

Custodial Mothers and Fathers and Their Child Support: 2015

Current Population Reports

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INTRODUCTION

Over one-quarter of all children under 21 years of age have one of their parents living outside of their household. When this occurs, it is often the legal obligation of the noncustodial parent to provide financial support to help pay for the costs associated with raising their children. This report provides an overview of these children and their custodial parents, including their socioeconomic characteristics and the types and amount of child support received from noncustodial parents.¹

The most recent data in this report are from the Child Support Supplement (CSS) to the April 2016 Current Population Survey (CPS). The CPS provides demographic information about custodial parents as of 2016, as well as child support and other income or program data for the 2015 calendar year.² In addition to current information, this report also shows some of the important historical statistics that have occurred over the past 22 years by comparing data collected from the 1994 April CPS CSS and subsequent biennial surveys. (See text box “Limitations of the Data” for additional survey information.)

¹ The custodial parent is the parent with whom the child(ren) lived at the time of the survey interview when their other parent(s) lived outside of the household. There may also be equal joint- or split-custody arrangements of children between parents, sometimes also known as shared or coparenting. In these types of arrangements, child support may or may not be exchanged between parents.

² The population represented (the population universe) is the civilian noninstitutionalized population living in the United States, 15 years of age or older, who have their own children under 21 years old living with them while the other parent(s) lived outside of the household.

HIGHLIGHTS

Current Statistics

- About 22.4 million children had a parent who lived outside their household, representing more than one-fourth (27.0 percent) of all children under 21 years of age.
 - Over one-third (37.2 percent) were in poverty.
 - About half (51.9 percent) of all Black children had a parent who lived outside their household.
- One-half (50.2 percent) of all custodial parents had either legal or informal child support agreements.
 - Custodial mothers were more likely to have agreements than custodial fathers—52.7 percent versus 39.6 percent.
- About 7 in 10 custodial parents (69.3 percent) who were supposed to receive child support in 2015 received some payments.
 - Less than half (43.5 percent) of custodial parents who were supposed to receive child support received full child support payments.
 - The aggregate amount of child support that was supposed to have been received in 2015 was \$33.7 billion, with 59.8 percent of that having been received, averaging \$3,447 per year received per custodial parent.

Limitations of the Data

Since child support can be ordered by a court in some states until a child is 21 years old or completes college, this report covers parents' own children under 21, rather than applying the U.S. Census Bureau's usual definition of children as those under 18 years of age. Some children who do not live with any biological parent, such as those living with grandparents or foster parents, may also be eligible to receive child support but are not part of the universe in the Current Population Survey (CPS) Child Support Supplement (CSS).

Substantial changes made to the April CPS CSS in 1994 do not allow comparisons between these data and data collected before that year. These changes included refining the screening of potential respondents, restructuring the questionnaire to accommodate computerizing the survey, revising terminology that refers to types of child support agreements or awards, increasing the detail in questions about the amount of child support supposed to be received including overdue child support (back support), and adding new questions on pass-through payments (child support collected for public assistance recipients by a state enforcement office, some of which passes through to recipients).

The amount of child support payments received by recipients of Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, formerly known as Aid to Families with Dependent Children, is likely underreported because some states retain some or all child support collected on behalf of children of custodial parents.

Most households in the April CPS CSS sample also participated in the Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC) to the 2016 CPS, where additional information, such as income and health insurance coverage in the preceding year, was also collected and matched to the respondent. The 2016 ASEC allocated a small portion (5,000 households) of its sample to those income and health insurance questions asked prior to the redesign in 2014, thus reducing the sample universe of matching April respondents. To account for this reduction in sample, a weighting adjustment was performed on all CSS weights to bring them back to population controls.

Additional information and detailed tables are available at the Child Support page on the Census Bureau's Web site at <www.census.gov/topics/families/child-support.publications.html>.

- About 39 percent of noncustodial parents provided some health insurance benefits to their children.
- Over half (61.3 percent) of custodial parents received some type of noncash support on behalf of their children from noncustodial parents.

Historical Statistics

- Fathers have become more likely to be custodial parents over the past 22 years, increasing from 16.0 percent in 1994 to 19.6 percent in 2016.
- The proportion of custodial parents who were supposed to receive support, but received none, increased from 24.2 percent in 1993 to 30.7 percent in 2015.

- While the average child support that was supposed to be received in 2015 (\$5,760) was not statistically different than the average child support that was supposed to be received in 1993 (\$5,786), the average amount received in 2015 (\$3,447) was lower than the average amount received in 1993 (\$3,778).³
- The proportion of custodial mothers who had child support agreements increased from 59.8 percent in 1994 to 64.2 percent in 2004, but has since decreased to 52.7 percent.
- About \$33.7 billion of child support was supposed to be received in 2015, a decrease of \$14.0 billion from 2003.

³ Amounts for 1993 are in constant 2015 dollars.

- The number of custodial parents who were supposed to receive child support decreased from 7.3 million in 2003 to 5.8 million in 2015.

CUSTODIAL PARENTS AND THEIR CHILDREN

In April of 2016, an estimated 13.6 million parents (who are referred to as custodial parents in this report) lived with 22.4 million children under 21 years of age, while their other parent(s) lived outside the household (Table 1, Table 2).⁴

⁴ The estimates in this report (which may be shown in text, figures, and tables) are based on responses from a sample of the population and may differ from actual values because of sampling variability or other factors. As a result, apparent differences between the estimates for two or more groups may not be statistically significant. All comparative statements have undergone statistical testing and are significant at the 90 percent confidence level, unless otherwise noted.

Table 1.

Children Under 21 Years of Age by Family Type, Poverty Status, Race, and Hispanic Origin of Child: 2016

(Numbers in thousands. Universe: People under 21 years of age living in families as of April 2016)

Characteristic	Children in all family groups ¹				
	Total	In custodial-parent families		Not in custodial-parent families	
		Total	Percent	Total	Percent
Total children in families	82,751	22,357	27.0	60,394	73.0
Race and Ethnicity of Child					
White alone	60,297	13,824	22.9	46,473	77.1
White alone, non-Hispanic	42,838	9,144	21.3	33,694	78.7
Black alone	12,441	6,453	51.9	5,988	48.1
Other race alone	5,861	878	15.0	4,983	85.0
Hispanic (any race)	20,197	5,805	28.7	14,392	71.3
Percent distribution	100.0	100.0	X	100.0	X
White alone	72.9	61.8	X	76.9	X
White alone, non-Hispanic	51.8	40.9	X	55.8	X
Black alone	15.0	28.9	X	9.9	X
Other race alone	7.1	3.9	X	8.3	X
Hispanic (any race)	24.4	26.0	X	23.8	X
Poverty Status					
With family income below 2015 poverty level . . .	17,031	8,307	48.8	8,723	51.2
Percent of total or family group total	20.6	37.2	X	14.4	X

X Not applicable.

¹ Excludes families where a child under 21 years old is listed as the family reference person or is a spouse of the family reference person.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, April 2016.

The 22.4 million children living with their custodial parent represented over one-fourth (27.0 percent) of all 82.8 million children under 21 years old living in families.⁵

Approximately half (51.9 percent) of all Black children lived in families with their custodial parent while their other parent lived outside their household, more than twice

⁵ A family is a group of two people or more (one of whom is the householder) related by birth, marriage, or adoption and residing together; all such people (including related subfamily members) are considered as members of one family. Beginning with the 1980 CPS, unrelated subfamilies (referred to in the past as secondary families) are no longer included in the count of families, nor are the members of unrelated subfamilies included in the count of family members. See Detailed Table 11 at <www.census.gov/data/tables/2015/demo/families/p60-262-tables.html>. All detailed tables referenced in this report are available online at <www.census.gov/topics/families/child-support.tables.html>.

as large as the proportion of White children (22.9 percent).⁶ Among children of other races—including American Indian and Alaska Native, Asian, or Native Hawaiian and

⁶ Federal surveys give respondents the option of reporting more than one race. Therefore, two basic ways of defining a race group are possible. A group, such as White may be defined as those who reported White and no other race (the race-alone or single-race concept) or as those who reported White regardless of whether they also reported another race (the race-alone-or-in-combination concept). The body of this report (text, figures, and most tables) shows data for people who reported they were the single race White, the single race White and not Hispanic or Latino, the single race Black or African American, and the single race Other that includes American Indian and Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander. In this report Black refers to Black or African American. Use of the single-race population does not imply that it is the preferred method of presenting or analyzing data. The U.S. Census Bureau uses a variety of approaches. See Detailed Table 12 at <www.census.gov/data/tables/2015/demo/families/p60-262-tables.html> for a listing of custodial parents by race alone or in combination.

