

Work among men aged 16-50 (2005 CPS):

	<i>FT/FY</i>	<i>No work</i>
<i>All Incomes:</i>	62	16
Whites	64	14
Blacks	51	29
<i>In Poverty</i>	19	51
Whites	21	46
Blacks	11	65

What causes male nonwork?

- The economic approach stresses low wages.
- But men worked less even in the 1990s when wages rose.
- Immigration implies jobs are available.
- The cultural approach stresses breakdown of work discipline.
- An oppositional culture causes men to reject available jobs.
- Economic and cultural factors may interact.

Solutions require sticks and carrots:

- Raising wages or wage subsidies is desirable but would probably not raise work levels by itself.
- Voluntary education and training programs show only small effects.
- The best programs have been directive.
- Hugh Price: The military provides a model.
- Given a voluntary military, what other authority structures can we look to?

Child support enforcement:

- Fathers in arrears should be required to work and pay up.
- Parents Fair Share showed potential.
- Fragile families and fatherhood programs were probably less promising.
- Child support should involve a more definite work requirement, creating jobs if necessary.
- Arrearages could also be reduced in return for steady work and payment.

Criminal justice:

- Ex-offenders reentering society must work to avoid recidivism.
- Parole has generally failed to reduce recidivism or promote employment.
- Promising programs now being evaluated:
 - America Works.
 - Center for Employment Opportunities.
 - CEO's preliminary results are encouraging.
- Programs appear affordable.

Recommendations:

- Wait for results of current evaluations.
- If they are promising, seek federal funding for a demonstration of competing designs for male work programs, comparable to NEWWS.
- Goal: an effective work program serving both the child support and parole populations.