

# **Decomposing Trends in Lone Mothers' Educational Attainment, Labor Market Outcomes, and Poverty**

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## Short Abstract

Today more women are having children out of wedlock and on their own; lone motherhood is on the rise (DeParle and Tavernise 2012, Roiphe 2012). While researchers typically focus on single, female-headed households to understand the dynamics of this particular population, this narrow definition limits our understanding of lone mothers. For example, lone mothers may also live with their children in someone else's home.

Lone mothers are single, separated, divorced, and widowed. They are householders and non-householders. They live in households with only their children, as well as in households with their parents, other relatives, and non-relatives. This paper uses data from the Current Population Survey (CPS) Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC) to assess well-being indicators of all lone mother families. Specifically, it compares the educational attainment, labor force participation, and poverty status of lone mothers by headship status, age, and household composition over the past five decades (1967 to the present).

## Introduction

This paper examines trends in the well-being of lone mothers over the past half century in the United States. Lone mothers are a complex group. Some live alone with children. Others live in their own home with their children and other relatives or adults, and some live in another adult relative or non-relative's home.<sup>2</sup> Young lone mothers who have had less time to establish and advance their educational and career trajectories are at a greater risk of poverty, have lower levels of education, and have lower levels of career advancement than older lone mothers have. Studies examining the well-being and socioeconomic situations of lone mothers tend to focus on mothers who are householders (Bianchi 1999; Hoynes et al. 1996). These lone mothers are particularly vulnerable to poverty. This might explain why the literature on lone mothers focuses predominantly on female-headed households in poverty and those mothers participating in welfare programs like public assistance (AFDC/TANF), food stamps, earned income tax credits (EITC), and Medicaid (Berger and Black 1992, Hoynes 1996, Kling et al. 2007, Meyer and Rosenbaum 2001, Moffitt and Wolfe 1992).

The studies mentioned above already document low levels of education, weak labor market outcomes, and high poverty rates for single, female-headed households. However, this is just a subgroup of all lone mothers. In the United States, approximately one-in-four lone mothers are not householders but live in their parents' or other relatives' household (London 1998; Heggeness 2010). We know little about the 25 percent of lone mothers living in another relative or parents' household. Living with other family members allows for shared resources and reduces the risk of poverty. Household sharing can also provide additional support, such as free or affordable childcare by a relative while the mother works or attends school.

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<sup>2</sup> For purposes of this paper, lone mothers are grouped into three categories: (1) householder lone mothers in simple households, (2) householder lone mothers in complex households, (3) and non-householder lone mothers in complex households. Table 1 provides definitions of householder, lone mother, and simple/complex households.

Age also matters. Lone mothers aged 25 and older are more likely to be settled in their careers, have higher levels of education and income, and lower poverty rates than mothers under age 25. In fact, the past decade has brought about a normalcy in the media of women, well established financially and otherwise, having children without waiting until the perfect partner comes along. Since single, career-oriented women are contemplating this now more than ever, any understanding of trends in lone motherhood should address differences between mothers based on life cycle distinctions. Presenting trends by age group is a first attempt at assessing the differences in education, work, and poverty of these groups.

Because *family* income and resources available within the family and household influence the well-being of lone mothers and their families and because young mothers face additional risks the paper proceed as follows. First, it decomposes trends in the well-being and socioeconomic status of lone mothers into six categories by age and household composition. These categories are composed of two age groups and three household composition groups.

This paper uncovers differences in trends by age group of the mother, as well as captures social support differences within the household. It will show that younger lone mothers who live on their own are more vulnerable to poverty than older lone mothers and lone mothers who live in a household with other adults. However, it will also show the complexity of outcomes for lone mothers living with other relatives and adults. While these mothers have lower poverty rates, they also experience lower rates of educational attainment and labor force participation. The inclusion of other relative's income into the household may protect them from poverty. However, they are potentially vulnerable to falling into poverty should the support of their extended family be removed.

## Background

The composition of the female labor force has evolved over time. Single women primarily dominated the female labor force at the turn of the 20th century, and most of them were young, childless, and waiting to find a suitable mate to marry, at which time they would stop working (Goldin 1980). Goldin identifies a shift in this paradigm around the 1920s when married women began to work in large numbers and shows that from the 1920s to the 1970s, married women working as secretaries and in other white-collar jobs dominated the female labor force.

The era of the 1960s and 1970s brought about the women's liberation movement and civil rights movements that changed social perceptions of women and their ability to be independent, work, and raise children alone. Bianchi (1999) claimed that while the relative risk of poverty increased for women overall, it actually decreased for working-age women in the 1980s. Factors she identified that influenced the risk of poverty include: female employment, gendered wage gaps, a decline in manufacturing jobs and family wage jobs, increase in non-marriage, and the public transfer of income to the elderly.

The welfare reforms of the 1990s increased pressure on lone mothers in poverty to work outside the home. Welfare reform, in addition to encouraging young, poor, lone mothers to work, allocated more resources toward eliminating barriers to work, such as childcare and transportation. It also reduced barriers to receiving assistance if one lived with other relatives, such as parents. Regardless of the evolving female labor force, single motherhood is still considered a social problem, especially among the poor, even as it becomes more common for single, female professionals to take on motherhood without waiting to find a suitable mate.

## Methodology

This paper uses the U.S. Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (CPS) Annual Social and Economic Supplements (ASEC) micro data from 1967 to 2012, referring to calendar years 1966 to 2011.<sup>3</sup> The CPS ASEC is a nationally representative sample of the population within the United States. While the CPS is a monthly survey, the CPS ASEC, also known as the March supplement, collects extensive employment, earnings, income, and program participation data once a year. The survey interviews approximately 100,000 households annually. The CPS ASEC's primary function is to collect information on labor force participation, income, and program participation to inform policymakers of trends in labor, unemployment, and economic well-being for individuals, families, and households.

Structural changes to CPS data have occurred since the 1967 ASEC. While most variables remain consistent, a handful of variables used in this analysis have diverse structures or coding schemes over time. Cleaning and harmonizing these variables for consistent coding and structure allows for the creation of a single dataset with multiple years of data.<sup>4</sup> For example, the poverty variables in the dataset replicate the official poverty measure, accounting for changes in the poverty universe over time.

Using this dataset, I calculate trends in the rate of lone motherhood under three types of household configurations. Table 1 defines lone mothers, householders, and simple/complex households used in this paper. Based on these definitions, the three types of lone mothers are (1) lone mother householders in simple households, (2) lone mother householders in complex households, and (3) lone mother non-householders in complex households. In addition, I divide

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<sup>3</sup> Data are subject to error arising from a variety of sources. For more information on sampling and non-sampling error, see [www.census.gov/apspd/techdoc/cps/cpsmar12.pdf](http://www.census.gov/apspd/techdoc/cps/cpsmar12.pdf) (accessed October 12, 2012).

<sup>4</sup> The data cleaning and harmonization work took place for a previous working paper with Charles Hokayem. See Heggeness & Hokayem (2013) SEHSD Working Paper 2013-02 for more information.

lone mothers into two age groups: 15 to 24 and 25 to 49. This allows the analysis to isolate aspects of education, work, and poverty that are associated with household configuration and age. A prime example of this is the school/work choice. Mothers aged 15 to 24 are making choices regarding their time that balance motherhood, work and school. Mothers aged 25 to 49, who are primarily beyond traditional University and technical school ages, are making decisions about their time as it relates to motherhood and work.

Trends in lone mother poverty rates are compared for each type by age group and over time. Young mothers living on their own with no support system in the household are expected to have the highest poverty rates, as their family income is their own personal income and they have had less years of education and work experience than their counterparts aged 25 to 49. In addition to poverty rates, the paper presents income-to-poverty ratios for mothers living between 100 and less than 200 percent of poverty thresholds and those with incomes at or above 200 percent of poverty thresholds.

