

**Table 2: Family Debt Burden. Debt Service Payments as a Percentage of Family Income**

| <b>Income Percentile</b> | <b>1995</b> | <b>1998</b> | <b>2001</b> | <b>2004</b> |
|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Less than 20             | 19.1        | 18.7        | 16.1        | 18.2        |
| 20–39.9                  | 17.0        | 16.5        | 15.8        | 16.7        |
| 40–59.9                  | 15.6        | 18.6        | 17.1        | 19.4        |
| 60–79.9                  | 17.9        | 19.1        | 16.8        | 18.5        |
| 80–89.9                  | 16.6        | 16.8        | 17.0        | 17.3        |
| 90–100                   | 9.5         | 10.3        | 8.1         | 9.3         |

Source: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, "Recent Changes in U.S. Family Finances: Results from the 2001 and 2004 Survey of Consumer Finances," *Federal Reserve Bulletin* (2006), [www.federalreserve.gov/pubs/bulletin/2006/financesurvey.pdf](http://www.federalreserve.gov/pubs/bulletin/2006/financesurvey.pdf). \*

**Table 3: Percentage of Indebted Families Whose Debt Service Payments Are Above 40 Percent of Family Income**

| <b>Income Percentile</b> | <b>1995</b> | <b>1998</b> | <b>2001</b> | <b>2004</b> |
|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Less than 20             | 27.5        | 29.9        | 29.3        | 27.0        |
| 20–39.9                  | 18.0        | 18.3        | 16.6        | 18.6        |
| 40–59.9                  | 9.9         | 15.8        | 12.3        | 13.7        |
| 60–79.9                  | 7.7         | 9.8         | 6.5         | 7.1         |
| 80–89.9                  | 4.7         | 3.5         | 3.5         | 2.4         |
| 90–100                   | 2.3         | 2.8         | 2.0         | 1.8         |

Source: See note to table 2.

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\*In the Survey of Consumer Finances “family” has a meaning close to that of household (encompassing even single individual households under the term “family”). Hence, the two terms are used interchangeably in the present article. As stated in the *Federal Reserve Bulletin* article presenting the results of the survey: “The definition of ‘family’ used throughout this article differs from that typically used in other government studies. In the SCF, a household unit is divided into a ‘primary economic unit’ (PEU)—the family—and everyone else in the household. The PEU is intended to be the economically dominant single individual or couple (whether married or living together as partners) and all other persons in the household who are financially interdependent with that economically dependent person or household” (A36).