

**SELECTED CHILD SUPPORT STATISTICS**

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## LIST OF TABLES

TABLE 1: Child Support Award Status And Reason For Nonaward, By Marital Status, 1983 and 1985 . . . . .	45
TABLE 2: Mean Child Support Payments Received, 1985 . . . . .	46
TABLE 3: Mean Child Support Due And Received, By Length Of Divorce Or Separation, 1983 and 1985 . . . . .	48
TABLE 4: Mean Child Support Payments, 1985 . . . . .	49
TABLE 5: Percentage Of Child Support Payments Received, By Amount Due, 1985 . . . . .	51
TABLE 6: Percentage Of Child Support Payments Received, By Amount Due, 1983 . . . . .	52
TABLE 7: Percentage Of Child Support Payments Received, By Amount Due, 1978 . . . . .	53
TABLE 8: Percentage Of Total Paying None, Some, or All of Child Support Payments Due, 1978, 1983, and 1985 . . . . .	55
TABLE 9: Percentage Of Child Support Payments Received From Those Owning \$1-499, 1978, 1983, And 1985 . . . . .	57
TABLE 10: Percentage Of Child Support Payments Received From Those Owning \$500-999, 1978, 1983, And 1985 . . . . .	58
TABLE 11: Percentage Of Child Support Payments Received From Those Owning \$1,000-1,499, 1978, 1983, And 1985 . . . . .	59
TABLE 12: Percentage Of Child Support Payments Received From Those Owning \$1,500-1,999, 1978, 1983, And 1985 . . . . .	60
TABLE 13: Percentage Of Child Support Payments Received From Those Owning \$2,000-2,999, 1978, 1983, and 1985 . . . . .	61
TABLE 14: Percentage Of Child Support Payments Received From Those Owning \$3,000 - 4,999, 1978, 1983, And 1985 . . . . .	62
TABLE 15: Percentage Of Child Support Payments Received From Those Owning \$5,000 - 6,999, 1978, 1983, And 1985. . . . .	63
TABLE 16: Percentage Of Child Support Payments Received From Those Owning \$7,000+, 1978, 1983, And 1985 . . . . .	64
TABLE 17: Percentage Of Child Support Payments Received, By Marital Status, 1983 and 1985 . . . . .	65

TABLE 18: Percentage Of Child Support Payments Received, By Length Of Divorce Or Separation, 1985 . . . . .	67
Table 19: Percentage Of Child Support Payments Received, By Length Of Divorce Or Separation, 1983 . . . . .	69
TABLE 20: Percentage Of Child Support Payments Received, By Length Of Divorce Or Separation, 1978 . . . . .	71
TABLE 21: Mean Child Support Payments To Women Due Child Support, By Type Of Arrangement, 1983 and 1985 . . . . .	73
TABLE 22: Percentage Of Child Support Payments Received By Type Of Arrangement, 1978, 1983, and 1985 . . . . .	75
TABLE 23: Percentage Of Child Support Payments Received, By Method Of Payment, 1978, 1983, and 1985 . . . . .	77
TABLE 24: Comparison Of Mean Child Support Payments Received, By Selected Characteristics, 1983 and 1985 . . . . .	79
TABLE 25: Comparison Of Mean Child Support Payments Received, By Selected Characteristics, 1981 and 1983 . . . . .	80

Table 1

**NOTE:** The lack of awards is concentrated largely among two types of mothers: never-married and separated.

In 1985, only 18 percent of never-married mothers had child-support awards; for separated mothers, that figure was 43 percent. In contrast, 82 percent of divorced mothers and 82 percent of married mothers--remarried mothers whose previous marriage ended in divorce--had awards.

It is significant to note that 34 percent of never-married mothers did not want awards. An additional 6 percent either had an agreement pending, had accepted property in lieu of child support, or had joint custody. About 42 percent of never-married women wanted a child-support order but could not obtain one, compared with 29 percent of separated women, 8 percent of divorced women, and 7 percent of married women.

Because of sampling changes, comparisons between 1983 and 1985 are problematical. In all groups the percentage of women who wanted awards but could not obtain them appears to have declined between 1983 and 1985. The most significant decline occurred among never-married women, dropping from 59 percent to 42 percent.