Educational attainment and labor market outcomes are compared over time. Education has been documented as highly correlated with, and a predictor of, labor market outcomes. The proportion of lone mothers aged 25 to 49 with less than a high school diploma, a high school diploma, some college, or a college degree or higher are compared. For lone mothers aged 15 to 24, school enrollment rates are presented. This paper also assesses trends in labor force participation by age group and household configuration.

### Analysis

The primary focus of this paper is to assess the extent to which lone mother family characteristics related to poverty, education, and employment differ by age and household

configuration. The following section highlights major differences in these characteristics of lone mother householders in simple households compared to those non-householders and those in complex households. Results shown in Tables 2 and 3 highlight estimates from 1967, 1984, and 2012.<sup>5</sup> Figures 1 through 10 show trends by year from 1967 to 2012.

Figure 1 shows the number of women aged 15 to 24 and the number aged 25 to 49. In addition, it shows the percent of all women living with their own children and the percent of lone mothers living with own children. While fewer women are living with own children today than in 1984, there has been an increase in the proportion of lone mothers living with own children in both age group categories.

Figure 2 shows the number of lone mothers by age group, householder status, and household type. Lone mother families living in complex households increased between 1984 and 2012 (see also Tables 2 and 3, Number of Lone Mothers).

Mothers aged 15 to 24 experienced an increase in the number living in complex households. Lone mother householders aged 15 to 24 in complex households increased four fold between 1984 and 2012, and lone mother non-householders living in complex households increased by 131 percent.

For those mothers aged 25 to 49, the largest increase between 1984 and 2012 occurred in lone mother householders in complex households, an increase of over 200 (207.4) percent.

The next sections of this analysis discuss outcomes and trends for lone mothers aged 15 to 24 and for those aged 25 to 49 separately.

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<sup>5</sup> Prior to 1984, lone mothers living with their children in their parents' home were unidentifiable within the data. See London (1998) for detailed information. Lone mother non-householder in complex household estimates are lower than their true value for those years. Tables 2 and 3 provide estimates for 1967, 1984, and 2012, and, because of the undercount issue, I restrict the text discussion in this paper to 1984 and 2012. Further versions of this paper will handle the undercount by applying a methodology similar to London.



### Lone Mothers (Aged 15 to 24)

Young mothers experienced a significant shift in living situations between 1984 and 2012. Over half of all lone mothers aged 15 to 24 lived independently as householders in simple households in 1984; only one fourth of them lived in this household configuration by 2012. Over one-half lived as non-householders in complex households in 2012. More young mothers were living with parents, partnering up with cohabiting partners, or living with other adults in 2012 than in 1984 or 1967 (see Table 2 and Figures 2 and 3).

The poverty rates for lone mothers aged 15 to 24 decreased from 1984 to 2012 in all three household configurations. However, living in a complex household was associated with lower levels of poverty compared to living in a simple household in 1984 and 2012. Approximately 34.6 percent of lone mother non-householders living in complex households and 59.6 percent of lone mother householders living in complex households lived in poverty in 2012, compared to 73.0 percent of lone mother householders in simple households (see Table 2 and Figure 4). In 2012, lone mother non-householders in complex households had poverty rates half as large as those in simple households (see Figure 4).

Only 2.5 percent of lone mothers in simple households in 2012 had family incomes higher than 200 percent of their poverty threshold, compared to almost one-third of lone mother non-householders in complex households.

School attendance varies by the type of household configuration. Lone mother non-householders in complex families have higher and more stable school enrollment rates than their householder counterparts. In 2012, 93.7 percent of these mothers were in school, compared to 58.8 percent of lone mother householders in complex households and 79.9 percent of lone mother householders in simple households (see Table 2 and Figure 5). The rate of lone mothers

enrolled in school increased between 1984 and 2012 for lone mother householders in simple households, as well as for lone mother non-householders in complex households.

Lone mother non-householders in complex households had lower rates of labor force participation than their counterparts did in 2012. Approximately, 37.8 percent of these mothers were working (see Table 2 and Figure 6), whereas 72.4 percent of all lone mother householders in simple households and 65.7 percent of lone mother householders in complex households worked.<sup>6</sup> From 1984 to 2012, labor force participation for lone mother householders increased for lone mother householders in simple families and complex families. For example, lone mother householders in simple households increased their labor force participation rates by over 50 percent. Over the same two reference years, lone mother non-householders in complex families decreased their labor force participation.

All young mothers experienced a sharp decline in public assistance program participation between 1984 and 2012 (see Table 2 and Figures 7).<sup>7</sup> In 1984, 68.6 percent of lone mother householders lived in a household receiving public assistance. In 2012, this rate decreased to 18.9 percent. Rates are lower in 1984 for lone mother householders aged 15 to 24 in complex households compared to those in simple households.

#### Lone Mothers (Aged 25 to 49)

The proportion of lone mothers aged 25 to 49 in living in complex households increased between 1984 and 2012. Lone mother householders in complex households doubled, from 10.9 percent in 1984 to 22.1 percent in 2012 (see Table 3 and Figures 2 and 3). The percent of lone

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<sup>6</sup> The difference between lone mother householders in simple households and those in complex households is not significant.

<sup>7</sup> For purposes of this paper, public assistance programs refer to Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF).

mother non-householders in complex households increased from 8.6 percent to 12.9 percent between 1984 and 2012. Approximately 80.6 percent of lone mothers aged 25 to 49 lived as householders in simple households in 1984 as compared to 65.1 percent in 2012.

Poverty rates over the same two referenced years decreased for lone mother householders living in simple and non-householders living in complex households. For lone mother householders in simple households, two-in-five (40.8) percent lived in poverty in 2012 (see Table 3 and Figure 4). This compares to 31.7 percent of lone mother non-householders in complex households.

Educational attainment increased across household configuration groups. The percent of lone mothers aged 25 to 49 attaining at least four years of college education almost doubled between 1984 and 2012 (see Table 3 and Figure 8). In 2012, nearly one-in-five (18.7 percent) lone mother householders in simple households had attained a college degree. This compares to almost one-in-nine (11.1 percent) lone mother non-householders in complex households. Lone mother householders in simple households had higher rates of college completion compared to lone mother non-householders in complex households.<sup>8</sup> However, approximately 14.6 percent still had less than a high school diploma in 2012.

Most lone mothers aged 25 to 49 worked in the formal labor market. In 2012, 80.1 percent of lone mother householders in simple households were in the labor force, compared to 74.1 percent of lone mother householders in complex households and 76.7 percent of lone mother non-householders in complex households (see Table 3 and Figure 6).<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> There was no statistical difference between lone mother householders in simple households compared to those in complex households.

<sup>9</sup> The only significant difference found is between the 80.1 percent of lone mother householders in simple households versus the 74.1 percent of lone mother householders in complex households.

As with lone mothers aged 15 to 24, the rate of public assistance receipt has decreased for those aged 25 to 49 as well. In 2012, only one-in-ten (10.1 percent) of lone mother householders in simple households received public assistance (see Table 3 and Figure 7). That rate was 8.2 and 8.6 respectively for lone mother householders and non-householders in complex households.<sup>10</sup> There is a drop in public assistance program participation by two-thirds across all groups from 1984 to 2012.

Food Stamp/Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) receipt increased between 1984 and 2012 for lone mother householders in simple households and lone mother non-householders in complex households. In 2012, 41.1 percent of lone mother householders in simple households received food stamps (see Table 3 and Figure 9). This compares to 32.4 percent of lone mother non-householders in complex households.

### Conclusion

This paper shows trends in well-being indicators of lone mothers by age group and household configuration. By doing this, the paper highlights differences in education and work choices by age group, as well as differences in poverty rates, participation in public assistance and food stamps.

Lone mother non-householders aged 15 to 24 in complex households have higher school enrollment and lower poverty rates than their householder counterparts. More schooling means more investment in their future, which may reduce their risk of poverty in the long run.

For lone mother non-householders aged 25 to 49, living in another person's household is associated with lower educational attainment. It is worth highlighting that if lone mothers in

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<sup>10</sup> Differences in public assistance rates in 2012 by household configuration are not statistically significant.

complex households were to lose their extended support systems, it is possible they would be even more vulnerable to poverty than their counterparts in simple households would.