Other Pacific Islander—15.0 percent lived in custodial-parent families. Over one-quarter (28.7 percent) of Hispanic children, who may be any race, lived with their custodial parent in 2016 (Table 1).

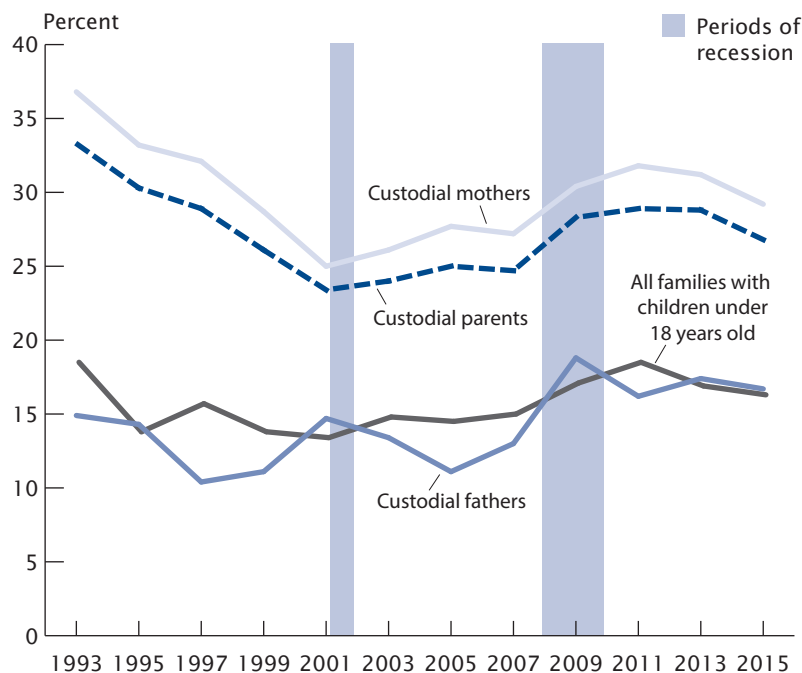
DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

In 2016, about 4 of every 5 (80.4 percent) of the 13.6 million custodial parents were mothers, while 1 of every 5 custodial parents were fathers (19.6 percent) (Table 2).

Custodial fathers tended to be older than custodial mothers. Over half (55.2 percent) of custodial fathers were 40 years old or older, while the proportion for custodial mothers was 40.1 percent (Detailed Table 4).

Less than half (43.7 percent) of custodial mothers were non-Hispanic

Figure 1.
Poverty Status of All Families With Children Under 18 Years Old and Custodial Parent Families With Children Under 21 Years Old by Sex: 1993–2015



Note: For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see <www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsapr16.pdf>. Recessions are defined by the National Bureau of Economic Research and more information is available at <www.nber.org/cycles/cyclesmain.html>. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, April 1994–2016 and Annual Social and Economic Supplements, 1994–2016.

White, 29.3 percent were Black, and 23.7 percent were of Hispanic origin. Custodial fathers were more likely than custodial mothers to be non-Hispanic White (59.2 percent) and less likely to be Black (15.8 percent). The proportion of custodial fathers who were Hispanic (19.1 percent) was not statistically different from the proportion of custodial mothers who were Hispanic (Detailed Table 4).⁷

⁷ The proportion of custodial fathers who were Black (15.8 percent) was not statistically different from the proportion of custodial fathers who were Hispanic (19.1 percent). Hispanics may be any race and in this report, data for Hispanics overlap slightly with data for the Black population. Based on the 2016 CPS April supplement, 7.1 percent of Black custodial parents were Hispanic. Data for the separate American Indian and Alaska Native populations and the Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander population are not shown in this report because of their small sample size.

The distribution of custodial parents by marital status differed between mothers and fathers. Custodial mothers were more likely to have never married (42.6 percent) than either to have been divorced (28.9 percent), currently married (15.7 percent), separated (11.7 percent), or widowed (1.2 percent). Custodial fathers were more likely than mothers to be divorced (38.8 percent) and less likely to be never married (32.9 percent). The proportions of custodial fathers who were currently married (16.3 percent), separated (11.1 percent), and widowed (0.9 percent) were not statistically different from the corresponding

proportions for custodial mothers (Detailed Table 4).⁸

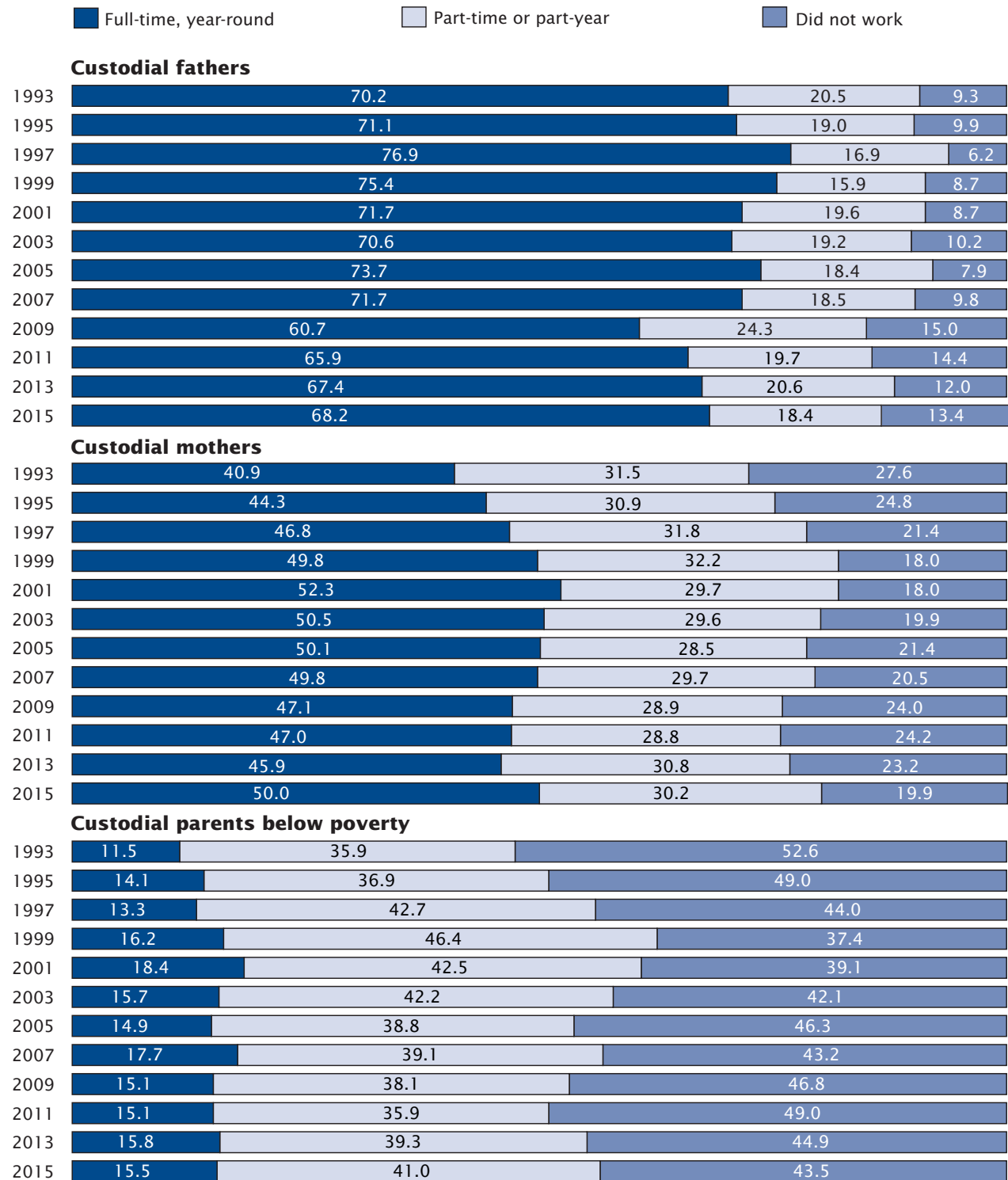
While the majority of custodial parents had one child (55.2 percent), custodial mothers were more likely than custodial fathers to have two or more own children living with them in 2016 (46.4 percent and 38.0 percent, respectively). Custodial parents with one child had a family poverty rate of 20.5 percent. The poverty rate for custodial parents with two or more children was higher at 34.4 percent. Among custodial parents who had one child, 12.4 percent of parents had less than a high school education and 19.4 percent had obtained a bachelor's degree or higher. For custodial parents with two or more children, 15.2 percent had less than a high school education and 18.8 percent had a bachelor's degree or more. A higher proportion of custodial parents with one child were 40 years old or older (47.9 percent) than custodial parents with two or more children (37.1 percent) (Detailed Table 13).⁹

⁸ The current marital status of widowed includes custodial parents who have children whose parents are not the deceased spouse. The proportion of never married custodial mothers (42.6 percent) was not statistically different from the proportion of divorced custodial fathers (38.8 percent). The proportion of never married custodial fathers (32.9 percent) was not statistically different from the proportion of divorced custodial mothers (28.9 percent). The proportion of custodial fathers who were never married (32.9 percent) was not statistically different from the proportion who were divorced (38.8 percent).

