

## *Safety-net Solutions to Poverty*

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Over the past at least half a century, the circumstances that surround maternal and child poverty have changed dramatically. Increases in single-parenthood, female labor force participation, and shifts in how the government provides aid to poor mothers and children have changed not only who is poor, but what being poor means. This paper describes changes in maternal and child poverty over the past 60 years by family structure (married vs. not married) and work effort, as well as how different measures of poverty provide different stories. Recommendations for reforms to public policy that aim to strengthen the family and increase employment among poor parents as a way to reduce poverty will be discussed.