This paper has established clear distinctions in well-being by age group and household configuration of lone mothers. Overall, this paper provides a much-needed assessment of the well-being of lone mothers over the past six decades in the United States as it relates to education, work, and poverty. It provides insight into the educational attainment, labor market outcomes, and poverty trends of lone mothers by household composition and age group from the 1960s to the present. The unique contributions of this paper are the decomposition of trends for lone mothers in education, work, and poverty over a long period. Next steps include adding additional labor market indicators to the analysis and modeling the impact of social policy changes on lone mother's work, education, poverty, and household configuration.

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Table 1. Definitions

<b>Name</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Lone Mother	A single (never married), divorced, separated, or widowed female aged 15 to 49 living with own children under age 18.
Householder	The person in whose name the housing unit is owned or rented (maintained) or, if there is no such person, any adult member, excluding roomers, boarders, or paid employees. Householder is self-identified by the respondent(s). In 1980, the Census Bureau replaced "Head of the Household" with "Householder."
Simple Household	Any household where all the individuals within the household are related to the householder as the spouse or child(ren).
Complex Household	Any household where individuals aged 18 and older who are not the spouse or child(ren) of the householder live. For example, a household with grandchildren over age 17, aunts, uncles, cohabiting partners, or unrelated adults is considered a complex household for the purposes of this paper.

Table 2. Descriptive Statistics of Lone Mothers Aged 15 to 24 by Household Type and Year, United States, 1967 to 2012

	Householder, Simple HH			Householder, Complex HH			Non-Householder, Complex HH		
	1967	1984	2012	1967	1984	2012	1967	1984	2012
Number of Lone Mothers	136,137 (23,422)	557,535 (50,108)	484,872 (33,347)	16,509 (8,158)	93,030 (20,478)	446,971 (36,533)	106,696 (20,736)	428,898 (43,954)	991,897 (48,276)
Proportion of Lone Mothers	52.5 (0.905)	51.7 (0.909)	25.2 (1.572)	6.4 (0.871)	8.6 (0.511)	23.2 (1.588)	41.1 (0.891)	39.7 (0.890)	51.6 (1.658)
Income-to-Poverty Ratios (Reference Year)									
Percent <100%	73.0 (1.135)	82.3 (0.980)	73.0 (3.117)	60.8 (1.248)	69.5 (1.182)	59.6 (3.646)	29.9 (1.171)	44.9 (1.277)	34.6 (2.211)
Percent 100 to <200%	19.3 (1.009)	14.8 (0.912)	24.5 (2.928)	31.9 (1.192)	20.8 (1.041)	22.5 (2.912)	50.4 (1.278)	29.2 (1.167)	33.0 (2.069)
Percent 200%+	7.7 (0.682)	2.9 (0.432)	2.5 (0.950)	7.3 (0.663)	9.8 (0.762)	17.9 (2.909)	19.7 (1.017)	26.0 (1.126)	32.3 (2.037)
Percent In School	--	62.1 (1.356)	79.9 (5.855)	--	73.0 (0.808)	58.8 (7.785)	--	87.9 (0.593)	93.7 (2.008)
Percent in Labor Force (Reference Year)	65.7 (0.925)	45.9 (0.975)	72.4 (3.593)	68.4 (0.978)	49.2 (0.978)	65.7 (3.735)	50.1 (0.974)	47.1 (0.977)	37.8 (2.136)
Percent Receiving Public Assistance (Reference Year)	--	68.6 (0.844)	18.9 (2.517)	--	45.8 (0.906)	16.7 (2.714)	--	38.2 (0.884)	9.7 (1.388)
Percent Receiving Food Stamps (Reference Year)	--	64.8 (0.869)	71.2 (2.959)	--	45.0 (0.905)	44.8 (3.715)	--	35.1 (0.868)	35.1 (2.327)

Note: Standard errors in parenthesis below each estimate. Details may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.

Source: Authors' calculations, U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 1967-2012 Annual Social and Economic Supplements. For information on sampling and nonsampling error, see [www.census.gov/aprd/techdoc/cps/cpsmar12.pdf](http://www.census.gov/aprd/techdoc/cps/cpsmar12.pdf).



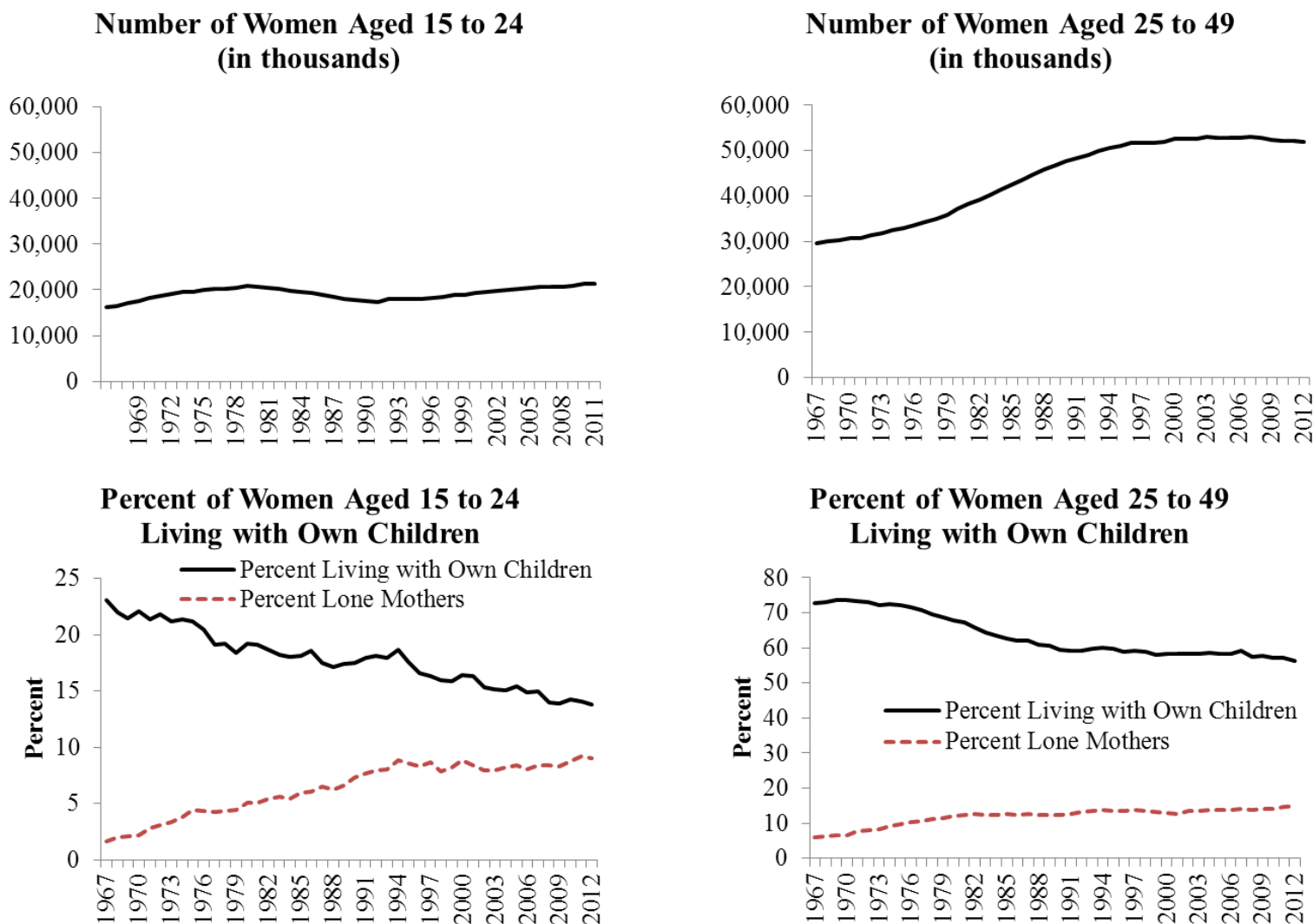
Table 3. Descriptive Statistics of Lone Mothers Aged 25 to 49 by Family Structure and Year, United States, 1967 to 2012

