



## Child support in Minnesota: Facts and figures

County and state child support offices provide services for 331,606 parents and their 230,153 children. All families who receive public assistance are required to cooperate with the child support office to establish and enforce their child support orders. The child support program promotes the well-being of children and self-sufficiencies of families by delivering quality child support services.

Federal fiscal year 2019 data is used in this fact sheet unless otherwise indicated.

### Paternalty for children

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- Approximately 165,603 children who have a Minnesota child support case were born outside of marriage.
- More than 100% of children had paternity established using the federal performance measure, which uses a specific calculation that can result in percentages above 100.

### Demographic information

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- The child support program served more than 230,000 children.
  - Children on public assistance totaled approximately 25,469.
  - Children not on public assistance totaled approximately 204,684.
- Approximately 89% of Minnesota child support cases have a child support order in place.

### Collections for children

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- The child support program collected and disbursed \$570.1 million in child support, including \$8.5 million via pass-through in the Minnesota Family Investment Program.
- Collections for ongoing child support totaled \$431.63 million, which was 75.49% of the total ongoing support that was due; in approximately 87% of cases with ongoing support obligations, parents made some payment toward the obligation during the year.

### Child support debt

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- Cumulative past due support, or arrears, owed was about \$1.4 billion.
- Parents paid about \$129 million on child support debt. Nearly 73% of cases with arrears received some arrears payment during the year.
- Average debt owed in cases with child support debt was \$8,717. Approximately 79% of child support cases have debt.

## Collection and enforcement methods

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- **Income withholding:** Employers collected \$422 million withholding child support from parents' paychecks.
- **New hire reporting:** Each month employers reported an average of 215,687 newly hired staff; new hire reporting provides information for child support locations and enforcement efforts.
- **License suspension:** About 16,830 parents had their driver's licenses suspended for failing to pay on a child support order.
- **Tax refund intercepts:** Through tax refunds and rebate intercepts, \$29.7 million, 5.2% of all collections, was collected. Approximately 70% of intercepts are federal; 30% are state.
- **Financial institution data match:** A total of \$1.5 million was collected by freezing or seizing financial assets.
- **Other enforcement methods:** Parents who do not comply with child support orders may also have lottery winnings intercepted, be denied approval or renewal of their passport, be reported to a credit bureau, be subject to civil contempt proceeding or charged with nonsupport.

## Service delivery

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- PRISM, Minnesota's automated child support computer system, supports the work of more than 1,455 county and state workers in providing child support services.
- The Child Support Payment Center, Minnesota's centralized collection and disbursement unit, receives and processes \$49 million each month.
- Automated phone lines receive an average of 9,000 calls a month, providing parents with information about their child support cases 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- Parents access information about their child support case activities and payments through a secure state website, [www.childsupport.dhs.state.mn.us](http://www.childsupport.dhs.state.mn.us), 216,000 times per month.
- Minnesota has implemented direct deposit for child support payments into custodial parents' savings, checking or stored value accounts. Approximately 96% of the collections disbursed were directly deposited into custodial parents' accounts.

## Program funding

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- Child support expenditures totaled \$181 million. The federal government funded 68%, the state 8% and Minnesota counties 24%.
- The federal government provides funding two ways, providing federal financial participation reimbursement on certain county and state program expenditures, and providing funding based on meeting performance outcomes, which is passed on to counties.
- For every \$1 spent on Minnesota's child support program, \$3.14 was collected in support of Minnesota children.



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