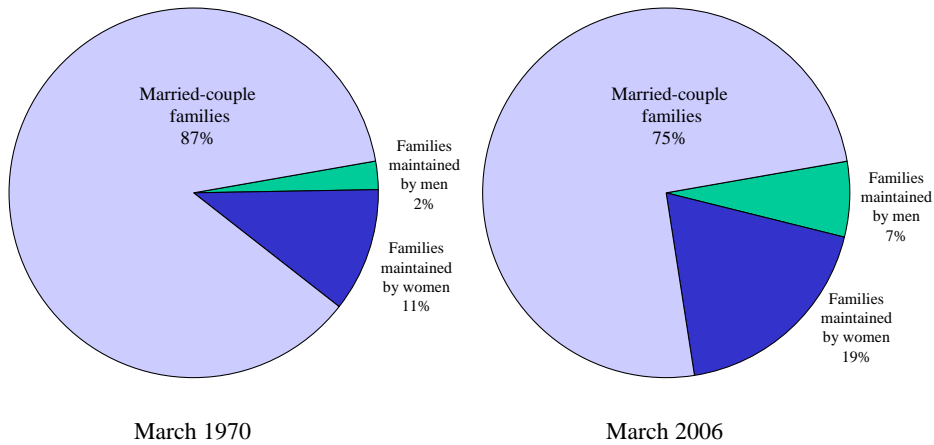


Chart 6-1. The proportion of all families maintained by men or by women with no spouse present has grown substantially



SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Chart 6-1. The proportion of all families maintained by men or by women with no spouse present has grown substantially

- Families are defined as a group of two or more persons residing together who are related by birth, marriage, or adoption. Families are classified either as married-couple families or as families maintained by women or men without spouses.
- Families maintained by women with no spouse present have grown markedly as a proportion of all families over time. In March 2006, almost 2 in 10 families were maintained by a woman; 36 years earlier, they comprised about 1 in 10. The percentage of families maintained by men grew from 2 to 7 percent over the period.
- Not only has the proportion of families maintained by men or women grown dramatically over time, but there also have been remarkable changes in the work patterns among married-couple families. The share of married-couple families in which both the husband and wife had earnings increased from 46 percent in 1970 to 57 percent in 2005, while the proportion comprised of families with just the husband as an earner fell from 33 percent to 18 percent. The proportion of married-couple families with no earners was 14 percent in 2005.