	Householder, Simple HH			Householder, Complex HH			Non-Householder, Complex HH		
	1967	1984	2012	1967	1984	2012	1967	1984	2012
Number of Lone Mothers	1,579,845 (79,662)	4,130,612 (128,441)	5,048,797 (92,567)	194,081 (27,964)	556,800 (47,347)	1,711,540 (57,292)	43,682 (13,269)	439,898 (42,089)	997,529 (40,864)
Proportion of Lone Mothers	86.9 (0.446)	80.6 (0.467)	65.1 (0.772)	10.7 (0.409)	10.9 (0.367)	22.1 (0.704)	2.4 (0.203)	8.6 (0.330)	12.9 (0.468)
Income-to-Poverty Ratios (Reference Year)									
Percent <100%	47.6 (0.933)	45.4 (0.829)	40.8 (1.011)	37.0 (0.902)	40.3 (0.824)	42.1 (1.685)	47.2 (0.932)	43.1 (0.824)	31.7 (1.966)
Percent 100 to <200%	31.3 (0.866)	26.8 (0.737)	29.5 (0.942)	37.7 (0.905)	30.1 (0.763)	27.7 (1.413)	34.2 (0.886)	30.5 (0.766)	29.9 (1.957)
Percent 200%+	21.1 (0.762)	27.8 (0.745)	29.8 (0.891)	25.3 (0.812)	29.6 (0.760)	30.2 (1.429)	18.7 (0.728)	26.5 (0.734)	38.4 (1.846)
Educational Attainment									
Less than High School Education	52.4 (0.661)	28.7 (0.599)	14.6 (0.700)	61.7 (0.643)	31.3 (0.614)	17.7 (1.275)	79.2 (0.537)	39.7 (0.647)	20.8 (1.596)
High School Equivalent	34.5 (0.629)	40.8 (0.650)	28.7 (0.880)	29.8 (0.605)	37.1 (0.639)	27.3 (1.589)	16.8 (0.494)	40.0 (0.648)	37.6 (1.842)
Some College	8.7 (0.372)	21.0 (0.539)	38.0 (0.944)	4.9 (0.285)	22.2 (0.550)	37.8 (1.553)	2.4 (0.457)	13.9 (0.457)	30.5 (1.927)
College or more (4+ years)	4.4 (0.272)	9.5 (0.389)	18.7 (0.705)	3.6 (0.246)	9.3 (0.385)	17.2 (1.208)	1.6 (0.167)	6.5 (0.325)	11.1 (1.351)
Percent in Labor Force (Reference Year)	70.6 (0.648)	71.5 (0.573)	80.1 (0.901)	79.4 (0.576)	77.9 (0.526)	74.1 (1.429)	82.2 (0.545)	70.3 (0.579)	76.7 (1.934)
Percent Receiving Public Assistance (Reference Year)	--	31.8 (0.549)	10.1 (0.663)	--	30.5 (0.543)	8.2 (0.991)	--	32.0 (0.550)	8.6 (1.038)
Percent Receiving Food Stamps (Reference Year)	--	38.3 (0.573)	41.1 (0.928)	--	30.0 (0.540)	32.5 (1.576)	--	24.9 (0.510)	32.4 (1.847)

Note: Standard errors in parenthesis below each estimate. Details may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.

Source: Authors' calculations, U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 1967-2012 Annual Social and Economic Supplements. For information on sampling and nonsampling error, see [www.census.gov/apsd/techdoc/cps/cpsmar12.pdf](http://www.census.gov/apsd/techdoc/cps/cpsmar12.pdf).

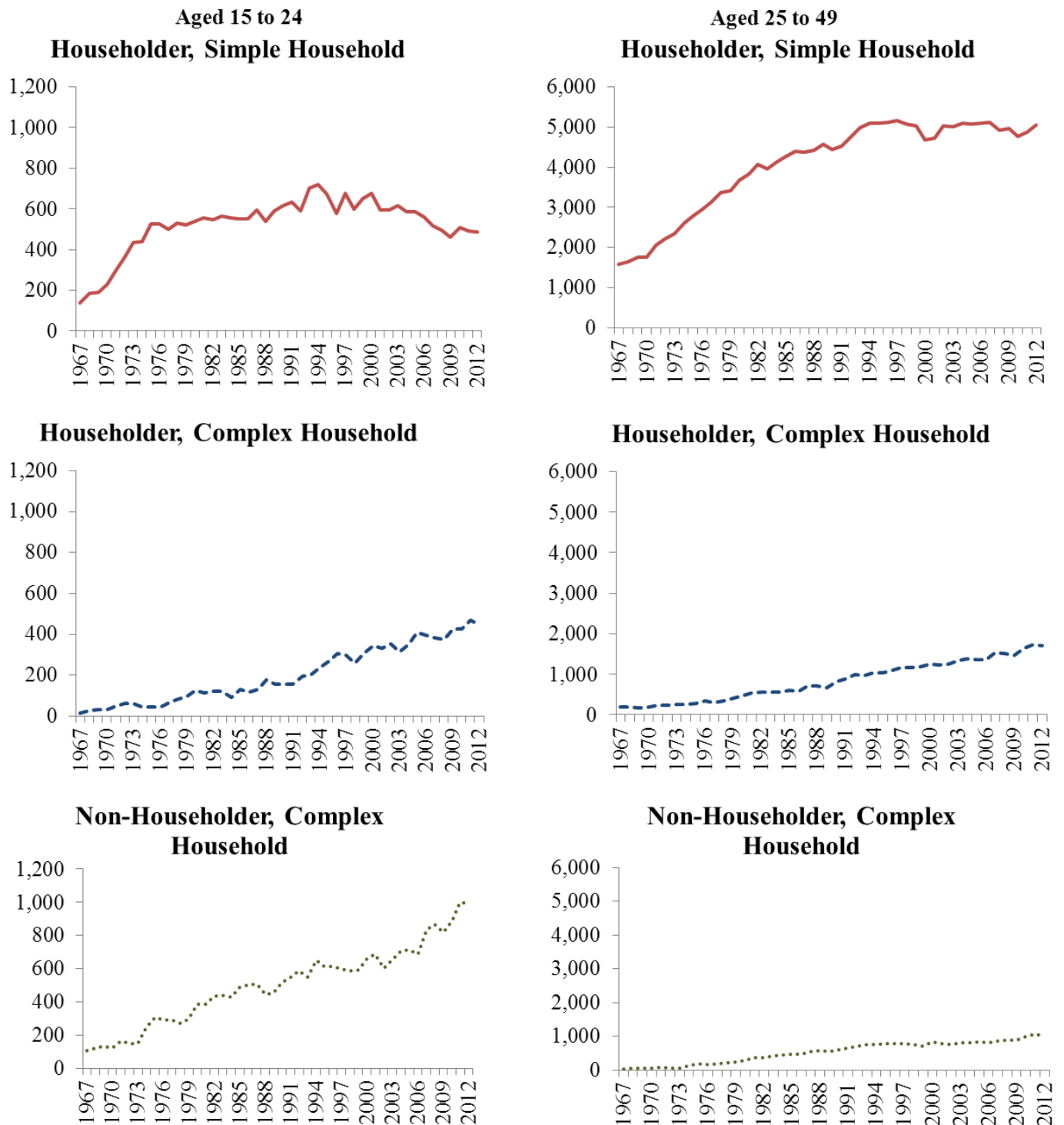
Figure 1. Number of Women, Percent with Own Children, and Percent Lone Mothers by Age Group, United States, 1967 to 2012



Note: Percent scales differ by age group.

Source: Authors' calculations, U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 1967-2012 Annual Social and Economic Supplements. For information on sampling and nonsampling error, see [www.census.gov/apcd/techdoc/cps/cpsmar12.pdf](http://www.census.gov/apcd/techdoc/cps/cpsmar12.pdf).