⁹ The proportion of custodial parents with one child and a bachelor's degree or higher (19.4 percent) was not statistically different from the proportion with two or more children and a bachelor's degree (18.8 percent). The proportion of custodial fathers with two or more children (38.0 percent) was not statistically different from the proportion of custodial parents with two or more children and aged 40 or older (37.1 percent). The proportion of custodial mothers with two or more children (46.4 percent) was not statistically different from the proportion of custodial parents with one child and aged 40 or older (47.9 percent).

Figure 2.

Employment Status of Custodial Parents by Sex and Poverty Status: 1993–2015
(In percent)



Note: For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see <www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsapr16.pdf>. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, April 1994–2016.

Table 2.

Comparison of Custodial Parent Population and Those With Child Support Agreements, Supposed to Receive Child Support, and Received Child Support: 1993–2015

(Numbers in thousands as of spring of the following year. Parents living with own children under 21 years of age whose other parent is not living in the home. Amounts in 2015 dollars. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsapr16.pdf)

Characteristic	2015	2013	2011	2009	2007	2005	2003	2001	1999	1997	1995	1993
ALL CUSTODIAL PARENTS												
Total	13,573	13,416	14,440	13,672	13,743	13,605	13,951	13,383	13,529	13,949	13,715	13,690
With child support agreements	6,807	6,528	7,057	6,914	7,428	7,802	8,376	7,916	7,945	7,876	7,967	7,800
Percent	50.2	48.7	48.9	50.6	54.0	57.3	60.0	59.1	58.7	56.5	58.1	57.0
Supposed to receive child support ..	5,845	5,697	6,262	5,897	6,375	6,809	7,256	6,924	6,791	7,018	6,958	6,688
Average child support supposed to be received (in dollars)	5,760	5,875	6,378	6,578	6,116	6,777	6,577	6,752	6,766	6,110	6,286	5,786
Average child support received (in dollars)	3,447	4,022	3,974	4,014	3,834	4,421	4,509	4,230	3,972	4,071	4,142	3,778
Received any child support	4,049	4,222	4,641	4,174	4,864	5,259	5,548	5,119	5,005	5,282	5,269	5,070
Percent	69.3	74.1	74.1	70.8	76.3	77.2	76.5	73.9	73.7	75.3	75.7	75.8
Received full amount of child support	2,543	2,595	2,716	2,428	2,986	3,192	3,290	3,093	3,066	3,240	2,945	2,466
Percent	43.5	45.6	43.4	41.2	46.8	46.9	45.3	44.7	45.1	46.2	42.3	36.9
Not awarded child support	6,766	6,891	7,383	6,759	6,315	5,803	5,576	5,466	5,584	6,074	5,747	5,889
CUSTODIAL MOTHERS												
Total	10,918	11,069	11,797	11,237	11,356	11,406	11,587	11,291	11,499	11,872	11,607	11,505
With child support agreements	5,756	5,879	6,297	6,174	6,463	7,002	7,436	7,110	7,150	7,080	7,123	6,878
Percent	52.7	53.1	53.4	54.9	56.9	61.4	64.2	63.0	62.2	59.6	61.4	59.8
Supposed to receive child support ..	4,961	5,049	5,588	5,278	5,551	6,131	6,516	6,212	6,133	6,342	6,224	5,913
Average child support supposed to be received (in dollars)	5,789	5,790	6,444	6,625	6,134	6,869	6,670	7,751	6,833	6,138	6,392	5,862
Average child support received (in dollars)	3,491	3,908	4,070	4,090	3,835	4,442	4,612	4,501	4,082	4,096	4,193	3,846
Received any child support	3,530	3,743	4,182	3,723	4,253	4,754	5,018	4,639	4,578	4,802	4,742	4,501
Percent	71.2	74.1	74.8	70.5	76.6	77.5	77.0	74.7	74.6	75.7	76.2	76.1
Received full amount of child support	2,229	2,331	2,438	2,217	2,615	2,900	2,948	2,815	2,818	2,945	2,674	2,178
Percent	44.9	46.2	43.6	42.0	47.1	47.3	45.2	45.3	45.9	46.4	43.0	36.8
Not awarded child support	5,162	5,280	5,499	5,063	4,893	4,404	4,151	4,181	4,349	4,792	4,484	4,627
CUSTODIAL FATHERS												
Total	2,655	2,350	2,643	2,435	2,387	2,199	2,364	2,092	2,030	2,077	2,108	2,184
With child support agreements	1,051	739	760	740	965	800	940	807	795	796	844	922
Percent	39.6	31.4	28.8	30.4	40.4	36.4	39.8	38.6	39.2	38.3	40.0	42.2
Supposed to receive child support ..	884	648	674	619	825	678	740	712	658	676	733	775
Average child support supposed to be received (in dollars)	5,600	6,548	5,825	6,187	5,989	5,941	5,762	5,651	6,140	5,839	5,374	5,211
Average child support received (in dollars)	3,200	4,906	3,177	3,379	3,822	4,237	3,604	3,857	2,934	3,849	3,717	3,265
Received any child support	519	479	459	451	611	505	530	480	427	479	527	569
Percent	58.7	73.9	68.1	72.9	74.1	74.5	71.6	67.4	64.9	70.9	71.9	73.4
Received full amount of child support	314	264	279	211	371	292	342	278	248	295	270	288
Percent	35.5	40.7	41.4	34.1	45.0	43.1	46.2	39.0	37.7	43.6	36.8	37.2
Not awarded child support	1,604	1,610	1,883	1,695	1,422	1,399	1,424	1,285	1,235	1,281	1,263	1,262

Note: All child support income amounts are adjusted to reflect 2015 dollars using the CPS-U-RS. For more information on the CPI, go to <www.bls.gov/cpi/cpi_rsd.htm>.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, April 1994–2016.

Table 3.

Demographic Characteristics of Custodial Parents by Agreement Status and Payments Received: 2015

(Numbers in thousands as of spring 2016. Parents living with own children under 21 years of age whose other parent is not living in the home. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsapr16.pdf)

Characteristic	With child support agreements or awards											
	Total	Total	Percent	Supposed to receive child support payments in 2015								
				Total	Average supposed to receive	Average received	Percent received	Received all payments		Did not receive payments		
								Total	Percent	Total	Percent	
ALL CUSTODIAL PARENTS												
Total	13,573	6,807	50.2	5,845	\$5,760	\$3,447	59.8	2,543	43.5	1,796	30.7	
Standard error	311	222	1.2	206	\$136	\$126	1.8	137	1.8	115	1.6	
Sex												
Male	2,655	1,051	39.6	884	\$5,600	\$3,200	57.1	314	35.5	365	41.3	
Female	10,918	5,756	52.7	4,961	\$5,789	\$3,491	60.3	2,229	44.9	1,431	28.8	
Age												
Under 30 years	2,908	1,349	46.4	1,178	\$4,013	\$2,098	52.3	459	39.0	436	37.0	
30 to 39 years	4,820	2,565	53.2	2,253	\$5,555	\$2,976	53.6	823	36.5	731	32.4	
40 years and over	5,844	2,893	49.5	2,414	\$6,804	\$4,545	66.8	1,261	52.2	629	26.1	
Race and Ethnicity¹												
White alone	8,948	4,685	52.4	4,067	\$6,282	\$3,830	61.0	1,819	44.7	1,235	30.4	
White alone, not Hispanic	6,344	3,555	56.0	3,078	\$6,355	\$3,962	62.3	1,436	46.7	863	28.0	
Black alone	3,621	1,668	46.1	1,393	\$4,295	\$2,427	56.5	578	41.5	434	31.2	
Hispanic (any race)	3,097	1,413	45.6	1,245	\$5,834	\$3,204	54.9	466	37.4	469	37.7	
Current Marital Status²												
Married	2,142	1,158	54.1	1,021	\$5,752	\$3,483	60.6	428	41.9	327	32.0	
Divorced	4,186	2,283	54.5	1,959	\$6,965	\$4,543	65.2	999	51.0	495	25.3	
Separated	1,570	670	42.7	527	\$6,412	\$4,650	72.5	273	51.8	127	24.1	
Never married	5,525	2,636	47.7	2,298	\$4,615	\$2,229	48.3	825	35.9	848	36.9	
Educational Attainment												
Less than high school diploma ..	1,854	824	44.4	672	\$4,673	\$2,168	46.4	262	39.0	242	36.0	
High school graduate	4,367	2,138	49.0	1,814	\$4,917	\$2,726	55.4	677	37.3	575	31.7	
Less than 4 years of college	4,757	2,396	50.4	2,120	\$5,743	\$3,332	58.0	911	43.0	664	31.3	
Bachelors degree or more	2,595	1,449	55.8	1,240	\$7,613	\$5,393	70.8	694	56.0	315	25.4	
Selected Characteristics												
Family income below												
2015 poverty level	3,631	1,788	49.2	1,560	\$4,926	\$2,698	54.8	612	39.2	509	32.6	
Worked full-time, year-round	7,265	3,585	49.3	3,042	\$5,960	\$3,842	64.5	1,395	45.9	900	29.6	
Public assistance program												
participation ³	6,110	3,000	49.1	2,573	\$4,815	\$2,530	52.5	958	37.2	834	32.4	
With 1 child	7,499	3,338	44.5	2,808	\$5,117	\$2,978	58.2	1,225	43.6	925	32.9	
With 2 or more children	6,074	3,468	57.1	3,037	\$6,355	\$3,881	61.1	1,319	43.4	871	28.7	
Child had contact with other												
parent in 2015	8,905	4,715	52.9	4,017	\$6,119	\$3,981	65.1	1,958	48.7	1,057	26.3	
Child had no contact with other												
parent in 2015	4,668	2,092	44.8	1,828	\$4,971	\$2,274	45.7	585	32.0	739	40.4	
Court ordered physical or												
legal joint custody	3,429	2,079	60.6	1,770	\$6,697	\$4,631	69.2	907	51.2	454	25.6	

