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UD RESEARCHERS RECEIVE NEARLY $50,000 TO STUDY STEPFAMILIES

DAYTON, Ohio -- Recent increases in divorce and remarriage have resulted in growing numbers of children living in stepfamilies. In addition, increases in the number of two-earner families have changed the way many families are raising their children.

University of Dayton researchers have received a $49,571 grant from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development to study the effect of work and family roles--such as mothers' participation in the labor force and the hours and scheduling of work--on children living in stepfamilies.

"No one has investigated the effects of work and family roles on children living in stepfamilies as compared to those who live in intact families," says Mark Fine, associate professor of psychology and one of three UD researchers conducting the study. These researchers will try to explain "how family structure and work and family roles affect child adjustment and parent/child relations," says Fine.

Working with Fine are Patricia Voydanoff, director of UD's Center for the Study of Family Development, and Brenda Donnelly, staff assistant at the center.

For media interviews, contact Mark Fine, a resident of Oakwood, at (513) 229-2165 or Patricia Voydanoff, a resident of Centerville, at (513) 229-4614.