Figure 2. Number of Lone Mothers by Age Group and Household Type, United States, 1967 to 2012



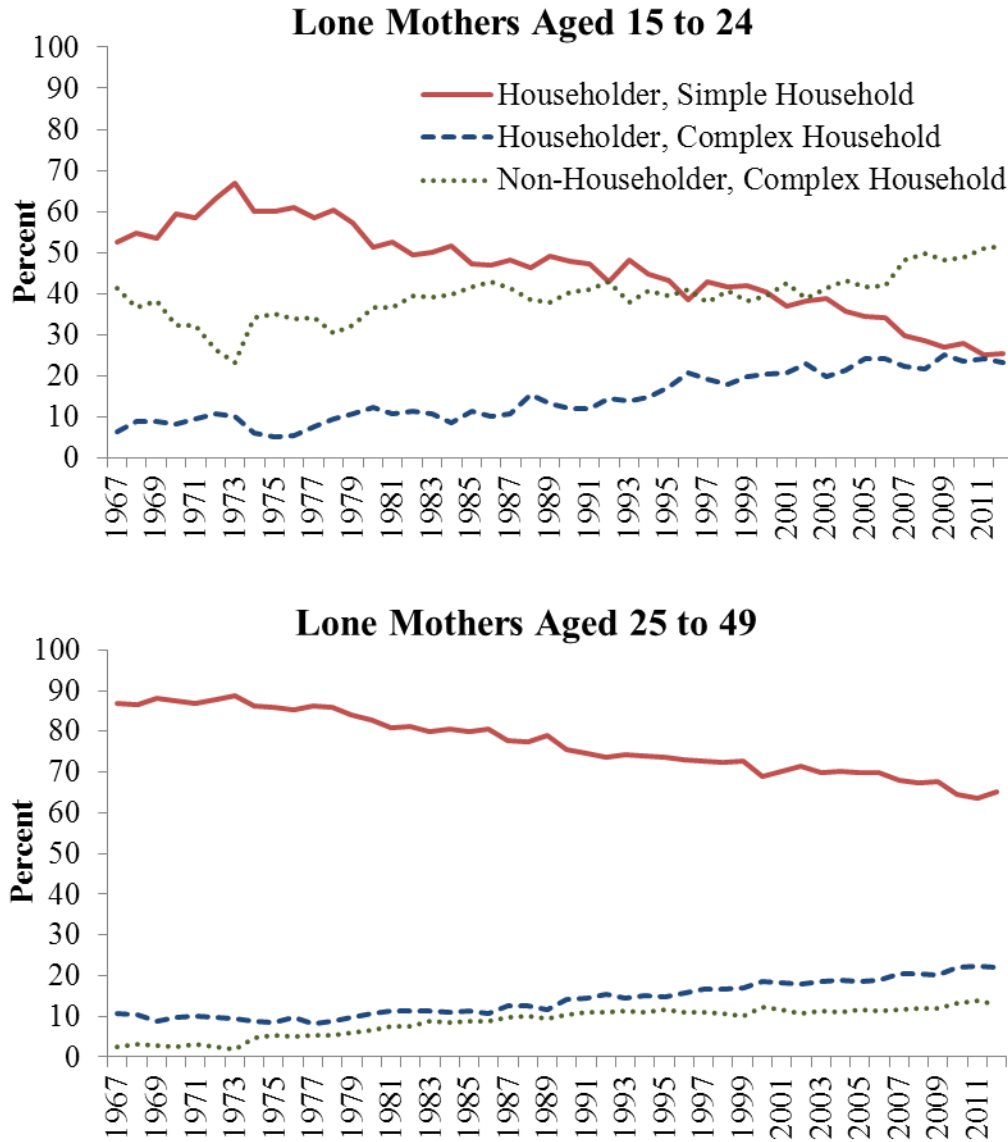
Note: Numbers in thousands. Scales differ by age group.

Source: Authors' calculations, U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 1967-2012

Annual Social and Economic Supplements. For information on sampling and nonsampling error,

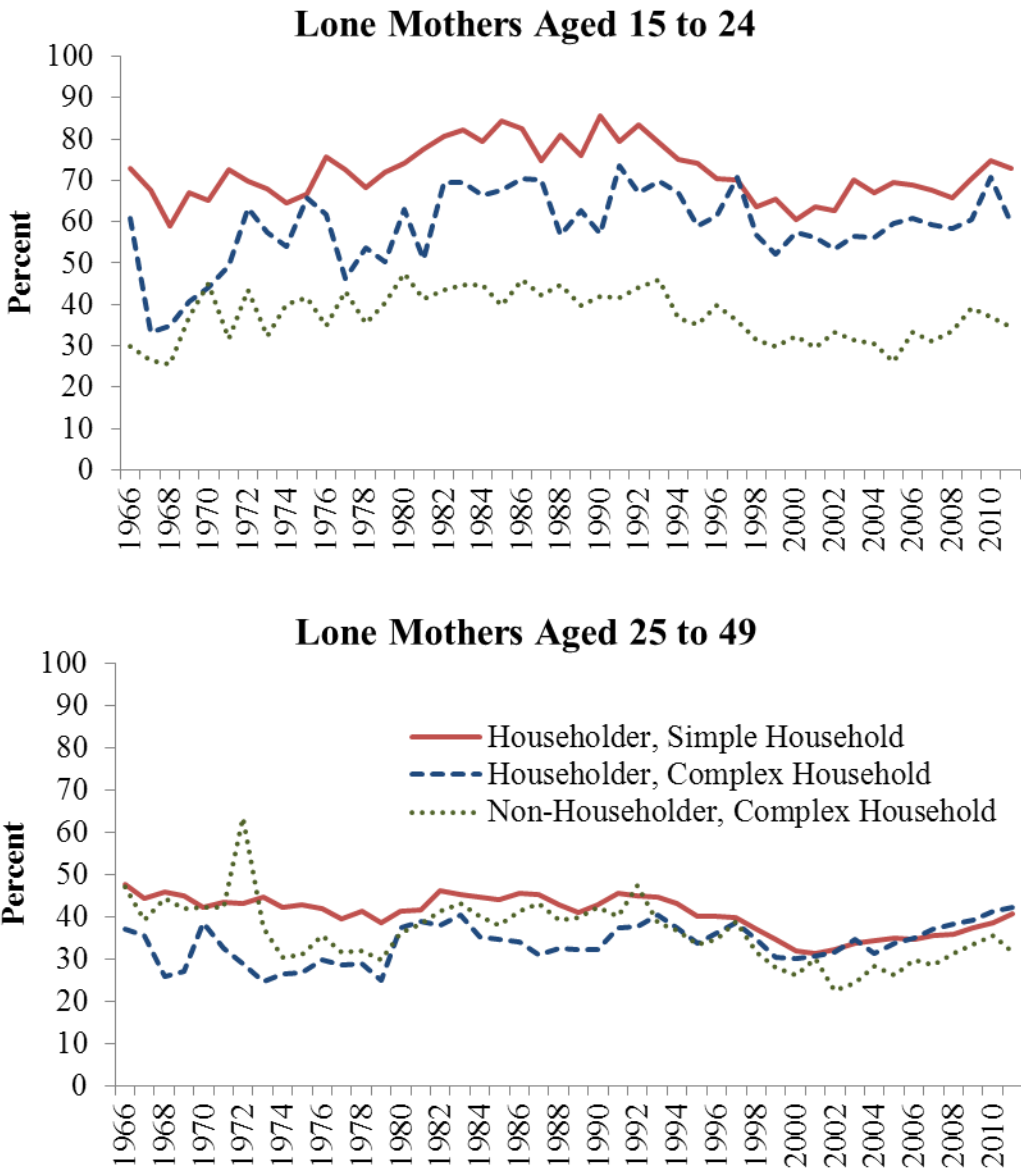
see [www.census.gov/apsd/techdoc/cps/cpsmar12.pdf](http://www.census.gov/apsd/techdoc/cps/cpsmar12.pdf).