Of the nearly 1.7 million women who wanted child support awards in 1985 but could not obtain them, 51 percent have never been married, and 24 percent are separated; divorced women constituted only 15 percent of these women, and married women, 10 percent.

The number of awards among never-married women has increased. In 1978, only 11 percent of never married-women had child-support awards. In 1983, that percentage had risen to 18. (In 1985, 18 percent of never-married women had awards.)

**TABLE 1**  
**Child Support Award Status And Reason For Nonaward,**  
**By Marital Status, 1983 and 1985**

(percent of eligible mothers)

Current Women Marital Without Status Awards			Final Agree- ment Pending		Property Settlement or Joint Custody		Did Not Want Award		Wanted but Could Not Obtain Award	
	1983	1985	1983	1985	1983	1985	1983	1985	1983	1985
Married	24	18	1	1	1	3	10	8	12	7
Divorced	24	18	1	1	2	2	5	7	15	8
Separated	59	57	10	14	-	2	11	11	38	29
Never- married	32	32	1	5	1	1	22	34	59	42
All women	42	39	3	4	1	2	11	14	27	19

\*Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Child Support and Alimony: 1983. (Supplemental Report) (Current Population Reports, Series P-23, No. 148, October 1986), p. 3, Table B; Child Support and Alimony: 1985. (Advance Data from March-April 1986 Current Population Surveys) (Current Population Reports, Series P-23, No. 152, August 1987), p. 12, Table 2.

TABLE 2

Mean Child Support Payments Received, 1985 \*

(dollars)

Census Bureau Data Source	Mean Annual Child Support Payment Received **	Mean Weekly Child Support Payment Received
Current Population Survey	2,215	43
Survey of Income and Program Participation	2,887	56

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\*Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Child Support and Alimony: 1985. (Advance Data from March-April 1986 Current Population Surveys) (Current Population Reports, Series P-23, No. 152, August 1987), p. 4, Table D; Survey of Income and Program Participation (1985) (unpublished).

\*\*Mean amounts based on all persons who received payments; does not include persons who did not receive any payments.

Table 3

**NOTE:** More recent initial child-support awards appear generally larger than older awards.

In 1983, custodial parents who had divorced or separated in 1980 or later received child support awards 22 percent larger than awards received between 1975 and 1979, and 38 percent larger than awards received between 1970 and 1974. Awards made before 1970, however, were only 3 percent smaller than the awards initially made in 1980 or later.

In 1985, awards received in 1980 or later were 24 percent larger than awards initially made between 1975 and 1979; 67 percent larger than awards received between 1970 and 1975; and 18 percent larger than awards initially made before 1970.

The percentage of the award actually received is greater among more recent initial awards, than among older awards. In 1983, custodial parents who were divorced or separated in 1980 or later, received 76 percent of their child support awards; those divorced or separated between 1975 and 1979 received about 64 percent of their award; those divorced or separated between 1970 and 1974 received 63 percent; and those divorced or separated before 1970 received 55 percent.

In 1985, custodial parents divorced or separated in 1980 received 69 percent of their awards; those divorced or separated between 1975 and 1979 received 62 percent; those divorced or separated between 1970 and 1974 received 54 percent; and those divorced or separated before 1970 received 59 percent.

TABLE 3

Mean Child Support Due And Received,  
By Length Of Divorce Or Separation, 1983 And 1985 \*

(current dollars)

<u>Year of Divorce or Separation</u>	<u>Mean Child Support Due</u>		<u>Mean Child Support Received</u>	
	1983	1985	1983	1985
1980 and later	2,907	2,860	2,216	1,970
1975-1979	2,384	2,315	1,620	1,437
1970-1974	2,113	1,709	1,329	922
Before 1970	2,817	2,421	1,559	1,438

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\*Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Child Support and Alimony: 1983. (Supplemental Report) (Current Population Reports, Series P-23, No. 148, October 1986), p. 36, Table 7; Child Support and Alimony: 1985. (Supplemental Report) (Current Population Reports, Series P-23, No. 154, March 1989), p. 40, Table 7.

