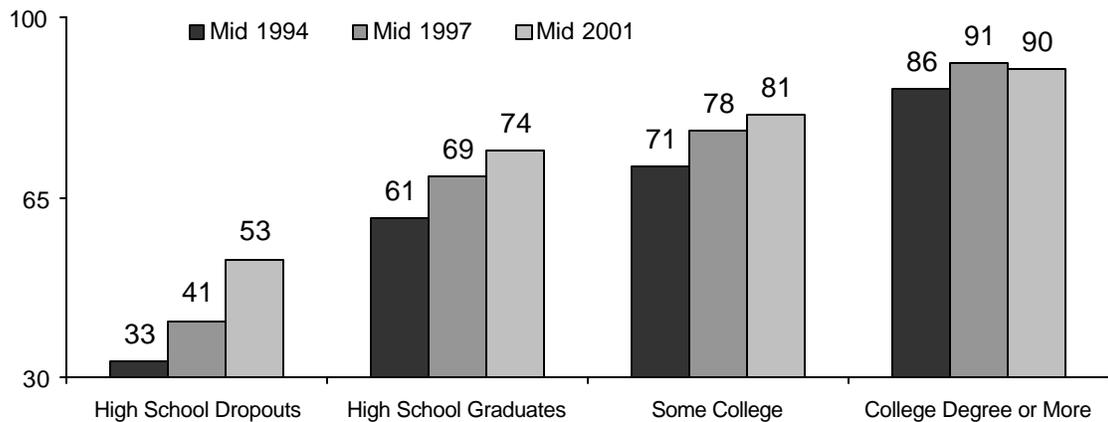


Less Educated Single Mothers Achieved High Wage and Employment Gains in the Mid 1990s

Since the mid-1990s, single mothers have become increasingly successful in finding jobs and earning higher wages. Single mothers with the least formal education—a group likely to participate in welfare programs—have attained the most dramatic gains. These gains are consistent with the high employment of women leaving welfare, but it remains to be seen whether such gains can be sustained as the economy weakens.

Highest Job Gains for Less-Educated Single Mothers

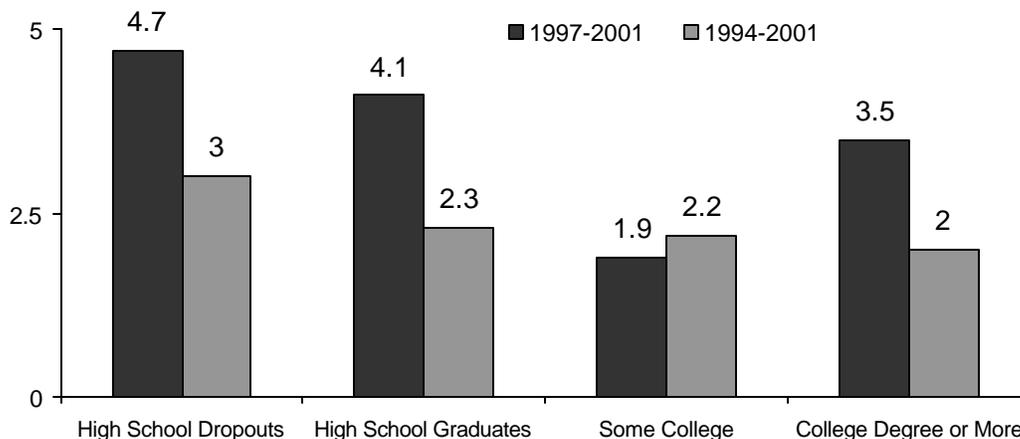
EMPLOYED SINGLE MOTHERS AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE POPULATION



SOURCE: URBAN INSTITUTE 2001

Less Educated Single Mothers Achieved Fastest Growth in Wages

ANNUAL PERCENTAGE GROWTH IN INFLATION-ADJUSTED WAGES



SOURCE: URBAN INSTITUTE 2001

The *Single Parents' Earnings Monitor* uses data from the Census Bureau's monthly Current Population Surveys. For more information about the *Monitor* or to discuss its findings with its author, Robert Lerman, please call the Urban Institute Office of Public Affairs at (202) 261-5709. An electronic copy of the *Monitor* and more information on low-wage workers is available at www.urban.org. The Urban Institute is a nonprofit, nonpartisan policy research and education organization that examines the social, economic, and governance challenges facing the nation.