Figure 3. Proportion of Lone Mothers by Age Group and Household Type, United States, 1967 to 2012



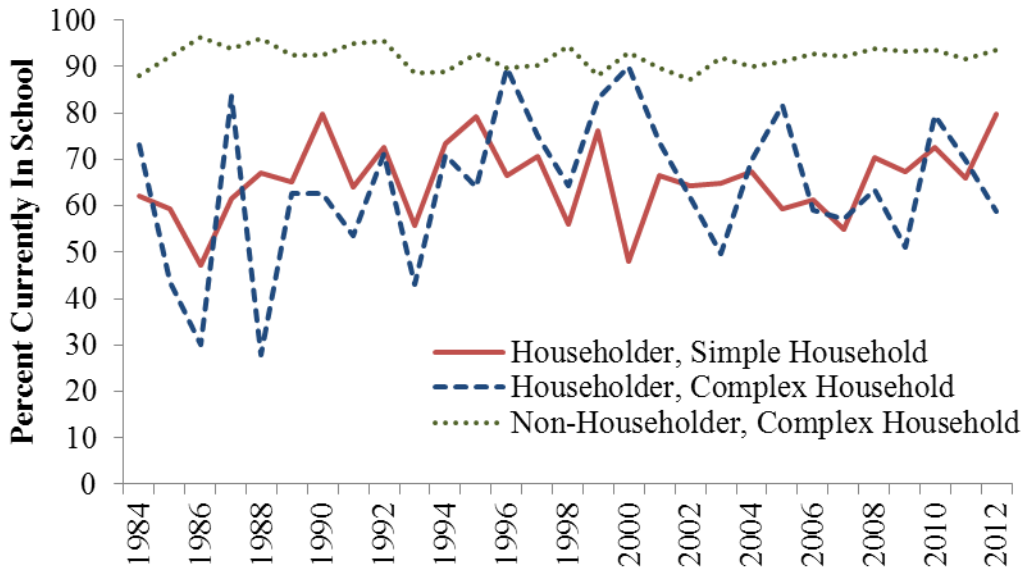
Source: Authors' calculations, U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 1967-2012 Annual Social and Economic Supplements. For information on sampling and nonsampling error, see [www.census.gov/apso/techdoc/cps/cpsmar12.pdf](http://www.census.gov/apso/techdoc/cps/cpsmar12.pdf).

Figure 4. Poverty Rates of Lone Mothers by Age Group and Household Type, United States, 1966 to 2011



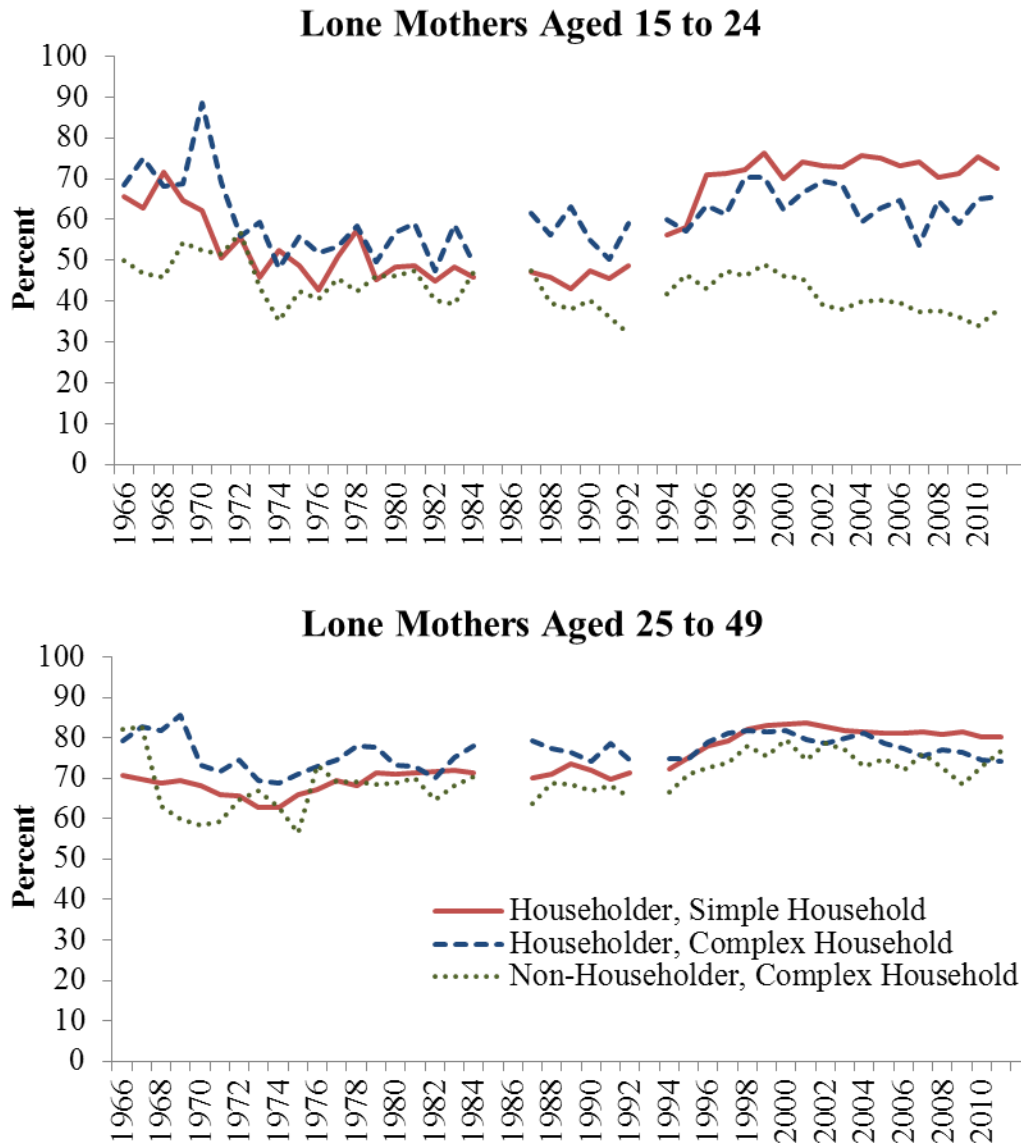
Source: Authors' calculations, U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 1967-2012 Annual Social and Economic Supplements. For information on sampling and nonsampling error, see [www.census.gov/apspd/techdoc/cps/cpsmar12.pdf](http://www.census.gov/apspd/techdoc/cps/cpsmar12.pdf).

Figure 5. Percent of Lone Mothers (Aged 15 to 24) Enrolled In School by Household Type, United States, 1984 to 2012



