

### 4.1 million parents received child support in the form of cash payments.

This money can be legally mandated by a court, arranged informally between parents, or gifted in the absence of any arrangement. About 85.6 percent of those parents who received cash child support payments had a legal or informal agreement with the child's other parent.

### 2.7 million parents received in-kind support from a nonresident parent.

In-kind support may include groceries, clothes, or diapers. It can also include payments for medical expenses, child care, etc.

### \$20.2 billion in cash child support payments were received by parents in 2021.

The average monthly reported amount was \$441.

### Child Support in the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP)

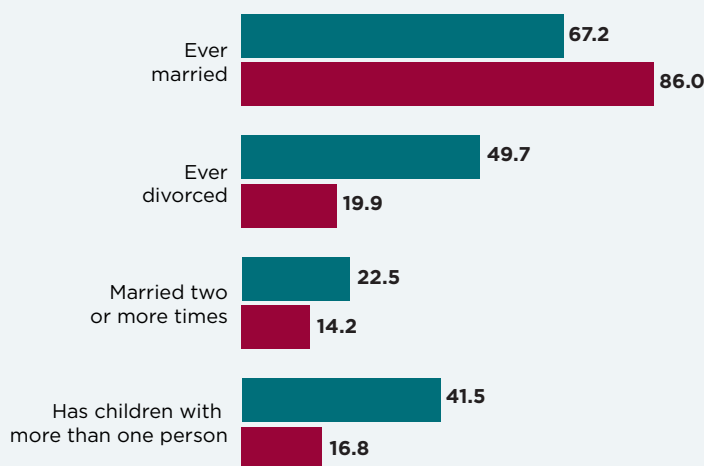
Child support is generally understood to be cash payments made to custodial parents to support children with whom a parent does not live. However, child support can also include in-kind support, which includes noncash transfers of goods such as groceries or clothes. Since child support can be ordered by a court in some states until a child is 21 years old, the SIPP measures child support for parents living with children under the age of 21.

**More information** on child support and other social safety net programs is available in [fact sheets](#), [detailed program participation tables](#), [interactive data visualizations](#), [reports](#), and [topic pages](#).

### Marriage and Fertility Patterns of Parents Living With a Child Under the Age of 21 by Receipt of Cash Child Support: 2021

(In percent)

■ Parents who received any child support payments during the year  
■ Parents who did not receive any child support payments during the year



### Educational Attainment of Parents Aged 18 and Over Who Received Child Support by Type of Child Support: 2021

(In percent)

■ Received only cash child support payments  
■ Received only in-kind support  
■ Received both in-kind support and cash child support payments