¹ Includes those reporting one race alone and not in combination with any other race.

² Excludes 150,000 with marital status of widowed.

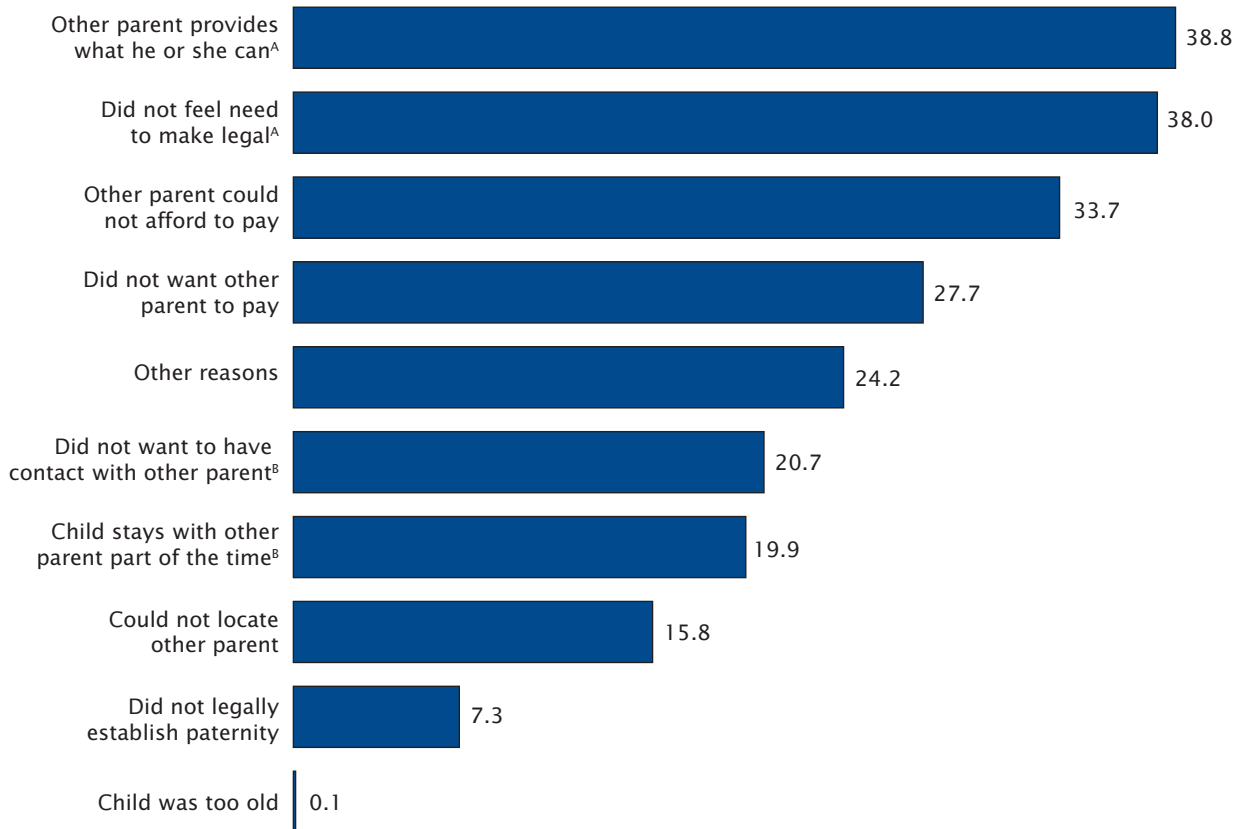
³ Received any of the following: Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, public housing or rent subsidy, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, or general assistance.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, April 2016.

Figure 3.

Reasons No Legal Agreement Established for Custodial Parents: 2016

(In percent)



Note: Universe is 7.4 million custodial parents without agreements or with informal agreements, excludes those with pending agreements. The total exceeds 100 percent because respondents could list more than one reason.

Any estimates identified with a letter (A, B) are not statistically different from estimates with the same letter. Estimates that are not noted with letters are significantly different from the other estimates.

For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see <www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsapr16.pdf>.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, April 2016.

POVERTY

The poverty rate of all custodial-parent families with children under 21 years of age in 2015 was 26.8 percent, 10 percentage points higher than the poverty rate of all families with children under 18 years old

(16.3 percent).¹⁰ Approximately 8.3 million (37.2 percent) of all children in custodial-parent families lived in poverty in 2015 (Table 1).

¹⁰ See Detailed Table 4 “Poverty Status of Families, by Type of Family, Presence of Related Children, Race, and Hispanic Origin” at <www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/income-poverty/historical-poverty-people.html>. Estimates for poverty for families with children under 18 years of age are from the 2016 Annual Social and Economic Supplement, for which information on the source of the data and accuracy of the estimates is available at <www2.census.gov/library/publications/2016/demo/p60-256sa.pdf>.

Poverty rates vary greatly among types of custodial-parent families. The poverty rate of custodial-mother families in 2015 (29.2 percent) was significantly higher than the poverty rate for custodial-father families (16.7 percent) (Detailed Table 4).

Custodial parents who had more children had a greater likelihood to be living below poverty. Among custodial mothers with one child, 22.1 percent were in poverty.

Child Support Paid

In 2010, the Current Population Survey (CPS) Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC) began asking a series of additional questions about a variety of topics in order to develop a Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM) to serve as an additional indicator of economic well-being. Included were questions that asked respondents if they had children living elsewhere and how much child support they paid during the previous calendar year.

Analysis of these data show that 2.2 million people reported paying child support for their children in 2015, 1.8 million less than the number of custodial parents who reported receiving child support in 2015 (4.0 million) in the 2016 CPS Child Support Supplement (CSS). The annual mean amount of child support paid in 2015 from the CPS ASEC was \$7,357. These payments may have been paid directly to the custodial

parent, or to the state child support enforcement agency, which, depending on the state, may have passed all, some, or none of these payments on to the custodial parent. This annual mean amount of child support paid was approximately \$3,900 more than the average mean amount of child support reported as received by custodial parents who were supposed to receive support in 2015 from the 2016 CPS CSS.