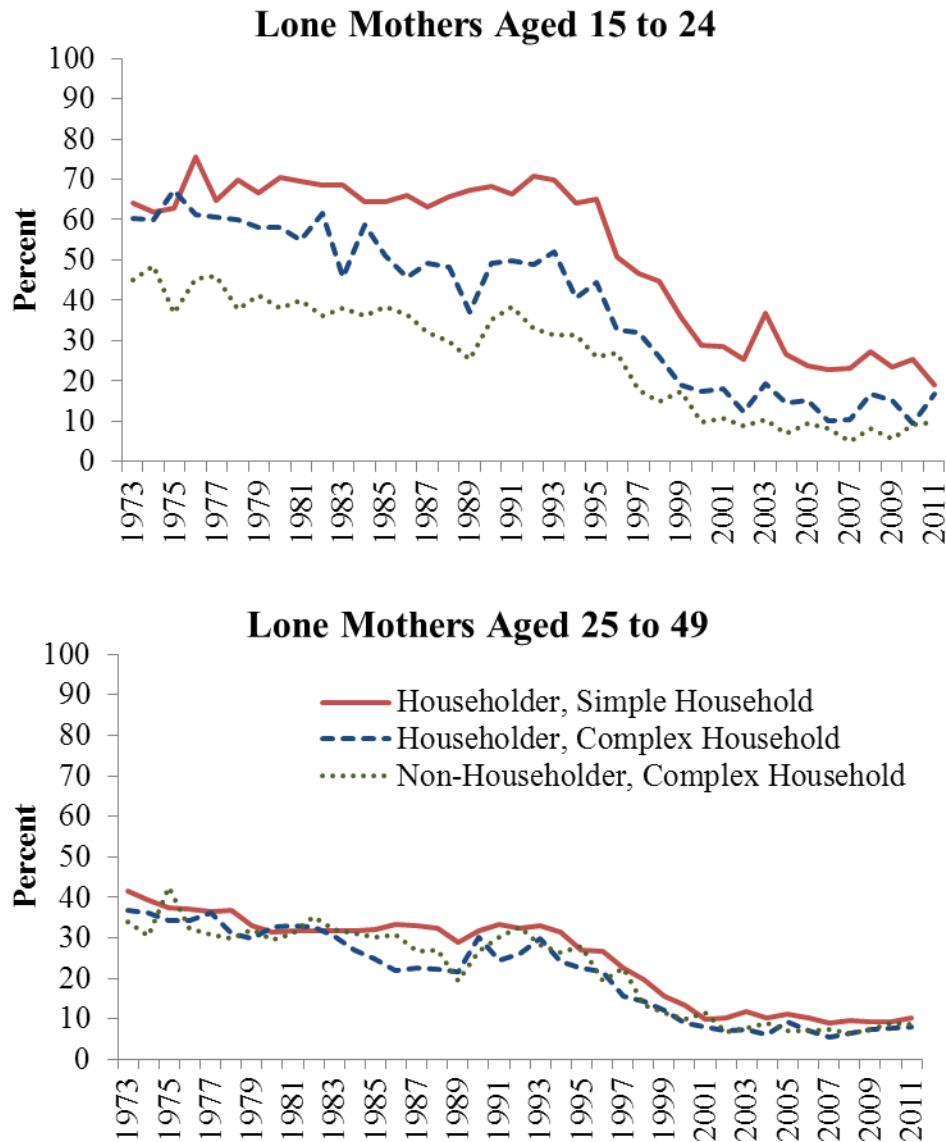
Source: Authors' calculations, U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 1967-2012 Annual Social and Economic Supplements. For information on sampling and nonsampling error, see [www.census.gov/aprd/techdoc/cps/cpsmar12.pdf](http://www.census.gov/aprd/techdoc/cps/cpsmar12.pdf).

Figure 6. Labor Force Participation of Lone Mothers by Age Group and Household Type, United States, 1966 to 2011



Note: Because of data availability and data quality issues with the labor force participation variable in 1986 and 1994, these years are not reported on the figures above.  
 Source: Authors' calculations, U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 1967-2012 Annual Social and Economic Supplements. For information on sampling and nonsampling error, see [www.census.gov/apspd/techdoc/cps/cpsmar12.pdf](http://www.census.gov/apspd/techdoc/cps/cpsmar12.pdf).

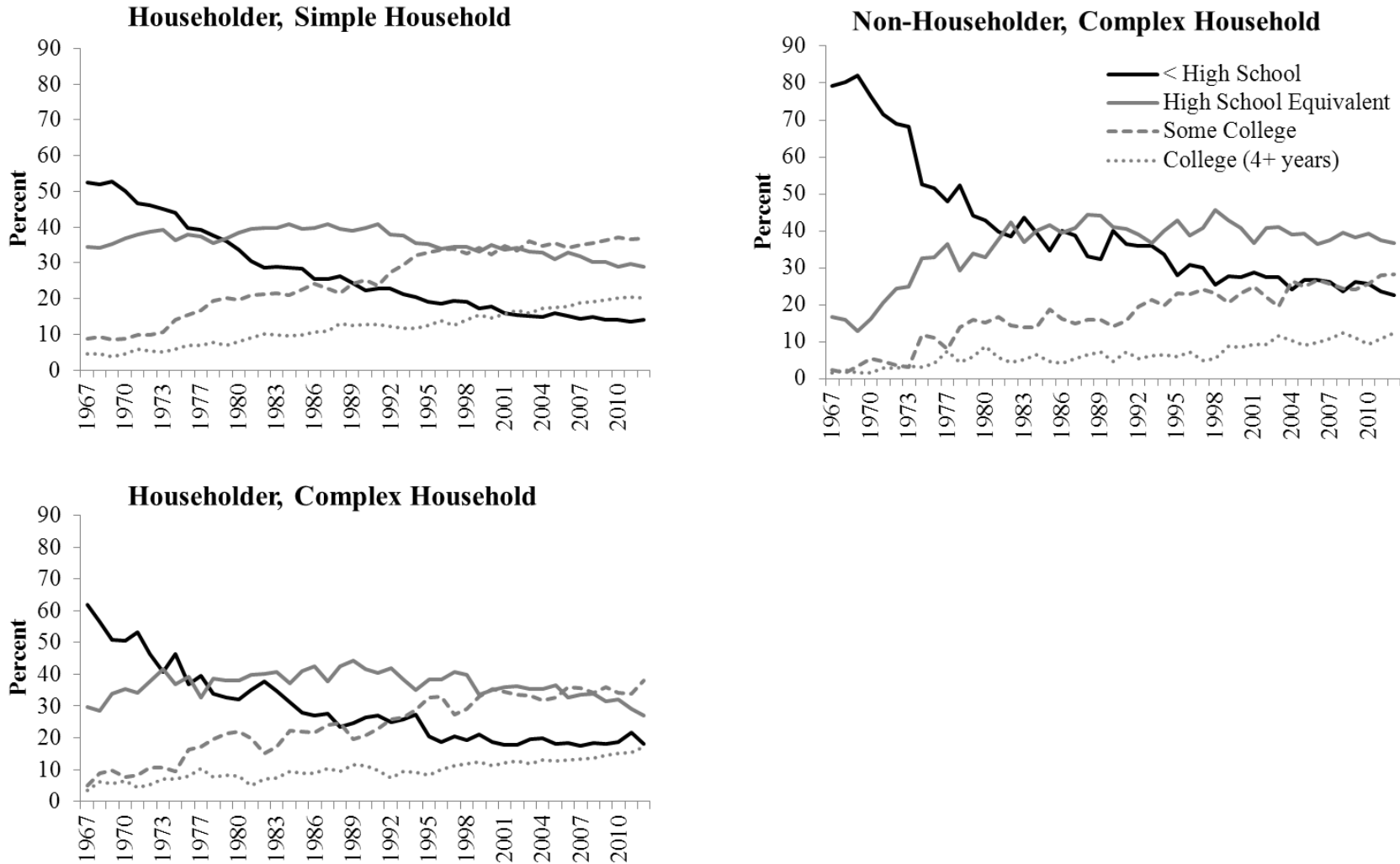
Figure 7. Public Assistance Program Participation of Lone Mother Households by Age Group and Household Type, United States, 1973 to 2011



Note: The public assistance program participation variable is a household-level variable identifying whether someone within the household has received public assistance.  
 Source: Authors' calculations, U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 1967-2012 Annual Social and Economic Supplements. For information on sampling and nonsampling error, see [www.census.gov/aptd/techdoc/cps/cpsmar12.pdf](http://www.census.gov/aptd/techdoc/cps/cpsmar12.pdf).

