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The Effectiveness of the 1996 Child Support Reforms on Alleviating Child Poverty

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Poster Presentation P45

**THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE 1996 CHILD SUPPORT REFORMS ON
ALLEVIATING CHILD POVERTY**

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A disproportionate number of children being raised in single-parent families are living in poverty. This has consequential effects on many aspects of a child's life, mainly attributable to the vast income disparities between single-parent and married-parent families. The poorest of single-parent families, those on welfare, are expected to decrease their dependence on welfare after only five years, relying on child support and income instead. However, a major problem exists in the collection of child support. Despite major reforms in 1996, a high rate of custodial parents are still not receiving full payments, and some are not receiving any payments. Thus, there is controversy as to whether major child support reforms have made a difference, and what further steps could be taken to improve the situation..