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INTERSTATE CHILD SUPPORT

Mothers Report Receiving Less Support From Out-Of-State Fathers



Selected Characteristics of Custodial Mothers in In-State, Interstate, and "Other" Child Support Cases

In this section, we provide information on the reasons given by custodial mothers for not having support awards, for not receiving regular support payments, and for receiving public assistance, IV-D child support services, and health insurance. In addition to comparing child support characteristics of mothers in IV-D and non-IV-D cases, we present selected socioeconomic and child support characteristics of all custodial mothers by noncustodial fathers' residence.

Some Mothers Do Not Want or Pursue Support; Some Fathers Refuse to Pay or Cannot Be Located

A surprisingly high percentage of custodial mothers indicated that they did not want or pursue support, and a fairly high percentage indicated that fathers refuse to pay. A much higher percentage of the custodial mothers who reported noncustodial fathers' residence as "other" (compared with mothers in both in-state and interstate cases) cited an inability to locate the noncustodial father as the reason for not having a child support award and not receiving support payments regularly (see table 5.1).¹

Table 5.1: Reasons Cited by Custodial Mothers for Not Having Child Support Awards and Not Receiving Regular Support Payments, by Noncustodial Fathers' Residence (Spring 1990)

| Reasons for lack of award | Noncustodial fathers' residence | | |
|---|---------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| | In-state | Interstate | "Other" |
| Final agreement pending | 6% | 7% | 2% |
| Other financial agreement made | 7 | 4 | 3 |
| Wanted support but: | | | |
| Did not pursue award | 21 | 19 | 13 |
| Father financially unable to pay | 17 | 12 | 10 |
| Unable to locate father | 7 | 17 | 34 |
| Unable to establish paternity | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| Other | 17 | 15 | 17 |
| Did not want support | 22 | 24 | 19 |
| Total | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| Reasons not receiving payments^a | | | |
| Father unable to pay | 66% | 66% | 49% |
| Unable to locate father | 5 | 16 | 38 |
| Other | 29 | 18 | 14 |
| Total | 100% | 100% | 100% |

^aIncludes only mothers who were expecting payments.

^bNumbers do not add due to rounding.

¹This is not surprising considering the high percentage of these mothers who indicated that they did not know the residence of the noncustodial father.