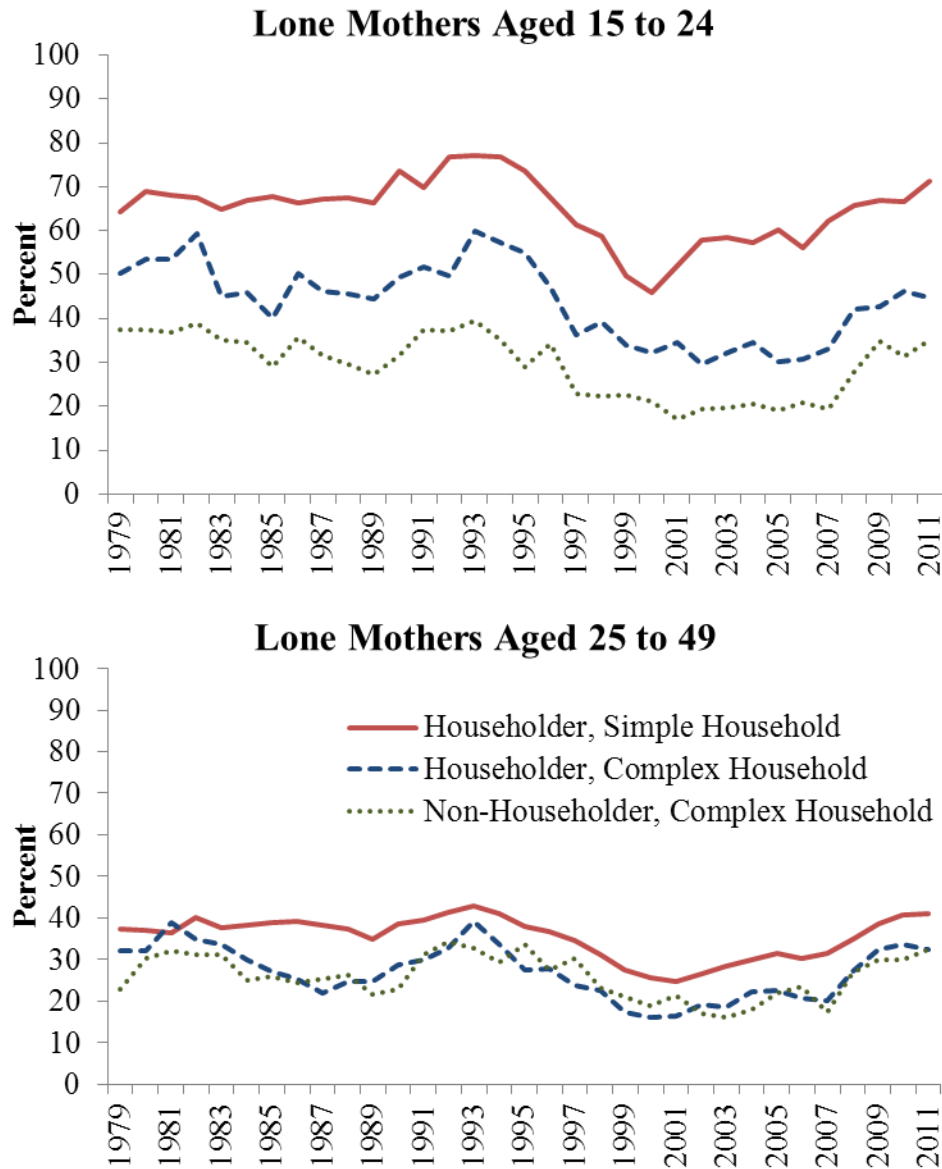


Figure 8. Educational Attainment of Lone Mothers (Aged 25 to 49) by Household Type, United States, 1967 to 2012



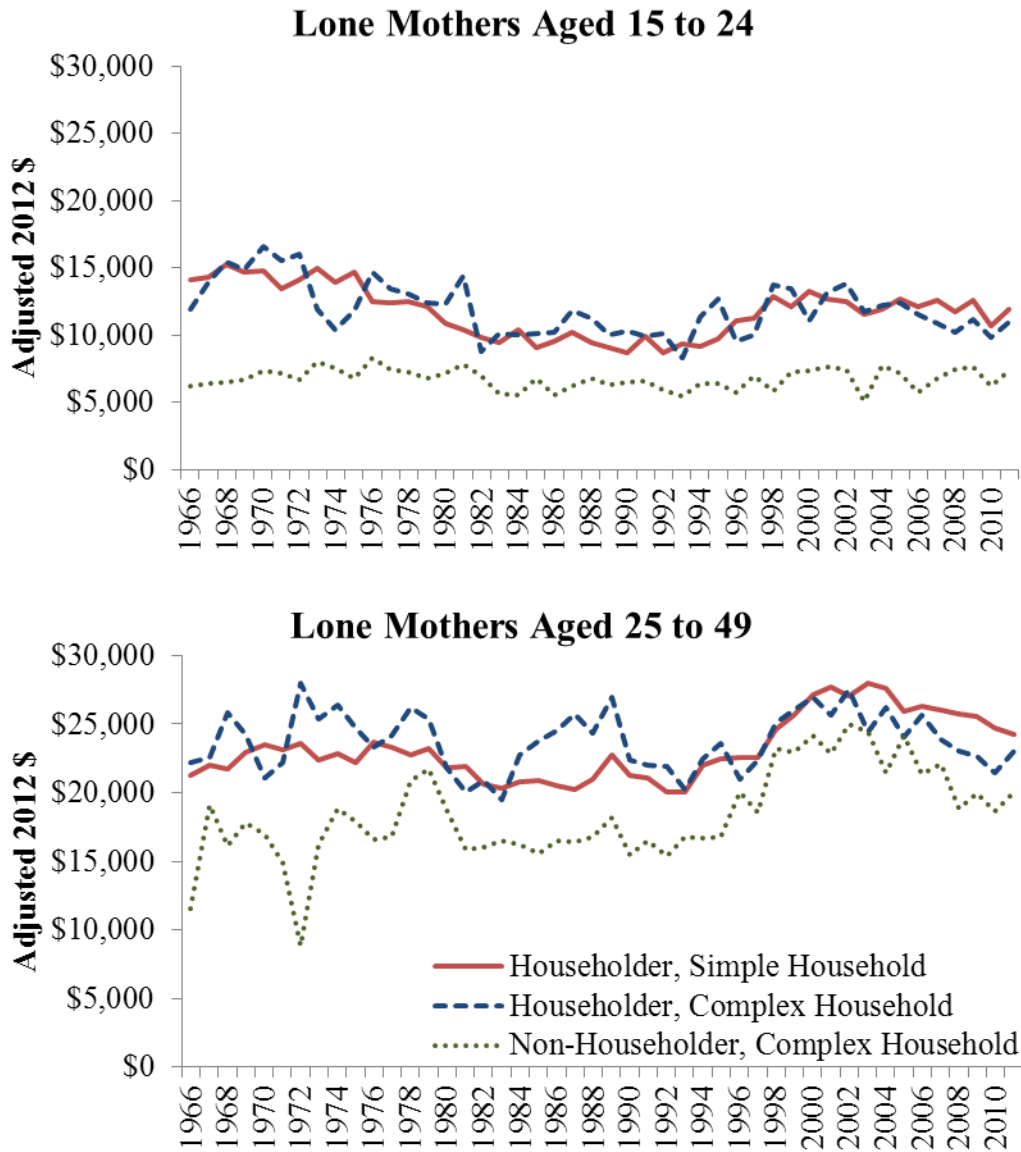
Source: Authors' calculations, U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 1967-2012 Annual Social and Economic Supplements. For information on sampling and nonsampling error, see [www.census.gov/aprd/techdoc/cps/cpsmar12.pdf](http://www.census.gov/aprd/techdoc/cps/cpsmar12.pdf).

Figure 9. Food Assistance Program Participation of Lone Mother Households by Age Group and Household Type, United States, 1979 to 2011



Note: The food assistance program participation variable is a household-level variable identifying whether someone within the household has received food assistance.  
 Source: Authors' calculations, U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 1967-2012 Annual Social and Economic Supplements. For information on sampling and nonsampling error, see [www.census.gov/apsd/techdoc/cps/cpsmar12.pdf](http://www.census.gov/apsd/techdoc/cps/cpsmar12.pdf).

Figure 10. Median Personal Income of Lone Mothers by Age Group and Household Type, Adjusted 2012 Dollars, United States, 1966 to 2011



Source: Authors' calculations, U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 1967-2012 Annual Social and Economic Supplements. For information on sampling and nonsampling error, see [www.census.gov/apspd/techdoc/cps/cpsmar12.pdf](http://www.census.gov/apspd/techdoc/cps/cpsmar12.pdf).