Time (%)</i>	<i>Full-Time (%)</i>
None	57	34	26
Secondary	23	29	24
Tertiary	20	38	49
Total	100	100	100
n	(66381)	(9609)	(15300)

Missing Values = 747

Table 69:
Hours Employed by Educational Qualification of Sole Father in the 1991 Census

<i>Highest Educational Qualification of Sole Father</i>	<i>Hours Employed</i>		
	<i>Nil (%)</i>	<i>Part-Time (%)</i>	<i>Full-Time (%)</i>
None	63	41	34
Secondary	14	17	19
Tertiary	23	42	47
Total	100	100	100
n	(9252)	(789)	(7815)

Missing Values = 171

Table 70:
Educational Qualification by Sole Mother's Full-Time Employment in the 1991 Census

<i>Sole Mother's Full-Time Employment</i>	<i>Educational Qualification</i>		
	<i>No Qualification (%)</i>	<i>Secondary (%)</i>	<i>Tertiary (%)</i>
Employed	9	17	31
Not Employed	91	83	69
Total	100	100	100
n	(44928)	(21756)	(24603)

Missing Values = 747

Table 71:
Educational Qualification by Sole Father's Full-Time Employment in the 1991 Census

<i>Sole Father's Full-Time Employment</i>	<i>Educational Qualification</i>		
	<i>No Qualification (%)</i>	<i>Secondary (%)</i>	<i>Tertiary (%)</i>
Employed	30	52	60
Not Employed	70	48	40
Total	100	100	100
n	(8832)	(2916)	(6102)

Missing Values = 171

Table 72:

Hours Employed by Educational Qualification of Sole Parent by Age of Youngest Child in the 1991 Census

<i>Age of Youngest Child</i>	<i>Highest Educational Qualification</i>	<i>Hours Employed of Sole Parent</i>		
		<i>Nil (%)</i>	<i>Part-Time (%)</i>	<i>Full-Time (%)</i>
0-4 Years				
	None	56	29	30
	Secondary	24	32	26
	Tertiary	19	39	43
	Total	100	100	100
	n	(39138)	(2757)	(4434)
5-8 Years				
	None	57	31	27
	Secondary	21	30	23
	Tertiary	22	39	50
	Total	100	100	100
	n	(15657)	(2637)	(4251)
9-12 Years				
	None	60	37	27
	Secondary	18	26	22
	Tertiary	22	37	51
	Total	100	100	100
	n	(11202)	(2505)	(5673)
13-15 Years				
	None	61	41	31
	Secondary	17	22	21
	Tertiary	22	37	49
	Total	100	100	100
	n	(7431)	(1812)	(6039)
16-18 Years				
	None	56	39	29
	Secondary	19	22	22
	Tertiary	25	39	49
	Total	100	100	100
	n	(2205)	(693)	(2715)

Missing Values = 918

Table 73:
Hours Employed of Sole Mother by Household Type in the 1991 Census

<i>Household Type</i>	<i>Hours Employed of Sole Mother</i>		
	<i>Nil (%)</i>	<i>Part-Time (%)</i>	<i>Full-Time (%)</i>
One Family, Dependent Children only	59	67	57
One Family, Dependent and Adult Children	8	12	15
One Family and Individual Relatives	9	5	7
One Family and Unrelated Individuals	10	9	12
Two or more Families	14	7	9
Total	100	100	100
n	(66381)	(9609)	(15300)

Missing Values = 747

Table 74:
Hours Employed of Sole Father by Household Type in the 1991 Census

<i>Household Type</i>	<i>Hours Employed of Sole Father</i>		
	<i>Nil (%)</i>	<i>Part-Time (%)</i>	<i>Full-Time (%)</i>
One Family, Dependent Children only	52	56	50
One Family, Dependent and Adult Children	8	10	12
One Family and Individual Relatives	9	7	8
One Family and Unrelated Individuals	15	17	19
Two or more Families	15	10	10
Total	100	100	100
n	(9252)	(789)	(7815)