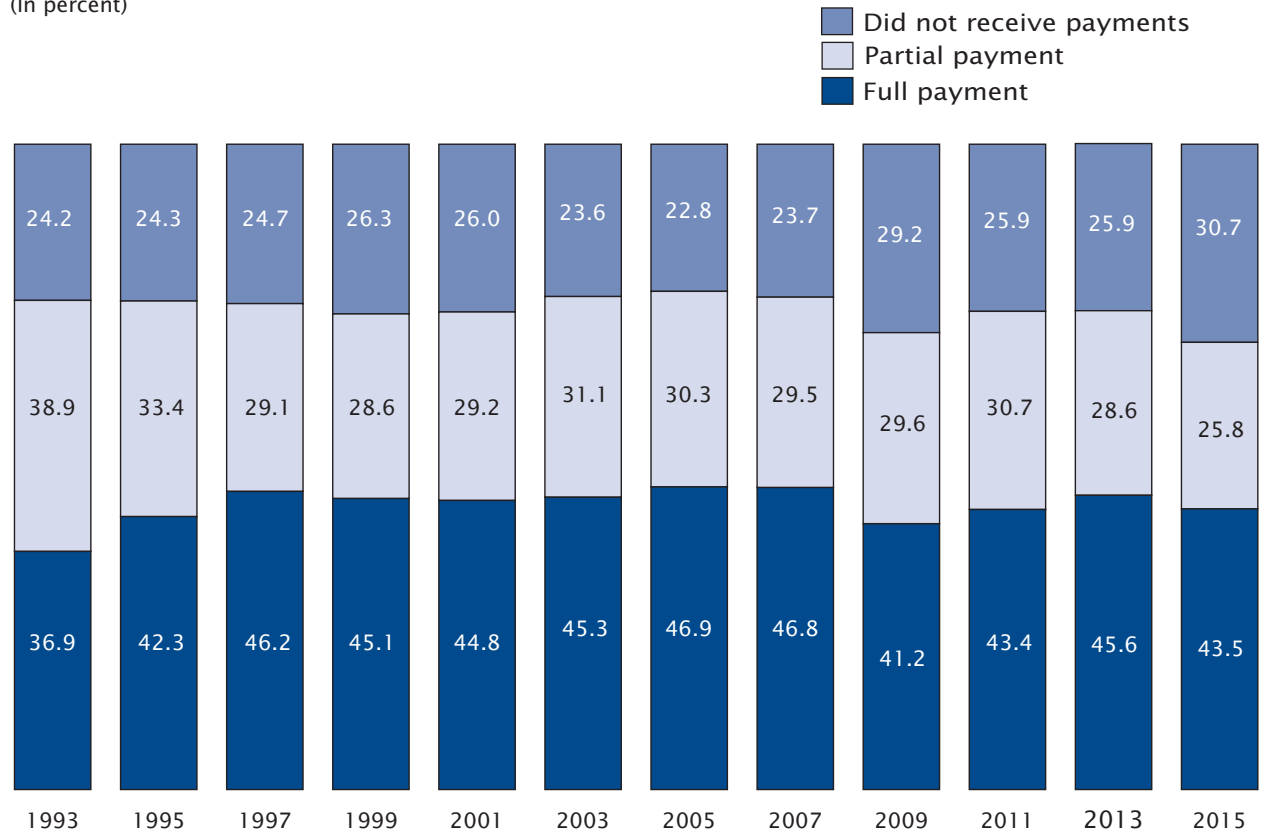
For additional information about the SPM and the data collected, please see <www.census.gov/topics/income-poverty/supplemental-poverty-measure.html>.

For information about how child support paid is collected in CPS, please see <www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/working-papers/2011/demo/spm-cps-sipp-cs-paid-comparison.pdf>.

Figure 4.

Custodial Parents Receiving Full, Partial, or No Child Support Payments That Were Supposed To Be Received: 1993–2015

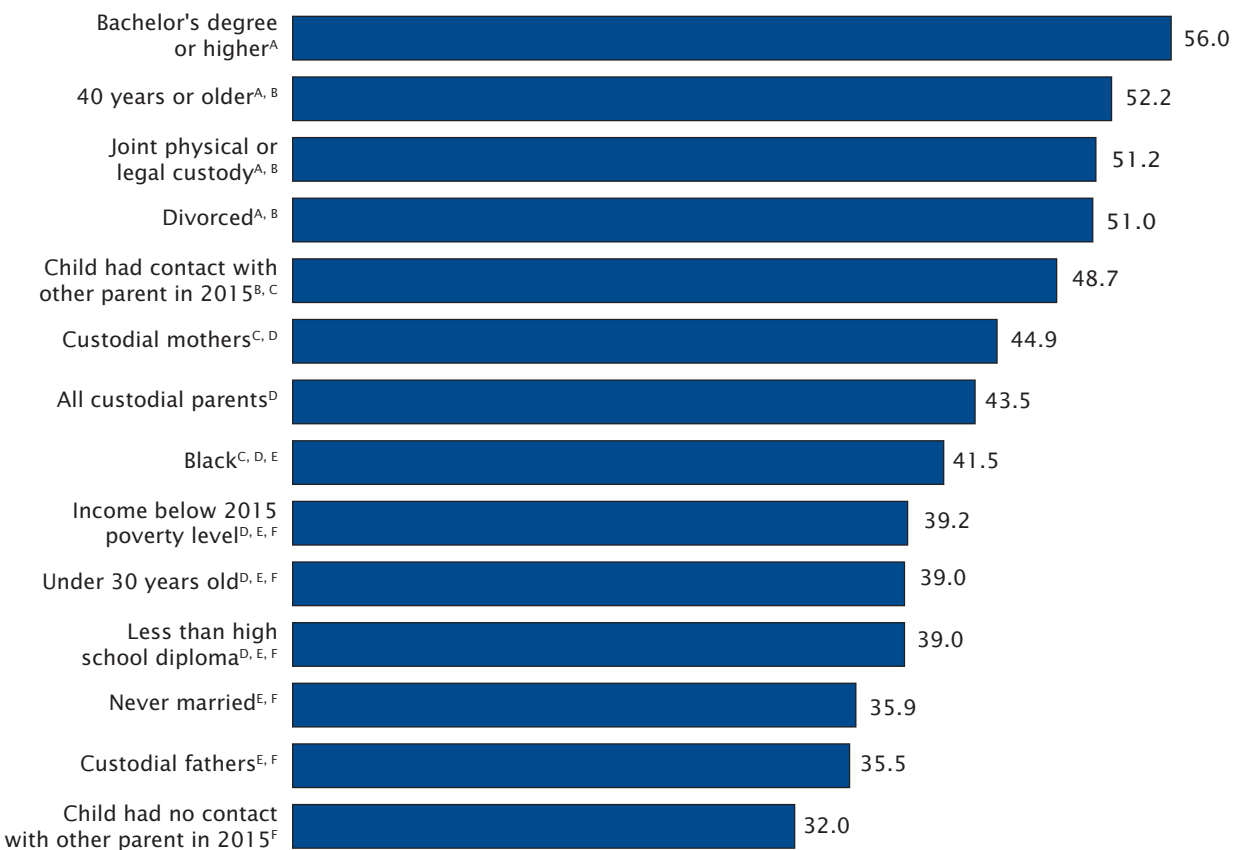
(In percent)



Note: For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see <www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsapr16.pdf>.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, April 1994–2016.

Figure 5.
Custodial Parents Who Were Supposed to Receive Child Support Who Received Full Amount by Selected Characteristics: 2015

(In percent)



Note: Total exceeds 100 percent because respondents could list more than one type.

Any estimates identified with a letter (A, B, C, etc.) are not statistically different from estimates with the same letter.

For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see <www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsapr16.pdf>.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, April 2016.

The poverty rate increased to 30.0 percent for those with two children and 52.3 percent for custodial mothers with three or more children in their family (Detailed Table 4).

EMPLOYMENT AND PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

One-half (50.0 percent) of custodial mothers were employed full-time, year-round in 2015 while

19.9 percent did not have a job. Full-time, year-round employment for custodial fathers in 2015 was higher, 68.2 percent. For custodial-parent families below poverty, 15.5 percent were employed full-time, year-round while 43.5 percent were not employed in 2015 (Figure 2).¹¹

¹¹ The proportion of custodial parents below poverty that were not employed (43.5 percent) was not statistically different from the proportion who worked part-time or part-year (41.0 percent).

In 2015, custodial mothers were more likely than custodial fathers to participate in at least one public assistance program (48.5 and 30.5 percent, respectively).¹² Benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), previously referred to as food stamps,

¹² Public assistance program participation includes those directly receiving, or in a household where someone receives at least one of the following benefits: Medicaid, SNAP, public housing or rent subsidy, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), or general assistance.

were received by 36.6 percent of custodial mothers and 20.4 percent of custodial fathers in 2015 (Detailed Table 4).