TABLE 4

## Mean Child Support Payments, 1985 \*

Census Bureau Data Source	Mean Child Support Payment Received (dollars)	Mean Income of Divorced Men in 1985 (dollars)	Child Support as % of Father's Income	Mean Income of All Men in 1985 (dollars)	Child Support as % of Father's Income
Current Population Survey	2,215	21,436	10	21,422	10
Survey of Income and Program Participation	2,887 **	21,436	13	21,422	13

\*Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Child Support and Alimony: 1985. (Advance Data from March-April 1986 Current Population Surveys) (Current Population Reports, Series P-23, No. 152, August 1987), p. 4, Table D; Survey of Income and Program Participation (1985) (unpublished); Money Income of Households, Families, and Persons in the United States: 1985 (Current Population Reports, Series P-60, No. 156, August 1987), p. 118, Table 33.

\*\*Annual Figure assumes that all 52 weekly payments are made.

Tables 5, 6 and 7

**NOTE:** Compliance improves as awards become larger or as the incomes of non-custodial parents rise. Full payments are received more than the average as the amount due is between \$3,000 and \$7,000.

Complete noncompliance--no payments received--occurs most often at the low-to-middle award range. Stated another way, compliance declines as the income of non-custodial parents declines. Zero percent payments are received more than the average when the amount due is between \$1 and \$1,999.

**TABLE 5**  
**Percentage of Child Support Payments Received, By Amount Due, 1985 \***

<u>Amount Due</u> (dollars)	<u>% of Amount Due Received</u>					
	0	0.1-24.9	25-49.9	50-74.9	75-99.9	100+
1-499	30	1	7	7	2	53
500-999	35	8	7	9	3	38
1,000-1,499	37	6	3	7	3	44
1,500-1,999	30	9	3	10	6	43
2,000-2,999	23	10	6	7	7	47
3,000-4,999	20	9	4	7	6	54
5,000-6,999	6	7	3	8	2	73
7,000+	4	14	2	9	6	64
Total	26	8	5	8	5	48

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\*Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Child Support and Alimony: 1985.  
(Advance Data from March-April 1986 Current Population Surveys) (Current  
Population Reports, Series P-23, No. 152, August 1987), p. 13, Table 3.

TABLE 6

## Percentage Of Child Support Payments Received, By Amount Due, 1983 \*

<u>Amount Due</u> (dollars)	<u>% of Amount Due Received</u>					
	0	0.1-24.9	25-49.9	50-74.9	75-99.9	100+
1-499	33	5	7	14	3	38
500-999	32	4	6	3	5	50
1,000-1,499	33	7	4	10	6	39
1,500-1,999	25	9	6	9	8	44
2,000-2,999	19	9	4	7	7	54
3,000-4,999	17	6	4	9	6	58
5,000-6,999	13	19	3	4	5	68
7,000+	10	3	1	7	-	79
Total	24	7	5	8	6	51

\*Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Child Support and Alimony: 1983. (Supplemental Report) (Current Population Reports, Series P-23, No. 148, October 1986), p. 34, Table 6.

TABLE 7

Percentage Of Child Support Payments Received, By Amount Due, 1978 \*

<u>Amount Due</u> (dollars)	<u>% of Amount Due Received</u>					
	0	0.1-24.9	25-49.9	50-74.9	75-99.9	100+
1-499	39	3	4	9	4	41
500-999	38	6	4	5	3	44
1,000-1,499	28	6	5	9	5	47
1,500-1,999	30	7	6	9	2	46
2,000-2,999	28	6	3	7	6	50
3,000-4,999	15	6	3	10	5	60
5,000-6,999	7	9	4	9	5	66
7,000+	16	19	5	-	6	66
Total	28	6	4	8	4	49

\*Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Child Support and Alimony: 1978 (Current Population Reports, Series P-23, No. 112, September 1981), p. 23, Table 4.

Table 8

**NOTE:** In the years for which surveys were conducted -- 1978, 1983, and 1985 -- the percentage of what noncustodial parents pay remained consistent, varying by only one to four percentage points. Roughly one quarter of noncustodial parents pay nothing at all. About half pay 100 percent or more. The remaining quarter pay some portion of the support they owe.

