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Financing of and Spending on Safety Nets; Box 3.1 Okun's Leaky Bucket; Table 3.1 Cost-Benefit Estimates of the Education Effects of the Bono de Desarrollo Humano Program, Ecuador; Table 3.2 Options for Increasing Safety Net Budgets: Advantages and Disadvantages; Box 3.2 What Tax Instruments Should Governments Use to Support Safety Nets?; Box 3.3 Fiscal Responsibility Laws; Figure 3.1 Societal Attitudes about Poverty and Spending on Social Welfare
Table 3.3 Perceptions of Poverty in the United States, Europe, and Latin America, 1995-7 (percentage of respondents) Box 3.4 Literature on Safety Net Spending Levels Based on the IMF's Government Finance Statistics; Figure 3.2 Safety Net Expenditures as a Percentage of GDP, Selected Countries and Years; Figure 3.3 Social Assistance and Social Insurance as a Percentage of GDP by Region, Selected Years; Figure 3.4 Social Assistance, Social Insurance, and Social Sector Spending by Region, Selected Years; Table 3.4 Correlations between Spending on Social Sectors and Other Factors
Figure 3.5 Spending, Income, and Public Attitudes Table 3.5 Advantages and Disadvantages of Financing Sources for Subnational Governments; Table 3.6 Options for Managing Local Governments' Incentives to Use Lax Entry Criteria for Centrally Financed Safety Net Programs; Box 3.5 Financing Arrangements and Incentives in the Netherlands; Box 3.6 Quality Assurance of Eligibility Determination in the U.S. Food Stamp Program; Table 3.7 An Example of a Functional Analysis of a Program and Responsible Levels of Government: The Village Full Employment Program, India
Table 3.8 Advantages of Alternative Allocations of Institutional Responsibilities for Household Targeting Systems

Sommario/riassunto

Safety nets are noncontributory transfer programs targeted to the poor or vulnerable. They play important roles in social policy. Safety nets redistribute income, thereby immediately reducing poverty and inequality; they enable households to invest in the human capital of their children and in the livelihoods of their earners; they help households manage risk, both *ex ante* and *ex post*; and they allow governments to implement macroeconomic or sectoral reforms that support efficiency and growth. To be effective, safety nets must not only be well intended, but also well designed and well implemented