CHILD SUPPORT AGREEMENTS AND CUSTODY

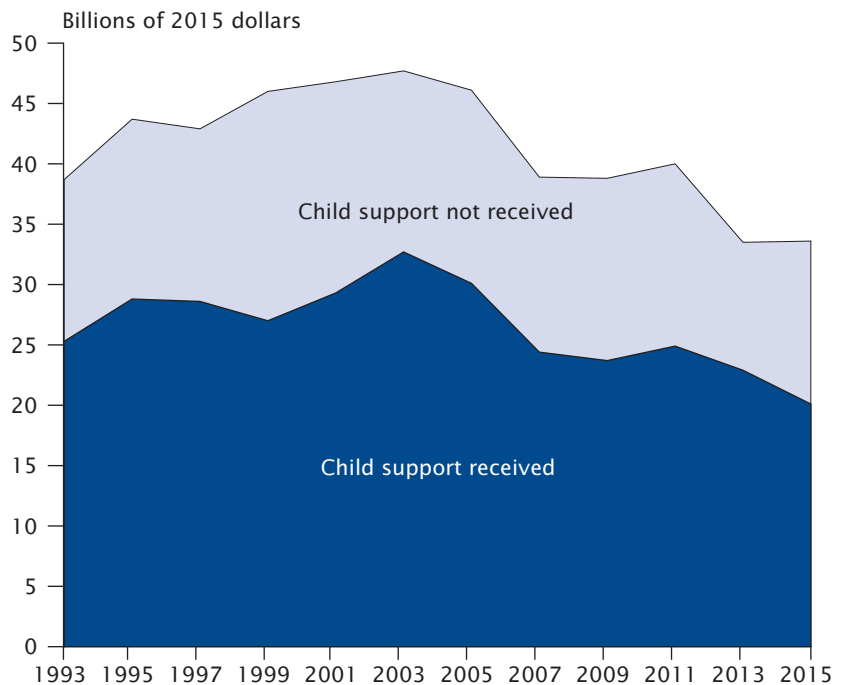
One-half (50.2 percent) of all 13.6 million custodial parents had a court order, child support award, or some other type of agreement to receive financial support from the noncustodial parent(s) in 2016 (Table 3). Of the 6.8 million custodial parents with child support agreements, 87.9 percent reported that these agreements were formal legal orders—established by a court or other government entity—while 12.1 percent reported informal agreements or understandings. Custodial mothers were more likely to have a child support order or agreement in place (52.7 percent) than were custodial fathers (39.6 percent).¹³

Child support order or agreement rates varied by other demographic characteristics of custodial parents. Custodial parents who were under 30 years of age, Black, Hispanic, never married, separated, lived with one child, or had less than a high school education tended to have lower rates of child support orders or agreements (about 45 percent).¹⁴

¹³ An informal agreement is any written or verbal agreement or understanding that was never approved or ordered by a court or a government agency and is generally considered not legally binding. See Detailed Table 9 at www.census.gov/data/tables/2015/demo/families/p60-262-tables.html. The proportion of custodial parents with agreements (50.2 percent) was not statistically different from the proportion of custodial mothers with agreements (52.7 percent).

¹⁴ The proportion of custodial parents under 30 years old with child support agreements (46.4 percent) was not statistically different from the proportion who were 40 years or older (49.5 percent). The proportion of custodial parents with less than a high school education and child support agreements (44.4 percent) was not statistically different from the proportions of those who were high school graduates (49.0 percent) or those with some college (50.4 percent).

Figure 6.
Average Aggregate Child Support Received and Not Received for Child Support That Was Supposed To Be Received: 1993–2015



For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsapr16.pdf. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, April 1994–2016.

Custodial parents who were non-Hispanic White, divorced, married, had a bachelor's degree or higher, or lived with two or more children from a noncustodial parent in 2016 had higher rates of child support orders or agreements (about 55 percent). Custodial parents with court-ordered physical or legal joint custody had a child support order or agreement rate of 60.6 percent in 2016 (Table 3).¹⁵

For about half (48.2 percent) of the 6.8 million custodial parents who had some type of order or agreement for child support in 2016, noncustodial parents had visitation privileges with their children but did not have shared legal or

physical custody. An additional 30.5 percent included some type of joint-custody arrangement (physical and/or legal), and 21.3 percent had neither noncustodial parental visitation nor any type of joint custody (Detailed Table 9).

When the 7.4 million custodial parents without any type of legal agreement and those with informal agreements were asked why a legal child support agreement was not established, the top reasons cited were that the other parent(s) provided what he or she could for support (38.8 percent), that they did not feel the need to have a legal agreement (38.0 percent), and that they thought the other parent(s)

¹⁵ The proportion of custodial parents with a bachelor's degree or higher and child support agreements (55.8 percent) was not statistically different from the proportion of those with some college (50.4 percent).

could not afford to pay child support (33.7 percent).¹⁶

CHILD SUPPORT RECEIPT

Of the 6.8 million custodial parents with child support agreements or orders, 5.8 million (85.9 percent) were supposed to receive child support payments from the noncustodial parents in 2015. The remaining 1 million custodial parents with child support agreements or awards were not supposed to receive child support payments because either their child(ren) was too old, the noncustodial parent had died, the family lived together part of the year before the interview, or some other reason (Detailed Table 4).

In 2015, about 7 in 10 (69.3 percent) custodial parents who were supposed to receive child support from noncustodial parents received either full or partial child support payments. Approximately 43.5 percent of custodial parents received all payments they were supposed to receive, while 25.8 percent received partial payments. The remaining 30.7 percent of custodial parents who were supposed to receive child support in 2015 received no payments.

Custodial mothers were more likely to receive full child support payments in 2015 (44.9 percent) than custodial fathers (35.5 percent). A larger proportion of custodial fathers did not receive any child support payments in 2015 (41.3 percent)

¹⁶ Respondents could choose more than one reason why a formal legal agreement was not established (Figure 3). The proportion who answered that they provided what they could for support (38.8 percent) was not statistically different from the proportion who answered that they did not feel need to make legal (38.0 percent).

than custodial mothers (28.8 percent) (Figure 4, Table 3).¹⁷

For the 1.6 million custodial parents below poverty and who were supposed to receive child support in 2015, 39.2 percent received full payments, 28.1 percent received partial payments, and 32.6 percent received none—proportions that were not statistically different from each other (Table 3).

Receipt of full child support differed by the demographic characteristics of the custodial parent. In 2015, 56.0 percent of custodial parents who had an education of a bachelor's degree or higher and were supposed to receive child support received the full amount. Only 32.0 percent of custodial parents with children who had no contact with their other parent received the full amount of child support that was supposed to be received. In situations where there was court-ordered physical or legal joint custody of children, 51.2 percent of custodial parents received full child support (Figure 5).¹⁸

¹⁷ The proportion of custodial mothers who received full child support that was supposed to be received in 2015 (44.9 percent) was not statistically different from the proportion of custodial fathers that was supposed to receive support who did not receive any payments (41.3 percent). The proportion of custodial fathers who received full child support that was supposed to be received in 2015 (35.5 percent) was not statistically different from the proportion of custodial fathers that was supposed to receive support who did not receive any payments (41.3 percent), or the proportion of custodial mothers who was supposed to receive child support who received none (28.8 percent).

¹⁸ The proportion of custodial parents with a bachelor's degree or higher who received full child support that was supposed to be received in 2015 (56.0 percent) was not statistically different from the proportion of custodial parents that was supposed to receive support who had joint physical or legal custody and received the full amount of child support (51.2 percent).

AMOUNTS OF CHILD SUPPORT

In 2015, custodial parents with legal orders or informal agreements were supposed to receive, on average, \$5,760, or approximately \$480 per month. The median amount of child support supposed to be received in 2015 was \$4,200, meaning half of custodial parents were supposed to receive less than that amount and half were supposed to receive more. Among custodial parents who had agreements for child support, a total of \$33.7 billion in child support payments was supposed to be received in 2015 (Detailed Table 1).

The mean annual amount of child support received by custodial parents with agreements and who were supposed to receive support payments from those agreements in 2015 was \$3,447 or \$287 per month. However, the median annual amount of child support received was lower, \$1,656.