TABLE 8

Percentage Of Total Paying None, Some, or  
All of Child Support Payments Due, 1978, 1983, and 1985, \*

<u>% of Due Payments Received</u>	<u>% Who Paid That Amount</u>		
	1978	1983	1985
0	28	24	26
1-24.9	6	7	8
25-49.9	4	5	5
50-74.9	8	8	8
75-99.9	4	6	5
100+	49	51	48

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\*Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Child Support and Alimony: 1978 (Current Population Reports, Series P-23, No. 112, September 1981), p. 23, Table 4; Child Support and Alimony: 1983. (Supplemental Report) (Current Population Reports, Series P-23, No. 148, October 1986), p. 34, table 6; Child Support and Alimony: 1985. (Advance Data from March-April 1986 Current Population Surveys) (Current Population Reports, Series P-23, No. 152, August 1987), p. 13, Table 3.

Table 9

**NOTE:** Total compliance--payments of 100 percent or more--occurs most often among those with the highest awards, between \$3,000 and \$7,000 due. In 1985, for example, 54 percent of noncustodial parents with awards between \$3,000 and \$4,999 paid 100 percent or more; for all payments, an average of 48 percent of all parents paid 100 percent or more (see table 8). About 73 percent of those with awards between \$5,000 and \$6,999 paid 100 percent or more; and 64 percent of those with awards of \$7,000 or more paid 100 percent. At the other end of the spectrum, about 38 percent of those with awards of between \$500-999 paid 100 percent or more.

Total noncompliance--no payments--occurs most often among those with low-to-middle range awards, between \$1 and \$1,999 due. In 1985, for example, 30 percent of noncustodial parents with awards of between \$1 and \$499 due, paid nothing at all; for all payments, an average of 26 percent of all parents paid nothing (see table 8). About 35 percent of those with awards of between \$500 and \$999 due paid nothing; 37 percent of those with awards of between \$1,000 and \$1,499 due paid nothing; and 30 percent of those with awards of between \$1,500 and \$1,999 due paid nothing. At the other end of the spectrum, 4 percent of those with awards of \$7,000 or more paid nothing at all.

TABLE 9

**Percentage Of Child Support Payments  
Received From Those Owing \$1-499, 1978, 1983, And 1985 \***

<u>% of Due Payments Received</u>	<u>% Who Received That Amount</u>		
	1978	1983	1985
0	39	33	30
0.1-24.9	3	5	1
25-49.9	4	7	7
50-74.9	9	14	7
75-99.9	4	3	2
100+	41	38	53

\*Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Child Support and Alimony: 1978 (Current Population Reports, Series P-23, No. 112, September 1981), p. 23, Table 4; Child Support and Alimony: 1983. (Supplemental Report) (Current Population Reports, Series P-23, No. 148, October 1986), p. 34, table 6; Child Support and Alimony: 1985. (Advance Data from March-April 1986 Current Population Surveys) (Current Population Reports, Series P-23, No. 152, August 1987), p. 13, Table 3.

TABLE 10

Percentage Of Child Support Payments  
Received From Those Owing \$500-999, 1978, 1983, And 1985 \*

% Who Received That Amount

<u>% of Due Payments Received</u>	1978	1983	1985
0	38	32	35
1-24.9	6	4	8
25-49.9	4	6	7
50-74.9	5	3	9
75-99.9	3	5	3
100+	44	50	38

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\*Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Child Support and Alimony: 1978 (Current Population Reports, Series P-23, No. 112, September 1981), p. 23, Table 4; Child Support and Alimony: 1983. (Supplemental Report) (Current Population Reports, Series P-23, No. 148, October 1986), p. 34, table 6; Child Support and Alimony: 1985. (Advance Data from March-April 1986 Current Population Surveys) (Current Population Reports, Series P-23, No. 152, August 1987), p. 13, Table 3.

TABLE 11

Percentage of Child Support Payments  
Received From Those Owning \$1,000-1,499, 1978, 1983, And 1985 \*

<u>% of Due Payments Received</u>	<u>% Who Received That Amount</u>		
	1978	1983	1985
0	28	33	37
0.1-24.9	6	7	6
25-49.9	4	5	5
50-74.9	9	10	7
75-99.9	5	6	3
100+	47	39	44

\* Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Child Support and Alimony: 1978 (Current Population Reports, Series P-23, No. 112, September 1981), p. 23, Table 4; Child Support and Alimony: 1983. (Supplemental Report) (Current Population Reports, Series P-23, No. 148, October 1986), p. 34, table 6; Child Support and Alimony: 1985. (Advance Data from March-April 1986 Current Population Surveys) (Current Population Reports, Series P-23, No. 152, August 1987), p. 13, Table 3.