Missing Values = 171

Table 75:
Hours Employed of Sole Mother by Location of Dwelling in the 1991 Census

<i>Location of Dwelling</i>	<i>Hours Employed of Sole Mother</i>		
	<i>Nil (%)</i>	<i>Part-Time (%)</i>	<i>Full-Time (%)</i>
Auckland Urban	28	20	31
Other Main Urban	45	51	48
Secondary Urban	8	9	7
Minor Urban	11	10	8
Rural	9	10	7
Total	100	100	100
n	(66381)	(9609)	(15300)

Missing Values = 747

Table 76:
Hours Employed of Sole Father by Location of Dwelling in the 1991 Census

<i>Location of Dwelling</i>	<i>Hours Employed of Sole Father</i>		
	<i>Nil (%)</i>	<i>Part-Time (%)</i>	<i>Full-Time (%)</i>
Auckland Urban	25	22	26
Other Main Urban	41	40	40
Secondary Urban	7	8	8
Minor Urban	12	11	10
Rural	16	19	17
Total	100	100	100
n	(9252)	(789)	(7815)

Missing Values = 171

Table 77:
Hours Employed of Sole Mother by Housing Tenure in the 1991 Census

<i>Housing Tenure</i>	<i>Hours Employed of Sole Mother</i>		
	<i>Nil (%)</i>	<i>Part-Time (%)</i>	<i>Full-Time (%)</i>
Mortgaged	37	53	56
Mortgage Free	9	15	14
Private Rental	22	16	17
Public Rental	30	15	11
Rent Free	2	2	2
Total	100	100	100
n	(65115)	(9510)	(15156)

Missing Values = 2247

Table 78:
Hours Employed of Sole Father by Housing Tenure in the 1991 Census

<i>Housing Tenure</i>	<i>Hours Employed of Sole Father</i>		
	<i>Nil (%)</i>	<i>Part-Time (%)</i>	<i>Full-Time (%)</i>
Mortgaged	37	48	55
Mortgage Free	14	18	14
Private Rental	21	19	19
Public Rental	25	11	8
Rent Free	3	4	4
Total	100	100	100
n	(8547)	(777)	(7698)

Missing Values = 1002

Table 79:

Hours Employed of Sole Mother by Income Support Received in the 1991 Census

<i>Income Support Received</i>	<i>Hours Employed of Sole Mother</i>		
	<i>Nil (%)</i>	<i>Part-Time (%)</i>	<i>Full-Time (%)</i>
DPB	83	73	21
Widows'	3	3	1
UB	4	2	2
Sickness/Invalids'	2	1	1
ACC	1	2	2
National Super	1	0	0
Other or none	6	19	73
Total	100	100	100
n	(65436)	(9564)	(15147)

Missing Values = 1881

Table 80:

Hours Employed of Sole Father by Income Support Received in the 1991 Census

<i>Income Support Received</i>	<i>Hours Employed of Sole Father</i>		
	<i>Nil (%)</i>	<i>Part-Time (%)</i>	<i>Full-Time (%)</i>
DPB	60	39	5
Widows'	0	0	0
UB	19	10	5
Sickness/Invalids'	4	1	1
ACC	3	5	3
National Super	5	2	1
Other or none	8	42	85
Total	100	100	100
n	(8535)	(774)	(7569)

Missing Values = 1149

Table 81:
Hours Employed by Occupation of Employed Sole Mothers in the 1991 Census

<i>Occupation</i>	<i>Hours Employed of Sole Mother</i>	
	<i>Part-Time</i> (%)	<i>Full-Time</i> (%)
Professional/Technical	20	35
Administrative/ Managerial	2	11
Clerks	22	26
Sales/Service	33	12
Agricultural/Forestry/ Fishing	4	3
Trades/Machine Operators	5	7
Elementary	13	5
Total	100	100
n	(9312)	(14940)