A total of \$20.1 billion of child support that was supposed to be received was reported as received by custodial parents, amounting to 59.8 percent of the \$33.7 billion that was supposed to be received (Detailed Table 1, Figure 6).¹⁹

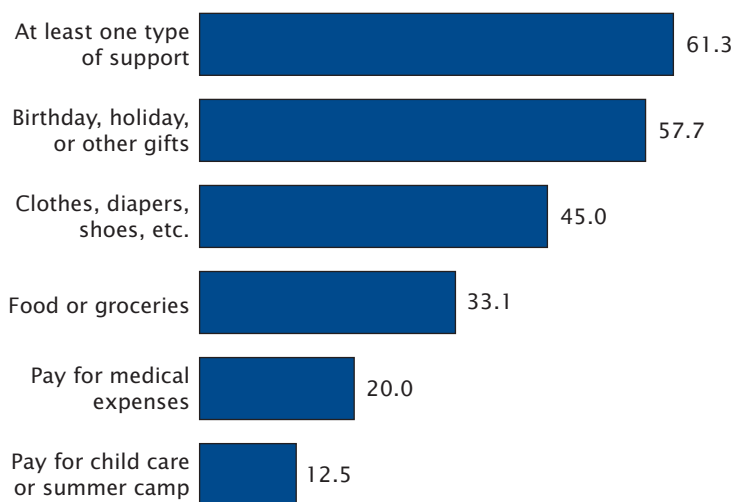
In 2015, custodial mothers received \$17.3 billion of the \$28.7 billion in support that was supposed to be received (60.3 percent), and custodial fathers received \$2.8 billion of

¹⁹ Overall, custodial parents reported receiving \$21.9 billion directly from noncustodial parents for support of their children in 2015, which included \$1.8 billion received by 506,000 parents without current awards or agreements. Custodial parents receiving child support without current awards include those with awards for children past the age of eligibility for payments, those with awards officially starting after 2015, and those with no legal awards or informal arrangements. These parents received a mean annual amount of \$3,521 in child support in 2015, not statistically different from the mean child support received by custodial parents who were supposed to receive child support (\$3,447).

Figure 7.

Noncash Support Received by Custodial Parents: 2015

(In percent)



Note: Total exceeds 100 percent because respondents could list more than one type. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see <www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsapr16.pdf>. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, April 2016.

the \$5.0 billion that was supposed to be received (57.1 percent). The proportions of the amounts of child support received by custodial mothers, custodial fathers, and all custodial parents were not statistically different from each other (Detailed Table 1).

CHILD SUPPORT AND INCOME

For the 5.8 million custodial parents who were supposed to receive child support, the 2015 mean annual personal income amounted to \$34,812. The mean annual family income (\$54,039) and mean annual household income (\$60,346) amounts were higher. The 2015 mean household income for custodial fathers who were supposed to receive child support (\$73,308) was statistically higher than the mean household income

or custodial mothers who were to receive support (\$58,036).²⁰

The mean annual child support amount of \$3,447 received by the 5.8 million custodial parents who were supposed to receive child support payments represented 9.9 percent of their personal income. The mean annual amount of child support received by the 4.0 million custodial parents who received at least some of the support they were supposed to receive (\$4,976) represented 13.7 percent of their mean personal income in 2015 (\$36,263). Child support represented 8.2 percent of personal income for the 1.5 million parents who received only part of the full support they were supposed to receive and 16.4

²⁰ See Detailed Table 1 at <www.census.gov/data/tables/2015/demo/families/p60-262-tables.html>. The mean annual household income of custodial parents who were to receive child support in 2015 (\$60,346) was not statistically different from the mean annual household income of custodial mothers who were to receive support (\$58,036).

percent for the 2.5 million custodial parents who received all child support that they were supposed to receive (Detailed Table 5).

Among the 5.8 million custodial parents who were supposed to receive child support in 2015, 1.6 million or 26.7 percent had family incomes below the poverty threshold. If all of these custodial parents had received the full amount of child support they were supposed to receive, their average annual income amounts would have increased by \$2,313. This would have changed the number of custodial-parents families below the poverty line to 1.4 million (not statistically different from 1.6 million) and their poverty rate to 24.1 percent (not statistically different from 26.7 percent) (Detailed Table 7).

Child support was more important for some lower income parents, representing a substantial portion of income. For example, among custodial parents below poverty who received full payments, the mean annual child support received in 2015 (\$5,445) represented over half (58.0 percent) of their mean personal income (Detailed Table 6).

The 2015 mean personal income for the 1.8 million custodial parents who had support agreements but received no child support payments was \$31,542, and for the 6.8 million custodial parents with no support agreements, their mean personal income was \$33,143—amounts not statistically different from each other (Detailed Table 5).²¹

HEALTH INSURANCE

Of the 6.8 million custodial parents who had child support awards or agreements in 2015, 50.8 percent of their agreements specified who was to provide health insurance for their children. In over half (61.7 percent)

²¹ See Detailed Tables 4, 5, and 6 at <www.census.gov/data/tables/2015/demo/families/p60-262-tables.html>.

of these 3.5 million agreements, the absent parent provided the health insurance coverage.²²

Among the 2.7 million custodial parents with agreements where health insurance was not included in the child support award, 26.9 percent received health care coverage for their children from the noncustodial parent(s). For the 6.8 million custodial parents without a child support agreement, 36.1 percent had health insurance coverage for their children through the noncustodial parent(s). Overall, approximately 5.3 million noncustodial parents provided some type of health insurance for their children in 2015 (Detailed Table 8).

NONCASH CHILD SUPPORT

In 2015, 61.3 percent of all custodial parents reported receiving at least one type of noncash support for their children, such as gifts or coverage of expenses, from the noncustodial parent(s). Custodial parents with child support agreements were more likely to receive some type of noncash support (63.4 percent) than those without agreements (59.1 percent) (Detailed Table 10).²³

The most common type of noncash support received was gifts for birthdays, holidays, or other occasions (57.7 percent), followed by clothes (45.0 percent), food or groceries

²² Health insurance coverage could be through a health maintenance organization, a regular insurance policy, or some other plan. In many states, one or both parents could be obligated in a child support agreement to carry health insurance for their children. If the custodial parent is required to carry the coverage, the noncustodial parent(s) may be required to contribute toward the cost of family coverage.

²³ The proportion of all custodial parents receiving at least some noncash support in 2015 (61.3 percent) was not statistically different from the proportion of custodial mothers who received at least some noncash support (60.4 percent), which was not statistically different from the proportion of custodial parents without agreements that received noncash support (59.1 percent).

(33.1 percent), medical expenses other than health insurance (20.0 percent), and full or partial payments for child care or summer camp (12.5 percent) (Figure 7).²⁴

CONTACT WITH GOVERNMENT FOR ASSISTANCE

In 2016, 21.7 percent of all custodial parents had ever contacted a child support enforcement office (IV-D office), state department of social services, or other welfare or TANF office for child support-related assistance. Contacts were made for many reasons. The reason provided most frequently was to collect child support that was supposed to be received (27.2 percent). Some of the other reasons included to establish a legal agreement or court award (22.8 percent), to obtain TANF or Medicaid (18.1 percent), and to locate the noncustodial parent(s) (10.9 percent) (Detailed Table 2).

HISTORICAL STATISTICS—DEMOGRAPHIC

The number of custodial parents has varied somewhat over the past 22 years, however, the number of custodial parents in 2016 (13.6 million) was not statistically different from the number in 1994. What has changed is the increase in the proportion of fathers who are custodial parents. In 1994, one of every six custodial parents were fathers (16.0 percent), and by 2016, that proportion reached 1 in 5 (19.6 percent).²⁵

²⁴ The total of percentages exceeds 100 because more than one type of noncash support may have been received. See Detailed Table 10 at <www.census.gov/data/tables/2015/demo/families/p60-262-tables.html>.

²⁵ See Detailed Table 4 at <www.census.gov/topics/families/child-support.tables.html>, including historic tables from 1993 to 2015 which present demographic characteristics about custodial parents in the even-numbered year afterwards, which represents the year of interview.

The age of custodial parents has increased over the past 22 years. In 1994, one-quarter (25.4 percent) of custodial mothers were 40 years or older. By 2016, the proportion had grown to 40.1 percent. The proportion of custodial fathers who were 40 years or older increased from 44.7 to 55.2 percent during that time.²⁶

The educational level of custodial mothers has also increased during this period. In 1994, 22.2 percent of custodial mothers had less than a high school education, and 17.1 percent had at least an associate's degree. By 2016, the proportion of custodial mothers who had not graduated from high school decreased to 13.4 percent, and the proportion with at least an associate's degree increased to 31.5 percent.

The poverty rate of custodial-parent families declined between 1993 (33.3 percent) and 2001 (23.4 percent). Since 2009, the poverty rate for all custodial parents has not changed significantly at 26.8 percent in 2015 (Figure 1). In 1993, 14.9 percent of custodial fathers were below poverty and in 2015, a not statistically different 16.7 percent lived below poverty. The poverty rate for custodial mothers declined between 1993 (36.8 percent) and 2015 (29.2 percent).²⁷

The level of full-time, year-round employment for custodial mothers has increased from 40.9 percent in 1993 to 50.0 percent in 2015.

²⁶ The proportion of custodial mothers who were 40 years or older in 2016 (40.1 percent) was not statistically different from the proportion of custodial fathers who were 40 years or older in 1994 (44.7 percent).