NOTE: See Table 9.

TABLE 12

Percentage Of Child Support Payments Received From  
Those Owning \$1,500-1,999, 1978, 1983, And 1985 \*

<u>% of Due Payments Received</u>	<u>% Who Received That Amount</u>		
	1978	1983	1985
0	30	25	30
0.1-24.9	7	9	9
25-49.9	6	6	3
50-74.9	9	9	10
75-99.9	2	8	6
100+	46	44	43

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\*Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Child Support and Alimony: 1978 (Current Population Reports, Series P-23, No. 112, September 1981), p. 23, Table 4; Child Support and Alimony: 1983. (Supplemental Report) (Current Population Reports, Series P-23, No. 148, October 1986), p. 34, table 6; Child Support and Alimony: 1985. (Advance Data from March-April 1986 Current Population Surveys) (Current Population Reports, Series P-23, No. 152, August 1987), p. 13, Table 3.

TABLE 13

Percentage Of Child Support Payments Received From  
Those Owing \$2,000-2,999, 1978, 1983, and 1985 \*

<u>% of Due Payments Received</u>	<u>% Who Received That Amount</u>		
	1978	1983	1985
0	28	19	23
0.1-24.9	6	9	10
25-49.9	3	4	6
50-74.9	7	7	7
75-99.9	6	7	7
100+	50	54	47

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\*Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Child Support and Alimony: 1978 (Current Population Reports, Series P-23, No. 112, September 1981), p. 23, Table 4; Child Support and Alimony: 1983. (Supplemental Report) (Current Population Reports, Series P-23, No. 148, October 1986), p. 34, table 6; Child Support and Alimony: 1985. (Advance Data from March-April 1986 Current Population Surveys) (Current Population Reports, Series P-23, No. 152, August 1987), p. 13, Table 3.

TABLE 14

Percentage Of Child Support Payments Received From  
Those Owning \$3,000-4,999, 1978, 1983, and 1985

<u>% of Due Payments Received</u>	<u>% Who Received That Amount</u>		
	1978	1983	1985
0	15	17	20
0.1-24.9	6	6	9
25-49.9	3	4	4
50-74.9	10	9	7
75-99.9	5	6	6
100+	60	58	54

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\*Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Child Support and Alimony: 1978 (Current Population Reports, Series P-23, No. 112, September 1981), p. 23, Table 4; Child Support and Alimony: 1983. (Supplemental Report) (Current Population Reports, Series P-23, No. 148, October 1986), p. 34, table 6; Child Support and Alimony: 1985. (Advance Data from March-April 1986 Current Population Surveys) (Current Population Reports, Series P-23, No. 152, August 1987), p. 13, Table 3.

TABLE 15

Percentage Of Child Support Payments Received From  
Those Owning \$5,000-6,999, 1978, 1983, And 1985

<u>% of Due Payments Received</u>	<u>% Who Received That Amount</u>		
	1978	1983	1985
0	7	13	6
0.1-24.9	9	19	7
25-49.9	4	3	3
50-74.9	9	4	8
75-99.9	5	5	2
100+	66	68	73

\*Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Child Support and Alimony: 1978 (Current Population Reports, Series P-23, No. 112, September 1981), p. 23, Table 4; Child Support and Alimony: 1983. (Supplemental Report) (Current Population Reports, Series P-23, No. 148, October 1986), p. 34, table 6; Child Support and Alimony: 1985. (Advance Data from March-April 1986 Current Population Surveys) (Current Population Reports, Series P-23, No. 152, August 1987), p. 13, Table 3.

TABLE 16

Percentage Of Child Support Payments Received  
From Those Owning \$7,000+, 1978, 1983, and 1985 \*

<u>% of Due Payments Received</u>	<u>% Who Received That Amount</u>		
	1978	1983	1985
0	16	10	4
1-24.9	19	3	14
25-49.9	5	1	2
50-74.9	-	7	9
75-99.9	6	-	6
100+	66	79	64

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\*Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Child Support and Alimony: 1978 (Current Population Reports, Series P-23, No. 112, September 1981), p. 23, Table 4; Child Support and Alimony: 1983. (Supplemental Report) (Current Population Reports, Series P-23, No. 148, October 1986), p. 34, table 6; Child Support and Alimony: 1985. (Advance Data from March-April 1986 Current Population Surveys) (Current Population Reports, Series P-23, No. 152, August 1987), p. 13, Table 3.

