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Daddy Doesn't Live Here Anymore: A Study of the Determinants of Female-Headed Minority Families

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**DADDY DOESN'T LIVE HERE ANYMORE:
A STUDY OF THE DETERMINANTS OF FEMALE-HEADED MINORITY FAMILIES**

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The last three decades have seen a marked change in the structure of black families. In 1960, 72% of black women aged 15-44 had been married at least once; today that figure is only 48%. At the same time there has been an increase in the fraction of black children born to unmarried mothers from 23% to 60%. These facts are some of the first indications of an alarming trend toward more female-headed minority families, a trend which seems to be less distinct in the white population.

This study will use both a literature review and an empirical analysis to examine the economic determinants of family structure in metropolitan areas. The focus will be on those factors which may cause high incidences of female-headed minority families in certain cities. Factors to be examined include the Marriageable Male Pool Index (the number of men employed per 100 women) as developed by Wilson and Neckerman, unemployment rates, level of welfare support available, and industrial structure. Special attention will also be given to the effect of family structure on family income.

The cross sectional model proposed will use data from the 1980 Census for approximately 100 selected metropolitan areas. The primary method of analysis to be used to test hypotheses concerning the determinants of change was multiple regression. The results of these analyses will be presented.