²⁷ The proportion of custodial parents below poverty in 1993 (33.3 percent) was not statistically different from the proportions of custodial mothers below poverty in 1993 (36.8 percent) and 2015 (29.2 percent). The proportion of custodial parents below poverty in 2015 (26.8 percent) was not statistically different from the proportion of custodial mothers below poverty in 2015 (29.2 percent).

Custodial fathers have historically had higher full-time, year-round employment rates than custodial mothers, and the level in 2015 (68.2 percent) was not statistically different from the level in 1993 (70.2 percent).

The rate of participation in at least one public assistance program has increased for custodial parents in the last few years. Specifically, receipt of benefits from the SNAP, commonly referred to as food stamps, increased for custodial mothers from about one-quarter (23.5 percent) in 2007 to over one-third (36.6 percent) in 2015. The proportion in 2007 was not statistically different than the proportion in 1993, when 36.7 percent of custodial mothers received food stamp benefits.²⁸

HISTORICAL STATISTICS—CHILD SUPPORT

The proportion of custodial mothers who had child support agreements or awards increased from 59.8 percent in 1994 to 64.2 percent in 2004. Since that time the percentage has declined to 52.7 percent. Historically, the proportion of custodial fathers with child support agreements has been considerably lower than that of custodial mothers and the proportion of custodial fathers with child support agreements or awards was 39.6 percent in 2016, not statistically different from the proportion in 1994 (42.2 percent) (Table 2).

In 2015, 69.3 percent of custodial parents who were supposed to receive child support received either full or partial child support payments. This was a decrease from 1993, when 75.8 percent of custodial parents who

were supposed to receive support received at least some child support payments. The proportion of custodial parents who were to receive child support, but received none, increased from 24.2 percent in 1993 to 30.7 percent in 2015.

Among custodial parents who had agreements for child support, a total of \$33.7 billion in child support payments was supposed to be received in 2015, a decrease of \$14.0 billion from 2003. Much of the decrease in the aggregate amount of child support supposed to be received over the past 12 years can be attributed to the drop in the number of custodial parents who were supposed to receive support, which fell from 7.3 million to 5.8 million between 2003 and 2015.

There was no statistical difference between the average annual amount of child support that was supposed to be received in 1993 (\$5,786) and the amount that was supposed to be received in 2015 (\$5,760). The average amount of child support that was received in 2015 (\$3,447) was lower than the average amount of child support received in 1993 (\$3,778) (Table 2).

Between 1993 and 2013, the proportion of custodial parents who had their children's health care provided by the noncustodial parent increased from 22.0 to 26.1 percent. Since that time, this proportion has increased to 39.1 percent or approximately 5.3 million noncustodial parents who provided some type of health insurance for their children in 2015 (Detailed Table 8).

SUMMARY

Due to the prevalence of out-of-wedlock births, separation, and divorce, many children today live with one parent while their other parent lives elsewhere. Without the

advantage of both parents in the same household, a large number of these custodial parents and their children are economically disadvantaged and live below poverty. The cash and noncash contributions received from noncustodial parents are often an important resource to help pay for the costs of raising children, maintaining economic stability, and increasing overall child well-being. This report has shown many of the socioeconomic characteristics of custodial parents, as well as the degree to which they receive support for their children.

SOURCE OF THE DATA

The population represented (the population universe) in the CSS to the April 2016 CPS is the civilian noninstitutionalized population living in the United States. The institutionalized population, which is excluded from the population universe, is composed primarily of the population in correctional institutions and nursing homes (94 percent of the 4.0 million institutionalized people in the 2010 Census). Approximately 0.3 percent of all children under 21 years old were institutionalized in the 2010 Census.

The estimates in this report are from the 1994 through 2016 April biennial supplements to the CPS. The Census Bureau conducts the April supplement sponsored, in part, by the Office of Child Support Enforcement of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Data from the April 1992 and earlier supplements are not directly comparable with data from 1994 and later years because of changes made to the questionnaire (see Text Box "Limitations of the Data" for more detail). Because of changes made to the allocation procedures, data for custodial parents supposed to

²⁸ See Detailed Table 4 available at www.census.gov/topics/families/child-support.tables.html.

receive and receiving child support were revised starting with the April 1994 survey. Reported estimates may differ from those published previously due to these changes.

ACCURACY OF THE ESTIMATES

Statistics from sample surveys are subject to sampling error and nonsampling error. All comparisons presented in this report have taken sampling error into account and are significant at the 90 percent confidence level. This means the 90 percent confidence interval for the difference between estimates being compared does not include zero. Nonsampling error in surveys may be attributed to a variety of sources, such as how the survey was designed, how respondents interpret questions, how able and willing respondents are to provide correct answers, and how accurately answers are coded and classified. To minimize these errors, the Census Bureau employs quality control procedures in sample

selection, the wording of questions, interviewing, coding, data processing, and data analysis.

The CPS weighting procedure uses ratio estimation, whereby sample estimates are adjusted to independent estimates of the national population by age, race, sex, and Hispanic origin. This weighting partially corrects for bias due to undercoverage, but biases may still be present when people who are missed by the survey differ from those interviewed in ways other than age, race, sex, and Hispanic origin. How this weighting procedure affects other variables in the survey is not precisely known. All of these considerations affect comparisons across different surveys or data sources.

Further information on the source of the data and accuracy of the estimates, including standard errors and confidence intervals, can be found at www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsapr16.pdf or by contacting

Rebecca Hoop of the Demographic Statistical Methods Division via e-mail at dsmd.source.and.accuracy@census.gov.

SUGGESTED CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

Detailed tabulations, related information, and historic data are available at the "Child Support" page on the Census Bureau's Web site at www.census.gov/topics/families/child-support.publications.html.

For additional questions or comments, contact Timothy Grall at (301) 763-3189 or via e-mail at Timothy.Scott.Grall@census.gov.

Appendix Table 1.

Standard Errors for Table 2: 1993–2015

(Numbers in thousands as of spring of the following year. Parents living with own children under 21 years of age whose other parent is not living in the home)

Characteristic	2015	2013	2011	2009	2007	2005	2003	2001	1999	1997	1995	1993
ALL CUSTODIAL PARENTS												
Total	311	283	293	286	286	285	288	282	299	303	301	286
With child support agreements	222	200	208	205	213	218	225	219	232	231	232	219
Percent	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1
Supposed to receive child support ..	206	187	196	190	197	204	210	205	215	218	217	204
Average child support supposed to be received (in dollars)	136	126	143	172	130	148	120	315	194	134	164	137
Average child support received (in dollars)	126	140	129	239	114	129	174	170	117	127	141	139
Received any child support	172	161	169	160	173	180	184	177	185	190	190	178
Percent	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.3
Received full amount of child support	137	127	130	123	136	140	143	138	145	149	142	125
Percent	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.5
Not awarded child support	222	205	212	203	197	189	185	183	195	203	198	192
CUSTODIAL MOTHERS												
Total	280	258	266	260	261	262	264	260	277	281	278	264
With child support agreements	205	188	196	194	199	207	213	208	220	219	220	207
Percent	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2
Supposed to receive child support ..	190	176	185	180	184	194	199	195	204	208	206	192
Average child support supposed to be received (in dollars)	145	128	153	182	141	158	129	348	206	141	179	152
Average child support received (in dollars)	131	139	138	262	121	135	189	178	125	136	147	153
Received any child support	161	152	161	152	162	171	176	169	177	181	180	168
Percent	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.4
Received full amount of child support	128	120	123	117	127	134	135	132	139	142	136	118
Percent	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.6
Not awarded child support	194	180	184	176	173	165	160	160	172	181	175	170
CUSTODIAL FATHERS												
Total	140	121	128	123	122	117	121	114	118	120	121	118
With child support agreements	88	68	69	68	78	71	77	71	74	74	76	77
Percent	2.4	2.4	2.2	2.3	2.5	2.6	2.5	2.7	2.9	2.8	2.8	2.7
Supposed to receive child support ..	81	64	65	62	72	65	68	67	68	68	71	70
Average child support supposed to be received (in dollars)	353	486	387	525	329	419	287	339	535	415	306	283
Average child support received (in dollars)	360	588	325	456	337	442	361	546	283	355	495	301
Received any child support	62	55	53	53	62	56	58	55	54	58	60	60
Percent	4.1	4.3	4.5	4.5	3.8	4.2	4.1	4.4	4.9	4.6	4.4	4.0
Received full amount of child support	48	41	42	36	48	43	46	42	42	45	43	43
Percent	4.0	4.8	4.7	4.8	4.3	4.8	4.6	4.6	5.0	5.0	4.7	4.4
Not awarded child support	109	100	108	103	94	93	160	89	92	94	93	90

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, April 1994–2016.