TABLE 17

Percentage Of Child Support Payments Received By  
Marital Status, 1983 and 1985

<u>% of Due Payments Received</u>	<u>Divorced</u>		<u>Never-married</u>	
	1983	1985	1983	1985
0	24	25	24	24
0.1-24.9	6	8	3	15
25-49.9	4	4	4	4
50-74.9	8	7	11	7
75-99.9	6	5	9	4
100+	52	51	49	47

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\*Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Child Support and Alimony: 1983. (Supplemental Report) (Current Population Reports, Series P-23, No. 148, October 1986), p. 36, Table 7; Child Support and Alimony: 1985. (Supplemental Report) (Current Population Reports, Series P-23, No. 154, March 1989), p. 40, Table 7.

Table 18

**NOTE:** Absent parents with recent initial awards tend to have lower rates of total noncompliance. In 1985, 21 percent of those whose awards were established in 1980 or later paid nothing; 31 percent of those with awards established prior to 1970 paid nothing.

Absent parents with recent initial awards tend to have higher rates of total compliance. In 1985, 52 percent of parents who had separated in 1980 or later paid full child support; and 38 percent of those who had separated before 1970 paid in full.

TABLE 18

Percentage Of Child Support Payments Received,  
By Length Of Divorce Or Separation, 1985 \*

<u>% of Due Payments Received</u>	<u>Year of Divorce or Separation</u>			
	Before 1970	1970-1974	1975-1979	1980 and later
0	31	38	31	21
0.1-24.9	13	4	8	8
25-49.9	-	4	3	5
50-74.9	18	10	6	8
75-99.9	-	5	5	5
100+	38	38	46	52

\*Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Child Support and Alimony: 1985.  
(Supplemental Report) (Current Population Reports, Series P-23, No. 154,  
March 1989), p. 26, Table 2.

Table 19

**NOTE:** Absent parents with recent initial awards tend to have lower rates of total noncompliance. In 1983, only 17 percent of absent parents who had separated in 1980 or later paid nothing; 43 percent of absent parents whose awards had been established before 1970 paid nothing.

Absent parents with recent initial awards tend to have higher rates of total compliance. In 1983, 53 percent of parents who had separated in 1980 or later paid full child support; and 36 percent of those who had separated before 1970 paid in full.

TABLE 19

Percentage Of Child Support Payments Received,  
By Length Of Divorce or Separation, 1983 \*

<u>% of Due Payments Received</u>	<u>Year of Divorce or Separation</u>			
	Before 1970	1970-1974	1975-1979	1980 and later
0	43	36	25	17
0.1-24.9	8	5	6	9
25-49.9	2	3	3	6
50-74.9	6	6	8	9
75-99.9	4	4	7	5
100+	36	47	51	52

\*Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Child Support and Alimony: 1983. (Supplemental Report) (Current Population Reports, Series P-23, No. 148, October 1986), p. 26, Table 3.

Table 20

**NOTE:** Absent parents with recent initial awards tend to have lower rates of total noncompliance. In 1978, about 21 percent of absent parents who had separated in 1975 or later paid no child support; for absent parents whose awards had been established before 1960, that figure was 57 percent.

Absent parents with recent initial awards tend to have higher rates of total compliance. In 1978, 53 percent of parents who had separated in 1975 or later paid full child support; about 32 percent of those who had separated before 1960 paid in full.

TABLE 20

Percentage of Child Support Payments Received,  
By Length Of Divorce Or Separation, 1978

<u>% of Due Payments Received</u>	<u>Year of Divorce or Separation</u>				
	Before 1960	1960-1964	1965-1969	1970-1974	1975 and later
0	57	45	38	34	21
0.1-24.9	5	7	2	6	7
25-49.9	5	-	4	4	5
50-74.9	-	6	7	8	9
75-99.9	-	2	3	4	6
100+	32	42	46	45	52

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\*Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Child Support and Alimony: 1978 (Current Population Reports, Series P-23, No. 112, September 1981), p. 19, Table 3.