Missing Values = 1398

Table 82:
Hours Employed by Occupation of Employed Sole Fathers in the 1991 Census

<i>Occupation</i>	<i>Hours Employed of Sole Father</i>	
	<i>Part-Time</i> (%)	<i>Full-Time</i> (%)
Professional/Technical	19	19
Administrative/ Managerial	4	14
Clerks	4	4
Sales/Service	12	6
Agricultural/Forestry/ Fishing	14	12
Trades/Machine Operators	34	35
Elementary	13	10
Total	100	100
n	(759)	(7608)

Missing Values = 405

Table 83:
Hours Employed of Sole Mother by Income in the 1991 Census

<i>Income</i>	<i>Hours Employed of Sole Mother</i>		
	<i>Nil (%)</i>	<i>Part-Time (%)</i>	<i>Full-Time (%)</i>
Below \$15,000	81	54	18
\$15,000-\$20,000	15	34	19
\$20,001-\$30,000	3	9	38
Above \$30,000	1	3	25
Total	100	100	100
n	(61581)	(9462)	(15078)

Missing Values = 5913

Table 84:
Hours Employed of Sole Father by Income in the 1991 Census

<i>Income</i>	<i>Hours Employed of Sole Father</i>		
	<i>Nil (%)</i>	<i>Part-Time (%)</i>	<i>Full-Time (%)</i>
Below \$15,000	81	44	14
\$15,000-\$20,000	13	25	14
\$20,001-\$30,000	4	19	31
Above \$30,000	2	12	41
Total	100	100	100
n	(8022)	(771)	(7629)

Missing Values = 1599

Table 85:

Rate of Full-Time Employment of Sole Parent by Ethnicity by Age of Youngest Child by Secondary Qualification in the 1991 Census

<i>Age of Youngest Child</i>	<i>Secondary Qualification</i>	<i>Ethnicity of Sole Parent</i>			
		<i>European</i>	<i>Maori</i>	<i>Pacific Is.</i>	<i>Other</i>
		<i>(% Employed Full-Time)</i>			
0-4 Years					
	No Qualification	6	5	9	17
	Qualification	15	11	16	26
5-8 Years					
	No Qualification	12	9	13	18
	Qualification	28	20	25	30
9-12 Years					
	No Qualification	20	14	17	19
	Qualification	43	29	34	39
13-18 Years					
	No Qualification	34	19	19	24
	Qualification	56	39	44	42
Total		26	12	16	29
n		(66300)	(31509)	(7959)	(2007)

Missing Values = 2283

Table 86:

Rate of Full-Time Employment of Sole Parent by Marital Status by Age of Youngest Child in the 1991 Census

<i>Age of Youngest Child</i>	<i>Marital Status of Sole Parent</i>		
	<i>Never Married</i>	<i>Separated/Divorced</i>	<i>Widowed</i>
<i>(% Employed Full-Time)</i>			
0-4 Years	8	12	11
5-8 Years	16	21	17
9-12 Years	24	33	22
13-15 Years	36	44	25
16-18 Years	44	53	30
Total	12	27	21
n	(38715)	(60222)	(8301)

Missing Values = 2820

Table 87:

Rate of Full-Time Employment of Sole Parent by Age of Youngest Child by Number of Children in the 1991 Census

<i>Age of Youngest Child</i>	<i>Number of Children</i>			
	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4+</i>
	<i>(% Employed Full-Time)</i>			
0-4 Years	12	8	8	6
5-8 Years	21	18	16	14
9-12 Years	28	32	29	18
13-15 Years	39	42	36	38
16-18 Years	49	40	-	-
Total	25	20	14	8
n	(58062)	(33168)	(12450)	(5436)

Missing Values = 915

Percentages have been omitted where n is less than 20



DEPARTMENT OF

Social Welfare

SOCIAL POLICY AGENCY
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