Table 21

**NOTE:** In 1985, the mean payment received by all women due child support (\$1,640) was about two thirds of what was due (\$2,495). In the aggregate, about \$7.2 billion was received, about two thirds of the \$10.9 billion due. In 1983, the mean payment received (\$1,779) was about 71 percent of what was due (\$2,521). In the aggregate, about \$7.1 billion was received, about 70 percent of the \$10.1 billion due.

In 1985, about 63 percent of all women due child support payments had court-ordered awards; 33 percent had voluntary agreements. (The remaining 4 percent had some other type of arrangement.) These figures are not significantly different from those for 1983.

The average weekly court-ordered award was \$46 in 1985, and \$44 in 1983. The average weekly payment received under a court-ordered agreement in 1985 (and 1983) was \$26. With each household having an average of a little more than two children, the mean child support payment per child was \$13 per week.

The average weekly payment received under a voluntary agreement was \$42 in 1985 and \$50 in 1983 (\$21 and \$25 per child, respectively). The average weekly voluntary award was \$52 in 1985 and \$57 in 1983.

In 1985, for women with court-ordered payments, the mean payment due was \$2,390, but the mean amount received was only \$1,350, or about 56 percent of what they were due. In contrast, women with voluntary written agreements received \$2,187, about 81 percent of the \$2,706 they were due.

In 1983, for women with court-ordered payment, the mean payment due was \$2,228, but the mean amount received was only \$1,334, or about 60 percent of what they were due. Women with voluntary written agreements received \$2,591, about 88 percent of the \$2,958 they were due.

For 1983 and 1985, voluntary awards were slightly higher than the average (17 percent and 8 percent, respectively). For 1983 and 1985, court-ordered awards were slightly lower than the average (9 percent and 4 percent, respectively).

For 1983 and 1985, average voluntary awards were higher than court-ordered awards (33 percent and 13 percent, respectively). For 1983 and 1985, average voluntary payments received were substantially higher than court-ordered payments received (94 percent and 63 percent, respectively).

TABLE 21

Mean Child Support Payments To Women Due Child Support,  
By Type Of Arrangement, 1983 and 1985

(current dollars)

<u>Type of Arrangement</u> <u>Due (Award)</u>	<u>Mean Child Support</u> <u>Received**</u>		<u>Mean Child Support</u>	
	1983	1985	1983	1985
All Payments	2,521	2,495	1,779	1,640
Court-Ordered	2,288	2,393	1,334	1,345
Voluntary	2,958	2,706	2,591	2,187

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\*U.S. Bureau of the Census, Child Support and Alimony: 1978 (Current Population Reports, Series P-23, No. 112, September 1981), p. 10, Table G; Child Support and Alimony: 1985. (Advance Data from March-April 1986 Current Population Surveys) (Current Population Reports, Series P-23, No. 152, August 1987), p. 6, Table F.

\*\*Mean amount based on all women due payments, whether or not payments were received.

Table 22

**NOTE:** For the three years surveyed, noncustodial parents making payments pursuant to a voluntary written agreement have a higher percentage of total compliance (payments of 100 percent or more) than those with court-ordered awards.

In 1978, 1983, and 1985, two thirds or more of noncustodial parents making voluntary payments paid 100 percent or more of what they owed in child support. In contrast, only about 40 percent of noncustodial parents with court-ordered agreements paid 100 percent or more.

Conversely, during the same years, only slightly more than 10 percent of those making voluntary payments paid nothing at all. In contrast, a third of those making court-ordered agreements payments paid nothing at all.

TABLE 22

Percentage Of Child Support Payments Received  
By Type Of Arrangement, 1978, 1983, and 1985 \*

<u>% of Due Payments Received</u>	<u>% Who Paid That Amount</u>					
	<u>Court-Ordered</u>			<u>Voluntary</u>		
	1978	1983	1985	1978	1983	1985
0	36	32	33	12	9	13
0.1-24.9	6	8	9	6	5	7
25-49.9	5	5	5	3	4	3
50-74.9	8	8	8	7	7	7
75-99.9	5	6	5	4	5	5
100+	40	40	38	68	69	66

\*U.S. Bureau of the Census, Child Support and Alimony: 1978 (Current Population Reports, Series P-23, No. 112, September 1981), p. 23, Table 4; Child Support and Alimony: 1983. (Supplemental Report) (Current Population Reports, Series P-23, No. 148, October 1986), p. 34, Table 6; Child Support and Alimony: 1985. (Supplemental Report) (Current Population Reports, Series P-23, No. 154, March 1989), p. 38, Table 6.

Table 23

**NOTE:** About one quarter of noncustodial parents pay nothing at all, whether they pay child support (1) through the courts or a public agency, or (2) directly to the custodial parent.

With respect to total compliance: Over half of noncustodial parents who pay directly pay 100 percent or more of what they owe; slightly over 40 percent of those who pay indirectly pay 100 percent or more.

TABLE 23:

Percentage Of Child Support Payments Received, By Method Of Payment,  
1978, 1983, and 1985 \*

<u>% of Due Payments Received</u>	<u>% Received Directly From Father</u>			<u>% Received Through Court or Public Agency</u>		
	1978	1983	1985	1978	1983	1985
0	25	23	26	32	26	27
0.1-24.9	5	5	6	8	9	11
25-49.9	3	3	4	5	5	6
50-74.9	7	7	8	9	9	8
75-99.9	5	5	4	4	7	6
100+	55	56	53	42	44	43

\*U.S. Bureau of the Census, Child Support and Alimony: 1978 (Current Population Reports, Series P-23, No. 112, September 1981), p. 23, Table 4; Child Support and Alimony: 1983. (Supplemental Report) (Current Population Reports, Series P-23, No. 148, October 1986), p. 34, Table 6; Child Support and Alimony: 1985. (Supplemental Report) (Current Population Reports, Series P-23, No. 154, March 1989), p. 38, Table 6.

Tables 24 and 25

**NOTE:** The average child support payment received in 1985 was more than 12 percent smaller than in 1983. The decline in payments was experienced by divorced, married, separated, and never-married women. Black women and women with less than twelve years of education, saw significant increases in the payments they received.

The average child support payment received in 1983, however, was nearly 2 percent greater than in 1981. Over this period, most groups saw modest increases in the amount of child support payments received. Significant declines occurred, however, among black women and women with less than twelve years of education.

TABLE 24

Comparison of Mean Child Support Payments Received,  
By Selected Characteristics, 1983 and 1985

<u>Characteristic</u>	<u>1985</u> (current dollars)	<u>1983</u> (current dollars)	(constant dollars)	<u>% Real Change</u>
Total	2,215	2,528	2,341	-12.4
Current Marital Status				
Married	1,966	2,164	2,337	-15.9
Divorced	2,538	2,491	2,690	- 5.7
Separated	2,082	2,682	2,682	-28.7
Never Married	1,147	1,132	1,132	- 6.1
Race				
White	2,294	2,475	2,672	-14.1
Black	1,754	1,465	1,582	10.9
Hispanic	2,011	1,839	1,839	1.3
Education				
Less than 12 years	1,835	1,535	1,657	10.7
High School: 4 Years	2,040	2,159	2,331	-12.5
College: 1-3 Years	2,447	2,332	2,518	- 2.8
4 Years+	2,978	4,118	4,446	-33.0

\*Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Child Support and Alimony: 1985.  
(Advance Data from March-April 1986 Current Population Surveys) (Current  
Population Reports, Series P-23, No. 152, August 1987), p. 4, Table D.

TABLE 25

Comparison Of Mean Child Support Payments Received,  
By Selected Characteristics, 1981 and 1983

<u>Characteristic</u>	<u>1983</u> (current dollars)	(current dollars)	<u>1981</u> (constant dollars)	<u>%</u> <u>Real Change</u>
Total	2,341	2,106	2,307	1.5
Current Marital Status				
Married	2,164	1,909	2,091	3.5
Divorced	2,491	2,220	2,431	2.5
Separated	2,682	2,374	2,600	3.2
Never Married	1,132	1,015	1,112	1.6
Race				
White	2,475	2,180	2,388	3.6
Black	1,465	1,640	1,796	-18.4
Hispanic	1,839	2,068	2,265	-18.8
Education				
Less than 12 Years	1,535	1,677	1,837	-16.4
High School: 4 Years	2,159	1,909	2,091	3.2
College: 1-3 Years	2,332	2,309	2,529	- 7.8
4+ Years	4,118	3,089	3,383	21.7

\*Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Child Support and Alimony: 1983. (Supplemental Report) (Current Population Reports, Series P-23, No. 148, October 1986), p. 5, Table D.